| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0131  Responded to: 19 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Has there been an uptick in hate crime incidents since Oct. 7? Specifically with the Jewish and Muslim community.**

**Could you provide numbers for all of 2023, and for the previous five years for comparison?**

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 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.

In response to your request please see the attached spreadsheet titled FOI 24-0131 Applicant Data 01. Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

**What measures has Police Scotland taken to support/ease concerns of these communities?**

Police Scotland has an established national Community Impact Assessment (CIA) tool for assessing incidents and events to identify associated risks. It helps to record, monitor and take appropriate action in relation to identified community tensions and the impact of any policing responses within Scotland’s communities. A timely and meaningful CIA can ensure that confidence in the police response to a major or critical incident is maintained and where possible enhanced.

The CIA is assessed by the national Partnerships, Provisions and Community Wellbeing, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team following regular input from local policing divisions regarding local engagement across Scotland.  These divisions continue to engage with groups or individuals across our communities locally whilst the national EDI team engage with strategic level partners. This engagement includes but is not exclusive to the Muslim Council of Scotland, Friends of Israel Group, Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and Scottish Palestinian Society. Key community contacts have direct access to Police Scotland national and local police officers and staff.

Feedback from these local and national groups and individuals, wider stakeholders, information and intelligence collectively drives the assessment within the CIA ensuring our policing response, tone and style are proportionate in relation to the ongoing conflict and associated activity in our communities.

Police Scotland respects people’s rights to protest or demonstrate and will provide an appropriate and proportionate policing response to facilitate any peaceful protests. We will balance the needs and rights of those wishing to demonstrate or protest against the needs of the wider community ultimately ensuring the safety of the public.

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.