



Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
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Bedford, MK43 9AX
Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

20th September 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/05494

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/05494

I write in connection with your request for information received on 27th August. I note you seek access to the following information:

Dear Bedfordshire Police,

We would like to submit the following Freedom of information request;

1. Is hate crime included in the police service's current policing plan?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If Yes can you send us a pdf copy of the policing plan?
2. Does the police service have a separate hate crime plan/strategy?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes can you send us a pdf copy of the hate crime plan/strategy?
3. Does the police service have a designated hate crime lead?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes – can you provide contact details so we can contact them.
4. Does the police service facilitate or take part in any hate crime forums?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes – can you list the names of the hate crime forums that the police service facilitates or takes part in.
5. Does the police service have a designated hate crime information page on its website?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes – please can you provide the URL link?
6. Does the police service have access to hate crime resources?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes – please can you send us pdf copies of them?
7. Does the police service refer victims of hate crime to independent advice and support services?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - If yes – can you provide a list of independent advice and support services, the police service refers to.
8. Is the police service planning to participate in National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2019?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know?
 - If yes – can you tell us what the police service is planning to do.

9. **Has the police service participated in previous National Hate Crime Awareness weeks?**
- **Yes**
 - **No**
 - **Don't know**
 - **If yes - please can you tick the years that the police service has taken part in the national week.**
 - **2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 .**

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.

Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police please see our response below.

Response - I can confirm that information relating to Q's 1, 5 & 6 has been published on the Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire Police Crime Commissioner's website.

- 1) <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/police-and-crime-plan-beds-pcc>
- 5) <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Crime/Hate-crime-and-hate-incidents/Hate-Crime>
- 6) <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/assets/PDFs/Hate-crime/HateCrime-HateCrimeLeaflet.pdf>

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 and Bedfordshire Police Crime Commissioner's website using the above links.

Further information relating to your request is below: -

- 1) Section 21 exemption as above
- 2) Section 22(1)(a) - Future Publication

The Section 22 exemption is a class based qualified exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

Factors in favour of disclosure

There is a public interest in the disclosure of this information.

Factors in favour of non-disclosure

The requested information will be published by Bedfordshire Police in the near future.

The Force publish the data requested and it would incur an additional impact on police resources to carry out ad-hoc searches for information of the same nature. This is at a time of extreme pressure on resources due to an unprecedented number of FOI requests in a force where it has been highly publicised that there is a lack in Government funding to meet the policing needs of the country.

Balance Test

In this case the consideration for disclosure is the public interest in regard to the police enforcement in this area and this needs to be weighed against the impact disclosure before the Force's publication would have. Due to the pressures on the force and the need to protect the public it is not in the public interest to prioritise police resources to allow access to information before the planned publication date. Therefore, the balancing test for disclosure is not made out.

- 3) The force lead for hate crime is currently Chief Inspector Andy Southam. The force also has a dedicated hate crime Sergeant PS 5794 Perri (carl.perri@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk). It is recommended to contact Sergeant Perri first who deals with day to day management of hate crime and engagement within the force.
- 4) The Hate Crime Sergeant takes part on many forum including; Regional Hate Crime Group, Pan Bedfordshire Hate Crime Group, Islamophobia working Group, and Community Cohesion Contingency Partnership Group.
- 5) Section 21 exemption above refers.
- 6) Section 21 exemption above refers.

- 7) The Hate Crime Team review all hate crime and hate incidents reported to the force and investigate the majority. In Bedfordshire the Victims Signpost Hub provides support, guidance and signposts victims to wider agencies. The Hate Crime Team have Officers co-located with this Victims Signpost Hub to ensure joined up victim service.
- 8) Plans for National Hate Crime Week 2019 are being prepared. In addition to a media strategy that will be implemented to provide awareness in this week. The force will be hosting an awareness event one evening where the following is being planned: -
 - a) Bedfordshire Anne Frank Ambassadors will host an Anne Frank exhibition at Police Headquarters. The Ambassadors are students from Bedfordshire Schools who have undertaken a training programme with the Anne Frank Trust in partnership with Bedfordshire Police, to understand diversity, cohesion and challenge hatred. All training has taken place over the course of the last two years.
 - b) A dementia Choir are being invited to sing to open the event.
 - c) A Community Based Dance Group will perform a contemporary dance reflecting the lessons of the holocaust, that they have produced themselves, after being educated by the Anne Frank Trust and Bedfordshire Police on the holocaust.
 - d) The event will close with a lecture by Eva Clarke (Holocaust Survivor)
 - e) In addition to the above in Hate Crime week Bedfordshire Police will be trailing a new COMMUNITY REMEDY COURSE for offenders of hate crime. This will be trialled with partners with a view to a future "roll out".
- 9) In 2018 Bedfordshire Police completed the following theme for Police and partners #NoPlaceForHate. This included: - a) Media Strategy, b) Hosting a community conference on hate crime, c) Trained third party reporting centres, d) Released a Hate Crime educational video produced by Bedfordshire Police on hate crime.

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

Yours sincerely

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.