



Service Policy No.
Hate Crime Policy

“An Excellent Authority”

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Document Control

Active date	Review date	Department	Author	Editor	Publisher
01/04/13	01/04/16	P&P	WM Ian Mullen	GM J Berry	AM Myles Platt

Legislation

Title	
	N/A

Amendment History

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change

Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Policies

Title	Author	Department
Safeguarding Policy PROPOL09	Mark Jones	Community Safety Support Team

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R

Sign-Off List

Name	Position

Related Documents

Ref No.	Title	Author	Version & Date
SI 0573	Target Hardening	Ian Mullen	
SI 0474	Arson Incident Reporting Process	Ian Mullen	
SI xxxx	Safe Havens / Refuges	Ian Mullen	
SI xxxx	Hate Crime Reporting Process	Ian Mullen	

Target audience

All MFS	x	Ops Crews	Fire safety	Community FS	Support Staff
Principal off.		Senior off.	etc	etc	etc

Ownership

FOI exemption	Yes	URL

required?	No	x	Reason	
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Introduction

This document sets out Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MF&RA) policy on Hate Crime.

A “hate crime” involves any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hate or prejudice based on one of the protected characteristic. The definition covers five main strands, in particular - disability, gender-identity, race, religion or faith and sexual orientation.

A “hate incident” involves any incident that may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice.

Policy statement

Any person who perceives themselves, or any other person, to be a victim of a hate crime will be able to raise the issue with an employee of MFRA in the knowledge that the matter will be treated seriously and sympathetically in accordance with this policy. It can be reported to the relevant authorised agencies for consideration and appropriate action to be undertaken.

MFRA is committed to working in partnership with all relevant supporting agencies in order to make the lives of those suffering hate crime safer, protecting their families and their communities and preventing repeat victimisation.

Hate Crime Definition

A “hate crime” is defined as any hate induced action, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate. A “hate incident” may or may not constitute a criminal offence.

The prejudice or hate can be based on any identifying factor including:

- **Disability**, including include physical and / or mental health / learning difficulties or disability.
- **Race**, including groups with a long shared history or a cultural tradition of its own.
- **Religion / Faith**, including those with no faith or religion.
- **Sexual Orientation** includes gay, straight and bisexual. It can also apply where the offender’s perception of the sexual orientation of the victim is in fact incorrect.
- **Gender Identity** includes people who hold a gender recognition certificate and / or anyone who identifies as Transgender.

Hate Crime Reporting

Safe Havens, Sanctuary and Refuge at Fire Service Premises

A safe haven / refuge / sanctuary is a place of relative safety whereby short term refuge can be taken until such time as assistance can be summoned or requested. Across Merseyside, each District may call their facility a different name however they all essentially offer places of relative safety and the ability to summon assistance or support as appropriate.

Target Hardening

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority respond to incidents where fire or products associated with fire, have been used or threatened against a person or a property. Target hardening is the offer of advice and appropriate services in order to make the property or person more resistant to the potential of fire.

Reporting Process – Hate crime and/or arson incident

A hate crime should fall into the definitions above. A hate crime should be reported as per SI xxxx Hate Crime Incident Reporting.

An incident of arson or attempted arson should be reported as per SI xxxx Arson Incident Reporting Process.

Policy Implementation

The following Service Instructions give guidance underpin and provide supplementary information to support the Policy.

SI xxxx – Hate Crime Incident Reporting Process

SI xxxx – Safe Havens / Refuges on Fire Service Premises

SI 0573 – Target Hardening and Letterbox plates (to include target hardening)

SI 0474 – Hate Crime Incident Report (to be renamed Arson Incident Reporting Process)

SI 0713 - Safeguarding Adults

SI 0714 – Safeguarding children and Young People

SI 0712 – Safeguarding Designated Officers.
