

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001562-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 30 April 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Do your records of racial harassment/abuse offences/allegations specify what form of racism/harassment the offence took?”*

E.g. within the broad term of racial abuse/harassment offences – are there sub categories such as anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, racism against person of Afro-Caribbean origin/ racism against person of Asian origin?

2. *What are the sub categories that officers/call handlers can choose from when categorising a reported offence under the heading of racial abuse/harassment?*
3. *Could you please tell me how many reports were categorised under each of those categories throughout 2015; 2016; 2017 and 2018?*

E.g

Anti-Semitism

2015- 100

2016 – 110

2017 – 240

2018 – 68”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 16 May 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

1. Suffolk Constabulary records only specify what religion is targeted, but this field is rarely populated as is a non-mandatory field. In most cases, the race and religious offences are simply marked as “Hate – Racial”.
2. The sub categories that can be used, but are generally not completed, are; Sikh, Christian, Jewish, Muslim or Other.

3. Hate crimes recorded prior to introduction of the crime recording system Athena on 19 October 2015, are located on the legacy system CIS, which did not break Hate crimes down into specific categories. Although there is a tick box option for 'Race/Religion' it does depend on officers selecting this option when inputting the offence.

Therefore the Constabulary has provided information from the 19 October 2015, when the current crime system Athena was introduced.

The table provided below confirms all crimes recorded with a hate crime marker of 'Hate – Racial', and includes the religion of the victim, where recorded.

Religion	Total
Christian	16
Jewish	14
Muslim	44
N/A	2713
No religion	2
Not Hate	13
Other	9
Sikh	1
Unknown	8
Grand Total	2820

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime 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 crime data. 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.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700