

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0924
Date: 17 May 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Would it be possible to provide the number of reports to Police Scotland from April 2021 – April 2022 for crimes reported relating to Hate Crime for:

- **race,**
- **sexual orientation**
- **religion/faith**
- **disability**

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.

It is worthy of note that the figures provided relate to crimes and incidents recorded as being aggravated by the specific aggravator prejudice. Victims of hate crimes/incidents do not have to be a member of any of the protected groups in order to be a victim.

By way of example, an individual who is the victim of a transphobic incident does not have to be transgender, or disclose their transgender identity, for this to be perceived, recorded and investigated as a hate related incident.

The table below provides the number of detected hate crimes that have either a race, Religion, Transgender aggravator, Sexual orientation or a Disability aggravator.

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Recorded Hate Crime (By Aggravators Individually), Police Scotland ^{1,2}		
Period: 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 (Inclusive)		
Hate Aggravator	Period	
Race	4,253	
Religion	479	
Transgender	186	
Sexual Orientation	1,851	
Disability	546	
<i>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 3rd May 2022.</i>		
<i>1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting hate crime aggravators individually. Please note, Table 1 displays recorded hate crimes which include at least one of the hate aggravators (Race, Religion, Transgender, Sexual Orientation or Disability) separately.</i>		
<i>2. As there can be multiple aggravators attached to a hate crime, the total number of aggravators will not reflect the number of unique hate crimes.</i>		
<i>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.</i>		
<i>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/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/).</i>		

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.