

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
SCoJeC

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

Downing Street

PM statement: General election 2017

I have just been to see Her Majesty the Queen, and I will now form a government – a government that can provide certainty and lead Britain forward at this critical time for our country.

This government will guide the country through the crucial Brexit talks that begin in just 10 days, and deliver on the will of the British people by taking the United Kingdom out of the European Union.

It will work to keep our nation safe and secure by delivering the change that I set out following the appalling attacks in Manchester and London – cracking down on the ideology of Islamist extremism and all those who support it. ...

The government I lead will put fairness and opportunity at the heart of everything we do ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-general-election-2017>

Scottish Government

Hate crime reporting encouraged

- ... Racial crime charges are the most common brought by police, but with a decrease of 10% compared to 2015/16
- Sexual orientation aggravated charges increased by 5% compared to 2015/16
- The number of religiously aggravated charges is the highest since 2012/13
- 44% of victims in religiously aggravated charges were police officers
- 377 charges were made under the Offensive Behaviour Act , an increase of 32% on the previous year. 140 of these charges relate to the Scottish Cup Final on 21 May 2016. ...

Minister for Community Safety Annabelle Ewing said:

“Any crime motivated by prejudice is absolutely unacceptable. While the statistics show a decrease in reported racial crimes, there have been increases in those related to sexual orientation, religion and transgender identity and we cannot be complacent about these crimes are dealt with.

“I remain concerned that hate crimes are under-reported and want to encourage anyone who has been subjected to such appalling acts to come forward to ensure that perpetrators can be dealt with appropriately. We will keep engaging with community

leaders on how best to raise awareness of how such crimes can be reported and in the meantime. We will continue to work with Police Scotland and others to ensure a robust response to perpetrators.

“Scotland does not exist in isolation from the rest of the world and we know that global events have an impact on the levels of hate crime that different communities are subjected to. We must ensure that we have appropriate legislation in place to deal with those who continue to perpetrate prejudice, bigotry and hatred, which is why I commissioned the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland and expect that its findings will help us to ensure that our hate crime legislation is fit for the 21st century. ...

Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan, Head of Safer Communities, Police Scotland, added: “... Police Scotland will not tolerate any attempts to target any community by any misguided individual or group and will work with all of our partners to resolve any issues and address any concerns. Should anyone become a victim of, or witness to, any hate crime, they should contact the police and report the incident, by calling 101 or 999 if it is an emergency.”

To read the full press release see

<https://news.gov.scot/news/hate-crime-reporting-encouraged>

Lord Advocate Welcomes Publication of Hate Crime Figures

... the Lord Advocate said:

“Crime motivated by hatred is not only a wrong against the individual, who should be entitled to live free from violence and intimidation, but is an affront to our collective values as a community, and is particularly liable to create division and fear. “Modern Scotland is characterised by values of tolerance and respect and law enforcement agencies will use the full range of their powers to ensure we uphold these basic values.

“It is vital that victims of hate crime have the confidence to report this type of offending and it is encouraging that in many sections of society this is the case. “We continue to work with the police and support organisations to encourage people to come forward in relation to any hate crime. I would like to assure anyone affected by hate crime that they live in a society in which law enforcement agencies will ensure any report is treated with the utmost seriousness.”

To read the full press release see

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1558-lord-advocate-welcomes-publication-of-hate-crime-figures>

Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2016-2017

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520696.pdf>

Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in 2016-17

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520637.pdf>

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2016-17

http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/images/Documents/Equality_Diversity/Hate%20Crimes/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202016-17.pdf

[TOP](#)

Consultations ** new or updated today

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCO29438