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Our Ref: FOI2019/06424

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/06424

I write in connection with your request for information received on 7th October. I note you seek access to the following information:

Hate Crime

Could you please inform me as to what steps Bedfordshire Police are using to battle hate crime and statistics as to the rise or fall of race, ethnicity or nationality based hate crime in Bedford over the past five years please?

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 within the Force please see our response below: -

For the first part of your request in relation to - "what steps Bedfordshire Police are using to battle hate crime?" please see the Bedfordshire Police website and the subsequent website links below for help & advice and previous information published on our website.

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Crime/Hate-crime-and-hate-incidents/Hate-Crime>

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/assets/Beds-FOI/FOI-2019/Sept-2019/FOI201905494.pdf>

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Victim-care/Victims>

This information is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 provides that where information is available to you from another source we do not have to provide further copies. The information you have requested is available on Bedfordshire Police website using the above link.

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.

HATE Crime; Recorded between: 1.1.2014 - 22.5.2018						
Victim Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
A1 - ASIAN INDIAN	50	39	40	47	16	192
A2 - ASIAN PAKISTANI	78	83	55	106	29	351
A3 - ASIAN BANGLADESHI	26	33	24	32	14	129
A9 - ANY OTHER ASIAN BACKGROUND	30	41	25	40	12	148
B1 - BLACK CARIBBEAN	46	42	50	47	15	200
B2 - BLACK AFRICAN	42	43	50	45	17	197

B9 - ANY OTHER BLACK BACKGROUND	21	18	23	15	7	84
M1 - MIXED WHITE AND BLACK CARIBBEAN	14	16	11	21	9	71
M2 - MIXED WHITE AND BLACK AFRICAN	3	2	1	2	1	9
M3 - MIXED WHITE AND ASIAN	4	8	7	7	6	32
M9 - ANY OTHER MIXED BACKGROUND	3	7	6	7	1	24
NS - NOT STATED	147	206	260	273	109	995
O1 - CHINESE	3	4	5	2	1	15
O9 - ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	4	4	6	7	4	25
W1 - WHITE BRITISH	144	163	169	186	61	723
W2 - WHITE IRISH	15	7	12	8	6	48
W3 - GYPSY AND IRISH TRAVELLER				2	1	3
W9 - ANY OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND	56	76	77	97	40	346
(blank)	24	24	49	184	95	376
Grand Total	710	816	870	1128	444	3968

*Source data: CMS / BedsReports

HATE Crime; Recorded between: 23.5.2018 - 30.10.2019			
Victim Ethnicity	2018	2019	Grand Total
African	34	60	94
Any Other Asian Background	21	75	96
Any Other Black Background	20	35	55
Any Other Ethnic Group	6	14	20
Any Other Mixed Background	6	14	20
Any Other White Background	42	101	143
Bangladeshi	17	41	58
Caribbean	19	46	65
Chinese	5	3	8
Indian	18	59	77
Not stated	35	34	69
Pakistani	61	101	162
White And Asian	8	11	19
White And Black African	2	11	13
White And Black Caribbean	10	27	37
White British	165	294	459
White Irish	6	18	24
(blank)	292	260	552
Grand Total	767	1204	1971

*Source data: ATHENA / BedsReports

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

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.