

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE – 7 MAY 2009

RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION OF HATE CRIME

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members with an update on the Force response to Hate Crime.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report details the findings for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 for Hate Incidents and Crimes reported to Dorset Police. This currently includes all forms of abuse relating to Race, Faith, Homophobia, Transgender, Gender and Disability, defined as:

“Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

(ACPO Hate Crime Good Practice and Tactical Guidance, 2005)

- 1.2 Hate Incidents and Crimes are audited for compliance against the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) and the Force Hate Incident and Crime Policy to assess whether the Hate element of an incident has been correctly captured and investigated.
- 1.3 This methodology represents a more robust auditing process and differs from the way Hate Incidents have been monitored in the past.
- 1.4 The data has been collected from searches of the Call Handling System (+CT), Incident Log System (+RI) and the Crime Recording System (+CJS).
- 1.5 Searches on the Crime Recording System:
- Hate Incident Codes: RI:01 (Race-related Incident); HI:01 (Homophobic Incident, this code is also currently used for Trans Incidents); DI:01 (Disability Incident) and FI:01 (Faith-related Incident). These codes are used to record all hate-related reports made to the police, where no criminal offence has been committed.
 - Racially and Religiously Aggravated Crime Codes as determined by the National Crime Recording Standard.
 - Hate Crime/Incident Flags on the Crime Records.

1.6 Searches on the Incident Log System:

- Incidents are audited to ensure that the Hate Qualifier codes are correctly applied to Hate Incidents. The Hate Qualifier is applied to an incident when the victim or any other person perceives the circumstances of an incident to be motivated by prejudice or hate.

1.7 Searches through the Call Handling System:

- The most common Hate-related phrases or words are used to search the call handling system. The purpose is to assess if there are any incidents that have not been captured as Hate-related incidents.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 The table below illustrates the number of Hate crimes reported since 1 April 2008 through to 31 March 2009 and shows the figures from each section. These are compared with the previous year. The data also shows what proportion of the Force total figures each Division is responsible for.

Recorded Hate Crime - Divisional and Section Profile

	2007/08	2008/09
	Apr 07 to Mar 08	Apr 08 to Mar 09
Central Bournemouth	69	56
East Bournemouth	42	44
North Bournemouth	47	43
Poole South	38	41
Poole North	22	30
Bournemouth & Poole Division	218	214
Div as % of Force Total	73.2%	66.0%
Dorchester	2	8
Bridport	6	4
Weymouth & Portland	34	39
Purbeck	14	8
East Dorset	9	15
North Dorset	6	9
Christchurch	9	27
County Division	80	110
Div as % of Force Total	26.8%	34.0%
FORCE TOTAL	298	324

2.2 The number of Hate Crimes reported for Dorset has increased. Nationally, it is thought that Hate Crime could be as high as 50% under reported and in specific incidents, such as Homophobic Crimes and Disability related crimes,

research indicates that under reporting is much higher. Dorset Police welcomes the increased reporting. The conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole has actually seen a small reduction and the overall increase is due to a rise within the County Division.

- 2.3 One area that has seen a significant increase is Christchurch which has shown an increase from 9 to 27 crimes. The Section Commander states that this was mainly as a result of crimes involving foreign students and one lady being a victim on four occasions. Cameras have been installed in relation to this with the hope of detecting the offender and a Force operation has been re-introduced which involves a number of measures aimed at tackling attacks on students.
- 2.4 The statistics may also suggest there is more accurate recording of crimes as all supervisors are now given Hate Crime training to help them understand the importance of supporting victims, accuracy and understanding the issues nationally in building trust and confidence in the Police Service by the very actions we take.
- 2.5 The table below illustrates the number of Hate Incidents reported since 1 April 2008 through to 31 March 2009 and shows the figures from each section. These are compared with the previous year. The data also shows what proportion of the Force total figures each division is responsible for.

Recorded Hate Incidents - Divisional and Section Profile

	2007/08	2008/09
	Apr 07 to Mar 08	Apr 08 to Mar 09
Central Bournemouth	51	56
East Bournemouth	42	60
North Bournemouth	57	76
Poole South	39	36
Poole North	16	30
Bournemouth & Poole Division	205	258
Div as % of Force Total	69.7%	72.3%
Dorchester	10	8
Bridport	3	1
Weymouth & Portland	33	37
Purbeck	11	10
East Dorset	17	23
North Dorset	8	13
Christchurch	7	7
County Division	89	99
Div as % of Force Total	30.3%	27.7%
FORCE TOTAL	294	357

- 2.6 The statistics again show an increase in reporting throughout Dorset. Bournemouth and Poole Division being the most significant area for reported Hate Incidents.
- 2.7 Bournemouth North has seen an increase from 57 to 76. The Section Commander states that this is partly due to one victim making a number of complaints but they have not suffered from any particular series.
- 2.8 As suggested earlier, Hate Crime is an area that is different to other crime areas in that increased levels of reporting are in many ways a positive indicator. It was suggested at the recent National Hate Crime Conference that nationally, Hate Crime may be under reported to the police by as much as 50%. This is believed to be due to victims having a lack of trust and confidence in the police. However, the victims that have actually reported crimes to Dorset Police have not reflected this in our satisfaction surveys.
- 2.9 Dorset Police now has its own online third party reporting system. This can be found on the Dorset Police website www.dorset.police.uk. From this site, the public are able to report a Hate Incident/Crime either in person, on behalf of a third party or even anonymously. Since this initiative was introduced we have received seven reports for Bournemouth and Poole.
- 2.10 The table below shows that Dorset Police detected 24.6% of all crimes recorded. In relation to Hate Crime the figure increases considerably to 37.7%. As previously reported, investigative standards are high in this area because of the level of scrutiny applied to them and the conscious decision of the Force to provide resources to ensure all avenues of enquiry are followed. This is an important step in instilling confidence in the public that if they report a Hate Incident to Dorset Police it will be treated seriously and investigated thoroughly. This in turn encourages others to report hate crimes and incidents as they know Dorset Police will investigate them professionally.

2008/09 - April 2008 to March 2009

Crime Profile	Crimes	Detections	% Detected
Racially/Religiously Agg. Assault	61	17	27.9%
Racially/Religiously Agg. Common Assault	49	18	36.7%
Racially/Religiously Agg. Criminal Damage	48	11	22.9%
Racially/Religiously Agg. Harassment	166	76	45.8%
TOTAL	324	122	37.7%
Repeat Victims	84		
% Repeat Victims	25.9%		

TOTAL Crime Detection Rate	50,569	12,438	24.6%
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Incident Profile	Incidents
Incident - Disability	19
Incident - Faith	4
Incident - Homophobic	65
Incident - Racial	261
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	8
TOTAL	357
Repeat Victims	35
% Repeat Victims	9.8%

OVERALL Total Hate Crime & Incidents	681
TOTAL Repeat Victims	119
% Repeats	17.5%

- 2.11 The table above shows that for Hate Crimes and Incidents combined there is a repeat victim percentage of 17.5%. This is an increase on the last report but when taken with the satisfaction figures, can be interpreted as a positive sign that victims have the confidence to contact the police again as they have received a quality service on the first occasion. Research has shown that, in general, although these individuals are repeat victims of crime, the crimes do not involve repeat offenders.

Hate Crime User Satisfaction Results (Discrete Quarterly Results)

Hate Crime Victim Satisfaction Results	Very & Completely Satisfied	Satisfied
1st Qrt 2007/08	71.1%	81.6%
2nd Qrt 2007/08	57.7%	84.6%
3rd Qrt 2007/08	77.8%	94.4%
4th Qrt 2007/08	75.0%	85.7%
1st Qrt 2008/09	76.2%	85.7%
2nd Qrt 2008/09	77.4%	87.1%
3rd Qrt 2008/09	52.6%	68.4%
4th Qrt 2008/09	69.0%	82.8%

Full Year Results

2007/08	70.0%	85.5%
2008/09	71.7%	82.6%

Overall Satisfaction	Very & Completely Satisfied	Satisfied
1st Qrt 2007/08	73.6%	87.0%
2nd Qrt 2007/08	70.6%	86.9%
3rd Qrt 2007/08	68.4%	83.9%
4th Qrt 2007/08	73.3%	88.7%
1st Qrt 2008/09	69.1%	86.4%
2nd Qrt 2008/09	71.6%	87.5%
3rd Qrt 2008/09	71.0%	87.6%
4th Qrt 2008/09	71.3%	84.9%

Full Year Results

2007/08	71.0%	86.7%
2008/09	70.9%	86.8%

- 2.12 Overall satisfaction rates of 82.6% for victims of Hate Crime fall in line with the satisfaction rates for victims of all crime of 86.8%; 70.9 % of those victims were either completely or very satisfied.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 This report has outlined the current situation regarding the reporting and recording of Hate related Incidents and Crimes within Dorset Police for the period of 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009.
- 3.2 The majority of Hate Crime continues to be around Racial Harassment related offences.
- 3.3 The detection rate of 37.7% for Hate Crime remains well above the Force average detection rate of 24.6%. The majority of Hate Incidents (Non Crimes) reported are also racially related, 261 in total. The second highest being homophobic with 65 reports and there has been a slight increase in disability related reported incidents.
- 3.4 There continues to be significant developments around Hate Crime locally and nationally that will have an impact on how Dorset Police deals with the issue. In Dorset, the Divisional Public Protection Departments are now fully

functional and each division has a Hate Crime Review Officer. Whilst they will not be investigating every incident, they will be able to provide expert guidance and actively review and scrutinise enquiries. The Detective Inspector, Prevention and Public Protection Bureau will be responsible for the strategic development including policy, procedure and compliance monitoring.

- 3.5 Nationally, there continues to be a focus on the under reporting of Homophobic Crimes and Dorset Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers (LAGLOs) are assisting with building public confidence to increase reporting. There is also a National Focus on Disability Hate Crime and last year's National Hate Crime Conference focused on specific cases that have received media coverage and looked at how reporting can be improved for people with disabilities and learning difficulties.
- 3.6 Dorset Police is currently recording crime to the level and expectation of the Home Office. There are still some forces yet to achieve this. It was identified at the National Hate Crime Conference that there would be efforts to increase crime recording around Hate Crime in respect of Race, Faith, Sexuality and Disability and the Home Office will be looking at providing some guidance on the requirements in the near future.
- 3.7 All Hate Crimes are reviewed by a Hate Crime Officer and quality assured by the Public Protection Detective Inspector. All victims of Hate Crime are contacted and asked to conduct a Public Confidence/Satisfaction Survey. As stated earlier, Dorset currently has 82.6% satisfaction from Hate Crime victims.
- 3.8 Safer Neighbourhood Teams are also conducting follow up enquiries and high visibility patrols to the individuals that are repeat victims of Hate Crime. It is hoped that this will improve public confidence, increase reporting of Hate Crime and, in the long term, reduce repeat victimisation whilst at the same time bringing any offenders responsible for the crimes to justice.
- 3.9 A new training package has been developed for front line supervisors and sergeants in order to get them to recognise the potential difficulties surrounding Hate Crime. The course aims to give officers an understanding of how vulnerable the victim feels and their expectation of the police when they report an incident and incorporates a number of case studies involving Hate related murder victims.
- 3.10 Work is also underway across the Region with regard to developing force response to honour based violence (HBV). This work will raise awareness amongst our officers and specific training will be provided for those working within Public Protection.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

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