



Freedom of Information request 01/FOI/22/1268

This is freedom of information request relating to the number of complaints made under the following sections of the following Acts:

- 1. The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, Section 1 (Hatred against persons on religious grounds)**
- 2. The Justice of the Peace Act 1361, as it relates to Breaches of the Peace**
- 3. The Public Order Act 1986, Sections 1-5**

Please include the information for each of the following financial years; 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22

- a) The number of complaints under the above Acts that specifically mentioned any of the following words: Islam, Muslims, the Qu'ran (or alternative spellings), the Prophet Muhammad (or alternative spellings), Aisha (or alternative spellings), Allah (or alternative spellings), Hadith (or alternative spellings), haram, halal, hadith**
- b) The amount of police time spent on investigating each complaint. If this isn't possible I would be happy with information on the total amount of time spent on these complaints**

RESPONSE

Please note, retrieval of information is based on the following understanding:

- The Racial or Religious Hatred Act 2006 did not create new offences in its own right, it just amended Public Order Act 1986 offences.
- British Transport Police (BTP) has recorded a number of Breaches of the Peace offences, but in general this is not an offence in its own right and so will not routinely be recorded as a crime, so results will be partial.
- The Public Order Act 1986 will have offences recorded by BTP, but for England & Wales only as this legislation does not apply to Scotland.

- a) A freetext search for the following terms has been completed:

Quran
Koran
Prophet (as "Mohammed" and variations thereof are likely to bring back false positives that relate to other people and not the historical religious leader)
Aisha
Allah
Hadith
Haram

Halal
Muslim
Islam

This returns 18 crime records in Policing Year 2019-20, 3 in Policing Year 2020-21 and 14 in Policing Year 2021-22

- b) Information not held.
BTP does not record the amount of time spent by officer(s) investigating any single crime, or group of crimes.

Further to the above information, although not specifically requested, below is information that may be of value.

The number of hate crime motivated by anti-muslim prejudice:

BTP has recorded:

- 144 notifiable religious hate crimes in Policing Year 2019-20 motivated by anti-muslim prejudice
- 46 notifiable religious hate crimes in Policing Year 2020-21 motivated by anti-muslim prejudice
- 64 notifiable religious hate crimes in Policing Year 2021-22 motivated by anti-muslim prejudice.