

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20211557**

**REQUEST**

**This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for data on race hate crimes, and racially aggravated offences reported to your force.**

**For the years 2015/16 (i.e to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016) to 2020/2021 (i.e to March 31st 2021) please provide for your force.**

- 1. How many racially aggravated offences per month broken down by race or ethnic background/nationality have been reported?**
- 2. How many race hate crimes per month broken down by race or ethnic background/nationality have been reported?**
- 3. And please provide the same data for any months already recorded after March 31st, 2021.**
- 4. An annual summary of the number of racial aggravated offences against Asians reported- for every year you have on record. (i.e How many racial offences against Asians were reported in 2014/2015, 2013/2014...)**
- 5. An annual summary of the number of race hate crimes against Asians reported for every year you have on record.**

**Clarification**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past:-

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/hate-crime-nov-2018-to-nov-2020-ref-20202393/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/hate-crime-ref-20191128/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/hate-crime-ref-20191087/>

You have asked for a 'summary' in questions 4 and 5 of your request. Can you clarify what information you are looking for under 'summary'. As you may appreciate, Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act applies to all recorded information a public authority may hold, and does not apply to 'explanation', 'general comment' or 'opinion'. For example, are you requesting a count of racial offences/hate crimes recorded against Asians.?

It would be helpful if you could review the above entries, which may be useful to your request. If you can then provide us with a refined request, if necessary, to help us to identify and locate any outstanding data you may still require, and not included in the above links.

### Reply to Clarification

Thank you for this- it looks like the previous FOI's in those links don't break down the racially aggravated offences by race? Do you have this information available?

And yes sorry!- by summary I meant specific figures for racially aggravated and race hate crimes against Asians per year.

So

For the years 2015/16 (i.e 31/03/2015 to 31/03/2015) until 2020/2021 (i.e 31/03/2015 to 31/03/2015) please provide for your force.

1. How many racially offences per month broken down by race or ethnic background/nationality have been reported?
2. How many race hate crimes per month broken down by race or ethnic background/nationality have been reported?
3. And please provide the same data for any months already recorded after 31/03/2021 until the date of receipt of this email
4. How many racially aggravated offences towards Asians were reported PER FINANCIAL YEAR (ie 31<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year) for every year on your record
5. How many race hate crimes towards Asians were reported PER FINANCIAL YEAR (i.e 31<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year) for every year on your record

### Further Clarification

Can I just clarify with you, question 1, do you mean to ask for racially *aggravated* offences where I have highlighted?

### Reply to clarification

Yes I did, thank you

### RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 40 (2) – Personal Information**

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. This may take an obvious form of 'personal information' such as a name but can also include information which, if aggregated, can pinpoint an individual. Due to the low numbers involved, the monthly date parameters and Offence data by specific ethnicity, a full disclosure may potentially identify individuals involved and would breach data protection principles.

I am however, happy to supply you with data in the following format to assist your research.

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Department for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System are used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards) .

A Performance Review Analyst has provided the attached spreadsheet, and following explanation:-

#### **CONNECT Data-**

I have included a count of offences recorded on CONNECT between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Jul-2021, recorded with the Hate Crime Indicator – 'Racial' and whereby the Person Role was equal to 'Victim'- Broken down by Ethnicity.

For Racially aggravated Offences this includes both volumes for crimes and non-crimes.

**Please note that December 2017 only includes data from 05/12/2017 and 2021 data contains January to July 2021.**

Unfortunately given the current situation the Analyst is not currently working in police premises and cannot access the software needed to extract data from CMS (legacy system) we will provide this as soon as we are able to do so.