| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1643  Responded to: 20 August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **In what year did your force start recording non-crime hate incidents?**

Police Scotland has recorded non-crime hate incidents since its inception in 2013. Many of Scotland’s legacy forces and other UK forces have followed this procedure following recommendations from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry (formally known as the Macpherson Report) which was published in 1999. We do not hold the information as to when legacy forces adopted this procedure.

1. **Please provide any document laying out the policy for recording such incidents.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available:

[Responding to Hate Standard Operating Procedure - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-p-s/) - documents our policy for recording such incidents.

1. **Please provide any email or document instructing your force to record such incidents, from for example the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers etc?**

Police Scotland is not a Home Office force nor are we part of Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

There was previously an Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) however this merged into Police Scotland when the single national force was launched on 1st April 2013.

We are not aware of any external body instructing Police Scotland to record such incidents and as such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

1. **In each of the years your force has recorded such incidents, how many have been recorded in each year?**

The table below details non-crime hate incidents recorded for period 01/04/2014-31/07/2025 (inclusive), by year.

| **Year** | **No. recorded** |
| --- | --- |
| 2014 | 162 |
| 2015 | 263 |
| 2016 | 266 |
| 2017 | 283 |
| 2018 | 296 |
| 2019 | 490 |
| 2020 | 638 |
| 2021 | 661 |
| 2022 | 933 |
| 2023 | 1297 |
| 2024 | 1050 |
| 2025 | 427 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data has been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and correct as at 12/08/2025.

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.

Data 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 ([Record Retention Standard Operating Procedure - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-p-s/)).

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.