

17 July 2019

**Request:**

Could you please provide me with the total number of reported Islamophobic hate crimes for each year from 1st January 2013 to 31st May 2019. (Annual figures).

Could the data be broken down into each separate district. Thank you.

**Response:**

The information you are requesting is not held by Northamptonshire Police in any reasonably retrievable form. Northamptonshire Police did not start using an Islamophobic flag until April 2017. Between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2017 there have been 1,832 Racial or Religious Hate crimes recorded. The only means of establishing information of the nature you are requesting would be by way of manual examination of all of these records.

It is my assessment that the cost of providing you with the information requested would exceed the 'appropriate level' as set out in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 which is currently £450 for 'prescribed costs'. It would cost 1,832 (number of records) x 10 minutes each (minimum) = over 305 hours at £25 per hour to respond to your request.

In view of the above, and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please take this as a Refusal Notice.

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see attached). I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of the request.

Data is based on Occurrence Created Date, and covers the period 2017 to 2019. Cancelled Records are excluded. Occurrences have been included if the SC Hate Crime field has been populated to match Muslim (Islamophobic) Hate Occurrences.

2017	2018	2019
9	11	9

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Please note that these data should be interpreted with caution. Comparing numbers of incidents/crimes can be misleading and does not necessarily indicate the likelihood of someone being a victim of crime. In addition, the number of incidents/crimes recorded in an area over a period of time can be influenced by a number of factors. Consequently statistics on incidents/crimes for one period may not necessarily be a good indicator of future incidents in that area.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from a number of data sources used by forces for police purposes. The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when interpreting those data.

The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when those data are used.

Due to the different methods of recording information across 43 forces, a specific response from one constabulary should not be seen as an indication of what information could be supplied (within cost) by another. Systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. For this reason responses between forces may differ, and should not be used for comparative purposes.

If you decide to write an article / use the enclosed data we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies, or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the costs shown above and is then within the 'appropriate limit' shown above. (I cannot think of a means to refine the request in order to provide the information you are seeking) but if you would like some further information about how to proceed with your request then please contact the undersigned.

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