

Crime Flags

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F1 Hate Crime (1 of 1)

Hate Crime Definition

"Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender."

This collection requires offences aggravated by hate or prejudice (for the five strands outlined below) to be flagged on Data Hub extracts provided to the Home Office.

- Disability [Code 23]
- Transgender [Code 55]
- Racial [Code 18]
- Religion / beliefs [HODH flag is called "Religion" and is Code 19] **
- Sexual orientation [Code 54]

Note that multiple aggravating factors may be recorded against an individual offence, including multiple hate crime indicators (for example both race and religion/belief may be recorded against a single offence).

****Where the Religion flag has been applied, one of the following flags should also be applied to capture the **perceived** religion (or belief or faith) of the victim:**

- Christian
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Other
- No religion
- Unknown

Please note that where one of these flags is applied, the 'Religion' flag must also be applied.

Perceived religion means the targeted religion of the offender when known. For example, if Islamophobic graffiti is sprayed on a Gurdwara (Sikh temple), then the targeted perceived religion should be recorded as Muslim.

From April 2021, it is also mandatory to provide ethnicity of victim for racially or religiously aggravated offences (offence codes 8P, 105B, 8M, 9B, 58J) via the Home Office Data Hub.

F2 **Metal Theft (1 of 1)**

Offences should be flagged as Metal Theft if the police employee filing the crime report believes that the intent for committing the offence was to remove the item for its scrap metal value rather than the acquiring of the item (s). Offences of attempted metal theft should also be flagged. **One and only one** of the following two flags should be used:

1) Metal theft (infrastructure related)

The removal of metal that has a direct impact on the functioning of infrastructure and/or fabric of a building or machinery. This includes all metals that are connected to live services such as water, heating, electricity, other service cabling and railway cabling; roofing lead, a catalytic converter removed from a vehicle and manhole covers.

2) Metal theft (non-infrastructure)

The removal of metal that has no direct impact on the functioning of infrastructure and/or fabric of a building or machinery. This includes metal that is not connected to services, redundant metal, war memorial plaques, and metal gates/fencing.

If it is considered challenging to determine which of the two flags is appropriate then the infrastructure related flag should be used as a default.

Only one flag (and not both) should be applied.

F3 Domestic Abuse (1 of 1)

Domestic Abuse Definition

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”.

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behavior is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behavior.

Coercive behavior is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

1. Notifiable Crimes

The **mandatory** collection of data on notifiable crimes relating to domestic abuse took effect from April 2015. This applies to all crime classifications and to all reports of domestic abuse related crime (including those where there is a repeat victim). Collection of this information should be achieved by means of a flag or other type of identifier being applied to all crime records. How this is achieved is a matter for forces to consider individually. The resulting data will be collected either via the Home Office Data Hub.

2. Repeat Domestic Abuse Crimes

In addition to the collection set out above, there is an additional data stream for repeat reports of Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes. The repeat DA becomes **mandatory** for 2018/19.

It is important to underline that this is for notifiable crimes only. This collection requires forces to additionally identify (by means of a further flag, qualifier or similar identifier) those crimes where the victim is making a second or subsequent report of a DA related offence, following the initial recording of such a crime. The following examples set out how this would operate:

i) A is in a relationship with B. A reports for the first time being assaulted by B. A discloses that s/he has been assaulted by B several times but this is the first time it has been reported. Police record a crime.

Count as DA non repeat – apply the DA identifier to the recorded crime

ii) 4 weeks later A reports that B, who has moved out of their shared home, is carrying out a course of harassment. Police record a crime

Count as DA repeat – apply the DA identifier AND the repeat DA identifier

iii) Some months later A has formed a new relationship with C. A then reports a DA assault by C. Police record a crime.

Count as DA repeat – apply the DA identifier AND the repeat DA identifier

It is essential to underline that whilst the examples above relate to crimes of harassment or violence and to a party in an intimate relationship, the principle extends to other crime types and to the full range of family members.

A “repeat victim” is defined as “a second or subsequent report by a victim within a rolling 12 month period”.

ALL notifiable crimes that meet the DA definition should have the DA flag applied to them. **Where crimes are flagged as Repeat DA then BOTH flags should be applied.**

F4 Online Flag (1 of 1)

Online Flag Definition:

An offence should be flagged where any element of the offence was committed online or through internet-based activities (e.g through email, social media, websites, messaging platforms, gaming platforms or smart devices). Updated April 2020

Purpose

This flag is to help understand the volume and nature of offences committed online. It refers to any crime committed either in full, or in part, through use of online methods or platforms. The online crime flag helps provide a national and local picture of how internet and digital communications technology are being used to commit crimes, and an understanding of the prominence of certain crimes that are happening online, compared to offline. The flag will help us prioritise spending and direct appropriate resources to tackle online crimes, e.g. in terms of technology, training, digital forensics capacity, and staff. It also gives an insight into the scale and nature of online crime, and can help enhance the development of policies to tackle them and protect victims.

F5 Child Sexual Abuse (1 of 1)

Child sexual abuse is defined as:

‘Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts (e.g. masturbation, kissing, rubbing, touching outside of clothing etc.) They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)’.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a clearly defined as a subset of CSA and so all offences flagged as being related to CSE should also be flagged as CSA (but not all offences flagged as relating to CSA will be flagged as CSE).

Uses / Publication

CSA and CSE Crime Flags

The collection increases police, government and public understanding of the scale of CSA and CSE in response to a recommendation by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner to improve the recording of crimes involving CSA. The data will be included in future statistical outputs published by the Home Office and ONS.

The full scale of CSA and CSE is notoriously difficult to measure given the hidden nature of the crime and there is a gap in our knowledge regarding the precise number of cases of CSA and CSE recorded by the police. During the development stages of the ADR, we considered all possibilities to collect data on CSA centrally. However, the current data collected by police recorded crime statistics does not allow for all sexual offences against children to be identified (e.g. obscene publication offences that are specifically related to children). There is also an issue with offences where it is known that the victim is under age, but the exact date of birth is not known. Using current data therefore provides an under-estimate of CSA.

The CSE crime flag (CSE related offences) is required as CSE is not defined in law as a separate offence. CSE cannot be identified using offence subclasses only as some subclasses could be made up of CSE and non-CSE offences. As such, a ‘flag’ is the only method for collecting these data.

F6 Child Sexual Exploitation (1 of 1)

Definition

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.'

CSE is a subset of CSA and all offences flagged as being related to CSE should also be flagged as CSA (but not all offences flagged as relating to CSA will be flagged as CSE).

Uses and Publication

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F7 Alcohol-Related Crime (1 of 1)

Alcohol-related crime definition:

“any notifiable offence (crime) where it is perceived, by the victim or any other person, that the effects of alcohol consumption on the offender or victim was an aggravating factor”.

The qualifier should be used where the consumption of alcohol has been associated with the offence.

This recorded crime collection provides the numbers of crimes directly attributable to alcohol via the Home Office Data Hub, which assists in assessing the impact of alcohol on crime and policing, improves transparency and provides improved information for the public on the scale of the problem.

Uses / Publication:

This data will inform decision making and be included in future statistical outputs and widely published in Home Office and ONS statistical bulletins. In the future data it is intended that data will be published on Police.uk

F8 Corrosive Based Offences (1 of 1)

Definition

“All notifiable violence against the person and robbery, involving the throwing, spraying or pouring of acid or a similarly corrosive substance onto the body of another with the intention to disfigure, torture, kill or otherwise incapacitate for criminal purposes.”

Acid or corrosive substances are defined as those that cause visible destruction and/or permanent change in human skin tissue at the site of contact.

Data collection is specifically focused on cases where verifiable evidence exists that an acid/corrosive substance has been used or attempted to be used against the person with criminal intent as described. This will include offences where it can be demonstrated:

- a) Visible destruction or permanent change in skin tissue has occurred at site of contact of substance used by offender/s
- b) Permanent destruction of clothing at site of contact of substance used by offender/s (e.g burning) and with supporting scientific evidence of acid/alkali having been used for forensic testing.
- c) That an attempted (more than merely preparatory) act of throwing, spraying or pouring of an acid/corrosive substance towards another person has occurred but the substance missed or fails to discharge such that harm outlined in (a) or (b) does not occur. Forensic testing fully corroborates the attempted use of an acid/corrosive substance which in a forensic scientist's opinion would have caused harm as outlined in (a) and (b).

Data collection considerations

This data collection seeks to identify all relevant offences of violence against the person.

This definition deliberately avoids inclusion of attacks against property only, use of noxious (but not corrosive substance) and offences involving threats to deploy corrosive substances where there is no way of knowing whether hoax or genuine.

This approach means data collection efforts are focused on the most serious offences against the person where there can be no doubt that a corrosive substance has been used or attempted to be used with criminal intent as described.

Purpose

To collect data on all violence against the person offences where corrosives have been used or have attempted to be used.

Uses / Publication:

The data will be used on a quarterly basis by the NPCC Lead's Corrosive Substances Working Group and we will also be discussing with the Office for National Statistics whether we can gain their agreement to publish the data as part of the ONS quarterly Crime Stats.

F9 Honour Based Abuse (1 of 1)

Definition

“‘Honour-based’ abuse is a crime or incident involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (Including psychological, physical, sexual or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community’s code of behaviour”

Please note this includes, but is not limited to, crimes of forced marriage and female genital mutilation. If a forced marriage or FGM offence is recorded this should always be marked with an HBA flag.

Collection:

- Both incident and crime data committed in the context of HBA to be returned, similar to the collection of domestic abuse incident and crime data under ADR 119.
- All FGM offences should be flagged as HBA, if FGM is reported under the mandatory reporting duty then an additional flag of FGM Mandatory Reporting must also be applied. For more information on the duty please refer to mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information.
- If a crime is recorded with a domestic abuse flag as part of collection ADR119, but also has an element of HBA as defined above, this must also be flagged as HBA.
- Both recorded crime and incident data to be returned quarterly with the results published annually.

Codes for these categories will be provided with the data collection template.