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Our Ref: FOI2018/00879

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00879**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 18th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) In relation to 2017 ( from 1st January 2017 to 31 December 2017), can you confirm if in relation to incidents of racism or hate crime, separate records are kept for incidents of anti Semitism.**
- 2) If separate records of anti Semitism are kept, please confirm if the definition of anti Semitism used in establishing if an incident is deemed to be antisemitic is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition.**
- 3) If the IHRA definition is not used, please state what definition is used.**
- 4) Please confirm how many incidents were treated as anti Semitic in 2017.**
- 5) Please confirm if any of the incidents treated as anti Semitic were referred to the Community Security Trust (CST).**
- 6) If incidents were referred to CST, please confirm how many in total were referred.**
- 7) Was any officer from the Jewish Police Officers Association involved in dealing with anti Semitic incidents, if so, on how many occasions did this occur.**
- 8) Finally, in relation to assaults considered to be antisemitic, were incidents of verbal abuse or hate speech as a stand alone incident treated as an assault**

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 within the Constabulary please see our response below.

**Response**

**Q1** – Incidents of anti-Semitism are recorded with a “Misc Code 57 flag”.

**Q2** – Hertfordshire Constabulary do not use this definition.

**Q3** – As a police service we use the College of Policing Hate Crime Operation Guidance (2014), section 3: Strands of Monitored Hate Crime;

**3.2.3 Anti-Semitism**

*This is taken to be a combination of race hate crimes where the hostility is targeted towards Jewish people or communities and religious hate crime targeted towards Judaism. Jewish people are accepted in UK courts to be an ethnic group. Victims may, therefore, perceive crimes targeting Jewish people to be either a religious hate crime or racist crime, even when the victim is secular or does not have links with Israel. Anti-Semitic hate crime takes place where a recordable crime is committed and the victim perceives it is motivated (wholly or partially) by anti-Semitic hostility. Jewish people may report such crimes as racially or religiously motivated, even when the victim is secular or does not have links with Israel. This perception should be recognised. As with all hate crimes, an offender only attracts enhanced sentencing*

in court if evidence is provided which satisfies the court of offender's hostility. However, this evidence is not necessary for recording purposes.

**Definition of anti-Semitism**

*The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), now the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), created a working definition of anti-Semitism to help professionals understand its nature. The EUMC working definition helps to explain some of the characteristics that may be present in anti-Semitism hate crime. These include circumstances that amount to hate crimes and those that are likely to be non-hate crime hate incidents.*

*The EUMC definition is: Anti-Semitism (sic) is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism (sic) are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.*

**Q4** – 41 incidents were recorded in 2017. These are incidents which have a Misc Code of "57" applied.

**Q5** - Information is not held regarding referrals to the Community Security Trust.

**Q6** – Please see the above response

**Q7** – Please see the above response

**Q8** – Of the 41 incidents recorded in 2017, 6 of these were racial/relig aggravated common assault/beatings with the anti-Semitic flag applied.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

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

Yours sincerely

James Hodson  
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Hertfordshire Constabulary 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 Hertfordshire Constabulary 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.