

Our Ref: 165-08-571

Your Ref:

Mr Nick Henderson
By e mail
Request-3785-76774270@whatdotheyknow.com



Information Access Team
Surrey Police H.Q
01483 630007

9th January 2009

Dear Mr Henderson

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 165-08-571

I write in connection with your request for information received on 24th October 2008. I have repeated your questions below for ease of reference.

- 1a. The total number of homophobic hate crimes reported to you in the last year?*
b. The last three years?
2a. The total number of those hate crimes that were reported to the Crown prosecution Service in the last year?
b. The last three years?

A1a-b.

We have provided you with a response as below.

It is worth noting that offenders are charged as opposed to crimes, with some crimes having more than one offender, and one offender being responsible for more than one crime. Sanctioned detections in the period may relate to crimes that happened before the period in question.

Total Homophobic crimes recorded:

- Rolling year to 31st October 08 = 86
- Rolling year to 31st October 07 = 91
- Rolling year to 31st October 06 = 143
- Rolling year to 31st October 05 = 147

Total Homophobic crime sanctioned detections,

- Rolling year to 31st October 08 = 26
- Rolling year to 31st October 07 = 43
- Rolling year to 31st October 06 = 53
- Rolling year to 31st October 05 = 27

Outcomes of Homophobic crime offenders from crimes within the period - PLEASE NOTE many crimes will be detected and dealt with after the event and in another reporting year.

Rolling year to 31st October 08

Charged/Summons = 19

Cautioned = 12

Fixed Penalty Notice = 1

Rolling year to 31st October 07

Charged/Summons = 27

Cautioned = 21

Fixed Penalty Notice = 7

Rolling year to 31st October 06

Charged/Summons = 23

Cautioned = 20

Fixed Penalty Notice = 3

TIC = 1

Rolling year to 31st October 05

Charged/Summons = 31

Cautioned = 12

A2a-b Surrey Police has no requirement to record such a breakdown of the information requested. The number of crimes that go to the CPS during a specific period will not be representative of the crimes reported during the same period. Many will be referred to the CPS in the following period.

The Freedom of Information Act is concerned solely with potential disclosure of information already held in a reasonably readily retrievable format. To acquire the information requested would involve the creation of new data, which is not required by the Act, as each record/report/ investigation would have to be traced and examined one at a time.

The time and cost involved to go through each record to provide the information requested is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond, i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

I bring to your attention that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. The data warehouse is a "live" system and is subject to change as incidents are finalised. In other words, incidents may be initially recorded under a specific category but change with new information. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Surrey Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. How to do this is set out in the attached Appeals Notice. Having followed the full procedure, if you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give your case consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Surrey Police. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact us on 01483 - 630007 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Mullen
Information Access Co-ordinator.