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Our Ref: FOI2019/03824

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03824

I write in connection with your request for information received on 12th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

Could you please provide me with the total number of reported Islamophobic hate crimes for each year over the last six years? (from 1st January 2013 to May 2019).

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

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Response – Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and their crime recording systems please our response in the tables below: -

Recorded Crime: Religious Hate Crime - Islamophobic						
01.01.2013 - 22.05.2018						
Islamophobic = Y / Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Islamophobic	4	17	33	68	10	132
NORTH	2	1	9	21	3	36
SOUTH	96	16	24	47	7	96
MUSLIM			3	4	3	10
SOUTH			3	4	3	10
Grand Total	4	17	36	72	13	142

Recorded Crime: Religious Hate Crime - Islamophobic			
23.05.2018 - 31.05.2019			
Area	2018	2019	Grand Total
NORTH	6	5	11
SOUTH	22	25	47
Unknown	1	3	4
Grand Total	29	33	62

Bedfordshire Police can confirm that it holds additional information in relation to your request however, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested. Such information is exempt under the following exemption: -

Section 40(1) – Personal Information

The Section 40 exemption is a class based absolute exemption. This means that the legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no need to evidence this or carry out a public interest test.

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May 2018, when fully implemented, will help keep Bedfordshire safe, bring more offenders to justice and improve outcomes for victims. Updating our ICT was absolutely necessary to ensure Bedfordshire Police remains as effective and efficient as possible. The public should be reassured crime continues to be reported and investigated as normal but whilst colleagues become more comfortable and familiar with how Athena works Bedfordshire Police has some concerns around data quality for which reason some of the data provided concerning events recorded after 23 May 2018, may include some inaccuracies. We apologise for the situation and are working to resolve it as soon as possible.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey
Information Rights

Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.