



# Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner

**Personal for:**

A member of the public

04 February 2016

Re: FOI Request: 16-002

Dear member of the public

I am writing in reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) requires us to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

**You requested the following:**

- 1) Does your Police Authority record biphobic incidents and crimes separately (that is, not merged in with homophobic hate crimes and incidents)?
- 2) What work has the Police Authority done to engage with bisexual people and, if your area has them, bi community groups?
- 3) What work has the Police Authority done to encourage reporting of biphobic hate crime?

**Our response to your request is as follows:**

- 1) Does your Police Authority record biphobic incidents and crimes separately (that is, not merged in with homophobic hate crimes and incidents)?

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (formerly the Police Authority) is not responsible for crime recording. This is the responsibility of the

Constabulary. However, in the interest of transparency I have asked the Constabulary and they have advised they use the following classifications.

Hate: Sexual Orientation

Hate: Transphobic

All hate crime incidents are recorded as prejudice.

If you require more detail on crime recording you will need to contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary, which is a separate organisation and is treated as such under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You may wish to resubmit your request to them by email to [foi@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively, please see the link below to the Constabulary's Freedom of Information pages.

<http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/about/foi/index.asp>

- 2) What work has the Police Authority done to engage with bisexual people and, if your area has them, bi community groups?

Our work in this area is not specific to the bisexual people but encompasses the whole LGBT community. The extent of our engagement is wide-ranging and ongoing, particularly led by one of our Outreach Workers who engages with LGBT groups and connects them to the Constabulary and other partners. Some of our activity is listed below.

Staff working for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been central to re-establishing of, and support for, the Constabulary's hate crime steering group which meets quarterly and discusses the Constabulary's approach to dealing with hate crime. This has been reinvigorated as a community based group with a representative from The Encompass Network (<http://encompassnetwork.org.uk/>) representing the views and needs of the LGBT community.

We work closely with NEXUS – the Constabulary's internal staff LGBT network - to support them to build relationships with the LGBT community in Cambridgeshire.

We have also been integral to the planning of LGBT history Month which was launched in Cambridge this year. We were part of the planning committee which has met monthly, engaging with all of the groups present.

We are working with the Constabulary to put on a hate crime networking event which the Chief Constable will be attending as well as cohesion officers. In addition we have been supporting the Constabulary in the training and establishments of LAGLOS (Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers).

We maintain regular contact with centre 33 which offers counselling to young people and covers issues of sexuality (we have given money to centre 33 through victims supports grants).

We supported Hate Crime awareness week in October and the Police and Crime Commissioner conducted interviews on the subject, encouraging people to report instances of Hate Crime.

Protecting the most vulnerable members of our community is an overarching objective of both the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary's policing priorities. This encompasses bisexual people and is particularly covered by the Police and Crime Plan section on Hate Crime. This cascades down to several local community safety plans. For Example, the Safer Peterborough Partnership has recruited a Hate Crime Officer to investigate the level of hate crime in the city and assist the victims in accessing support.

We embrace positive action recruitment which involves getting more people from our minority and diverse communities involved in policing.

- 3) What work has the Police Authority done to encourage reporting of biphobic hate crime?

The primary route we promote the reporting of hate crime incidents is through the True Vision portal. <http://www.report-it.org.uk/home> . See also [https://www.cambs.police.uk/victims/hate\\_crime.asp](https://www.cambs.police.uk/victims/hate_crime.asp) We have run features in our monthly newsletter on hate crime and the Police and Crime Commissioner has conducted radio interviews on the subject.

We trust that the information provided above meets your needs. However, if you are unhappy with this response, please see below 'satisfied with our service', which sets out your rights to appeal.

Yours sincerely,

