

Economic Note	Number: HO EN 1055
Title of regulatory proposal	Expanding coverage of aggravated offences
Lead Department/Agency	Home Office
Expected date of implementation	1 st October 2026
Origin	Domestic
Date	03/03/2026
Lead Departmental Contact	CrimeandPolicingBillTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk
Departmental Assessment	GREEN

Rationale for intervention, objectives and intended effects

The government plans to extend the aggravated offences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which currently apply only to race and religion, to also cover sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, and sex. This is to ensure that hostility-motivated crimes are treated with equal seriousness across the six protected characteristics. The intended effects are to support consistent charging decisions and demonstrating to the public that hate crime will be investigated and prosecuted with equal rigour regardless of the protected characteristic targeted.

Policy options (including alternatives to regulation)

Option 0: ‘Do nothing’ – Do not change the scope of aggravated offences under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Option 1 - Extend the aggravated offences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to also include sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability and sex. **This is the government’s preferred option.**

Costs and benefit summary

The total discounted costs over the 10-year appraisal period are estimated to fall within a range of £0.04 million to £17.72 million, with a central estimate of £3.89 million. These costs are attributable to initial familiarisation costs as well as on-going Criminal Justice System (CJS) and prison running costs. It has not been possible to monetise the benefits of this policy due to insufficient data and evidence.

Risks

The main risk to the analysis is limited evidence about the effects of enhanced sentencing, meaning there is significant uncertainty around the impacts.

Total Cost (£m PV)	Transition Cost (£m Constant)	Cost to Business (£m PV)	
3.89	0.00	0.00	
Total Benefit (£m PV)	NPSV (£m PV)	BNPV (£m PV)	EANDCB (£m PV)
0.00	-3.89	0.00	0.00
Price Base Year	PV Base Year	Appraisal period (Years)	Transition period (Years)
2026/27	2026/27	10	1
Departmental sign-off (SCS):		Lizzy Gummer	Date: 04/03/2026
Chief Economist sign-off:		Tim Laken	Date: 24/03/2026
Better Regulation Unit sign-off:		Emma Kirk	Date: 25/03/2026

Evidence Base

A. Policy objectives and intended effects

1. This measure gives effect to the government's manifesto commitment to "protect LGBT+ and disabled people by making all existing strands of hate crime an aggravated offence¹." It will extend the aggravated offences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – which currently apply only to race and religion² – to also cover sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, and sex.
2. This responds to a clear imbalance in the current legislative framework. Race and religion have specific aggravated offences with higher maximum penalties, whereas sexual orientation, transgender identity, and disability, are covered only through enhanced sentencing under the Sentencing Act 2020³. It also extends the aggravated offences to sex, not currently covered by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 or Sentencing Act 2020.
3. Extending aggravated offences ensures that hostility-motivated crimes are treated with equal seriousness across the six protected characteristics, supporting consistent charging decisions and demonstrating to the public that hate crime will be investigated and prosecuted with equal rigour regardless of the characteristic targeted.
4. To avoid overlap with other legislation, the measure will exclude section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986 (intentional harassment, alarm or distress) from being aggravated on the basis of sex⁴. This is necessary because section 4A will already be aggravable for sex following commencement of the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023⁵, and duplicating this provision would create confusion for police and prosecutors about charging routes.

B. Policy options considered, including alternatives to regulation

Option 0 – 'Do-nothing'

5. Do nothing would leave existing disparities between race and religion and the protected characteristics of sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex within the scope of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This approach would also mean that the government's manifesto commitment to equalise these protections would not be met.

Option 1 – Extend the aggravated offences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to also include sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability and sex.

6. The aggravated offences in sections 28 to 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, replicate certain non-hate crime offences (assault, criminal damage, certain public order offences, harassment and stalking) but carry higher maximum sentences where racial or religious hostility is proven. This measure adds sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex (with the section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986 exclusion outlined in section A) as protected characteristics. This would enable charges to be brought where hostility is evidenced on these grounds, ensuring consistent treatment across hate-crime characteristics and

¹ Home Office & Ministry of Justice (2026) Letter from Lord Hanson and Baroness Levitt to Lord Davies detailing government amendments for Lords Report stage: 13 February 2026 –GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-and-policing-bill-government-amendments-for-committee/letter-from-lord-hanson-and-baroness-levitt-to-lord-davies-detailing-government-amendments-for-lords-report-stage-13-february-2026>

² Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (sections 28 to 32) - GOV.UK: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/28>

³ The Sentencing Act 2020 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 - GOV.UK: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/1067/made>

⁴ Public Order Act 1986, Section 4A - GOV.UK: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/64/section/4A>

⁵ Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 - GOV.UK: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/47>

fulfilling the commitment to level up the aggravated offences framework. **This is the government's preferred option.**

Non-regulatory options

7. The preferred option will have an effect on the coverage of primary legislation across the protected characteristics; there are no viable non-regulatory options, as only legislation can amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to extend aggravated offences across all six protected characteristics.

C. Past evaluations and rationale for government intervention

8. The existing hate crime framework creates an uneven level of protection. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, aggravated offences apply only where hostility is based on race or religion, despite evidence that hostility linked to sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity can be equally harmful. This gap can lead to inconsistent sentencing outcomes and perceptions of a “hierarchy” of victims, undermining public confidence. The absence of aggravated offences for these characteristics also creates operational complexity: prosecutors must rely solely on enhanced sentencing, which does not always provide equivalent clarity or deterrence.
9. The Law Commission’s 2021 Review of Hate Crime legislation⁶ found significant disparity between the treatment of race and religion, for which aggravated offences exist, and the protection of the protected characteristics of sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity, for which only enhanced sentencing is applicable. The Law Commission recommended extending the aggravated offences accordingly.
10. The government is including sex as a protected characteristic within the aggravated offences framework to address a clear sentencing disparity and ensure that crimes driven by hostility towards a person’s sex or presumed sex can attract equivalent maximum penalties to those motivated by hostility towards other specified protected characteristics. Including sex aligns the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the government’s wider commitment to tackling violence against women and girls.

D. Appraisal

General assumptions and data

11. The following assumptions apply to all the measures in this note:
 - The appraisal period for measuring the impacts is 10 years, from 2026 to 2035.
 - Costs and benefits are converted to 2026/27 prices using the HM Treasury GDP Deflators (December 2025)⁷.
 - A 3.5 per cent annual social discount rate is implemented in line with the HM Treasury Green Book (2026)⁸.
 - All costs and benefits are relative to the baseline presented in Option 0: ‘Do nothing’.
12. There will be familiarisation costs whereby standard and senior police officers will need to become aware of any updated legislation. The assumptions for costing these include:

⁶ Law Commission (2021). Hate Crime Laws: Final Report - GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-laws-final-report>

⁷ GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP; December 2025 - GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp>

⁸ The Green Book: appraisal and evaluation in central government – GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government>

- Labour cost values for standard and senior police officers (sergeant and below) are derived from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)⁹. These salaries have a non-wage labour uplift of 21 per cent, as taken from the ONS Index of Labour Costs per Hour (ILCH; 2020)¹⁰.
- Familiarisation costs are estimated using the formula:

$$\text{reading time} \times \text{median wage} \times \text{number of readers} \times (1 + (\text{non-wage labour uplift})).$$

Assumptions and data

- The following assumptions apply to analysis of the impacts on the Criminal Justice System (CJS):
 - Based off assumptions from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), 55 per cent of cases in the Magistrates' Court and 100 per cent of cases in the Crown Court require legal aid¹¹.
 - In the first year, individuals only serve an assumed 36.5 per cent of their prison sentence (assume 63.5% on licence), assuming a linear profile between all offenders being released at 40 per cent up to implementation, and all offenders being released at 33 per cent a year after implementation (assume 67% on licence)¹².
 - For community and suspended sentences, a proportion of these are assumed to be breached and subsequently result in a custodial sentence. In the low scenario, a 20 per cent breach rate is applied, increasing to 25 per cent in the high scenario, with a central estimate of 22.5 per cent¹³.
 - Estimates for how volumes of proceedings will change because of these measures are based off the CJS statistics quarterly (December 2024)¹⁴ Outcomes by Offence tool.
- The following assumptions are used to estimate the volumes of offences in scope of the legislative changes, which are summarised in Table 1 below:
 - Enhanced sentencing assumptions have been applied to all characteristics except sex (as this characteristic will already be aggravable for sex following commencement of the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 scheduled for 1 April 2026). For the central scenario it is assumed that in 75 per cent of cases enhanced sentencing is applied and in the low and high that 100 per cent and 0 per cent is applied¹⁵.
 - Volumes of aggravated offences have been increased according to the ratio of race and religion hate crimes to sexual orientation, disability, and transgender hate crimes in police recorded data¹⁶. The percentages were then rescaled for the low, central, and high scenarios to incorporate the range developed for the sex-proxy estimates, ensuring that all six protected characteristics together account for 100% of recorded hate crime.
 - As no data is available in police recorded data on hate crimes against sex or presumed sex, a sex proxy estimate of 1.43 per cent was derived using gender-based hate crime data reported in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office

⁹ ONS (2025). Earnings and hours worked, occupation by four-digit SOC: ASHE Table 14, Table 14.5a, Datasets: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/occupation4digit2010ashtable14>

¹⁰ ONS (2020). Index of Labour Costs per Hour: level (£) by sector, seasonally adjusted - ONS: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/indexoflabourcostsperhourilchseasonallyadjusted>

¹¹ Legal aid assumption supplied by MoJ colleagues.

¹² Internal Home Office assumption based on assumptions supplied by MoJ colleagues.

¹³ Internal Home Office assumption.

¹⁴ Ministry of Justice (2025). Criminal Justice System Statistics Quarterly: December 2024 -GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2024>

¹⁵ Internal Home Office assumption.

¹⁶ Home Office (2025). Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 - GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Hate Crime Report¹⁷. This estimate draws upon data from economically comparable OSCE participating States that demonstrate similar distributions of hate crime across the other five protected characteristics. The figure of 1.43 per cent reflects the average proportion of hate crimes attributed to sex across the five comparable countries. To capture uncertainty, a broad sensitivity range was established: 0.50 percent in the low scenario (the lowest proportion observed across all countries) and 3.95 per cent in the high scenario (the average across all eight countries). These estimated proportions for hate crimes based on sex or presumed sex have then been applied across the low, central and high scenarios for all subsequent calculations.

- For the sex calculations, the base and aggravated version for offences of *Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress* have been removed following the exclusion section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986.

Table 1: Estimated new aggravated proceedings per year by hate crime strand

Hate crime strand	Low	Central	High
Sexual Orientation	1043	1289	1457
Disability	623	770	870
Transgender Identity	204	252	285
Sex	14	46	142
Total aggravated offence volumes	1884	2356	2755

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding.

Costs

Transition Cost 1: Familiarisation Costs

15. There will be familiarisation costs associated with police officers' engagement with the revised Authorised Professional Practice (APP), which will be updated to incorporate the additional aggravated offences. The total familiarisation cost arising from the extension of aggravated offences to all protected characteristics within hate crime legislation is estimated to range from £1,000 to £18,400, with a central estimate of £3,900. These costs are expected to be incurred only in the first year and subsequently absorbed into business-as-usual activities.
16. It is estimated that between 129 standard police officers in the low scenario to 430 senior police officers in the high scenario, with a central estimate of 215 police officers across all 43 forces within England and Wales will read and comprehend the updated APP guidance¹⁸. These total figures are based on 3 standard police officers per force in the low scenario to 10 senior police officers in the high scenario with a central estimate of 5 police officers per force (with an average wage estimate between a standard and senior officers hourly wage). This cost is derived from a time estimate that it will take forces between 15 minutes in the low to 60 minutes in the high, with a central estimate of 30 minutes to read and comprehend the guidance¹⁹.
17. These costs use wage estimates for Police officers (sergeant and below) and Senior Police officers (sergeant and below) from the 2025 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), four-digit occupational coding (SOC) Table 5. These costs are then inflated to 2026/27 prices using the Office for Budget Responsibility (ONS) GDP deflators for December 2025.
18. The wage cost does not factor in other labour costs, such as pension and national insurance employer contributions. The median wage is uplifted by a wage multiplier derived from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Index of Labour Costs per Hour. This gives the total

¹⁷ OSCE ODIHR Hate Crime Report, Gender-based hate crime 2024: – <https://hatecrime.osce.org/gender-based-hate-crime>

¹⁸ Internal Home Office assumption based on discussions with policy colleagues.

¹⁹ Internal Home Office assumption based on discussions with policy colleagues.

standard Police Officer labour cost of £29.66 and £42.78 for a Senior Police Officer (with a central estimate of £36.22).

19. Table 2 sets out the familiarisation cost per force and the total cost across all 43 forces. Assuming that between 3 standard police officers per force in the low scenario and 10 senior police officers per force in the high scenario (with a central estimate of 5 officers at a midpoint wage) familiarise themselves with the guidance, these numbers are multiplied by the estimated time required (see paragraph 16) and wage rates (see paragraph 18) to produce per-force cost estimates.

To calculate the total cost across all 43 forces, the assumed number of officers per force is multiplied by 43 to determine the total number of officers expected to read the updated guidance—ranging from 129 standard officers in the low scenario to 430 senior officers in the high scenario, with a central estimate of 215. This figure is then multiplied by the relevant wage estimates (see paragraph 18) to generate the final cost.

Table 2: Total familiarisation cost per force and across all 43 forces £, 2026/27 prices

	Familiarisation Costs		
	Low	Central	High
Cost to read updated guidance per force	20	100	400
Total cost to read updated guidance across all forces	1,000	3,900	18,400

Source: Home Office, own Estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding.

Table 3: Total transition cost £m, 2026/27 prices

	Total Familiarisation Costs
Low	0.00
Central	0.00
High	0.02

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding.

Ongoing Costs

Ongoing Costs 1: Court Costs

20. The proposed extension of aggravated offences under sections 28 to 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to include sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex is not expected to increase the overall volume of court activity because no new offences are created.
21. However, there may be a shift in case allocation from the Magistrates' Court to the Crown Court. This will have associated court running costs, given the higher costs associated with Crown Court cases. These costs are estimated to fall within a range of **£0 million to £0.09 million** with a central estimate of **£0.02 million**²⁰.

Ongoing Costs 2: Court Legal Aid Costs

22. Extending the scope of aggravated offences under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to include sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex is not expected to result in an increase in prosecutions.
23. However, it may lead to some cases being heard in the Crown Court rather than the Magistrates' Court, which could have implications for legal aid costs²¹. This measure is anticipated to lead to additional court legal aid costs of **£0 million to £0.06 million**, with a central estimate of **£0.01 million**.

²⁰ Court unit costs supplied by MoJ colleagues.

²¹ Legal aid unit costs supplied by MoJ colleagues.

Ongoing Costs 3: Prison Place Running Costs

24. Expanding the scope for aggravated offences across all six protected characteristics may result in longer average custodial sentence lengths for aggravated offences compared to the base offence. The weighted average custodial sentence length for aggravated offences (not including sex) is 3.9 months, while the sex characteristic has a weighted average of 5.7 months²², though this differs greatly by offence. This is an increase in average custodial sentence length of approximately 0.3 months over corresponding base offences (1.3 months for sex). Between 3 and 689 sentences with a central estimate of 149 are estimated to have a longer custodial sentence length per year (sex-based enhanced sentencing does not apply, therefore enhancement assumptions have not been applied to calculations). Additional custodial sentences are estimated to be between 0 and 137 per year with a central estimate of 30.
25. Assuming that individuals spend 36.5 per cent of their sentence in prison before automatic release on licence, this would lead to additional prison place in steady state impact of between 0.1 and 26.8 with a central estimate of 5.9 in the first year. For Year 2 onwards, assuming individuals spend 33 per cent of their sentence in prison, this would lead to additional prison place in steady state impact of between 0.1 and 24.3 with a central estimate of 5.3.
26. The Table below provides a breakdown of the estimated prison running costs by measure, reflecting the impact of the proposed extension to include sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex. Costs for Year 1 have been reduced by 50 percent to account for the expected October 2026 implementation date.

Table 4: Ongoing prison place costs in £m, 2026/27 prices

Prison Place Running Cost	Low	Central	High
Year 1	0.00	0.17	0.77
Year 2 onwards	0.00	0.30	1.39

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding, figures in year 1 have been reduced by 50 percent to account for the expected October 2026 implementation date.

Ongoing Costs 4: Probation Costs

27. The proposed extension of aggravated offences under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to include sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity and sex is not expected to significantly increase the number of prosecutions. However, it may result in a shift in the type of sentences issued, with some cases potentially leading to more serious outcomes such as community or suspended sentences.
28. This shift could result in additional probation-related costs²³ due to increased supervision requirements. The additional caseload is set out in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Additional cases split by community sentence, suspended sentence and those on licence

	Low	Central	High
Community sentence	0	13	60
Suspended sentence	0	14	63
Those on Licence	0	30	137

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding.

29. These costs are outlined in the table below, costs for Year 1 have been reduced by 50 percent to account for the expected October 2026 implementation date.

²² Ministry of Justice (2025). Criminal Justice System Statistics Quarterly: December 2024 - GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2024>

²³ Probation unit costs supplied by MoJ colleagues.

Table 6: Probation costs in £m, 2026/27 prices

Year 1	Low	Central	High
Community sentences	0.00	0.02	0.11
Suspended sentences	0.00	0.03	0.15
Those on licence	0.00	0.02	0.10
Total year 1 costs	0.00	0.08	0.36
Year 2 onwards	Low	Central	High
Community sentences	0.00	0.05	0.22
Suspended sentences	0.00	0.07	0.31
Those on licence	0.00	0.04	0.21
Total year 2 onwards costs	0.00	0.16	0.74

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding, figures in year 1 have been reduced by 50 percent to account for the expected October 2026 implementation date.

Benefits

30. It has not been possible to monetise the benefits of this policy due to insufficient data and evidence.

Non-Monetised Benefits

Place all protected characteristics on an equal level, ensuring all victims are treated equally

31. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, current hate crime laws apply aggravated offences only to racial and religious hostility. Expanding coverage to include disability, sexual orientation, transgender identity and sex aggregated offences would equalise coverage of these protected characteristics, acknowledging the harm suffered by all victims of hate crime, removing disparities in victim support and judicial response, signal inclusive governance and strengthen public trust in the justice system. Hate crimes are damaging to wider society, in turn increasing inclusion for protected characteristics could reduce heightening community tensions and promote wider civic values such as equality and participation in public life.

Standardise and reduce legal complexities within prosecutions

32. Aggregated versions of offences have higher maximum penalties than their base equivalents. Aggregated offences currently exist for offences involving racial or religious hostility. Expanding this framework to include disability, sexual orientation, transgender identity and sex would create parity across all six protected characteristics. It would allow for consistent maximum penalty uplifts and help show that hate crime is prosecuted fairly and equally.
33. Expanding coverage should simplify and standardise prosecutions for hate crime and remove disparities in the classification of aggregated hate crimes, thereby reducing systemic complexities within the justice process. This in turn could enhance efficiency by reducing long complex legal disputes regarding the classification of aggregated hate crimes, enabling clearer charging decisions.

NPSV, BNPV and EANDCB

Table 7: Summary CBA, £ million (PV) over 10 years, 2026/27 prices

Summary	Low	Central	High
Costs			
Total Transition Costs	0.00	0.00	0.02
Total Ongoing Costs	0.04	3.89	17.71
Total Costs	0.04	3.89	17.72
Benefits			
Ongoing Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00
NPSV	-0.04	-3.89	-17.72
BNPV	0.00	0.00	0.00
EANDCB	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Home Office, own estimates, 2026, numbers may not sum due to rounding, figures in year 1 have been reduced by 50 per cent to account for the expected October 2026 implementation date.

Note: NPSV = Net Present Social Value, BNPV = Business Net Present Value and EANDCB = Equivalent Annual Net Direct Cost to Business

34. Home Office estimates show this measure has a negative NPSV in the low, central and high scenario. This is driven primarily by prison place running and the absence of monetised benefits for this measure. Whilst the NPSV is negative, this does not include the non-monetised benefits outlined in paragraphs 31 to 33 which would likely increase the NPSV.

E. Wider impacts

35. This measure is not expected to have any wider impacts on environmental; social, regional, income and wealth distribution; household; protected characteristics; smaller businesses; trade and investment.
36. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out in addition to this economic note; see Annex A. The Assessment concludes that the proposed legislation is expected to have a beneficial impact on protected groups.

Impact on Small and Micro-businesses

37. There are no monetised/quantified impacts of the proposals on small and micro-businesses. As this measure is not a regulatory provision and does not affect businesses of any size, no Small and Micro-business assessment (SaMBA) is required.

F. Sensitivity

38. None of the measures in this EN are regulatory provisions as defined under the Better Regulation Framework. The equivalent annual net direct costs to the public sector are less than +/- £20 million, so an IA is not required. This Economic Note has been produced instead and contains proportionate analysis outlining the main costs, benefits, and NPSV calculations.

G. Risks

39. One identified policy risk is the limited evidence about the effects of enhanced sentencing. The proportion of sentences that will involve enhanced sentencing is currently unknown.
40. To address this uncertainty, a range has been provided to reflect all possible outcomes. The low scenario includes enhanced sentencing, while it is not accounted for in the high scenario. This approach ensures that the cost estimates are covered within the given range.
41. An identified issue is support for hate crime laws are not universal. It is argued that it could create further division and inequality in society, rather than redressing it. Additionally, it is argued that hate crime laws unreasonably infringe upon the freedom of a person to hold views and prejudices which are not consistent with those of prevailing politics of the day. However, the aggravated offences framework only applies where an underlying criminal offence has already been committed and hostility is proven.
42. There is a risk that the use of international proxy data to estimate volumes of sex-based aggravated offences may not fully reflect the legal, social and reporting context in England and Wales. This approach is necessary due to the current absence of domestic data but may result in over- or under-estimation of impacts; this uncertainty is reflected through the use of ranges in the appraisal.

Annex A

Mandatory specific impact test - Statutory Equalities Duties	Complete
The Home Office have carefully considered the potential impacts of the proposed changes. The assessment, in line with the Equality Act 2010, indicates that there could be both positive and negative effects on certain protected characteristics. Specifically, the Equalities Impact Assessment has identified potential positive and negative impacts on 'Age' and 'Race', a potential indirect negative impact on 'Sex', and potential positive impacts on 'Sexual Orientation', 'Religion or Belief', and 'Disability'. The Home Office will implement appropriate actions and safeguards to mitigate any potential negative impacts on these protected characteristics. The SRO has agreed these findings.	Yes