| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2135  Responded to: 22 September 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please can you provide a breakdown of the number (how many) and locations of all Islamophobic incidents that took place in any mosque, street, private dwelling, or other venue in the police force area over the last three years?

To provide some general context, Police Scotland defines a **hate incident** as ‘any incident 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, but which does not constitute a criminal offence.’

Police Scotland defines a **hate crime** as, ‘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.’

Social groups are identified in accordance with the Lord Advocates guidelines on Aggravations of Offences against Prejudice for example, race, sexual orientation, religion/faith, disability or transgender identity.

The information below has been extracted from Police Scotland’s interim Vulnerable Person Database. The system’s main function is to record the data of vulnerable people. As such, it was not designed to be a statistical tool. The database does not permit the data to be extracted in a manner that will provide a straightforward response to your request. However, this database is a national system that allows for the extraction of data with a consistent methodology.

The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing, or where force policy dictates. E.g. Domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the [Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/1/contents/enacted).

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Additionally, on iVPD the term nominal relates to a person, victim or perpetrator involved in a crime.

In response to this question, please the table below, provides the number of religious hate concern incidents where the hate concern reason is ‘Muslim’, broken by year.

Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

Religious Hate Concern Incidents (Hate Concern Reason 'Muslim'), Police Scotland

Period: 1st January 2020 - 31st July 2023, Calendar Years

|  | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Religious Hate Concern Incidents (Hate Concern Reason 'Muslim') | 89 | 103 | 111 | 68 |

The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting religious hate concern incident nominals, where the religious hate reason is 'Muslim'. Table 4 provides a unique count of iVPD incidents which include at least 1 x religious hate concern incident nominal, where the religious hate reason is 'Muslim'.

Please note, not all incident nominals will be 'Muslim'. Each record will need to be read to confirm the circumstances relating to the iVPD incident.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 11th September 2023.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site.

With respect to the location aspect of your request, I can advise that religious hate concerns where the hate reason is ‘Muslim’ have taken place in the following locations:

* Accused's Home
* Care Setting
* Commercial Premises
* Educational Establishment
* Health Establishment
* Joint Home (residence of both victim & accused)
* Licensed Premises
* Other
* Other Dwelling
* Public Place
* Religious Establishment
* Street
* Subject's Home
* Unknown
* Victim's Home

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.