

Date: Thu 11 May 2017 **Reference Number:** 20170709 **FOI Category:** Stats - Crime

Title: Racism in Schools

Request Date: Friday, 7 April, 2017

Response Date: Thursday, 11 May, 2017

Request Details:

1. How many racism incidents have been reported to your police force that have taken place in a school (for instance location premise name including 'School' or 'Academy') in 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, (financial years). Please include number of incidents per year.

2. If possible, just for 2016-17 year, for each incident please include: ages of suspects/accused, school name, date, and a summary of the report/allegations

3. How many arrests have been made because of racism incidents reported to have taken place in schools (above description) in your area in the 2016-17, 2015-16, and 2014-15 years?

**** Clarification** Crime data would be excellent**

Exemptions Applied:

Section 40(2)

Section 31

SYP Response:

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant

However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. The provision of the name of a school combined with other pertinent data will likely lead to the identification of individuals involved; the provision of single line offence data including full dates, ages of alleged offender etc. Thus, such a disclosure would contravene the first Data Protection Principle i.e. that of fairness.

Section 31 Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the prejudice (harm) confirming or denying information exists as well as considering the public interest.

HARM

It is important to stress that disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are disclosures to the world, not just to the individual making the request.

Confirming details that incidents have been reported to the police regarding a specific incident/crime, could be viewed by those involved as a breach in confidentiality. This could jeopardise the work done within communities to increase the public's confidence in reporting and giving assistance to the Force.

Thus more crimes may be committed which would impact on police resources and place individuals at risk – including those reporting incidents, victims, witnesses etc., who may be 'recognised' or indeed, mis-identified by a disclosure.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

- The public would see exactly where such incident/crimes are carried out

Section 31 – Factors against disclosure

- A full disclosure may result in more crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk, which would impact on police resources. This would damage the Force's ability to perform the prime function in relation to the prevention and detection of crime.

Balancing Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The reduction and detection of crime is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge information if to do so would compromise law enforcement and public confidence in the policing service. Therefore, at this time we feel the balance falls in the favour of non-disclosure.

However, I am willing to release the information for Q2 at district level/by month, which mitigates the concerns outlined above. I feel this approach does not detract from the quality of data provided.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

COUNT OF OFFENCES WHERE THE PREMISES TYPE IS SCHOOL/COLLEGE, RECORDED WITH THE RACIAL AGGRAVATING FACTOR
RECORDED ON THE CMS CRIME REGISTER FOR 2014/15, 2015/16 & 2016/17

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED			Grand Total
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	0	1	1	2
ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	0	0	1	1
HARASSMENT	0	1	0	1
MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	0	1	1	2
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	1	2	4	7
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	1	2	2	5
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT (EXCLUDES OFFENCES UNDER 9B)	0	1	1	2
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	4	6	5	15
Grand Total	6	14	15	35

Ho Description	Agg Factor	Month	City	Crime role type	AGE	Circumstances of the offence
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	RACIAL	MAY	ROTHERHAM	S	11	SUSPECT HAS MADE RACIST COMMENTS TOWARDS COMPLAINANT
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	RACIAL	JUNE	BARNSELY	S	17	SUSPECT HAS CALLED THE COMPLAINANT A RACIST NAME
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	RACIAL	JULY	DONCASTER	A	14	ACCUSED GROUP OF OFFENDERS WHO SWORE/MADE OFFENSIVE COMMENTS TOWARDS COMPLAINANT IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (KNOWN TO THE COMPLAINANT)
					13	
					12	
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	RACIAL	JULY	SHEFFIELD	A	14	ACCUSED MADE VERBALLY RACIST/ ABUSIVE COMMENTS AND SPAT AT COMPLAINANT
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	RACIAL	SEPTEMBER	DONCASTER	S	12	SUSPECT MADE VERBALLY RACIST/ ABUSIVE COMMENTS AND PUNCHED COMPLAINANT
ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	RACIAL	SEPTEMBER	SHEFFIELD	S	12	SUSPECT HAS MADE RACIST COMMENTS TO COMPLAINANT AND PULLED CP'S HAIR
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	RACIAL	OCTOBER	ROTHERHAM	S	11	SUSPECT HAS MADE RACIST COMMENTS TO COMPLAINANT
MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	RACIAL	DECEMBER	SHEFFIELD	NO OFFENDER RECORDED		COMPLAINANT WORKS AT A SCHOOL AND HAS RECEIVED A RANDOM EMAIL ORIGINATING FROM ABROAD ABOUT RACIAL/HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	RACIAL	DECEMBER	SHEFFIELD	A	10	ACCUSED HAS MADE RACIST REMARKS AND HIT THE COMPLAINANT ON THE HEAD.
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	RACIAL	JANUARY	DONCASTER	NO OFFENDER RECORDED		A GROUP OF YOUTHS HAVE MADE RACIST REMARKS AND PUSHED THE COMPLAINANT PERSON.
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	RACIAL	JANUARY	BARNSELY	S	10	SUSPECT HAS MADE RACIST COMMENTS AND PUNCHED COMPLAINANT.
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT (EXCLUDES OFFENCES UNDER 9B)	RACIAL	MARCH	SHEFFIELD	S	15	SUSPECT HAS MADE RACIST COMMENTS TO COMPLAINANT.
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	RACIAL	MARCH	ROTHERHAM	S	8	SUSPECT MADE A COMMENT ABOUT THE COLOUR OF COMPLAINANTS SKIN AND PUSHED CP.
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	RACIAL	MARCH	ROTHERHAM	S	14	SUSPECT VERBALLY ABUSES THE COMPLAINANT AND PULLS AWAY A CHAIR CAUSING INJURY TO COMPLAINANT
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	RACIAL	MARCH	ROTHERHAM	NO OFFENDER RECORDED		COMPLAINANT RECEIVED RACIST COMMENTS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASSIONS.