

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1202



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

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.

I am seeking data on the number of hate crimes reported to police in the Dundee area over the last five financial years.

Can the figures please be broken down by each type of hate crime (i.e. race, disability, sexuality, religion) and broken down by the financial years of 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15?

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I can provide you with the following statistics which represent all Hate Crimes reported in the Dundee City area during 2014/15:

Hate crime type	2014/15
Disability	11
Gender/ Sexual Orientation	23
Racist Crimes	129
Religious Prejudice	8
Transgender	1
Total Number of Hate Crimes	166

Please note that these statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. The data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 7th July 2015.

It has been possible to provide these statistics as a new national, interim recording system was introduced at the start of 2014/15.

With regard to the period prior to that, 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.

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By way of explanation, the collation of this information relies on both interim and legacy crime recording systems, an exercise which has proven complex given the various forms these datasets take.

As has recently been confirmed by the Service and the Scottish Government, the process of collating and ratifying official national statistics, including hate crime, for the year 2013/14 has been affected by this and as a result a decision has been taken to revise the release date of these figures from March 2015 until later this year (October).

The systems used to record this data are standalone, in that they operate independently from each other and whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of them, their differing nature means that the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each crime report created on these systems to identify those that fall within the remit of your request.

Completing this task to the level required is a significant analytical process and one which would prove too costly to do within the context of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 fee regulations.

However, and in order to be of assistance official and national hate crime statistics are published by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the 2013/14 information which you may find of use is available here:

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Equality_Diversity/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202013-14.pdf

The 2012/13 figures can be found here:

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Equality_Diversity/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202012-13.pdf

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01382 596657 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance, and within 40 working days of receiving this response, to request a review of the decision. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; FOI Central Processing Unit, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH - foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. Contact details are; Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS - enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

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

Yours sincerely,

Claire Sturrock
Information Management