

Our Work with the Crown Prosecution Service

The Centre for Hate Studies has been a member of the national External Consultative Group (ECG) since 2019. The terms of reference for the ECG are:

- To provide a consultative forum for the CPS on its Hate Crime strategy, action plans and associated documents (policies, guidance etc). The CPS will consider the range of views put forward and balance them with its business objectives.
- To provide Hate Crime advice and expertise from a voluntary agency and community perspective on the range of Hate Crime issues including equalities issues.

The Hate Crime External Consultative Group met for the first time in December 2018 and has rapidly repaid our confidence in the level and range of assistance which the members have been able to provide to our work in seeking improved outcomes for victims and more effective case handling.

Max Hill QC, Director of Public Prosecutions

The External Consultative Group [whose membership includes the CHS] has provided insight and expertise on a wide range of topics agreed for discussion including The Law Commission review of Hate Crime legislation, the Hate Crime Assurance Scheme, the Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan, the use of Restorative Justice in Hate Crime, improving awareness of hate crime and increasing its reporting, intersectionality in hate crime offending and the use of Community Impact Statements to support wider understanding of the impact of hate crime on communities. It is through this external engagement and scrutiny that we can ensure our policies, practices and approach are able to deliver justice for victims of hate crime. I am confident that this constructive relationship with community groups will continue to help us improve in the coming year.

Chris Long, Hate Crime Lead – Chief Crown Prosecutor

The Centre for Hate Studies has also been a member of the National Scrutiny Panel (NSP) on Homophobic and Transphobic Hate Crime. The terms of reference for the NSP are:

- To provide advice and expertise to enable to the CPS to revise current policy and legal guidance in relation to prosecuting homophobic and transphobic hate crime.

During 2016–17, we have continued to work with our National and Local Scrutiny Panels and we are grateful for the feedback which has contributed to our revised Public Policy Statements and Legal Guidance which were published as part of our #HateCrimeMatters campaign in August 2017. In total, 21.5 million people saw the campaign.

Alison Saunders CB - Director of Public Prosecutions

As a result of the NSP the CPS produced a new Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and transgender identity. The CPS also made changes to the guidance available to victims and witnesses on their website. The national scrutiny panel convened to provide advice and support on the revised

public statement on hate crimes targeting sexual orientation and transgender identity stressed the importance of recognising biphobic hate crime and the unique experience of bisexual people. The public statement now includes reference to biphobic hate crime throughout.

The refreshed policy statement was well-received as part of the public consultation and feedback from individual community stakeholders has been positive.

Mick Conboy – Hate Crime Stakeholder Manager

In terms of the impact of this new policy, annual monitoring data suggests:

2017-18

- The volume of prosecutions flagged as homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime which were completed increased by 3.5% from 1,467 in 2016–17 to 1,518 in 2017-18.
- The volume of convictions rose slightly from 1,211 2016–17 to 1,282 in 2017–18 – a rise of 71 convictions (5.9%). The conviction rate rose slightly from 82.5% in 2016–17 to 84.5% in 2017- 18.
- In 2017–18, there were 787 or 63.8% announced and recorded sentence uplifts a rise from 577 or 48.9%, in 2016–17.

2018-19

- The number of prosecutions completed increased from 1,518 in 2017-18 to 1,713 in 2018-19 – an increase of 195 prosecutions (12.8%).
- The conviction rate increased from 84.5% in 2017-18 to 86.1% in 2018-19.
- The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction with an announced and recorded sentence uplift was 69.9% in 2018-19, an increase from 63.8% the previous year – an increase of 6.1 percentage points.