

12 August 2024

FOI Ref 16848

Request - You asked us the following:

REQUEST 1

I am requesting data to do research on the effects of the recent wars in Ukraine and Gaza on racial and religious hate crime. I would like to have a list of hate crimes reported to the police with the following information for each incident: hate crime bias (race, faith, etc.), crime subclassification (violence against the person, arson, harassment, etc.), date (at least month and year, day also is preferred), indicator if police reported race/religion as Jewish, indicator if victim reported race/religion as Jewish, indicator if police reported ethnicity or nationality as Ukrainian, indicator if victim reported ethnicity or nationality as Ukrainian, indicator if police reported ethnicity or nationality as Russian, indicator if victim reported ethnicity or nationality as Russian, indicator if police reported religion is Islam or race is Arab/Middle Eastern, and indicator if victim reported religion is Islam or race is Arab/Middle Eastern. I would like this data for the years 2019-2023.

If a list of hate crimes reported is not possible I would instead ask for a monthly count of racial or religious hate crime against each of the four groups (Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish, Muslim or Arab). Finally, I would like a count of total monthly hate crime broken down by racial, faith, disability, sexual orientation, and Transgender for the same period as above.

REQUEST 2:

As a second project I will look at the relationship between education and hate crime participation. For this I would like a list of arrests for hate crime with the following information: hate crime bias, date of incident (at least year, month and day preferred), birthdate of suspect (at least year, month also preferred), suspect gender, and suspect ethnicity. Of these, the last two are not required and can be omitted if necessary to avoid this request being denied. I would like this data for as many years possible, as early as 2012, with preference for more recent years.

We received your request on 03/05/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

REQUEST 1



- I am requesting data to do research on the effects of the recent wars in Ukraine and Gaza on racial and religious hate crime. I would like to have a list of hate crimes reported to the police with the following information for each incident: hate crime bias (race, faith, etc.), crime subclassification (violence against the person, arson, harassment, etc.), date (at least month and year, day also is preferred), indicator if police reported race/religion as Jewish, indicator if victim reported race/religion as Jewish, indicator if police reported ethnicity or nationality as Ukrainian, indicator if victim reported ethnicity or nationality as Ukrainian, indicator if police reported ethnicity or nationality as Russian, indicator if victim reported ethnicity or nationality as Russian, indicator if police reported religion is Islam or race is Arab/Middle Eastern, and indicator if victim reported religion is Islam or race is Arab/Middle Eastern. I would like this data for the years 2019-2023. – **Withheld.**
- If a list of hate crimes reported is not possible I would instead ask for a monthly count of racial or religious hate crime against each of the four groups (Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish, Muslim or Arab). Finally, I would like a count of total monthly hate crime broken down by racial, faith, disability, sexual orientation, and Transgender for the same period as above. – **Withheld.**

REQUEST 2:

- As a second project I will look at the relationship between education and hate crime participation. For this I would like a list of arrests for hate crime with the following information: hate crime bias, date of incident (at least year, month and day preferred), birthdate of suspect (at least year, month also preferred), suspect gender, and suspect ethnicity. Of these, the last two are not required and can be omitted if necessary to avoid this request being denied. I would like this data for as many years possible, as early as 2012, with preference for more recent years. – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 8,000 occurrences that have a hate crime flag. Within our crime/occurrence recording database there exists no hate crime flag for nationality; therefore, in order to determine the bias for such hate crime, the record for each offence would require manual review. Furthermore, with regards to the second part of the request, there have been over 600 arrests that were related to hate crime incidents. In order to determine the hate crime bias for each arrest would require further research through each arrest record. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

It is also not possible to provide custody information prior to 2020. This is because on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 430 hours. To achieve this task would

therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

For request 1, it would be possible to provide the following information for the years 2019-2023:

- Crime classification
- Victim ethnicity
- Suspect/Offender ethnicity
- Date (month and year)

It would also be possible to add a filter for anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim crimes flagged as such, alongside other hate crimes.

For request 2, it would be possible to provide the following information for the years 2020-2023:

- Reason for arrest
- Date arrested (month and year)
- Detainee gender
- Detainee ethnicity

It would also be possible to add a filter for anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim crimes flagged as such, alongside other hate crimes.

However, please note that this information may be subject to further substantive exemptions.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit