



Home Office

# Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme

'Top Tips' for completing the application  
form

June 2020

# 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 9 August 2020**.
- Please **do not** contact your Police Designing Out Crime Officer for a physical site assessment. If you are successful in progressing to the second stage, you will be contacted by Esotec Limited for a site assessment.
- Write clearly, and make sure you provide all necessary details. Take care to check contact numbers and post codes are accurate.
- You can only submit **one** application for your place of worship / associated faith community centre. If your place of worship and associated faith community centre are on the same site, you should still only submit **one** application.

## 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, religious, 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;
- Testimonials about experiences of hate crime or hateful sentiment from worshippers at your place of worship/associated faith community centre;
- Records and/or time and date logs of incidents that have occurred at your place of worship or associated community centre, or its nearby surroundings;
- A survey or consensus of the congregation indicating feelings of vulnerability to hate crime.

Last year, successful applications used clear evidence to explain how and why they were vulnerable to hate crime. Applicants detailed the incidents clearly and relied on multiple sources of evidence to show their vulnerability.

Unsuccessful applications offered limited evidence and/or did not explain why they were vulnerable to hate crime. For example, some applications uploaded photos, but did not explain what the photos showed, or applicants only provided police incident reference numbers, but did not explain what had happened.

## 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 10 hate incidents we have reported to both the council and the police in the last year, and explains how we would greatly benefit from the installation of security measures, as we would be able to prevent people coming onto the premises to purposefully target our worshippers during prayer times.

**Example 2:** We have experienced a number of criminal incidents, and these have been recently increasing in frequency and severity. I enclose a picture of recent graffiti, which is clearly targeting the site due to our religion. I have also 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. The increase in hate incidents at our place of worship/associated faith community centre reinforces these fears.

Our congregation is diverse, and we have a number of young and elderly worshippers. A survey of the congregation I recently conducted 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. A recent incident involved a man shouting offensive words at our worshippers as they left the building. Our worshippers have experienced other hate incidents that they are unwilling to report to the police.

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. Below are the crime reference numbers and a brief summary. I have also attached these incidents to the application, as well as photos of the damage.

- **POW123456/18:** Over a period of time suspects have sent multiple letters to the place of worship. These letters are of a threatening and abusive nature directed towards members of the place of worship, 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 exterior walls. These comments were offensive and targeted the faith of the place of worship.

**Example 4:** Our worshippers feel vulnerable to hate crime, but do not want to report the incidents to the police. We have instead made a record of each incident, clearly setting out what occurred and when. Over the course of the past two years, our worshippers have indicated a number of incidents of harassment when entering and leaving the premises. A number of people have taken to shouting offensive words about our worshippers whilst they are entering the premises. The most recent incident of harassment involved one of our worshippers being pushed as they walked onto the grounds. Whilst the worshipper was not hurt, they were very shaken by the incident, and could not be persuaded to report the incident. Another incident involved someone throwing eggs at our building for several nights in a row during a religious festival. We reported this to the police as we felt that this was motivated by hostility based on our religion, however as we do not have CCTV we were unable to identify the culprit. We are worried that the increasing severity of incidents will only continue to escalate.



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