| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2909  Responded to: 18th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**My request concerns police-recorded hate crime offences that have been classed as antisemitic or Islamophobic.**

**Could you please send me the following information:**

**1) The number of antisemitic offences recorded by your force from:**

**a) October 7 to November 7 2023 inclusive.**

**b) October 7 to November 7 2022 inclusive.**

**c) October 7 to November 7 2021 inclusive.**

**2) The number of Islamophobic offences recorded by your force from:**

**a) October 7 to November 7 2023 inclusive.**

**b) October 7 to November 7 2022 inclusive.**

**c) October 7 to November 7 2021 inclusive.**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, 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 for example, race, sexual orientation, religion/faith, disability or transgender identity.

The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing, or where force policy dictates. E.g. Domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the [Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/1/contents/enacted).

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.

Additionally, on iVPD the term nominal relates to a person, victim or perpetrator involved in a crime.

We therefore do not have a way to extract the information you have requested without a manual review of each hate crime with a Race or Religion marker associated with it to determine if it related to antisemitic or Islamophobic offences.

In this case 1,048 records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 87 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

To be of some assistance however, I have included crime statistics in relation to Race and Religious hate crimes as well as Racial Hate Concern Incident Nominals – with a Racial Hate reason of ‘Jewish’ and Religious Hate Concern Incident Nominals – with a Religious Hate reason of 'Jewish' and/or 'Muslim'.

I would ask you to carefully note the caveats provided below each data table.

## Recorded Race Hate Crime, Police Scotland 1,2

Period: 7th October - 7th November (inclusive for each year)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hate Aggravator** | **2021 Period** | **2022 Period** | **2023 Period** |
| Race | 360 | 280 | 297 |

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 7th December 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting hate crime aggravators individually.

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.

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.pdf>)

## Recorded Religious Hate Crime, Police Scotland 1,2

Period: 7th October - 7th November (inclusive for each year)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hate Aggravator** | **2021 Period** | **2022 Period** | **2023 Period** |
| Religion | 35 | 37 | 39 |

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 7th December 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting hate crime aggravators individually.

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.

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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## Racial Hate Concern Incident Nominals - Racial Hate Reason 'Jewish', Police Scotland 1,2

Period: 7th October - 7th November (inclusive for each year)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **2021 Period** | **2022 Period** | **2023 Period** |
| Racial Hate Concern Incident Nominals | 3 | 3 | 7 |

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 7th December 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting racial hate concern incident nominals. Please note, more than one racial hate reason can be attributed to the racial hate concern incident nominal.

2. Please note, this table is a count of unique Racial hate concern incident nominals, where at least 1 x Racial hate reason is 'Jewish'. Please note, not all hate incidents result in a crime being recorded.

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.pdf>)

## Religious Hate Concern Incidents Nominals - Religious Hate Reason 'Jewish' and/or 'Muslim', Police Scotland 1,2

Period: 7th October - 7th November (inclusive for each year)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **2021 Period** | **2022 Period** | **2023 Period** |
| Religious Hate Concern Incidents Nominals | 10 | 15 | 45 |

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 7th December 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting religious hate concern incident nominals. Please note, more than one religious hate reason can be attributed to the religious hate concern incident nominal.

2. Please note, this table is a count of unique Religious hate concern incident nominals, where at least 1 x religious hate reason is 'Jewish' and/or 'Muslim'. Please note, not all hate incidents result in a crime being recorded.

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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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.