

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE –
14 NOVEMBER 2008**

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 The report details the findings for the period 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008 inclusive for Hate Incidents and Crimes reported to Dorset Police. This currently includes all forms of abuse relating to Race, Faith, Homophobia, Transgender, Age, 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 Crime reported since 1 April 2008 and shows the figures from each section. 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 Sept 07	Apr 08 to Sept 08
Central Bournemouth	37	34
East Bournemouth	20	25
North Bournemouth	31	25
Poole South	22	19
Poole North	10	18
Bournemouth & Poole Division	120	121
Division as % of Force Total	74.5%	66.9%
Dorchester	1	4
Bridport	4	2
Weymouth & Portland	16	19
Purbeck	8	5
East Dorset	6	6
North Dorset	3	4
Christchurch	3	20
County Division	41	60
Division as % of Force Total	25.5%	33.1%
FORCE TOTAL	161	181

- 2.6 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's suggested at the National Hate Crime Conference that nationally, Hate Crime may be under reported to the police by as much as 50%. This is due to victims, faiths etc 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 the satisfaction surveys.
- 2.7 Initiatives such as third party reporting and True Vision are all intended to increase confidence within those communities that may have previously been suspicious of the police. A number of initiatives within Dorset may have encouraged the increased reporting such as advertising online reporting and 3rd Party reporting through multi agencies, victim education and advertising these initiatives through major events in the County such as Bourne Free, Gay Pride and Police Open day.
- 2.8 Dorset Police now has its own online 3rd party reporting system that can be found on the Dorset Police website. From this site the public are able to report a hate incident/crime either in person, on behalf of a 3rd party or even anonymously. This is to ensure we are at the very least, understanding the types of incidents that are occurring and gaining the intelligence around these events. We have recently signposted this form on the front page of the Dorset Police site and this has made a significant increase in online reporting.
- 2.9 The table below shows that Dorset Police detected 24.2% of all crime recorded. In relation to Hate crime the figure increases considerably to **39.8%**. 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.

2008/09 - April 2008 to September 2008

Crime Profile	Crimes	Detections	% Detected
Racially/Religiously Agg. Assault	41	9	22.0 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Common Assault	27	9	33.3 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Criminal Damage	22	9	40.9 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Harassment	91	45	49.5 %
TOTAL	181	72	39.8 %
Repeat Victims	46		
% Repeat Victims	25.4 %		

TOTAL Crime Detection Rate	26,779	6,480	24.2%
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Incident Profile	Incidents
Incident - Disability	7
Incident - Faith	3
Incident - Homophobic	39
Incident - Racial	3
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	154
TOTAL	206
Repeat Victims	15
% Repeat Victims	7.3%

OVERALL Total Crime & Incidents	387
TOTAL Repeat Victims	61
% Repeats	15.8%

2.10 The table above shows that for Hate crimes and incidents combined there is a repeat victim percentage of **7.3%**. This is considerably less than repeat victimisation **15.8%** for other crimes. This figure should be considered along with satisfaction rates. 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
4th Qrt 2006/07	81.6%	89.5%
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		
4th Qrt 2008/09		

2007/08 Full Yr Result	70.0%	85.5%
2008/09 YTD	76.7%	86.3%

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		
4th Qrt 2008/09		

2007/08 Full Yr Result	71%	87%
2008/09 YTD	71%	87%

- 2.11 Overall satisfaction rates of 86.3% for victims of Hate crime fall in line with the satisfaction rates for the Force of 87%. 76.7 % 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 2007 to 30th September 2008.
- 3.2 The majority of Hate Crime continues to be around Race related offences and the offences vary from harassment, public order such as verbal attacks to assaults causing actual bodily harm.
- 3.3 The detection rate of 39.8% for Hate Crime remains well above the Force average detection rate of 24.2%. The majority of Incidents (Non Crimes) reported are also racially related. 154 in total. The second highest being homophobic with 39 reports. Both have had a significant increase in reporting
- 3.4 There continues to be significant developments around Hate Crime nationally that will have an impact on how Dorset Police deals with the issue. 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 LAGLOs are assisting with building public confidence to assist with increasing reporting. There is also a National Focus on Disability Hate Crime and this year's 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 are 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 conference that there would be efforts to increase crime recording around Hate Crime to establish Age, Race, Faith, Sexuality and Disability. The Home Office will be looking at providing some guidance to the requirements in the near future. In the mean time Dorset has set a working group between the Community Engagement Team, Public Protection, Divisions and HQ CID to progress this matter and to have in place by 2009.
- 3.7 True Vision was a Nationally Launched campaign to promote third party reporting and online reporting for Hate Crime. This campaign has been running in Dorset for some years. The online reporting has proved to be a difficult task for the National True Vision leads due to limited staffing and technology that could actually run the system nationally. Dorset Police has therefore launched its own version of third party on line reporting for Hate Crime. The site is fully functional and has received a number of reports. With signposting on the Dorset Police website, reports have increased significantly in the last month.

- 3.8 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. Dorset currently has **86.3%** positive response to how it manages Hate Crime.
- 3.9 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 prevent the repeat victimisation whilst at the same time bring any offenders responsible for the crimes to justice.
- 3.10 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. The training also follows a number of case studies around murder victims of Hate Crimes.

4. RECOMMENDATION

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

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