Places of Worship (POW) Protective Security Funding Scheme
‘Top Tips’ for completing the application form

July 2019
Introduction

This document has been created to aid you in completing the application form for the Places of Worship (POW) Protective Security Funding Scheme. It should be read alongside the detailed guidance available on Gov.UK.

Top Tips

- Remember, the form can be saved at any stage. However, you must submit your application **before the deadline closes at 23:59 on 31 August 2019**.

- We strongly advise that you schedule your police Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) appointment and **submit your application as early as possible**.

- Write clearly, and make sure you provide all necessary details. Take care with contact numbers and post codes.

- You can only submit **one** application for your place of worship / associated faith community centre.

Vulnerability to hate crime evidence

As part of your application, you need to provide evidence of vulnerability to religious hate crime.

Any crime that is motivated by hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity can be classed as a hate crime. For this scheme, we are focusing on religion.

You are allowed to upload a **maximum of 10 files of evidence** in support of your application. The list below is not exhaustive and is intended to give some suggestions of the types of evidence we are looking for:

- Photographs/reports of incidents at your place of worship/associated faith community centre or nearby;

- Police reports of a hate crime or incident at your place of worship/associated faith community centre or nearby;

- A letter or email from your local police force confirming that your institution is in an area where there has been high incidence of religiously motivated hate crimes;

- Evidence of particular tensions in the community e.g. from a local authority community coordinator.
Hate Crime Vulnerability Evidence - Examples

We have listed some examples of hate crime vulnerability evidence below. This is to guide you with your application, but it is not exhaustive and must not be copied in your application form.

**Example 1:** I attach a letter from our local council in support of our application. The letter sets out the issues we have reported to both the council and the police, and how we would greatly benefit from the installation of security measures.

**Example 2:** I have enclosed media cuttings about a place of worship/ associated faith community centre nearby which has also experienced hate crime. We have worked closely with them on a number of community initiatives, and we fear that this could mean that we are targeted for our connection.

Our congregation is diverse, and we have a number of young and elderly worshippers. A survey of the congregation I conducted recently evidenced that many feel vulnerable to hate crime. The survey indicated that worshippers would feel safer with the installation of security measures. The survey particularly indicated that worshippers do not feel safe undertaking prayer during the winter months, and during religious festivals, for fear of being attacked. Our worshippers have experienced hate crime that they are unwilling to report.

As a congregation we feel very vulnerable to hate crime due to the incidents we have already experienced, and attacks in the local area.

**Example 3:** The place of worship/ associated faith community centre has been subjected to a number of hate crimes and hate incidents over the past year. In the last 12 months, the police have recorded multiple hate crimes and hate incidents within the local area. The police consider our area to be a crime hotspot.

**Example 4:** The place of worship/ associated faith community centre has reported the following incidents and crimes to the police. Below are the crime reference numbers and a brief summary. I have also attached these incidents to the application, as well as photographs of the damage.

- **POW123456/18:** Over a period of time, suspects have sent multiple letters to the place of worship/ associated faith community centre. These letters are of a threatening and abusive nature directed towards members of the place of worship/ associated faith community centre, and specifically targets their faith.

- **POW789123/19:** A man has been arrested on suspicion of religiously aggravated criminal damage. The man was throwing rocks at windows, and at cars parked in the carpark during prayer time. The man was shouting abusive words such as “This place of worship is an abomination and should be done away with.”
-POW112233/19: A graffiti incident took place. Derogatory comments were spray-painted onto the place of worship/ associated faith community centre exterior walls. These comments were offensive and targeted the faith of the place of worship/ associated faith community centre.