| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1028Responded to: 18 April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In line with the legal recognition of ethical veganism as a protected philosophical belief under the Equality Act 2010 since January 2020, and in the context of veganphobia or hate against vegans, please provide the number of incidents logged in your force of hate crime where it is mentioned that the victims or complainants were vegan, for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.**

A hate crime is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group. There are currently five social groups protected under hate crime legislation and veganism is not one of them, therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

The following link will provide further guidance: [Hate Crime National Guidance](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/5yagp2ye/hate-crime-national-guidance.doc)

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.