| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0893  Responded to: 23 May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many Non-Crime Hate Incidents have been logged over the past five full years and 2024 to date. Please can you break these down into individual years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to date.**

To provide some general context, Police Scotland defines a hate incident as ‘any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group but which does not constitute a criminal offence.’

Police Scotland defines a hate crime as, ‘any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group.’

Social groups are identified in accordance with the Lord Advocates guidelines on Aggravations of Offences against Prejudice i.e. race, sexual orientation, religion/faith, disability, or transgender identity.

Table 1 shows the number of recorded non-hate crime incidents over the last 5 years.

Please also note caveats below the table.

Table 1 – Recorded Non-Hate Crime Incidents 2019 - 2024

| **Month** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| January | 39 | 46 | 33 | 60 | 80 | 85 |
| February | 44 | 55 | 36 | 60 | 94 | 109 |
| March | 65 | 64 | 49 | 99 | 114 | 133 |
| April | 50 | 44 | 81 | 74 | 104 | - |
| May | 50 | 45 | 103 | 112 | 128 | - |
| June | 55 | 81 | 101 | 106 | 122 | - |
| July | 58 | 48 | 56 | 110 | 87 | - |
| August | 56 | 60 | 79 | 100 | 93 | - |
| September | 52 | 56 | 84 | 103 | 107 | - |
| October | 48 | 48 | 90 | 94 | 128 | - |
| November | 52 | 58 | 84 | 86 | 105 | - |
| December | 41 | 48 | 75 | 73 | 130 | - |
| **Total** | **610** | **653** | **871** | **1077** | **1292** | **327** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 17/4/2024.*

*Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.*

*Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site:* [*https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.docx*](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.docx)

**Separately please in each of these years can you break down what the reports were for, if possible? For example, X number of reports for offence one, Y number of reports for offence two, and so on.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to provide the specific offences, a manual check of each record would have to be carried outand this would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations. We can, however, provide the aggravators, as per table 2.

Please also note caveats below the table.

Table 2 - Hate Concern figures attached to an incident nominal – January 2019 – March 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hate Concern** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Disability | 45 | 45 | 92 | 113 | 119 | 28 |
| Race | 209 | 255 | 564 | 838 | 1002 | 254 |
| Religion / Belief | 21 | 27 | 76 | 118 | 169 | 28 |
| Sexual Orientation | 79 | 85 | 170 | 232 | 291 | 84 |
| Transgender | 22 | 34 | 81 | 92 | 111 | 24 |
| **Total** | **376** | **446** | **983** | **1,393** | **1,692** | **418** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 17/4/2024.*

*1. As there can be multiple Hate Concern reasons attached to an Incident Nominal, the total number of Hate Concern Reasons will not reflect the number of unique Incident Nominals.*

*2. Please note, the Hate Concern Reason is attached to the Incident Nominal, not the Incident.*

*Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.*

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**Finally, how many Non-Crime Hate Incidents which have been logged have been removed from the system? Please can you also break these down into individual years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to date.**

As per the caveats noted above, when a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy, therefore the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.