16 October 2014

Statistical News Release: Hate Crimes, England and Wales, 2013/14

The latest hate crime statistics are released today by the Home Office. This bulletin contains:

- The number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2013/14 which were motivated by one or more of the following five monitored strands: race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity.

- Further analysis of more detailed data, provided by 18 police forces via the Home Office Data Hub, on the types of offences and crime outcomes associated with hate crime.

- The number of racist incidents recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2013/14 (as well as covering crimes these figures also include incidents which do not amount to a crime in law).

Key points from the bulletin

- In 2013/14, there were 44,480 hate crimes recorded by the police, an increase of five per cent compared with 2012/13, of which:
  - 37,484 (84%) were race hate crimes;
  - 4,622 (10%) were sexual orientation hate crimes;
  - 2,273 (5%) were religion hate crimes;
  - 1,985 (4%) were disability hate crimes; and
  - 555 (1%) were transgender hate crimes.

- It is possible for one hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which is why the above numbers sum to more than 44,480 and 100 per cent.

- There were increases in all five of the monitored hate crime strands (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity) between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

- Much of the increase in race and religious hate crime is likely to be due to a rise in offences in the months immediately following the murder of Lee Rigby in May 2013. Additionally, the police may have improved their recording of crime and the identification of motivating factors in an offence over the last year.

- It is less clear whether the increase in sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity hate crime reflects a real rise in hate crime or improved police identification of these offences. The increase across all three strands may suggest improved identification is a factor.