

MEND submission to the Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights (ODIHR) 2015 Hate Crime Report:

Anti-Muslim Hate Crime 2015



Muslim engagement
& development

mend

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Introduction

This report contains details of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK reported in local and national media, and published in court proceedings, and forming part of our regular monitoring of Islamophobic incidents in the UK on our website www.mend.org.uk/advocacy.

The incidents presented in this report are categorised as:

1. Racially or religiously aggravated assault or attacks on persons of Muslim background, or persons perceived to be of Muslim background
2. Racially or religiously aggravated attacks on property or institutions
3. Racially or religiously aggravated verbal abuse on persons who are, or are suspected of being, of the Muslim faith

Incidents in some cases inevitably cross over into the other categories, for example where individuals have been subjected to verbal abuse in the course of an attack on a place of worship, or during physical assault. Where incidents overlap across categories they have been categorised, wherever possible, according to the primary criminal charges brought.

There are 286 incidents details in this report; 256 incidents occurred in 2015. Those incidents reported here and which occurred in 2014, where reported in our 2014 HCR submission have been referenced using the incident reference from the previous year's report. Other incidents include ones occurring in 2014, or earlier, but which proceeded to trial in 2015. These incidents are documented in full in Section 3.

Compared to the previous year, **assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim or perceived Muslim background rose from 29% to 34%** and **attacks on property or institutions fell from 25% to 19%**. The number of cases of **verbal abuse or public order offences remained the same at 47%**.

The cases documented in this report vary from those documented in 2013/14 when events led to an escalation in criminal damage offences usually against Muslim places of worship.

Further analysis undertaken on these incidents provides details on the gender of victims, where available; perpetrators' age, where recorded, and analysis of charges and sentencing for those cases which reached trial.

The analysis shows a distinct difference in the profile of perpetrators with individuals in the 18-34 age groups more likely to have committed attacks on persons and property, and individuals aged 35 and above more likely to have committed acts of racial abuse or harassment. The younger age group is also present with under 18s among those who committed acts of physical assault, criminal damage and verbal abuse in 2015.

Where victim gender was recorded, men were more present in the dataset than women, with 140 cases involving male victims and 67 involving female victims. Data available under Freedom of Information from police forces in England and Wales seeking gender breakdown of recorded race and religion hate crime also shows men to be the larger proportion of victims, this information is presented in the following section.

Given the assumption that Muslim women are more likely to be targets of anti-Muslim incidents, the data presented here would suggest female victims of hate crime are not reporting such incidents to the police. The need for third party reporting centres to provide victim-friendly avenues for reporting Islamophobic hate crime and incidents is therefore crucial, as is better outreach work by police

forces to encourage Muslim women to report incidents to the police whether in person, online or via social media apps.

We draw on data published in our manifesto for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2016, to reveal the low availability of third party reporting services for Muslim communities across police forces in England (those in Wales fare better). If Muslim women are more likely to make use of third party reporting centres, there is an urgent need to review their availability and their function as a reporting mechanism to ensure they are meeting the needs of victims.

The hate crime cases documented here are supplemented with information on police recorded crimes marked as racial or religious hate crimes derived under Freedom of Information. The charts in the section on Recording Hate Crime illustrate the year-on-year increase in racial and religious hate crime in the last three years and provide details on disaggregated data on race, religion and gender, where available.

Any consideration of the post-Brexit surge in hate crime should reflect upon the year on year increase in racial and religious hate crime in the UK (see table 2).

The next section details constabularies in England and Wales that have seen the largest increase in racial and religious hate crime in the last financial year (April 2015 – March 2016). A spatial mapping of the cases documented in this report is also presented illustrating the geographic spread of anti-Muslim hate crimes. The map shows that incidents are not confined to those regions of the UK which are densely populated by Muslims but extend to those regions of the country sparsely populated by Muslims.

The poor availability of disaggregated data by race, gender and religion continues to hamper efforts to assess the scale of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK. The trial of new religion categories in 2016/17, with the purpose of rolling out a uniform recording practice for capturing anti-Muslim hate crime in 2017/18, will strengthen the capacity of police and civil society organisations to estimate more accurately anti-Muslim hate crimes in police recorded crime data. For the present, under-reporting of hate crime and extant recording mechanisms which do not mark religion hate crimes by victim's religious identity (or perceived identity); or which do not mark the ethno-racial identity of race hate crime victims makes it difficult to accurately deduce the number of Islamophobic hate crimes.

The lack of uniform recording systems across police forces in the UK and the sheer scale of missing data – whether victim gender, or victim racial and/or religious identity – mars the quality of quantitative data available for aggregation, analysis and policy evaluation. These gaps in data collection and data analysis need to be urgently addressed. Hate crime strategies, national or local, rely upon rigorous data collection methods to evaluate the success of hate crime reduction strategies and to address the specific needs of target groups in different parts of the UK. The good work done on community outreach and public awareness campaigns on hate crime reporting is undone by the lack of rigour in recording hate crime data by police forces.

In November 2010, official statistics were published capturing police recorded hate crime of an anti-Semitic nature. In 2016, responses to our FOIs have revealed that police forces do not routinely record the religious identity of victims of religious hate crime, nor do they comprehensively record the racial identity of victims of race hate crime. It will be another two years before the UK is likely to be in a position to publish official statistics on Islamophobic hate crime. It is important that all necessary steps are taken to ensure data collection is robust, uniform and comprehensive.

Section 4 on anti-Muslim public discourse examines developments in the UK in 2015 which have contributed to the wider socio-political environment in which the hate crimes documented here occurred. The section details how political statements or media representations can, and are, used by far right parties and extremists to deride Islamic beliefs and practices and create an environment in which Muslims are rendered vulnerable to hate crime. As with last year's report, the UK Independence Party's popularity and campaigning in the 2015 general election has contributed to anti-Muslim public discourse over the course of the year.

We have included results from research commissioned by MEND and conducted by academics at Lancaster University which analyses media representations of Islam and Muslims in the period 2010 – 2014.

Developments at home and abroad persist in influencing the domestic environment with exogenous factors playing a role in the incidence of hate crime in the UK. Of particular note are the attacks at the Charlie Hebdo offices in January 2015 and the Sousse attack in Tunisia in which 38 people were killed, 30 of whom were British. The attacks correspond to small upticks in the number of recorded hate crimes in January 2015 and June/July 2015. The Paris attacks in November 2015 do not appear to have caused a spike in racial and religious hate crime.

The Home Office report on police recorded data on hate crime in England and Wales in 2014/15 detected no 'spike' in hate crime following the Charlie Hebdo attack.¹ Police recorded crime data disclosed under FOI disproves this showing a spike in hate crime in January 2015 and following the attack in Sousse in June 2015.

Terrorism and security continue to loom large with political developments in this regard contributing to policy debates about Islam and Muslims in the UK. The new Counter Extremism Strategy and the proposed Extremism Bill (now the Safeguarding and Counter-Extremism Bill) are among policies that have foregrounded discussion about "non-violent extremism" while disclosures about the volume of referrals to the counter-terrorism intervention programme, Channel, has heightened concerns about religious practises and religious symbols being mistaken for "signs of radicalisation".

A final section, Section 5, concludes with positive developments of which there have been many in the past year. The commitment of police forces across England and Wales to raise awareness about hate crime reporting during National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2015; the launch of a Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life; the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life; the development of hate crime apps by police forces around the country, to make reporting hate crime easier for victims; the launch of a Transport Charter by Police Scotland, to stamp out hate crime and incidents on the public transport system in Scotland, and the change in policy by the UK Government to introduce the recording of Islamophobia as a separate category of crime, are just some examples of the work done by public bodies to challenge Islamophobia and other forms of hate crime in the UK. The efforts of civil society continue to provide a beacon of hope amidst the fear over rising racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia in the UK.

Our efforts to expand media and political literacy among UK Muslim communities, our work with police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners, our regular monitoring of media demonisation of Muslims, our policy advocacy on hate crime and anti-Muslim discrimination and our public awareness campaigns on anti-Muslim prejudice and its impact on social harmony are all major contributions to the fight against Islamophobia in the UK.

¹ This observation was reversed in the 2015/16 Home Office report on hate crimes in England and Wales which states there was "an apparent rise in hate crime following the Charlie Hebdo shooting in January 2015." Hannah Corcoran and Kevin Smith (2016). Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16, Home Office statistical bulletin p. 5

Executive summary

Key findings from police recorded crime data disclosed under Freedom of Information (data derived from forces in England and Wales, including British Transport Police):

- The total number of race hate crimes rose in 2015/16 on the previous 12 months by 20% from 42,930 to **51,584** (based on information provided by all 44 police forces, including British Transport Police).
- The number of race hate crimes in 2015/16 where victim's racial identity was entered as "unknown" or "not recorded": **16,352** out of 51,584, or around a third, 32% (based on information provided by 42 police forces, including BTP).
- The total number of religious hate crimes rose in 2015/16 on the previous 12 months by 60%, from 3,254 to **5,209** (based on information provided by all 44 police forces, including BTP).
- The number of religious hate crimes in 2015/16 where the victim's religious identity was entered as "unknown" or "not recorded": **2,327**, or almost half – 44% (based on information provided by 35 police forces, including BTP).
- The number of racial and religious hate crimes estimated to be anti-Muslim hate crimes: **6,816** (based on race crime by victim ethnicity Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Arab, Black Muslim, White Muslim, Muslim other/mixed race, and religious identity recorded as Islam/Muslim). Disaggregated information on victim religious identity provided by 30 police forces and on victim racial identity by 40 police forces; excludes 53 cases recorded as racially and religiously aggravated to avoid double counting.
- The number of religious hate crimes involving Muslim victims by gender identity: **706 male, 602 female, 227 unknown** (based on information provided by 30 police forces). Number of cases where victim gender entered as "unknown" or "not recorded": **3,623** (Disaggregated race crime data by victim gender provided by 24 police forces, religious hate crime data provided by 26 police forces).
- The response of police forces to hate crime affecting local communities can only be as good as the data it collects and monitors. The Government response to hate crime, while reliant on police recorded crime to inform trends relating to hostility and violence against minority groups, also benefits from the input of civil society organisations working with victims of Islamophobia. Too little engagement with Muslim groups is in evidence in the UK and both police forces and Government continue to pursue models of engagement that neglect mainstream Muslim organisations restricting the effectiveness of local and national hate crime strategies.
- While progress on ethnic monitoring of stop and search, to eradicate the problem of race disproportionately, has advanced with rigour in recent years, via the requirement on police forces to publish data online disclosing the age, gender and ethnicity of those stopped and searched, the quality of information recorded by police forces in respect of hate crime, as shown above, is comparatively deficient.
- The sentencing details relayed in this report reveals the number of hate crime cases in 2015 resulting in crime outcomes such as suspended sentence, community sentence or a fine as opposed to custodial sentences or sentence uplift, commensurate with the aggravated aspects of the crime. There is an urgent need for a review by the Crown Prosecution Service and HM Courts and Tribunal Service to examine the application of sentence uplift in hate crime cases to ensure enhanced sentencing for aggravated offences is consistently applied and the seriousness of bias motivations reflected in crime outcomes.

Hate crime in the UK

There are two principal sources of information on hate crime in the UK; police recorded hate crime data and the victimisation survey published as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

The police recorded hate crime figures for the financial year 2015/16 were published in October 2016. The data presented below and overleaf is information solicited from all police forces in England and Wales, including British Transport Police under Freedom of Information, and data taken from the annual Home Office publications on Hate Crime in England and Wales.

The table below shows the year-on-year increase in hate crimes motivated by race and/or religion in the UK between 2012 and 2016 (all years compiled to financial year, April to March).

Table 1 - Hate crime recorded by the police by monitoring strand, 2012/13 to 2015/16, England and Wales

Hate crime strand	2012/13	2013/14	% change	2014/15	% change	2015/16*	% change
Race	35,845	37,466	4.5%	42,930	14.6%	51,584**	20%
Religion	1,572	2,269	44.3%	3,254	43.4%	5,209**	60%
Total racial and religious bias motivations	37,417	39,735	6.2%	46,184	16.2%	56,793*	22.9%

* Includes British Transport Police.

**Data derived from Freedom of Information requests by MEND to all forces in England and Wales.

The rise in the number of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK have been a cause of concern in Muslim communities for several years. Official statistics show a 44% and 43% increase in religious hate crimes respectively in the periods 2013-14 and 2014-15. In the most recent period, April 2015 to March 2016, the rise in racial and religious hate crime reported by the Home Office in annual hate crime statistics was 15% and 34% respectively.²

Table 2 shows the monthly breakdown of racial and religious hate crimes in England and Wales drawing on the Home Office annual publication of hate crime data and the responses to our FOI requests to police forces for crimes occurring in 2015-16. The table also reflects the number of reported hate crime incidents in the pre- and post-Brexit period, drawing on data published by the National Police Chiefs Council.

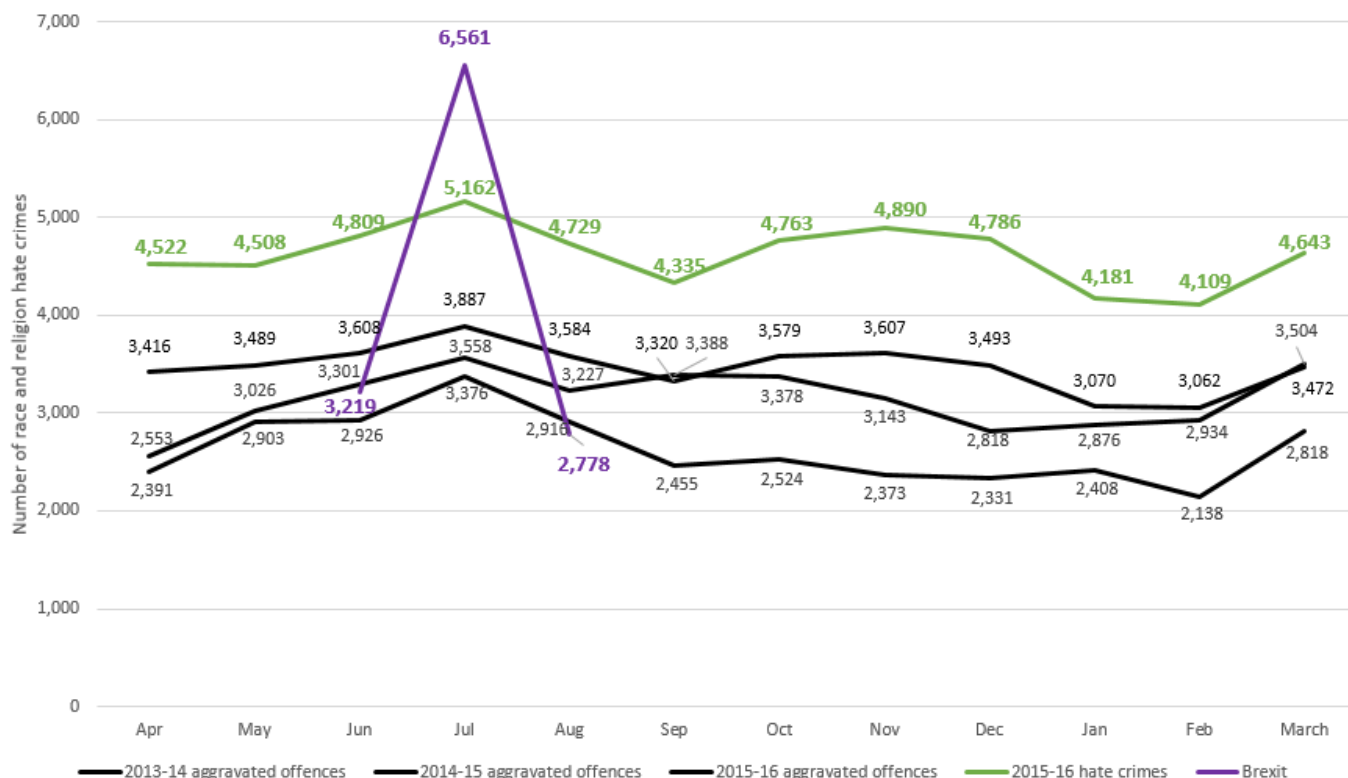
The black lines represent the monthly breakdown of racially and religiously aggravated offences published in the Home Office annual report between 2013 and 2016.

The Home Office does not publish a monthly breakdown of all hate crime, aggravated and non-aggravated offences, although the sum total for all monitored strands are included in the annual figures.

The three black lines denote racial and religious hate crimes recorded as aggravated offences between 2013 and 2016, with the lowest line reflecting the monthly breakdown in 2013-14, the middle line, the monthly breakdown in 2014-15 and the top black line, shows monthly figures for 2015-15. The green line denotes the total number of racial and religious hate crimes (aggravated and non-aggravated offences) derived from our FOI requests. The purple line represents the pre- and post-Brexit hate crime figures.

² Hannah Corcoran and Kevin Smith (2016). Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16, Home Office statistical bulletin 11/16.p 4. Data does not include British Transport Police.

Table 2 - Total race and religion hate crime (black lines show aggravated offences only)



Flags operated by police forces capturing the 'bias motivation' can include race and religion and the numbers presented above include offences which were flagged as both racially and religiously aggravated (ie having more than one motivating factor). From the data we collected under FOI for the period 2105/16, the number of cases flagged as racially and religiously aggravated were 383.

From FOI data we received from police forces including British Transport Police, the rate of growth in race hate crime over the period was 20%, up from 42,930 to 51,584 and for religious hate crime was 60%, up from 3,254 to 5,209.

The CSEW serves as an indicator on the level of unreported hate crime capturing victim experiences and comparing to police recorded crime data.

The CSEW for the combined years 2012/13 and 2014/15 showed an average of 222,000 hate crimes occurring per year, across all monitored strands. The number of race hate crimes during the period was 106,000, accounting for the largest proportion of monitored hate crime.

Based on the 2012/13 to 2014/15 CSEW, 48% of hate crimes came to the attention of the police. This is an improvement on the figures revealed in 2012/13 when 40% of hate crimes were noted as coming to the attention of police, but still falls below 50% suggesting that one in every two hate crimes goes unreported.

Moreover, the CSEW 2012/13 – 2014/15 data shows Muslims are more likely to be victims of racially motivated hate crimes. Muslims are 12 times more likely to be targeted in race hate crimes than people of Christian or Buddhist backgrounds, and twice as likely to be targeted that individuals of Hindu background.

Given the tendency to assess anti-Muslim hate crime as religiously-motivated hate crime, the CSEW figures show the importance of treating Islamophobia as racist *and* religiously motivated hate crime.

Table 3 - Percentage of adults aged 16 and over who were victims of racially-motivated hate crime, by ethnic group and religion, 2007/08 and 2008/09, 2009/10 to 2011/12, 2012/13 to 2014/15, CSEW

	2007/08 & 2008/09		2009/10 to 2011/12		2012/13 to 2014/15	
	All racially motivated hate crime	Unweighted base	All racially motivated hate crime	Unweighted base	All racially motivated hate crime	Unweighted base
ALL ADULTS	0.3	93,123	0.3	137,344	0.2	103,601
Ethnic Group						
White	0.1	86,628	0.1	126,435	0.1	93,891
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	3	555	0.9	991	1.1	971
Asian/Asian British	2.1	3,290	1.8	5,459	1	5,126
Black/African/Caribbean/British	1.7	1,855	0.8	2,919	0.7	2,770
Other ethnic group	2	777	1.5	1,322	0.8	735
Religion						
Christian	0.2	72,171	0.2	104,370	0.1	66,564
Buddhist	0.9	432	0.8	636	0.1	422
Hindu	2	864	1.1	1,415	0.6	1,254
Muslim	2.5	1,882	2.2	3,378	1.2	3,001
Other	0.7	1,251	0.7	1,784	1.2	1,449
No religion	0.2	16,252	0.2	25,401	0.1	30,712

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

We have in past years sought disaggregated data from police forces to estimate the number of Islamophobic offences occurring in the UK by collating information on race hate crime victims of Pakistani or Bangladeshi identity and religious hate crime victims reporting a Muslim identity, or a perceived Muslim identity, as the basis of hostility.

We have also tried, over the past two years, to verify reports of Muslim women being greater targets of anti-Muslim hate crime by seeking disaggregated data for race and religion hate crime by gender.

The methods are insufficient given the ethnic diversity of British Muslims and the current recording system which applies multiple 'flags', making simple aggregations misleading when calculating Muslim victims across monitored strands.

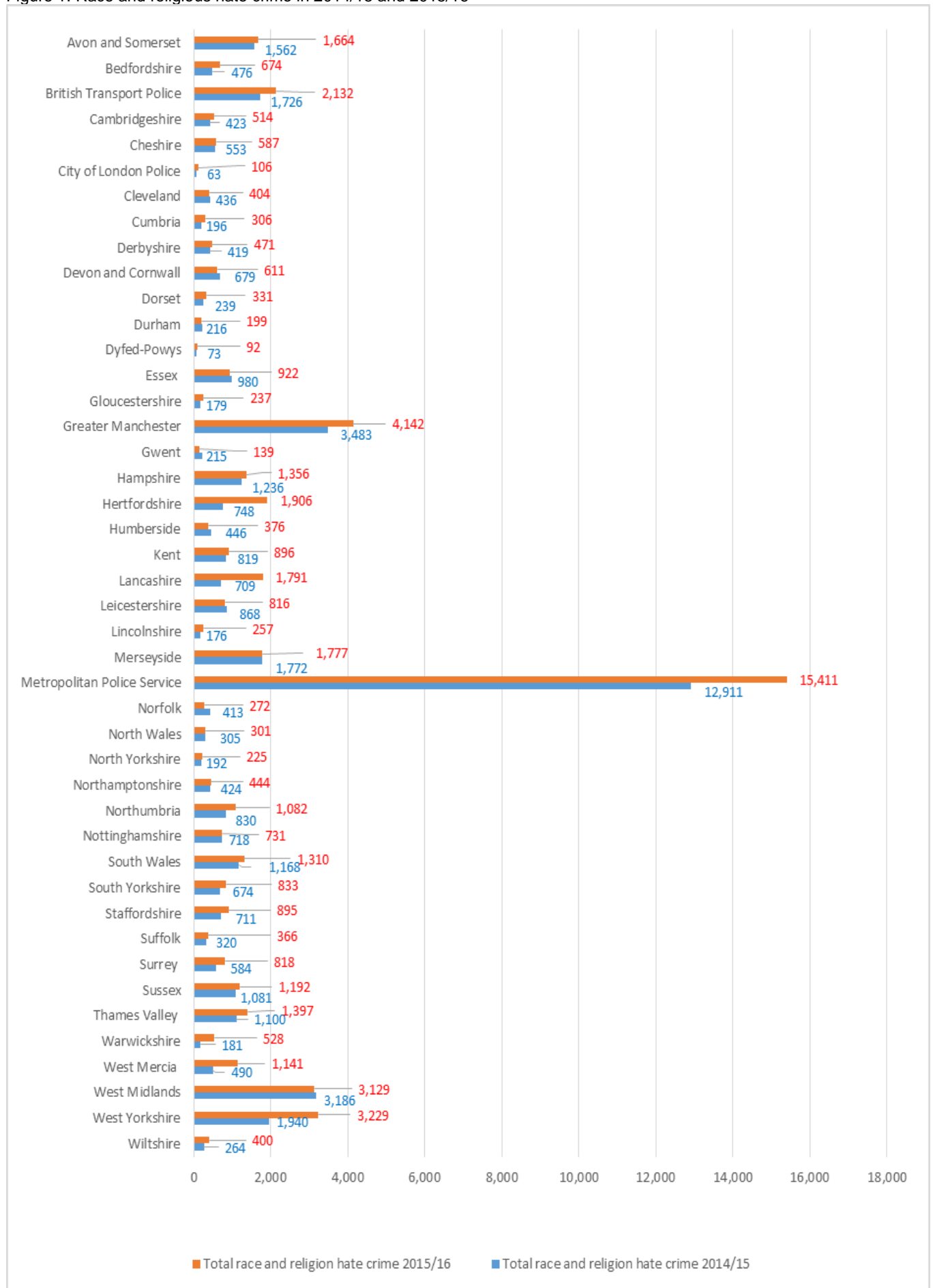
This year, more than in the previous year, we have encountered difficulty in seeking disaggregated data on victims' religious identity with a number of forces responding to our FOI request to state that they are not required to record the victim's religious identity when applying a 'religion' flag to monitored hate crime.

Efforts to estimate anti-Muslim hate crime using police recorded crime data is further compounded by gaps in the data. For example, the Metropolitan Police Service, the largest police force in the UK and one that in 2015/16 accounted for over a quarter of all race hate crimes in the UK (26.4%) and around a third of religious hate crimes (33.9%) did not record victim racial identity in more than half of all race hate crime cases (52%).

The MPS disclosed in an FOI that it recorded 13,643 race hate crimes of which in 7,055 cases, the victim's racial identity was not recorded.

In relation to religious hate crimes, the MPS had no reported data on victim's religious identity, or the identity was recorded as 'unknown' in 17% of cases in the last financial year. Of the 1,745 religious hate crime recorded by the Met, in 146 and 150 cases respectively, the victim's religious identity was 'not recorded' or 'unknown'.

Figure 1: Race and religious hate crime in 2014/15 and 2015/16



Freedom of Information data from 40 police forces in England and Wales, including British Transport Police, revealed victims' racial identity was entered as 'unknown' or 'not recorded' in 16,352 out of 51,584, race hate crimes, or around a third - 32%.

For religious hate crime data, Freedom of Information results from 35 police forces, including British Transport Police show victims' religious identity was entered as 'unknown' or 'not recorded' by police forces in 2,327 cases out of 5,209, or almost half – 44%.

Estimates on anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK are affected by 'dual bias motivation', where the bias is both racial and religious, and 'displaced bias motivation', where race is used as a substitute for religious hostility. 'Dual bias motivation' can lead to an overestimation of anti-Muslim hate crime, with racial and religious 'flags' in police recorded crime data being counted twice. 'Displaced bias motivation' can compound difficulties in separating racial hostility from religious hostility, the frequent conflation of both by hate crime perpetrators notwithstanding.

However, estimating the level of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK requires investigation of both race and religious hate crime data. The singular focus on one monitored strand would result in a gross underestimation of actual numbers.

From our Freedom of Information requests for disaggregated data based on victims' racial identity (for race hate crime) and victims' religious identity (for religious hate crime) we estimate the number of anti-Muslim hate crimes in England and Wales in 2015-16 to be 6,869.

Given concerns raised over the targeting of Muslim females due to their 'visibility' as Muslims, we sought disaggregated data on racial and religious hate crime by victim racial/religious and gender identity. The number of cases where victim gender was entered as 'unknown' or 'not recorded' was 3,623 with disaggregated race crime data by victim gender provided by 24 forces and religious hate crime data by gender provided by 26 forces. Obviously, the picture derived from police recorded crime data assessing intersectionality is incomplete.

From the available information derived using police recorded crime, it would appear that Muslim men are more likely, as victims, to report racial and/or religious hate crime to the police. Disaggregated data provided by 24 police forces on the gender breakdown of racial and religious hate crime revealed there were 706 Muslim male victims and 602 Muslim female victims in 2015/16.

The gender breakdown, where available, demonstrates the importance of targeting Muslim women in hate crime awareness campaigns to ensure female victims don't leave hate crime unreported. It further demonstrates the crucial role of third party reporting centres (TRCs) as avenues for reporting hate crime where victims are unable or unwilling to report directly to the police.

In our PCC manifesto 2015, we highlighted the poor investment in third party reporting centres in England. We found 2,011 TRCs established across force areas in England and Wales (excluding the Metropolitan Police Service). Of these, 47 were identified as centres established for use by Muslim communities.

In five force areas, we were unable to identify TRCs on the PCC or constabulary websites: Hampshire, Kent, Avon and Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

In 24 force areas, we were unable to identify TRCs which catered specifically for Muslims, for example in mosques, Islamic community centres, Muslim schools or other venues frequented by Muslims. These force areas are: Durham, Northumbria, Cheshire, Cumbria, Humberside, North Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Staffordshire, West Mercia, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Surrey, Sussex, Devon and Cornwall, Thames Valley and Dorset.

The remaining force areas offered a range of third party reporting centres where Muslims could report hate crime: Greater Manchester (8); West Midlands (6); Lancashire (5); West Yorkshire (3);

Dyfed-Powys (4); Gwent (4); North Wales (5) and South Wales (7). Wales performed better than constabularies in England with almost one in ten TRCs in Wales, (20 out of 194) being a centre established for use by Muslim communities.

Third party reporting centres play a vital role in connecting victims to processes for redress and victim support. Their importance should not be underestimated and their proper functioning, to meet the needs of victims, should be a priority for local forces and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Publishing disaggregated data on hate crime is a recommendation espoused by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the European Commission and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

Since 2012, the UK has published annual reports on hate crime in the UK by monitored strand. The annual reports aggregate the number of hate crimes by race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender. UK police forces have been publishing data on anti-Semitic crimes in the UK since 2010.

In 2016, we are still unable to reliably estimate or verify the number of Islamophobic offences occurring in the UK because a separate flag for recording Islamophobic offences is not uniformly processed by all police forces in England and Wales.

The failure to record and publish fully disaggregated data by victim racial identity or victim religious identity (including perceived identity) makes it difficult to measure anti-Muslim attacks from extant police recorded crime data. Samples taken from NGOs which work with victim groups are no substitute, indeed they are often a very poor substitute, for data that ought to be uniformly collected by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, as well as British Transport Police.

The introduction of an Islamophobia category from April 2017, with a trial set between April 2016 and March 2017, will narrow the present gap in reliable figures on anti-Muslim hate crime. Given the gaps we have identified in capturing racial and religious identity in police recorded data, adding an Islamophobia category is a necessary but not sufficient condition to ensure reliable figures emerge in the future. Particularly so if Islamophobic hate crime is narrowly defined as 'religious' hate crime. The racial and religious characteristics of anti-Muslim hostility need to be better reflected in police training and in crime recording systems.

There is a desperate need for Government to recognise the importance of extending ethnic monitoring practices evident in other spheres of the public sector to policing. There appears to us to be little excuse to justify the gaps in police recorded crime data on hate crime since the passing of the Equality Act 2010 and with enhanced requirements on police forces for recording age, gender and ethnicity on subjects of stop and search.

The gaps in data on victim racial and religious identity at a time when the Conservative Government is undertaking a 'race audit' to monitor race outcomes and equality for minority communities and the white working class in the UK is conflictual. While progress is pursued in the ethnic make-up of police forces, to improve representativeness and quality of service, the shortfall in policing practices in relation to data capture on victims of hate crime is indefensible.

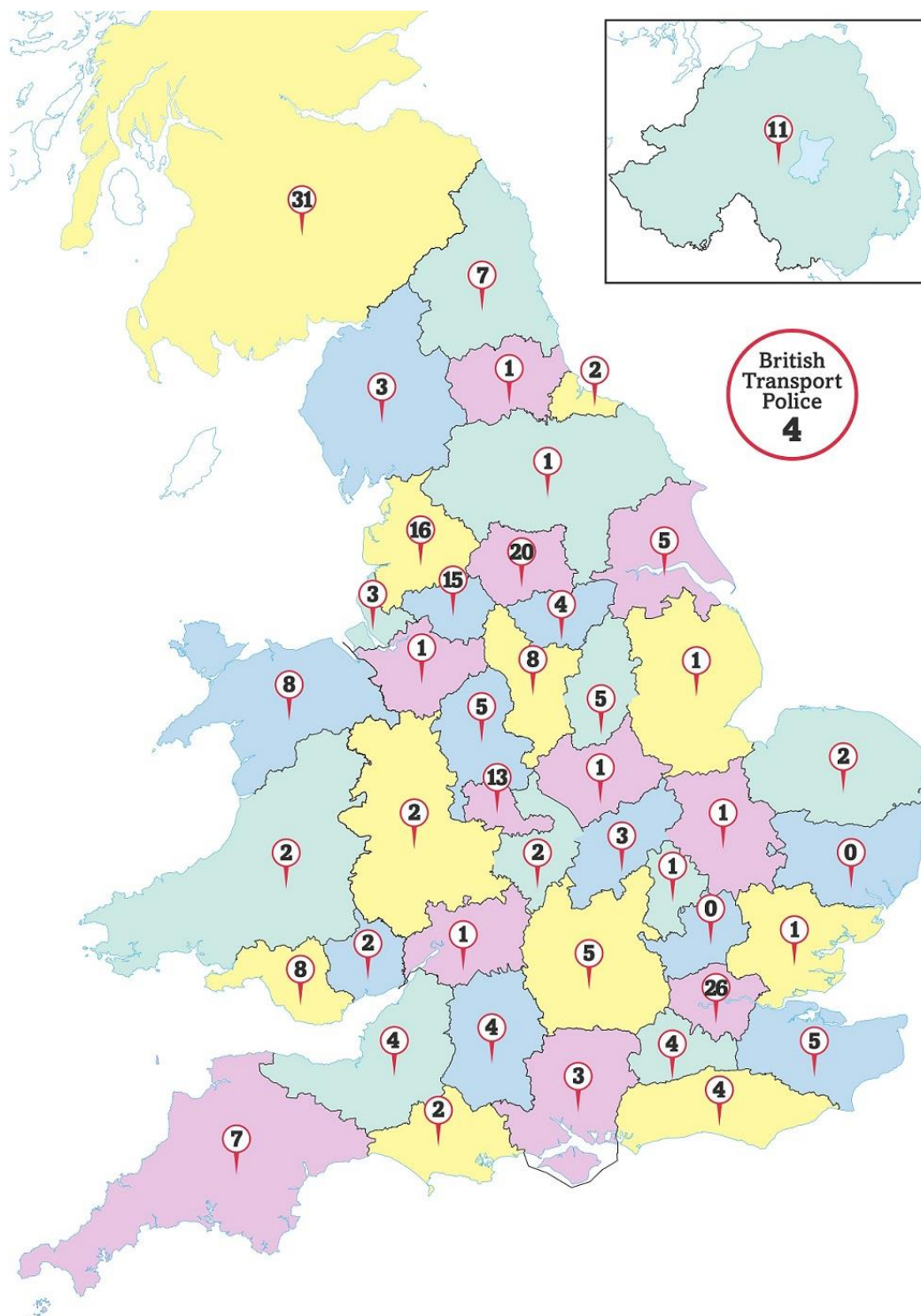
There is an urgent need for improved practice and performance at the policing level. Hate crime victims report higher levels of stress, trauma than victims of regular crime. It behoves those charged with ensuring redress of victim grievance that hate crimes affecting vulnerable groups are taken seriously starting with data collection.

Anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK, 2015

This section details the main results derived from the incidents documented in this report.

Figure 2 shows the locations of all incidents we documented in 2015 by police force area, including British Transport Police and Police Service Northern Ireland (for hate crimes occurring in the province).

Figure 2

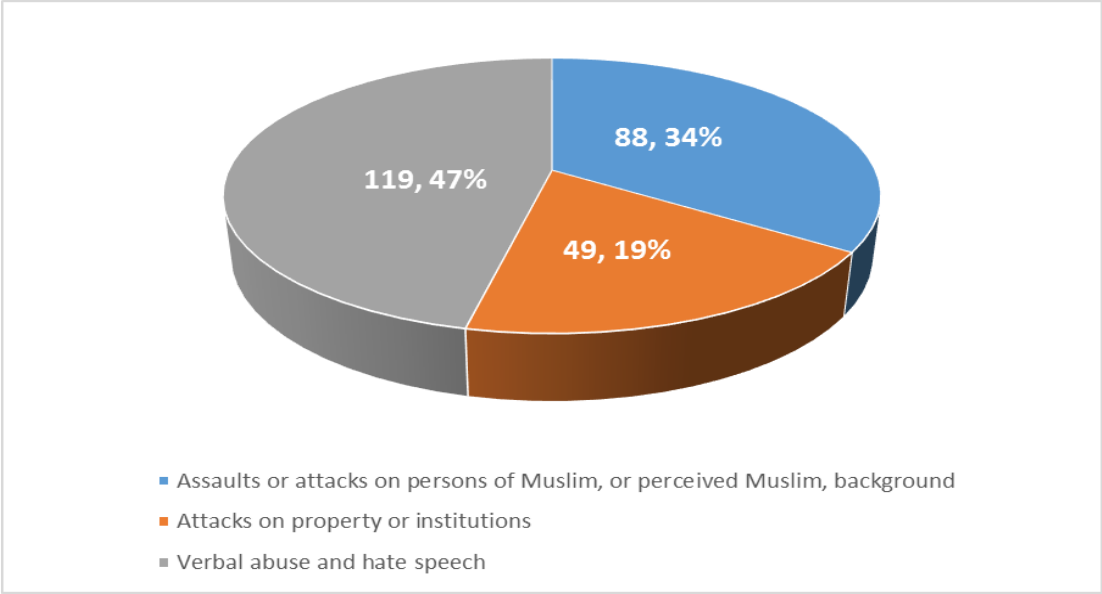


Cases

286 incidents are included in total in this report. 256 of these incidents occurred in 2015. 28 of the remaining 30 incidents occurred in 2013 or 2014. A further two incidents relate to disciplinary cases where the offences were committed prior to 2013. The analysis below refers to hate crimes which happened in 2015 only.

Just under half (47%) of 2015 incidents were verbal abuse and hate speech. A third (34%) of the incidents were attacks on people and the other 19% were incidents of criminal damage.

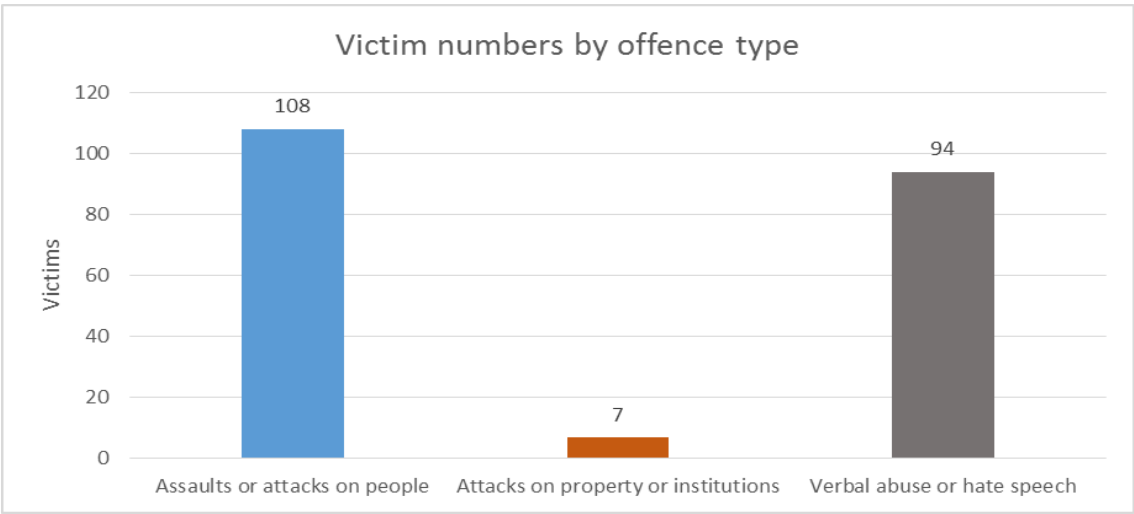
Figure 3



Victim profiles

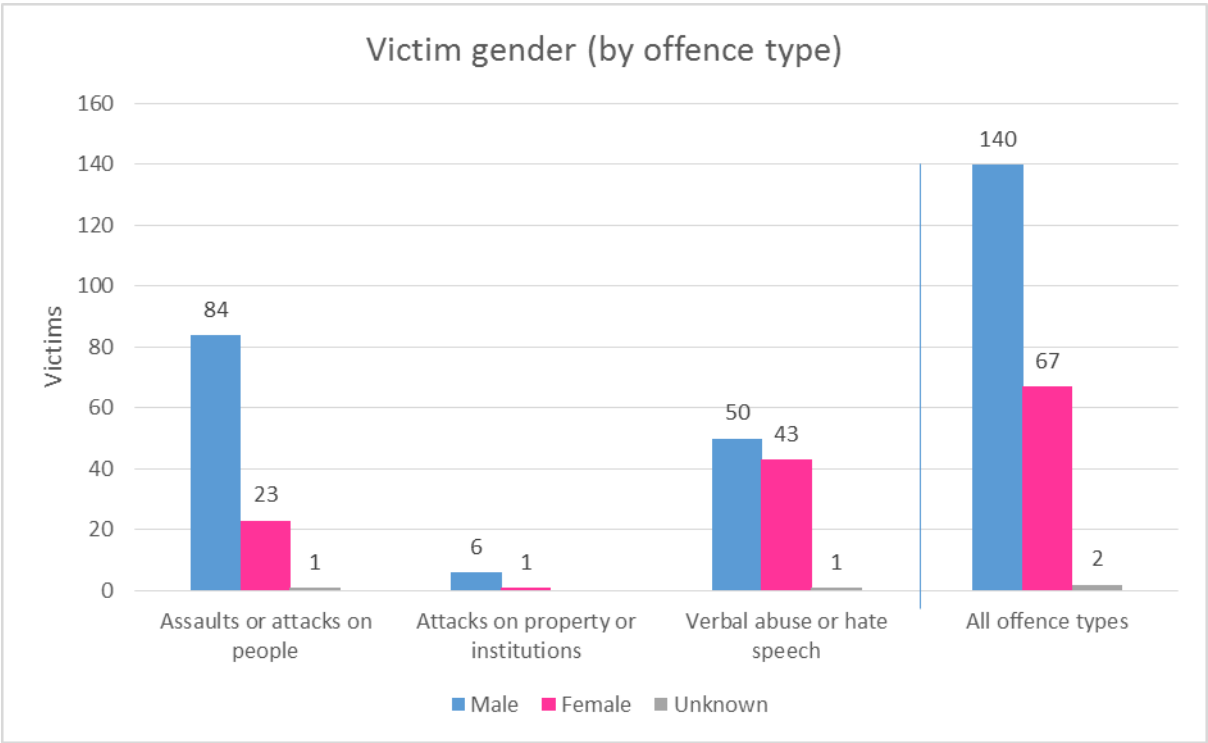
In total, 209 victims were identified from 163 of the incidents. 93 incidents occurred where the victim was unknown or in the case of criminal damage or social media posts, there was no direct victim. 108 people were victims of attacks or assaults, 7 were victims of attacks on their property and 94 were victims of verbal abuse and hate speech.

Figure 4



The majority of victims were male, especially in cases of attacks or assaults, where the number of male victims recorded (84) was over three times higher than the number of female victims (23). Overall, 140 of the 209 victims identified were male (67%).

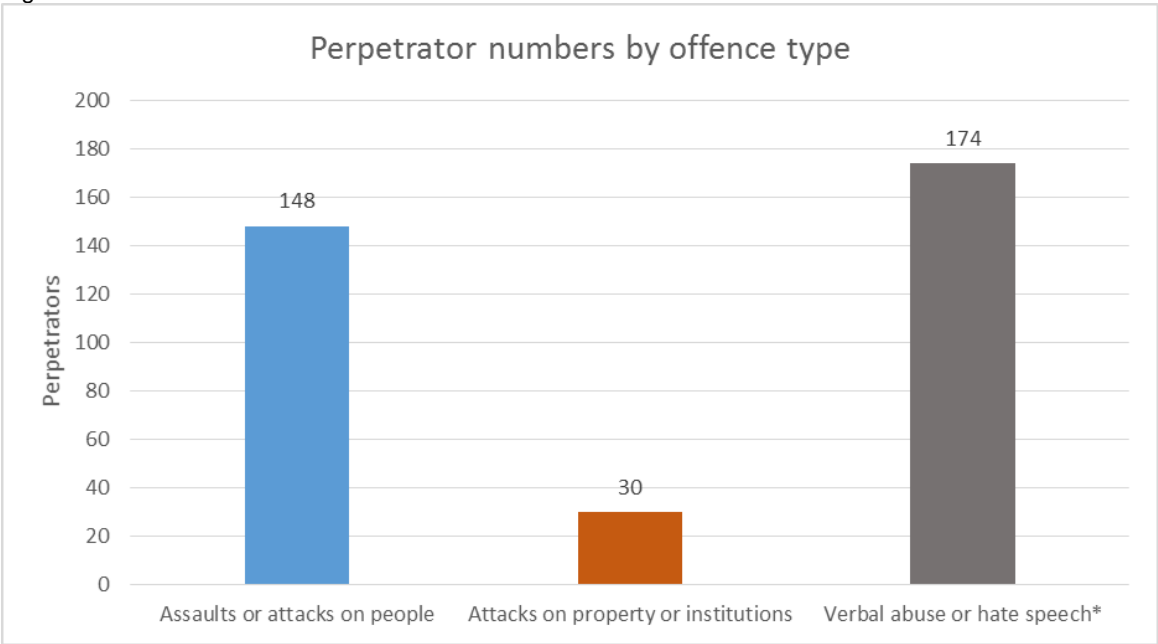
Figure 5



Perpetrator profiles

In total, 352 perpetrators were identified across 218 of the incidents. 148 carried out attacks or assaults on people, while 30 attacked property or institutions. 174 perpetrators carried out verbal abuse or hate speech.

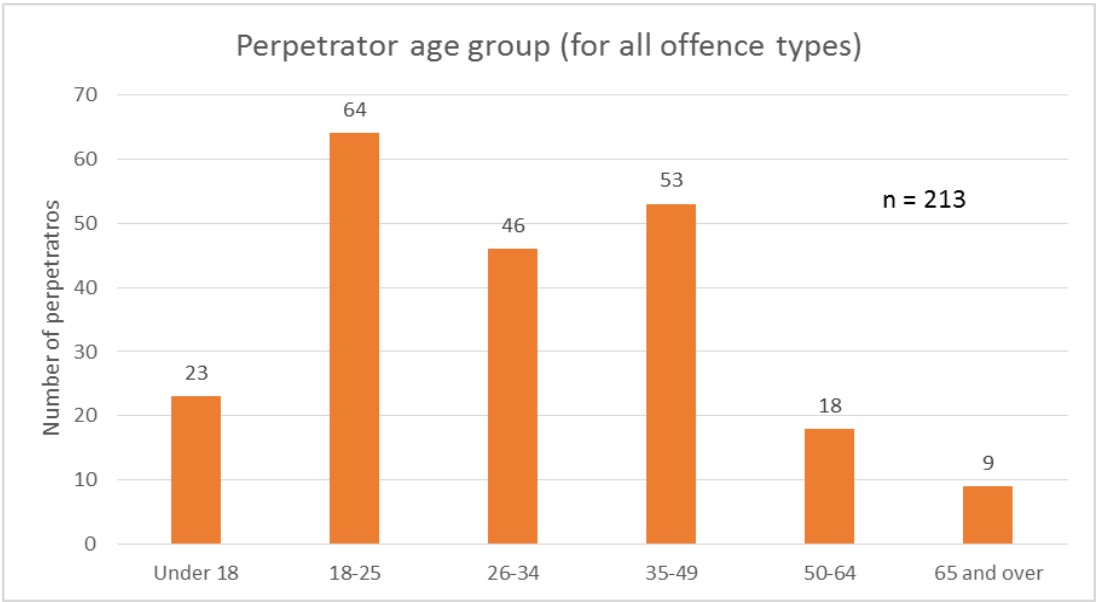
Figure 6



*Includes one incident where the victim referred to a group of around 40 teenagers engaging in verbal abuse

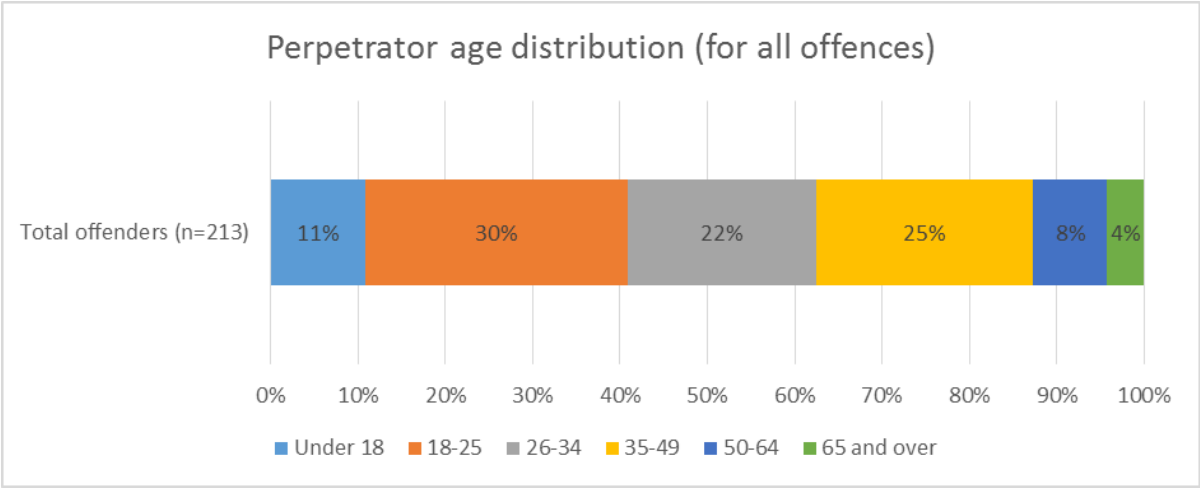
Where the perpetrator's age was recorded, 23 perpetrators were aged under 18 and 64 were between 18 and 25. 46 were aged between 26 and 34; 53 were aged between 35 and 49; 18 offenders were between 50 and 64 and 9 were aged over 65.

Figure 7



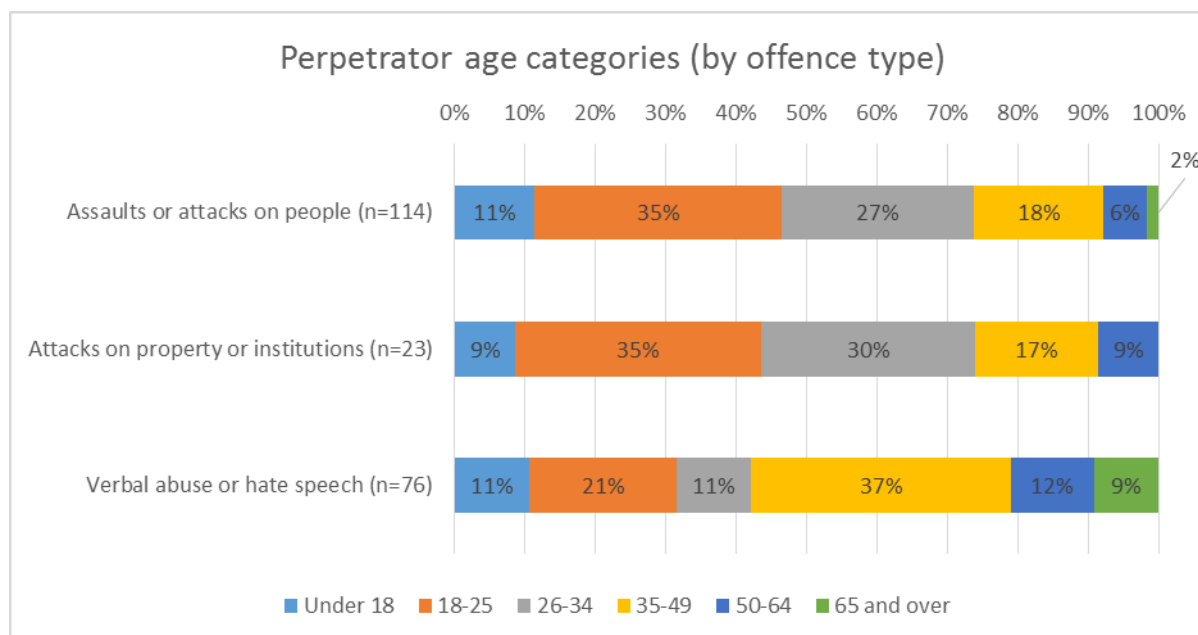
11% of offenders were aged under 18, while 30% were between 18 and 25. 21% were aged between 26 and 34; 25% were between 35 and 49; 8% of offenders were between 50 and 64, while 4% were aged over 65.

Figure 8



46% of attacks or assaults on people were carried out by people under 25. Similarly, 44% of attacks on property were committed by offenders aged under 25. In contrast, 32% of those perpetrating verbal abuse or hate speech were under 25 while around a fifth (21%) were aged over 50.

Figure 9



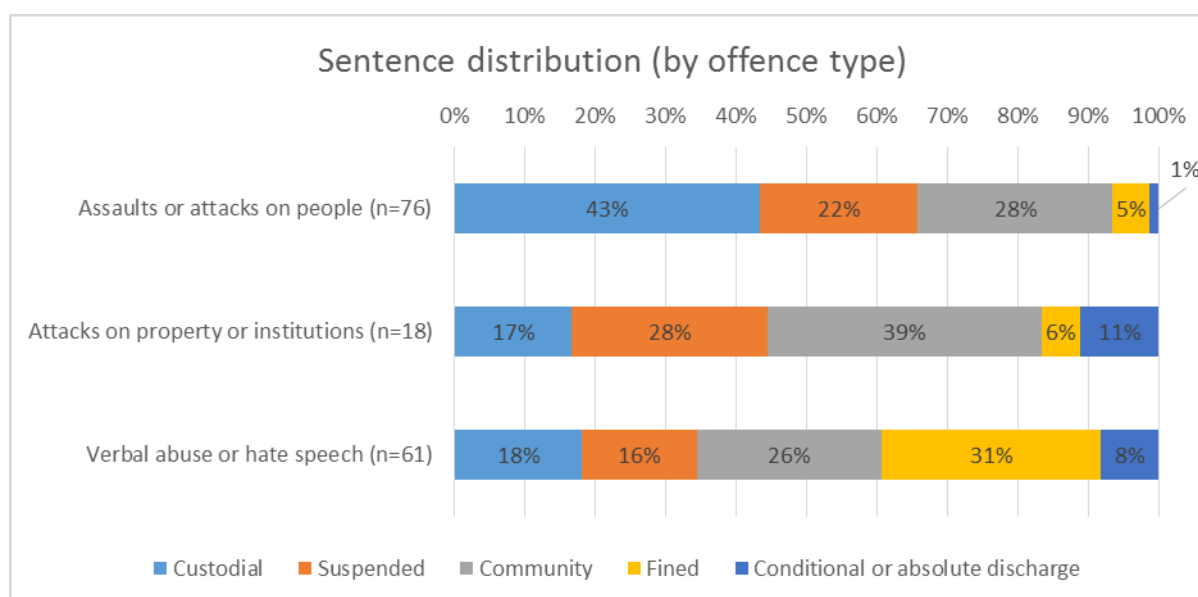
Charges and sentencing

In total, 181 perpetrators were charged for crimes in relation to the incidents documented in this report. Of these, 160 were convicted in court. 7 defendants were acquitted, while in 14 cases the outcomes of the case or trial are unknown.

Of the 160 offenders convicted, 156 were sentenced, with one defendant being sectioned under the Mental Health Act after being declared unfit to plead. In the remaining four cases, the sentence is not known. In three additional cases, offenders were dealt with prior to cases reaching the court system, via a police caution, community resolution and restorative disposal respectively.

43% of people sentenced for assaults or attacks on people were given immediate custodial sentences, with 50% given suspended or community sentences.

Figure 10



17% of people sentenced for attacking property or institutions were given custodial sentences, 28% were given suspended sentences and 39% were handed community sentences.

18% of people sentenced for verbal abuse or hate speech were given custodial sentences, with 16% given suspended sentences. The largest proportion of offenders were either given a community sentence (26%) or fined (31%).

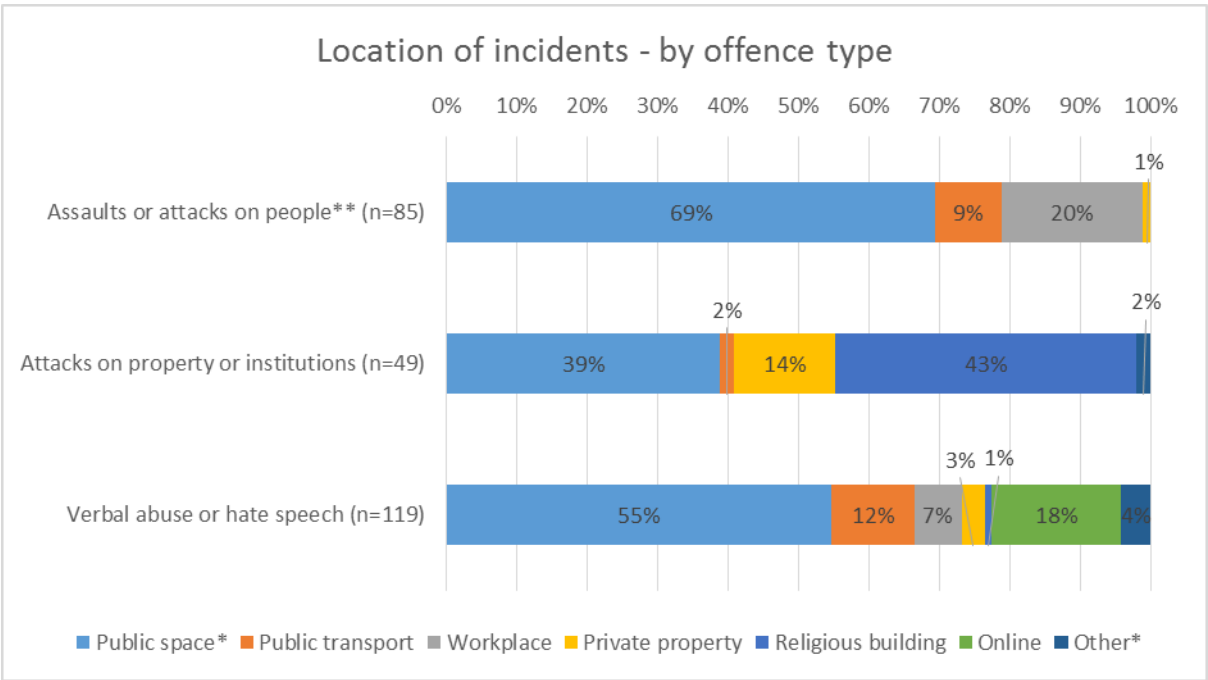
Locations

69% of assaults or attacks on people occurred in public spaces, defined as shops, restaurants, parks and other sites. Almost all other attacks occurred on public transport, such as trains or buses, or in victims’ workplaces.

43% of attacks on property were on religious buildings. The overwhelming majority of these attacks were graffiti or arson attacks on mosques. This category also includes anti-Muslim graffiti attacks on two Sikh gurdwaras, both of which were mistaken for Islamic places of worship. 14% of property attacks were on people’s private property, with four attacks on homes and three incidents of criminal damage to cars. These examples indicate how vulnerable Muslim families can be to attacks in places individuals would normally regard as safe; their homes.

55% of verbal abuse or hate speech incidents occurred in public spaces, with a further 12% in public transport locations. 18% of recorded incidents occurred online, an area where abuse can spread rapidly and where often, no single victim is targeted.

Figure 11



* Public space refers to shops, restaurants, parks and other establishments
* Other includes telephone incidents and abuse sent by letter
** The location of three incidents in section 1 could not be ascertained from the media reports

The cases summarised above are detailed in full in the next section.

Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim, or perceived Muslim, background

- 1.1** Six men, all but one of whom were Sikh, were jailed for a total of 19 years over a “paranoid hate campaign” towards Muslims.

This included an attack on a car containing two Muslim men by a group wielding hockey sticks, chains and other weapons in June 2013.

A Facebook thread was also set up peddling anti-Muslim comments described by the judge as “vicious and perverse and absurd”.

A website account was set up with the intention of luring unsuspecting Muslim men to contact a fictitious 15-year-old girl. One man was lured to a meeting spot where he was attacked with weapons and shot with a BB gun.

Parwinder Baining, 21, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit assault, actual bodily harm, possessing an imitation firearm, possessing a bladed article and importing an illegal haul of weapons. He was jailed for seven and a half years.

Damanpreet Singh, 19, pleaded guilty to inciting racial hatred and conspiracy to commit assault and actual bodily harm. He was jailed for four years.

Mehul Lodhia, 24, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit assault and importing illegal knuckle-dusters. He was jailed for three years.

Harjinder Athwal, 24, pleaded guilty to inciting racial hatred and conspiracy to commit assault and actual bodily harm. He was jailed for two and a half years.

Amanpreet Singh, 25, pleaded guilty to affray and was jailed for two years.

Santinderbir Singh, 20, pleaded guilty to inciting racial hatred and was jailed for fifteen months.³

- 1.2** An Asian woman wearing a burkha was racially abused on a bus from Walthamstow Central Station on 19 January 2015.⁴

The woman, 27, boarded the 69 bus from Walthamstow with her child in a push chair. A slim black woman, aged between 20 and 25, then racially abused the victim.

The suspect was described as having a strong jaw line and hair tied back into a long ponytail.

It is not known if the Asian victim was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi background.

The Metropolitan Police responded to a Freedom of Information request in relation to the incident disclosing that investigations failed to identify a suspect and the case is now closed.⁵

- 1.3** Two Asian taxi drivers were racially abused and punched by a man in Huddersfield town centre on 31 January 2015.

Damien Scanlon, 26, became abusive when driver Liaquat Ali told him to get out of his car and go to the front of the queue for taxis.

³ *Leicester Mercury*, 8 February 2015

⁴ *Waltham Forest Guardian*, 25 February 2015

⁵ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070000776

Scanlon kicked the wheel arch of Mr Ali's car causing £200 worth of damage, before racially abusing taxi driver Umer Khatab, who had become involved in the incident.

Kirklees Crown Court heard how Scanlon shouted: "you f***** p*** b*****. I'm going to kill you. I hate you people".

Mr Scanlon was spared a jail sentence when tried at Kirklees Magistrates' court in March 2015. He was ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work and pay £300 compensation to both drivers and £145 in costs and victim surcharges. He was also given a curfew.⁶

1.4 An Asian taxi driver was assaulted and racially abused near Preston on 18th January 2015.

Mark Wilson, 43, punched an Asian taxi driver in the face and used racist language after refusing to pay an £8 taxi fare.

CCTV from Wilson's house in Walton-le-Dale was seized which confirmed word for word what the taxi driver had reported.

It is not known if the Asian taxi driver was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi background.

Mr Wilson pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault and making off without payment at Preston Magistrates' Court on 23 February 2015. He was fined £860 and ordered to pay £208 in compensation.⁷

1.5 Nafees Hussain Shah, a 31-year-old father of two, suffered a fractured jaw and three fractures to his eye socket when he was attacked on 30 June 2015 outside the Chequerfield Hotel pub, Pontefract after going there to deliver a take-away.

Mr Shah parked his car at the hotel and wound down his window to ask a man who approached his vehicle if the food had been ordered by him.

The man punched Mr Shah while he sat in his car before a second man helped drag him out of the car. The attack continued in the car park where he was repeatedly punched and kicked in the face.

Mr Shah said that during the attack, a woman provoked further assaults by using racist remarks.

Mr Shah managed to escape, but he had to go into five houses before a couple took him in and called the police and paramedics. He was taken to Pinderfields Hospital Wakefield where he stayed overnight.⁸

Simon Lawrie, 31, pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm in March 2016 at Leeds Crown Court. He was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years and ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work.⁹

Lawrie was also told to pay £500 compensation to the victim.

The court heard that "up to 30 people looked on" during the attack which recorder Nigel Sangster, QC, concluded as an "act of shame."

⁶ *The Huddersfield Examiner*, 4 March 2015

⁷ *Lancashire Evening Post*, 9 March 2015

⁸ *Telegraph & Argus*, 2 June 2015

⁹ *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 4 March 2016

1.6 A young mother had her hijab ripped from her head as she walked toward the private Islamic primary school Al-Khair in South London on 4 June 2015.¹⁰

She was going to collect her two children when a number of women shouted abuse at her. They asked if she was 'hot' in the headscarf before yanking it off and punching her.

The mother said she was left with whiplash and chunks of hair missing.

Emma Marie Camilleri, 35, was charged with racially aggravated common assault, criminal damage and a racially aggravated public order offence. Sarah Gaskin, 18, was charged with racially aggravated common assault and Ashleigh Gaskin, 18, was also summoned to the court for racially aggravated common assault.¹¹

The three women were due to appear at Croydon Magistrates' Court on 17 February 2016, but the case was adjourned until June after their lawyer failed to turn up to represent the defendants.¹²

1.7 A man racially assaulted a taxi driver in Nottingham on 17 July 2015.¹³

Thomas Clark, 28, got into a cab with another man on Long Row, Nottingham, and refused to leave when the cab driver told them to get out because they were not his fare.

The driver decided to drive to the Police station and during the journey Clark asked where the driver was from. He responded that he was from Kashmir which Clark rejected and made an abusive comment about Allah.

The driver told Clark not to be "offensive" about his religion. Clark then punched the back of his seat and made another abusive remark about Allah. Nottingham Magistrates' Court heard that Clark also pinched the driver.

Clark denied one charge of racially aggravated assault and one of religiously aggravated assault, but was convicted by a bench of magistrates on 22 December 2015.

District Judge Leo Pile ordered Clark to carry out 180 hours of unpaid community work and pay £200 in compensation to the driver, along with a further £1,680 in costs.

The court heard the incident would mean it was unlikely Clark would be able to pursue his aim of becoming a professional social worker.

1.8 A teenager was violently assaulted and racially abused as he left a mosque in Coventry on 21 June 2015.¹⁴

The 18-year-old was approached by four men who called him a "p***" before they attacked him from behind. He was "left with a nasty black eye" but escaped an assault without serious injury.

His father, Qudir Hussain, aged 45, said the group "threatened him. They said they will cut him up" and "chop him into little bits".

The attackers may have targeted the nearby Masjid-e-Zeenat-ul Islam Mosque and thrown stones at the windows before attacking the teenager.

¹⁰ *London Evening Standard*, 5 June 2015

¹¹ *Croydon Advertiser*, 7 July 2015

¹² *Daily Mail*, 17 February 2016

¹³ *Nottingham Post*, 23 December 2015

¹⁴ *Coventry Telegraph*, 22 June 2015

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁵

- 1.9** A man returning from prayers was racially abused and hit by an egg thrown from a car in Nuneaton on 22 June 2015.¹⁶

The man was returning from prayers during Ramadan when a black Renault Clio, being driven by a man with a female passenger, drove past the man. He reported that he was hit on the back by an egg and racist remarks were shouted at him.

Inspector Keel reported that there was a similar incident in the area the previous month.

Warwickshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information), Section 30 (investigations) and Section 31 (law enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁷

- 1.10** A young woman was racially abused and assaulted as she walked along a road in Portadown, near Belfast, on 27 June 2015.

The victim was walking alone when a passing white car began to beep her horn and the female passenger started shouting racial abuse at her.

The car stopped and the female passenger got out and assaulted her, using racist language throughout.

Following the incident, Police Service Northern Ireland communicated that “religious hate crime is unacceptable” but that they were treating the case as a “race hate crime”.¹⁸

A 40-year-old woman was later arrested and following interview, the female was released on bail pending further enquiries.¹⁹

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that an individual was charged and prosecuted for the offences of common assault, attempted criminal damage, disorderly behaviour and incitement to hatred. The individual was subsequently convicted for the offences of common assault and disorderly behaviour.²⁰

- 1.11** A Muslim couple were hit by eggs, thrown from a window of a car, as they were walking home from a mosque in Stoneleigh on 30 June 2015.

Three eggs were hurled at the couple from the window of a black VW Polo, leaving the women with minor injuries.

¹⁵ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

¹⁶ *Coventry Telegraph*, 23 June 2015

¹⁷ Freedom of Information request, Warwickshire Police, reference 2016-00618

¹⁸ *Belfast News*, 27 June 2015

¹⁹ *Portadown Times*, 1 July 2015

²⁰ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

Inspector Jackie Elkins said it appeared that the couple were “deliberately targeted as they left the mosque”. She also reported that three similar incidents had occurred in the previous two or three months with the description of the car being given as a white Fiesta or white Polo.²¹

A similar attack was reported during Ramadan in 2009 when worshipers were pelted with eggs in a racially aggravated attack as they entered the Epsom and Ewell Islamic centre.

Surrey Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in relation to the incident and the investigation has been closed.²²

1.12 A man tried to pull off a woman’s hijab on a train travelling between Matlock and Derby on 4 July 2015.²³

British Transport Police said the man also shouted abuse at the woman before he was ejected from the train at Ambergate station.

Police investigating the incident issued CCTV of the man they wanted to speak to.

British Transport Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that an individual was arrested in relation to the incident and charged with racially/religiously aggravated public order offences. The individual was convicted and sentenced to 20 weeks imprisonment and an £80 victim surcharge.²⁴

1.13 An 81-year-old man was attacked by two men on the way to a mosque in Rotherham on 10 August 2015.²⁵

Muhsin Ahmed later died in hospital on 21 August 2015 after the attack left him with serious injuries and brain damage.

Muhsin Ahmed was on his way to early morning prayers when he was subjected to a sustained assault and left for dead. The force of the blows knocked out Mr Ahmed’s dentures and a stamp to his head left an imprint of the attacker’s shoe on his face.²⁶

Prosecution said that one of the attackers, Dale Jones, 30, had accused Mr Ahmed of “being a ‘groomer’, his word for paedophile, for no better reason than Mr Ahmed was Asian”.

Jones had already made threats to kill his girlfriend’s former partner that night and had tried to attack an Asian taxi driver while shouting racist abuse at him, moments before coming across Mr Ahmed. The attackers had been drinking and taking Cocaine.

Jones, who denied murder, was jailed for life, with a requirement to serve a minimum of 32 years at Sheffield Crown Court. The second attacker, Damien Hunt, also 30, was jailed for 14 years after he was found guilty of Mr Ahmed’s manslaughter.²⁷

1.14 Christopher Cuthbertson, 30, was sentenced for committing a number of racially aggravated attacks throughout 2015.

²¹ *Epsom Guardian*, 30 June 2015

²² Freedom of Information request, Surrey Police, reference 165-16-735

²³ *The Mirror*, 24 July 2015

²⁴ Freedom of Information request, British Transport Police, reference 929-16

²⁵ *BBC News*, 11 July 2015

²⁶ *Yorkshire Post*, 9 February 2015

²⁷ *BBC News*, 29 February 2016

Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court heard that Cuthbertson jabbed taxi driver Rizwan Ahmed with an e-cigarette and refused to pay his fare in January 2015. He hurled racist abuse at Mr Ahmed and attacked him numerous times, leaving him needing stitches.

A similar incident occurred in August 2015 after Cuthbertson punched taxi driver Mohammed Naheem on the left side of his neck, after he had asked him to pay the fare for the journey.

On 3 December 2015, Cuthbertson demanded cash from shop staff in a BP garage. After being arrested, he hurled racist abuse at a police officer putting him into custody.

Mr Cuthbertson was sentenced to five years and eight months in prison in February 2016.²⁸

1.15 A young Muslim couple were subjected to a drunken racist attack by a man in Leominster, Herefordshire on 25 July 2015.

Cameron Ali, 20, and his pregnant girlfriend were walking along Hereford's Commercial Street when he was accosted by 19-year-old Ryan Davies. He had been drinking heavily and started a conversation with Mr. Ali's girlfriend, whom he apparently knew from school.

What followed were a series of racist remarks directed at Mr. Ali, with Mr. Davies calling him a "fat P***," and demanding to know if he was "100 per cent British." His 23-year-old brother Jake Davies then arrived, and he then joined in with the abuse, saying to his brother "Let's do him (Mr. Ali) in." Ryan Davies then responded by saying "I'm going to kill you and the P*** baby."

When Mr. Ali told the men to leave them alone, they kicked him to floor and began physically assaulting him. The result was that he was hospitalised with a fractured eye socket, a cut to his eye and a fractured ankle. The incident also affected the couple's relationship as he was reluctant to continue travelling up from Berkshire to visit the town.²⁹

The brothers were charged with assault and were each sentenced to 22 months in a young offenders' institution.

1.16 Taxi driver Abdul Rahman Eltahir was assaulted and racially abused by a man after a dispute during a journey in Portsmouth on 27 September 2015.³⁰

Peter Saville, 61, disputed the route taken by Mr Eltahir, who then drove Saville back to where he had been collected.

Saville demanded Eltahir return him the £5.00 he had paid. He then punched Mr Eltahir in the back of the head, got out, went to the front and punched him again in the face. He made off with £20 from Mr Eltahir's taxi cab.

Saville admitted common assault, theft and causing racially-aggravated harassment, alarm or distress. He was sentenced at Portsmouth Crown Court in February 2016 to 18 weeks for the assault, 14 weeks for the public order offence and 20 weeks for the theft. The term, 52 weeks in all, was suspended for two years.

1.17 A taxi driver was assaulted and racially abused by two men on 25 April 2015 in Dunfermline.³¹

²⁸ *Staffs Live*, 13 February 2016

²⁹ *Hereford Times*, 19 May 2016

³⁰ *Portsmouth News*, 16 February 2016

³¹ *The Courier*, 18 February 2016

Ali Haidar, 43, picked up two drunk men at the front of Carnegie Drive rank but was concerned that in their condition they may have been sick in his car. He told them he wanted £10 each in case they were sick, but would only charge them the normal fare on the meter if there were no incidents.

Both men refused to give Mr Haidar the money and got out of his car. Mr Haidar got out of his car for a smoke but was attacked from behind by one of the passengers, Stephen Ferguson, 29, who pushed him to the ground and started punching him on the body.

As he got back to his feet, Mr Haidar was grabbed around the throat by Ferguson who told him "I'm going to kill you, foreigner". Mr Haidar said it was only because of the intervention of Ferguson's friend that the attack stopped.

Mr Ferguson was found guilty of assault and fined £400 at Dunfermline Sheriff Court in February 2016.

- 1.18** A 54-year-old taxi driver was assaulted in Bellshill on 19 October 2015 as he drove two men through the town of Bellshill in Scotland.³²

Sirajuddin Siddique was driving David Baird, 26, and Anthony Dearie, 21, from Glasgow to Baird's flat in Bellshill when an argument broke out.

Baird struck Mr Siddique with a bottle while Dearie stabbed him with a set of keys he was carrying.

The accused said they had been under the influence of drink and drugs.

The attackers admitted racially aggravated assault on Mr Siddique and were each given 33 months at Hamilton Sheriff Court on 19 February 2016.

- 1.19** A Muslim doctor was violently assaulted in Nottingham on 29 October 2015 as she paid condolences to a friend who had lost her mother.²⁶

Dr. Syeda Jafricorr received a call from a friend whose mother had just died and went to pay condolences and assist her along with some friends.

As they walked down Birkin Avenue, Aiden Fletcher, 23, said to Dr. Jafricorr "move out of my way" and stood in front of her.³³

Dr. Jafricorr said to her friends "let's get away" and Mr. Fletcher asked Dr. Jafricorr what she had said, repeating it several times. She got her phone out and Mr. Fletcher head-butted her and said "get back to your country".

Dr. Jafricorr suffered a concussion-related headache and had a series of counselling sessions due to the trauma caused by the incident.

Mr. Fletcher admitted to racially aggravated assault by beating. At Nottingham Magistrates' Court on 14 March 2016, Mr. Fletcher was given a six-month prison term, suspended for two years and was ordered to do 140 hours of unpaid costs. He was also ordered to pay £500 compensation and £280 in costs.

Commenting after the sentence, Dr Jafricorr said, "I am disappointed in a way because we were expecting a jail sentence. I had never been treated like that before in my life. My dad was extremely

³² *Motherwell Times*, 19 February 2016

³³ *Nottingham Post*, 19 February 2016

worried for my safety after that. My dad has since died with the feeling that his daughter was not safe."³⁴

- 1.20** A man was robbed while collecting money for charity in an alleged racist attack in south London on 24 December 2015.³⁵

Muj Hussain, 31, was fundraising at the Horseshoe pub in Croydon when he was assaulted.

He was walking to his car when he heard someone shout "f***** P****" before being hit on the back of the head. £500 in donations for Source4Life, a charity which helps to provide clean water in developing countries, was stolen from Mr Hussain.

Following the incident, Mr. Hussain said "I'm sure it was someone from the pub because at one point I briefly took the money out of my pocket without thinking about it".

Mr. Hussain appealed for help to track down a man who called the emergency services after discovering him dazed and covered in blood. Mr Hussain said the man "sat me down on the floor, called the ambulance and called the police and stayed with me. Just the fact he stayed there means so much".

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident and enquiries were ongoing.³⁶

- 1.21** A man threatened to kill his Muslim neighbour during Ramadan in St. Pauls, Bristol in July 2015.³⁷

Farman Farah had invited a guest to celebrate Ramadan but they were confronted by Mr Farah's neighbour George Vernon who came to the door with a hammer.

Vernon, 67, made racially aggressive threats to kill Mr Farah and smashed his bathroom window.

Police were called to the scene and found Vernon in an aggressive mood and using racially unpleasant language. He was taken to the police station where he was offensive to police officers.

Vernon was found guilty of making a threat to kill and causing racially aggravated fear of violence and racially aggravated criminal damage at Bristol Crown Court.

The court heard that Vernon had 12 dated previous conviction for 24 offences, of which one or two were for violence. He was sentenced to one year in prison.

- 1.22** Two men racially assaulted a man on a bus in Guisborough, Yorkshire, on 17 August 2015.³⁸

Twin brothers Josh and Ryan Vincent, 21, called an Algerian man "a monkey" and told him to "go back where you came from" before throwing punches and kicks towards him.

In response to the incident, the bus driver stopped the bus and called the police. Both men were "mortally drunk" and claim to have no "recollection of the event".

³⁴ *Nottingham Post*, 15 March 2016

³⁵ *The Guardian*, 7 January 2016

³⁶ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

³⁷ *Bristol Post*, 4 January 2016

³⁸ *The Gazette*, 21 January 2016

The pair pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault at Teesside Magistrates' Court. Josh Vincent was given a 10-week jail sentence suspended for 12 months with a rehabilitation requirement and 120 hours' unpaid work.

Ryan Vincent was also given a 12-month community order with a rehabilitation requirement and 120 hours' unpaid work.

They were each ordered to pay £325 costs and £75 compensation.

1.23 A man attempted to burn a Muslim with a cigarette at a supermarket in Aberdeen on 27 September 2015.³⁹

Lewis Guyan allegedly grabbed and attempted to burn the Muslim man in a branch of Iceland on Great Northern Road, Aberdeen.

Guyan was due to appear at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 18 January 2016 but did not turn up to his court date. An arrest warrant was issued by Sheriff Stirling.

Aberdeen Sheriff's Court confirmed in email correspondence that Guyan was sentenced on 26 July 2016 to a 12 month community payback order.

1.24 A man abused a customer and called him "a suicide bomber" before assaulting him in a Swansea pub in November 2015.⁴⁰

Arthur John Lerwell, who was drinking in the Railmens' Club on Wind Street, asked the man if he had a bomb and called him to "come here, suicide bomber".

CCTV footage showed Lerwell then going over to the man and offering to shake his hand. When the victim refused, the defendant began poking and pushing him. When the victim returned his pint to the bar, Lerwell pushed him out of the door and onto the street.

Mr. Lerwell previously pleaded not guilty to racially aggravated common assault, but had been found guilty following a trial.

In January 2016, Mr. Lerwell was sentenced to 225 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay the victim £200 compensation. He was also ordered to pay £620 prosecution costs.

1.25 A woman was given a community order for assaulting a Muslim man in Bolton on 21 December 2015.⁴¹

Susan Draper, 47, pleaded guilty to the racially aggravated assault of Mohammed Masood and of behaving abusively towards him.

She also pleaded guilty to causing an estimated £500 worth of damage to a front door belonging to Greencore Housing a day prior to the incident.

Ms. Draper was fined £40 and ordered to undertake 20 days of rehabilitation activity as well as pay £100 compensation and £145 in costs and charges.

³⁹ *Press and Journal*, 19 January 2016

⁴⁰ *South West Evening Post*, 29 January 2016

⁴¹ *The Bolton News*, 8 February 2015

1.26 A man was charged with racially aggravated assault in Halifax on 20 June 2015.⁴²

Jason Calligan, 31, argued with taxi driver Yaser Iqbal over the £13 fare from Halifax to Queensbury before jabbing him in the back with a hammer shaft.

Mr. Calligan pleaded guilty to racially aggravated common assault and was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, with a probation service rehabilitation requirement. He was also ordered to pay Mr Iqbal £300 in compensation.

The court heard that Mr. Calligan had little recollection of the incident in which he racially insulted Mr Iqbal.

1.27 A man was charged with racially aggravated assault and two charges of using threatening words or behaviour.⁴³

John Paul Williamson, 32, admitted assaulting Mehmet Tutan in Whitehaven, West Cumbria on 13 November 2015 and was sentenced to 60 days, suspended for 24 months.

Williamson also admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words to Serdar Simsek on the same day and was sentenced to 30 days, suspended for 24 months to serve concurrently.

The 32-year-old also received a 30 day sentence, suspended for 24 months and to be served consecutively, for using threatening, abusive or insulting words to Fehrat Tutan on 13 November.

Williamson was ordered to pay £165 on top of the sentences he received.

1.28 Two men were sentenced for racially aggravated behaviour at Crawley Magistrates' court on 24 February 2016 in connection with an incident on 23 December 2015 involving victim Ahmed Ali.⁴⁴

Aaron Gray, 34, pleaded guilty to assault by beating and that the offence was racially aggravated. He was fined £490 and ordered to pay a £49 victim surcharge and £85 prosecution costs.

Paul Smith, 34, admitted using abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment which was racially aggravated. He was fined £267 and ordered to pay a £36 victim surcharge and £85 in prosecution costs.

1.29 Two men racially abused and assaulted staff at a Turkish-owned takeaway in Micklegate, near York on 6 December 2014.⁴⁵

Jack Alan Hunter, 21, taunted staff with racist comments, while he and his friend waited for their pizza to be cooked.

After their group was asked to leave for kicking pizza around the floor and other bad behaviour, Hunter pushed staff member Haydar Hazar and Thomas Henry Chapman, 23, punched him in the mouth, breaking three of his teeth.

Mr. Hazar and his brother Hassan had to go through the ordeal of giving evidence because both customers initially denied charges. But the two men changed their respective pleas on the third day

⁴² *The Telegraph and Argus*, 25 February 2016

⁴³ *News and Star*, 26 February 2016

⁴⁴ *Crawley News*, 12 March 2016

⁴⁵ *York Press*, 17 March 2016

of their trial, when the prosecution confronted them with Facebook posts in which they had boasted about their actions.

Mr. Chapman changed his plea to guilty on a charge of causing actual bodily harm to Mr. Hazar and was given a 14-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £1000 in compensation to Mr. Hazar.

Mr. Hunter also changed his plea to guilty on a charge of racially aggravated assault, and was given an eight-week prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Both men were ordered to do 250 hours of unpaid work, observe a six-month nightly curfew between 8pm and 5am, and pay £750 prosecution costs.

1.30 A woman racially abused and assaulted a Muslim woman on 18 April 2015 in Wallington, South London.⁴⁶

Natalie Sharp, 34, abused and punched Selvete Selmani, originally from Kosovo, because she had parked in a parent and child bay at a Lidl Supermarket.

Ms. Selmani had approached Ms. Sharp after finding a scratch on her car. Ms. Sharp responded by telling her to “f*** off back your own country” before punching Ms. Selmani in the face, leaving her with two black eyes and some swelling likened to “facial disfigurement”. Ms. Sharp also kicked the victims’ legs and grabbed her hair.⁴⁷

Ms. Sharp’s mother, Christine Bicknell, 50, then wagged a finger in Selmani’s face and shouted “you f***ing foreign c***, f*** off to your own country, you don’t belong here”.

Ms. Bicknell and Ms. Sharp then drove away from the scene when a passer-by shouted at them to stop the attack and came to the aid of Ms. Selmani, who is from Kosovo.

Ms. Sharp was convicted of one count of racially aggravated assault and Ms. Bicknell was convicted of one count of racially aggravated harassment at Croydon Crown Court.

Ms. Sharp was sentenced to complete 60 hours of unpaid work in the next 12 months and ordered to pay £40 compensation.

Ms. Bicknell was ordered to do 40 hours of unpaid work. Both were told to pay a £60 victim surcharge.⁴⁸

Ms. Sharp is the mother of Tia Sharp, who was murdered in 2012.

1.31 A man racially and religiously abused and assaulted a Muslim in Banbury, near Oxford.⁴⁹

Andrew Lydiatt, 53, attacked Faisalrahman Abdulnazar in Banbury on 22 October 2015.

Lydiatt was found guilty of racially or religiously aggravated common assault and racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress by words on the same day.

⁴⁶ *Daily Mirror*, 23 March 2016

⁴⁷ *BBC News*, 21 March 2016

⁴⁸ *Croydon Advertiser*, 29 March 2016

⁴⁹ *The Herald*, 24 March 2015

Lydiatt also admitted committing an offence during the period of a suspended sentence from Northampton Magistrates' Court for assaulting a constable, assault by beating and using threatening behaviour.

He was jailed for 15 weeks and ordered to pay £200 in compensation and an £80 victim surcharge.

1.32 A woman was convicted for racially abusing a taxi driver in Brackenhall near Huddersfield.⁵⁰

Haley Spink, 25, drunkenly attacked taxi driver Ilyas Khan on 13 September 2015.

Mr. Khan picked up Ms. Spink from his taxi base in Huddersfield town centre before taking her to Trafalgar Close in Brackenhall. When Mr. Khan asked her for the payment she said 'what money' and began shouting that another taxi firm would deal with the payment.

Ms. Spink then turned on Mr. Khan and said "I ain't white, I'm n*****" and threw her purse at him before punching Mr. Khan in the mouth and scratching his face.

Mr. Khan started to drive up the road and Ms. Spink grabbed hold of the steering wheel causing the car to hit the kerb several times. She then shouted to him 'P***' and kicked out at him.

In a victim impact statement, Mr. Khan said that he was unable to work for two to three months because he had trouble seeing clearly due to the injury in his eye.

Ms. Spink admitted the charges of racially-aggravated assault, causing a danger to road users and possession of cannabis.

She was given a 20-week jail term suspended for 18 months at Kirklees Magistrates' court and ordered to complete 150 hours of unpaid work and pay Mr. Khan £200 compensation.

1.33 A man racially abused and assaulted the owner of a takeaway in Lurgan, Northern Ireland on 23 March 2015.⁵¹

Patrick John Lewsley, 27, entered the takeaway on William Street in the early hours of the morning and called the owner a "P*** B*****". Lewsley was asked to leave but he refused and shoved the owner on the shoulder.

The victim started to lower the shutter but the defendant kicked the door, shattering the glass and causing £220 worth of damage.

Mr. Lewsley was sentenced for disorderly behaviour, assault on a male and criminal damage to a window at Craigavon Magistrates' court on 19 February 2016.

He was given 240 hours of community service and ordered to pay £220 compensation to the window he had damaged.

Judge Bates said that the offence was "aggravated by hostility" and the racial element meant that he would impose the maximum number of hours.

It is not known whether the victim was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnicity.

⁵⁰ *The Huddersfield Examiner*, 30 March 2016

⁵¹ *Lurgan Mail*, 22 February 2016

- 1.34** A man has been cleared of racially abusing a pizza shop owner in Ferryhill in October 2015. David Lowes, 37, had accused Muhammad Saeed Akhter of getting his partner Joanna Wigham, 35, sacked from the restaurant. The two were accused of smashing Mr. Akhtar's car window and punching him.

Mr. Lowes admitted to having assaulted Mr. Akhter, but denied it was a racially-aggravated attack. He and Ms. Wigham were both cleared of racially aggravated assault and affray at Teesside Crown Court. Lowes was sentenced to six months in jail (suspended for 18 months), 200 hours of community service and a £500 compensation charge for assault occasioning actual bodily harm and criminal damage.⁵²

- 1.35** Three men were given suspended sentences after threatening a Muslim shop owner with a knife and a plank of wood in Hull in November 2015.⁵³

Grocery store owner Hussein Ali was confronted by Joshua Sainsbury, 22, and an accomplice. He initially chased the two of them away with a baseball bat, but Mr. Sainsbury later returned wielding a knife. He was accompanied by Jack Hansom, 20, and Bailey Mackinnon, 18, who carried a length of wood. Mr. Ali and his colleague were threatened and subjected to racist abuse by the men.

The judge at Hull Crown Court told the three men that although they deserved immediate jail sentences, he was willing to delay sentencing until they had each experienced a few days in prison, due to their having shown remorse.

Sainsbury admitted affray and having a bladed article. He was sentenced to nine months in jail, suspended for 18 months, and must do 200 hours of unpaid work. Mackinnon admitted affray and having an offensive weapon, and received six months in jail, suspended for 18 months, and must do 170 hours of unpaid work. Hansom also admitted affray and was sentenced to five months, suspended for 18 months, and must do 150 hours of unpaid work.

Mr Ali, originally from Kurdistan, said that the police had not informed him of the court's decision. Following the verdicts he said, "I'm angry. How can they go free for what they did to me, when someone can be sent to prison just for carrying a small knife.

"What happened was terrible and still scares me now. I've had to have at least two people working 24 hours a day since what's happened. If they came inside the shop, they could have stabbed me. You can only imagine how bad it could have been."

- 1.36** A man who attacked and abused three Asian women was convicted in Northampton. 47-year-old Cyril Walton had been accused of verbally abusing three Asian women, assaulting two of them and damaging the mobile phone of one of them, in October 2015.

Walton denied the charges but was given a 12-month community order, commanded to carry out 150 hours of community service work and undergo a 20-day rehabilitation programme. He was also required to pay £200 in compensation for aggravated assault, £100 for aggravated assault, £100 in criminal damage and another £400 in costs.⁵⁴

Zahira Case from the Northampton based Muslim community organisation, Pearls of Peace, which provided support to the victims, told the local paper: "Working in the community, especially with women who do not speak English as a first language, I often come across cases where they have been racially abused, but are too vulnerable to report it.

⁵² *Northern Echo*, 20 June 2016

⁵³ *Hull Daily Mail*, 8 May 2016

⁵⁴ *Northampton News*, 12 April 2016

“The fact that this man has been convicted is a big achievement for all concerned and I would personally like to say well done to the women who were courageous enough to give evidence in court. This will hopefully encourage other people to report incidents of hate crime to the police.”

It is not known whether the Asian victims were of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnicity.

- 1.37** A woman was charged with assaulting an Asian Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in Manchester in November 2015. 38-year-old Alicia Kenworthy was charged with racially aggravated assault for punching and clawing at a PCSO after he responded to a stress call about a homeless man found on the ground. She then shouted “I can call them P*** because I’m married to one.” The homeless man apparently tried to intervene but Kenworthy continued to shout at the PCSO.

Ms. Kenworthy pleaded guilty to the charges and was given a 12-month community order, a six-month curfew forbidding her from going out between 7pm and 7am, and was ordered to pay £100 of compensation, £200 in costs and a £20 surcharge.⁵⁵

It is not known whether the PCSO was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnicity.

- 1.38** A man was jailed for robbery and violent assault after attacking a Muslim taxi driver in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.⁵⁶

Richard Williams, 47, pled guilty to charges of racially aggravated harassment, assault causing actual bodily harm and affray, but denied robbery.

Stoke on Trent Crown Court heard how Williams got into Gulzar Ahmed’s cab in Hanley in the early hours on 29 November 2015. Williams was required to pay the fare upfront but as the journey got underway he began arguing with the driver and pulled at the handbrake, bringing the car to a stop.

Williams then demanded his money back and punched Mr Ahmed repeatedly in the face, knocking him out. When Ahmed regained consciousness, he saw Williams walking away, having stolen £130 of his night’s takings.

The court heard Mr Ahmed suffered injuries to his forehead and cheek, and had been plagued by flashbacks from that night which continue to affect his work. He now can only work during daylight hours.

In a victim statement read to the court, Mr Ahmed said “The feeling of looking in the back in the mirror, I don’t feel safe. Sometimes I feel like quitting, but I have a family to look after.”

Williams committed the assault and robbery while on bail for other offences committed in August 2015.

Williams was found guilty at trial of robbery. Describing him as a “significant risk of serious harm to the public”, Recorder Andrew Easteal jailed Williams for seven and a half years.

- 1.39** A man was tried in February 2016 for racially aggravated assault on a Muslim taxi driver in Burnley on 22 November 2015.⁵⁷

Daniel James Shaw had started to make threatening gestures and punch the driver’s side of the window in the vehicle before threatening to damage the cab. Mohamed Mirza stepped out of the cab

⁵⁵ *Manchester Evening News*, 12 April 2016

⁵⁶ *Burton Mail*, 20 August 2016

⁵⁷ Email response from Pennine Magistrates’ Court, 28 July 2016

and tried to reason with Mr. Shaw. However, he responded by punching Mr. Mirza on the arm. Shaw then shouted “You are a terrorist – you’ve come here to kill my people.”

Mr. Shaw was tried in absentia and convicted of racially aggravated assault, and Pennine Magistrates’ court issued a warrant for his arrest.

The court confirmed that Shaw was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison, made to pay compensation of £100 and a victim surcharge of £80.⁵⁸

- 1.40** A teenager was convicted of a hate crime in Dundee against a Bangladeshi taxi driver in Stobswell, Dundee in April 2015. 19-year-old Connell McCormick began shouting abuse at driver Mohammed Rahman after getting into his cab, refusing to leave a pint glass full of alcohol outside despite Mr. Rahman’s insistence that he do so.

Initially Mr. McCormick swore at Mr. Rahman and shouted racial abuse relating to his skin colour and to Islam, but when the cab reached the destination Mr. McCormick became violent. He threw his glass at the taxi driver, punched him and then started chasing him with a plank of wood when the two men were out of the car. When police arrived, Mr. McCormick tried to escape on a bike lying in a nearby garden before throwing the bike back at Mr. Rahman, hitting him in the chest. Mr. Rahman suffered cuts and bruises as a result.

Mr Rahman told the court: “I just kept pleading with him to stop and go away but he wouldn’t. He was chasing me trying to hit me with the wood and smashing my taxi.”

Mr. McCormick pleaded guilty to the charge of assault, and was sentenced in January 2016 to 160 hours of unpaid work and a 12-month Restriction of Liberty Order.⁵⁹

- 1.41** A man was brutally beaten up outside his takeaway shop in Fife, Scotland on 15 November 2015 just after the massacre that took place on the streets of Paris. The incident left 53-year-old Mohammed Khalid with a serious eye injury and his wife Maqsooda with minor injuries. The gang of 15 young people who attacked them by kicking them to the ground also subjected them to racist abuse, chanting ‘ISIS’ at the couple. They fled when the police arrived.

After running the shop for 25 years, Mr. Khalid decided to close it in January 2016, claiming that he didn’t “feel safe there anymore,” and that the “nightmares and flashbacks” had been too much to endure.

Police Scotland charged seven men in connection with the incident, with Kyle Campbell, aged 19, Brandon Munro, 18, Robbie Smart, 18, Connor Crombie, 18, Sean Wood, 20, and two others aged 16 and 17, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

They appeared at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court having been charged with “acting in a racially aggravated manner which caused or was intended to cause alarm and distress”. In addition, Munro, Smart and Campbell have also been charged in connection with the attack on shop assistant Mohammed Nadeem, 35, who they allegedly punched repeatedly and kicked. All seven defendants are due to face trial in October 2016.⁶⁰

- 1.42** A 20-year-old was arrested for physically assaulting a Buddhist man whom he accused of being a “terrorist member of ISIS who planned to bomb the bus”. Jak Burgess was travelling on a bus in the centre of Plymouth on 3 July 2015 when he began shouting insults and abuse at a fellow passenger

⁵⁸ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 6 February 2016

⁵⁹ *Evening Telegraph*, 26 January 2016

⁶⁰ *Daily Record*, 12 July 2016

who was of Sri Lankan heritage. He then assaulted him, at which point another passenger alerted the driver and the bus was stopped. Mr. Burgess had accused the man of being a “member of ISIS who planned to bomb the bus.”

Mr. Burgess had already breached a suspended sentence for aggravated vehicle driving, drink driving and assaulting a police officer.

Burgess was handed a fresh 21-week prison sentence suspended for 24 months. He was also required to comply with a probation order involving a Rehabilitation Activity Requirement, and also a “thinking skills” course. Burgess was also fined £100, ordered to pay £200 compensation to the victim, £180 criminal courts charge along with £80 prosecution costs.⁶¹

- 1.43** A Muslim man was beaten up while parking his car during a racist attack in Bow, East London. The victim, aged 26, was called “a p***” and “a Muslim” by a group of men travelling in a white van on 20 December 2015. Two of the men left the van after the victim exited his car, and they then attacked him, punching and kicking him to the point where he came out with a broken leg, a smashed tooth, various head injuries and a broken nose.⁶²

The crime has been treated as a racially aggravated assault. The victim had been on his way to collect his young family at the time of the attack.

The Metropolitan Police have since put out an appeal for information in connection with the assault. Three males were reportedly taken in for questioning. Two men from Bethnal Green were also taken in but later released on bail.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that two men, aged 24 and 27, were arrested in Bethnal Green on 22 December 2015 on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent. Detectives are continuing to investigate and enquiries continue.⁶³

- 1.44** A teenager was charged with two counts of racially aggravated assault for attacking two Muslim men in South Lanarkshire in 18 October 2015.

The 16-year-old, unnamed for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to the attacks, but denied the charges of theft and using racially abusive language. The teenager was accused of entering a grocery store and throwing a shoe at Murtaza Ghulam, as well as hitting him with a basket and punching him in the head. The accused also punched Mohammed Zulficar on the head, who was also present in the shop.

A non-custodial sentence was handed to the adolescent, who was given a nine-month supervision order and required to complete 140 hours of unpaid work for six months.

It comes alongside the case of Dale Gardiner, a 19-year-old who was arrested after being accused of making threatening comments and causing a breach of the peace. However, he was released on bail.⁶⁴

- 1.45** Two men were jailed for physically and verbally abusing a Turkish fast food shop-owner in Exeter. 46-year-old Michael O'Donnell and 52-year-old Nicholas Jeffries meted out physical and verbal abuse on two men on 11 April 2015, but Mr. O'Donnell continued the abuse in May and June 2015.

⁶¹ *Plymouth Herald*, 1 January 2016

⁶² *Evening Standard*, 27 December 2015

⁶³ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

⁶⁴ *Daily Record*, 16 December 2015

Initially he spat on Yasar Oflaz, the owner of a pizza restaurant in Exeter, and shouted anti-Muslim diatribes at him. He then went on to molest a 19-year-old girl while travelling on a bus.

Mr. O'Donnell admitted causing actual bodily harm, affray, sexual assault, racially aggravated common assault, religiously aggravated harassment and threatening behaviour. Mr. Jeffries confessed to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and affray. Mr. O'Donnell was sentenced to 13 months in prison, while Mr. Jeffries received a 9-month sentence.

However, the local newspaper the Exeter Express and Echo claimed that the men would be likely to face release within a few days, due to time already spent in custody as well as on tagged curfew.⁶⁵

- 1.46** A shop owner in Derry was assaulted and threatened with having his face “punched down his throat” during a racist attack. Mohamed Ali was abused and assaulted on 26 June 2016 when a woman started verbally abusing a man who came into his shop.

Mr. Ali claims he asked her to stop, to which she responded by telling him to “go back to his own country.”

Mr Ali then attempted to record what she was saying on his phone, but then found they were being circled by a group of boys. He was then attacked after one of the youths threatened to punch his face “down his throat.”

This was the second time Mr. Ali had been forced to endure such behaviour. In November 2015 he was attacked and given a serious eye injury by a young man. Mr Ali is of Egyptian descent and the police have treated the incident as a “racially motivated hate crime.”⁶⁶

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold some information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.⁶⁷

- 1.47** Two women launched a violent Islamophobic attack against a woman in a hijab before throwing her off a London bus.⁶⁸

The victim, a Muslim woman in her 40s wearing a headscarf, was subjected to racist and anti-Muslim abuse by the two young women on the number 63 bus travelling in the direction of Peckham, before she was kicked off the bus, causing her to fall into the street.

Her attackers, thought to be in their 20s, allegedly filmed themselves on their mobile phones while abusing the victim on the double-decker bus in London Road, Elephant and Castle.

The Metropolitan Police Service released images of the two women they suspect took part in the attack at approximately 8:10pm on 28 October 2015, and are treating the incident as a hate crime.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident and investigations are ongoing.⁶⁹

- 1.48** Two men were sentenced for brutally assaulting a taxi driver in Redditch on 26 December 2014.

⁶⁵ *Exeter Express and Echo*, 16 December 2015

⁶⁶ *Derry Now*, 12 July 2016

⁶⁷ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00818

⁶⁸ *Evening Standard*, 16 December 2015

⁶⁹ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

Rhys Lakin, 21 and Brandon Newman, 19, were sentenced after pleading guilty to racially aggravated assault and common assault respectively. A third man who was involved has not been identified.

The court heard that on Boxing Day last year, the two men walked past taxi driver Nadeem Naz who was outside the White Hart Inn in Redditch at about 10.30pm. Mr. Lakin is said to have verbally abused Mr. Naz, saying “we’re going to do you, we’re from the EDL.”

When Mr. Naz retreated to his taxi for protection, the two men started kicking the door and punching at the window before Mr. Lakin opened the door and pulled Mr. Naz out.

The court heard that Mr. Lakin and Mr. Newman punched Mr. Naz repeatedly and when he tried to shield himself with his hands, Mr. Lakin stomped on him.

Judge Abbas Mithani, QC, sentencing the two men said, “This was gratuitous violence and he (Mr. Naz) was singled out because of his colour.”

Mr. Lakin was given 30 weeks immediate custody in a young offender’s institution. Mr. Newman was given a sentence of nine weeks suspended for two years with supervision for 12 months, and 10 sessions of the ‘Reducing Violence’ programme. Mr. Newman was also ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid work.⁷⁰

West Mercia Police invoked Section 40 and Section 30 of the Freedom of Information Act in response to a Freedom of Information request regarding further information on the third attacker involved in the incident.

1.49 A man was jailed for racially stabbing an Indian man in Stoke on 12 July 2015.

Brian Hughes, 35, knifed 20-year-old student Josh Moore, who is of Indian descent, after asking him if he knew Lee Rigby, the British soldier who was murdered outside Woolwich Barracks in May 2013. Mr. Moore ran into a JD Weatherspoon’s pub to escape the assailant but was followed in by Mr Hughes, who chased him around the pub four times and shouted, “You are going to know who Lee Rigby was”.

Prosecutor Andrew Baker told Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court: “The defendant was holding an open penknife. He said, ‘Do you know who Lee Rigby is?’ Mr. Moore did not reply and was slightly stunned. At that point the defendant threw what Mr. Moore believed was a right hand punch to the side of his face. He thought it connected just below the right jaw and the blow caused him to stumble back. His friends were quite horrified by what happened. He looked at the man and saw a penknife with a three inch blade. His fist was clenched and the knife was held like a dagger. Mr. Moore feared for his safety and ran inside the pub followed by his friends.

“The man was shouting at them, ‘You are going to know who Lee Rigby was’. Mr. Moore was absolutely terrified and was chased around the pub three or four times. The defendant was described by staff as being on a mission to effect further harm on Mr. Moore. The defendant used further racist language and said, ‘I will be waiting for you outside’. He made further gestures indicating he was going to cause further harm before leaving.”

Prosecuting, Mr. Baker added: “The potential for killing him was immense and it was only by sheer chance it did not take place.”

Mr. Hughes pleaded guilty to wounding with intent and possessing an offensive weapon and was classed as a “dangerous offender”. He was handed an extended 10 year sentence, including five years in prison and five years on licence. He was also told to pay a £900 criminal court charge.⁷¹

⁷⁰ *Bromsgrove Advertiser*, 10 December 2015

⁷¹ *Stoke Sentinel*, 3 December 2015

1.50 A teenage boy was assaulted and racially abused by two men in Cheltenham on 23 November 2015.

After midnight on Monday 23 November, a 17-year-old of part-Turkish ethnic descent was beaten by golf clubs by racist thugs as he walked home from work, calling him a “terrorist”. His father, who came to his aid, was also verbally abused and physically assaulted by the thugs. Before fleeing, the attackers are said to have shouted “next time we will kill you”.

The two men are described as wearing black clothing and riding bikes.

A police spokeswoman said: “No arrests have yet been made in connection with the incident. Enquiries are ongoing to trace those responsible. Officers continue to appeal for witnesses to come forward”.⁷²

Gloucestershire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold some information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.⁷³

1.51 A teenager in a hijab was assaulted in Kettering on 11 November 2015.⁷⁴

The 13-year-old was pushed over by a stranger as she walked along Whiteford Drive just before 5pm on Wednesday, 11 November.

The attack, which appears to be unprovoked, left the teenager with minor injuries.

Police believe the incident may have been religiously aggravated because of the victim’s religious attire.

An appeal for information gives the description of the man suspected of attacking the teenager as: “white, fat, about 5ft 6in and aged between 40 and 48.

Northamptonshire Police confirmed in a Freedom of Information request that no suspect was identified and the crime has now been filed as undetected pending any further information.⁷⁵

1.52 Two women who dropped their trousers to urinate in front of a Muslim couple who were praying in a Plymouth park have been handed suspended jail terms.

Claire Farrell, 36, and Natalie Richardson, 32, pleaded guilty to religiously-aggravated threatening and abusive behaviour causing harassment at Plymouth Crown Court. Ms. Richardson also pleaded guilty to a charge of common assault for pushing a passer-by who came to the family’s assistance, Mr. Wesley Smith.

Plymouth Crown Court heard that a Muslim couple were in the park on 16 August 2015 with their two young children, aged 8 and 10, and were preparing to perform their daily prayers at around 6pm.

Mr. Smith, who was sitting nearby in the park said he “overheard these two defendants say: ‘If those Muslim c***s start to pray I am going to piss in front of them’ ”.

Edward Bailey for the Crown Prosecution Service, told the court that “Both defendants, holding bottles of beer, ran up the hill towards the victims, stopped some two to three metres away and proceeded to

⁷² 5 Pillars, 26 November 2015

⁷³ Freedom of Information request, Gloucestershire Police, reference 2016-677

⁷⁴ Northamptonshire Telegraph, 27 November 2015

⁷⁵ Freedom of Information request, Northamptonshire Police, reference 002988/16

pull down their lower clothing, squatted down in front of the couple and urinated in front of them while making desultory comments.”

The couple’s daughter burst into tears. When Mr. Smith intervened, Ms. Richardson pushed him in the chest with both hands.

Recorder Trevaski, sentencing Ms. Farrell and Ms. Richardson, praised the public spirit of Mr. Smith, a 28-year-old former serviceman, for intervening during the incident.

Both women were handed a six-month jail term suspended for 12 months. They will each have to work with probation and pay £300 towards prosecution costs.⁷⁶

1.53 A student won praise after stepping in and helping a pregnant Muslim woman who was assaulted in a suspected hate crime attack in Leeds.⁷⁷

Jodie Whitford-Stark, 20, a student at Leeds Beckett University, was on a bus on Monday 16 November 2015 in Leeds when a seven months’ pregnant Muslim woman boarded the bus in tears. She became concerned when the woman collapsed and went straight to her aid. The woman claimed she had been punched in the stomach by two boys in an alleged religiously motivated attack following the Paris killings two weeks earlier.

After calling an ambulance, Ms. Whitford-Stark waited with the woman until it arrived an hour later. She said: “She calmed down and she seemed pretty OK, but you can’t take any chances with someone who is pregnant.”

The Leeds-based student travelled to the hospital with the woman and stayed with her while she was treated by a doctor and until the woman’s family arrived at the hospital later that evening.

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in connection with the incident, and that following investigation, the matter has now been finalised pending any further information coming to light.⁷⁸

1.54 A man was sentenced to jail for a racially motivated attack on a restaurant manager in Bradford.

Samuel Smith, 25, visited Shimla Spice restaurant in Shipley on 25 April 2015 to use the toilets but on being asked to leave by the manager, Mohammed Akhtar, he became verbally abusive and pushed Mr. Akhtar, causing him to fall backwards. Mr. Akhtar fell back on some plates and grazed his elbow as he hit the bar.

Mr. Smith was escorted from the premises by restaurant staff but he struggled with them, swore at them and offered to fight. Mr. Akhtar advised the restaurant staff to leave Mr. Smith alone, but Mr. Smith began hurling racist abuse at him and threw a punch in his direction.

At Bradford Crown Court Mr. Smith pleaded guilty to racially aggravated battery and was jailed for 20 weeks.

The court heard Mr. Smith had previous convictions for violence and racially aggravated offences.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ *Plymouth Herald*, 27 November 2015

⁷⁷ *Herts Advertiser*, 27 November 2015

⁷⁸ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3149/16

⁷⁹ *Telegraph and Argus*, 6 November 2015

- 1.55** A man with a history of criminal behaviour was sentenced for racially abusing an Iranian taxi driver and a Nigerian passenger during an attempted robbery in Kensington, Liverpool.

Shaun Franey, 33, tried to rob taxi driver Hossain Habiloudeshiri while calling him a “f***** P****” just after midnight on 27 June 2015.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that Mr. Franey also repeatedly used the “N-word” against Habiloudeshiri’s passenger, Nigerian student Grace Iwetan, during the incident.

Chris Taylor, prosecuting, said Mr. Habiloudeshiri’s taxi arrived in Kensington, where Mr. Franey was standing with some friends. Without warning or provocation Mr. Franey walked over to Mr. Habiloudeshiri’s window and started demanding money, screaming racist abuse at him.

Mr. Taylor said: “The defendant put his head through the open window and put a knife to the side of the complainant’s face and with his other hand grabbed the car keys out of the ignition.”

Mr. Habiloudeshiri described how Mr Franey cut the side of his face and neck in four places. He said: “The male then shouted to me ‘I’m sorry’. I said sorry because I was frightened and wanted him to go away.” Mr. Franey then threw the car keys away and ran away empty handed.

Ms. Iwetan was walking close by when Mr. Franey approached her. Mr. Taylor said Mr. Franey shouted “b****, get back in your car” followed by a string of further terms of racist abuse. Following the incident, Mr. Habiloudeshiri called the police and CCTV footage was used to track down and arrest Mr. Franey.

Mr. Franey, who admitted attempted robbery and racially aggravated harassment, had 15 previous convictions for 31 offences. Judge Andrew Menary, QC, sentenced Mr. Franey to 6 years’ imprisonment, saying he had used “the most vile racist abuse”. Judge Menary said: “What happened was dreadful and reprehensible – every taxi driver and member of the public’s worst fears when out in the city at night”.⁸⁰

- 1.56** A man was sentenced for racially abusing and assaulting a customer in a kebab shop in Milford Haven, Wales on 15 February 2015.⁸¹

Anthony Rees, 32, was said to have head-butted Hussain Yossaff and punched him repeatedly while threatening him saying, “I will kill you like what you kill Americans, [you] Muslims.”

Mr. Yossaff said in a police statement that Rees had “acted like a mad man.” At court, photographs of Mr. Yossaff’s injuries were shown revealing “bruising to the left eye, cut lips, swollen cheeks, and swollen ribs.”

Rees appeared before Swansea Crown Court on Friday 30 October for sentencing. He was jailed for 24 weeks and ordered to pay an £80 victim surcharge.

- 1.57** A serving prisoner faced charges of racially aggravated assault following an incident in Yeovil on 6 May 2015.

David Fuller, 53, was charged with racially aggravated assault over an alleged attack on Sudanese security guard Ali Anwar.

⁸⁰ *Liverpool Echo*, 4 November 2015

⁸¹ *Western Telegraph*, 15 October 2015

Mr. Fuller was due to stand trial in October when he appeared before Yeovil Magistrates' Court but the trial was adjourned until December after Fuller "produced and served a defence case statement on the prosecution" which had to be considered.

Yeovil Magistrates' Court concluded the case against Mr Fuller was "weak and vague" and dismissed the charge. Mr Fuller's solicitor had asked for the case to be dismissed, arguing Mr Anwar's evidence to the court was "completely contradictory to the written statement" he had made to the police shortly after the incident.

Prosecutor Judith Constable explained that Mr Fuller and another male had attended a building site where Mr Anwar was working as a security guard. Mr Anwar alleged he was assaulted by the two men who, he claimed, pushed him and shouted racist comments at him.

At the earlier hearing in October the prosecution had submitted an application for "an Arabic interpreter to be appointed to represent the interests of the victim".⁸²

- 1.58** A former boxer and a body builder were jailed following a fracas outside a nightclub in Exeter city centre in which a Sri Lankan man was physically assaulted and subjected to Islamophobic abuse.

Christopher Jackson, 27, and Craig Lee, 25, were both charged with causing actual bodily harm. Jackson was also charged with battery and a religiously aggravated public order offence.

The incident occurred on 31 August 2015 when Mr. Jackson and Mr. Lee were with a group of men exiting an Exeter nightclub and their victims, Fenn Rowan and Gary Savage, were part of another group leaving a different nightclub nearby.

Mr. Jackson is said to have uttered remarks to Savage "which indicated quite plainly his dislike of what he called 'Muslims' ". Jackson was said to have punched Mr. Savage and Mr. Lee assaulted Mr. Savage's friend, Mr. Rowan. When Rebecca Teague, a bouncer from one of the nightclubs, intervened to break up the fight, she was struck by Mr. Lee from behind.

Mr. Lee denied the charge but was found guilty by a jury. Mr. Jackson pleaded guilty to the charges brought against him.

The two men were jailed at Exeter Crown Court. Mr. Lee was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment and Mr. Jackson was jailed for two years.⁸³

- 1.59** A far-right extremist viciously attacked an Asian dentist in a Tesco store in a racially-motivated revenge attack for the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

Zack Davies, 26, was heard shouting "white power" and "this is for Lee Rigby" during the machete attack on Dr. Sarandev Bhambra, 25, on 14 January 2015. Dr. Bhambra suffered "life altering" injuries. He was rescued from the assault by an ex-soldier who intervened.

Mr. Davies was convicted of attempted murder at Mold Crown Court in June and was told on 11 August 2015 that he must serve at least 14 years in prison.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said the incident was a "planned and racially motivated attack" and went on to say that Mr. Davies had developed "extreme racist views" and had been plotting to carry out a "murderous attack" in order to draw attention to himself.

⁸² *Western Gazette*, 1 February 2016

⁸³ *Exeter Express and Echo*, 9 October 2015

Dr. Bhambra had been walking down an aisle in Tesco in Mold when he felt a “huge blow” to the back of his head from a 30cm (12in) machete. Shopper Leanne Jones said she heard the words “white power” and that Mr Davies was acting “like a lunatic”, as he hacked Dr. Bhambra with the machete, leaving him with two deep cuts to his scalp and another to his back. An injury to his left hand caused major nerve, artery and tendon damage, leaving him in need of surgery for five hours.

Items associated with white supremacy and Nazism were found at Mr. Davies’ home, including banners, swastika badges and Combat 18 stickers. He said he was “absolutely fascinated” with Islamic State and described the British man known as ‘Jihadi John’ as his inspiration.

After the trial concluded, Dr. Bhambra’s brother, Dr. Tarlochan Singh Bhambra, said his family had “no doubt” that, had the “racial disposition” of the case been reversed, it would have been reported as an “act of terror”.⁸⁴

1.60 A teenager suffered a “completely unprovoked” racist attack in broad daylight in Holyhead on the 1 September 2015.⁸⁵

The 17-year-old victim was walking up Richmond Hill in Holyhead at 11.50am when three teenagers, aged between 13 and 16, approached him. They shouted racist slurs at the Asian victim before attacking him and leaving him with facial injuries.

The teen was left at the roadside following the assault before being taken to Ysbyty Gwynedd hospital by ambulance for treatment for his injuries.

Investigating officer PC Peter Grant from the North Wales Police said: “This was a completely unprovoked incident which has left the young man with facial injuries. We are treating this incident as a racially motivated assault and our enquiries are ongoing, including the reviewing of CCTV footage. We are urging anybody who may have information regarding the three individuals to contact us immediately.”

North Wales Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that three arrests were made in connection with the incident, but due to a lack of supporting evidence no charges were brought and the case was closed.⁸⁶

It is not known whether the Asian victim was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnicity.

1.61 A woman who punched and tasered a Muslim shopkeeper at his store in Herne Bay, Kent was given a suspended jail sentence.

Koren McCairn, 52, went to Azad Mukhuris’ Herne Bay Food Store in May 2015 to challenge him about an alleged relationship with a member of her family. She went into the store saying “I want to talk to him” as Mr. Mukhuris was serving a customer. She called him a “f***** foreign P***” and told him she would beat him up outside the store. She then punched him and fired a taser gun at his face. Mr. Mukhuris said he felt as though he had received an electric shock.

Ms. McCairn punched him again before Mr. Mukhuris grabbed a bottle and threw it at her. He then hid in the back of the shop until police arrived.

Mr. McCairn was handed a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, and banned from entering the store for a year after admitting to possessing an offensive weapon and carrying out a racially aggravated beating.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 11 September 2015

⁸⁵ *Daily Post*, 3 September 2015

⁸⁶ Freedom of Information request, North Wales Police, reference 2016/676

1.62 A Muslim nurse was viciously beaten by a gang whilst shopping in Stockport on Friday 14 August 2015.

Qaiser Hamid, 37, was shopping in Stockport town centre with his wife, Farah, when he stepped out of a shop to use his mobile phone. As he did so, a young woman started verbally abusing him about his beard. The girl's male friends, around nine of them, then started physically assaulting Mr. Ahmed punching him repeatedly.

Mr. Hamid was left with cuts and bruising to the face and needed hospital treatment for a deep gash to the nose sustained in the assault.

Mr. Hamid said the assault was "definitely racially motivated, they kept mentioning my beard, my wife was wearing a headscarf and they kept using the P-word."

The attack has left him psychologically scarred. He told the MEN: "I got punched by one of them and I tried to defend myself then they were all hitting me – I took lots of blows.

"The shop was covered in blood as I was bleeding all over the place. It was completely unprovoked.

"I don't feel good and I don't want to go back to Stockport. I have been really affected psychologically and struggle to go out of the house."

Inspector Stephen Gilbertson from Stockport Police said his records show officers arrived in around 15 minutes. "Officers got to it as quickly as they could but had a lot of other incidents to deal with around the same time", he said.⁸⁸

Greater Manchester Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.⁸⁹

1.63 A man was jailed for four years for killing a Muslim man over a cigarette in Gateshead on 2 May 2015.

Gary Pitt, 22, who had drunk six cans of lager, three litres of cider and one and a half litres of vodka, was with his friends at a local computer shop when he became aggressive with the shop owner after one of his friends asked for a refund. The shop owner, who feared the incident would escalate, called the police. Mr. Pitt verbally abused him before leaving with a friend, who kicked over a display of accessories on his way out.

The group ran from the shop when Mr Pitt began stopping random passers-by and demanding cigarettes while verbally abusing them, patting them down and trying to go through their pockets.

Mr. Pitt came across Mohammed Rashwan, 45, a man of slight build, and began forcefully searching him. Mr. Pitt punched Mr. Rashwan with such force he was sent flying and was knocked unconscious. Mr. Rashwan smashed his head on the pavement suffering a fractured skull and bleeding on the brain. He died from his injuries a week later. Mr. Rashwan, who was also known as Ali Mahmood, was an Egyptian national who had lived and worked in the UK since 2007.

Mr. Pitt pleaded guilty to manslaughter, was branded dangerous by a judge at Newcastle Crown Court, and jailed for four years with an extended licence until 2023.⁹⁰

⁸⁷ *The Independent*, 18 August 2015

⁸⁸ *Manchester Evening News*, 24 August 2015

⁸⁹ Freedom of Information request, Greater Manchester Police, reference 1819/16

⁹⁰ *Chronicle Live*, 16 August 2015

- 1.64** A Muslim woman was hit over the head with a rod and had abuse hurled at her by two men in a racist attack in Wembley in August 2015.⁹¹

The victim was waiting for a bus with her two teenage daughters on the day of an Arsenal vs Chelsea fixture at Wembley when she was struck on the head by Chelsea fans who strode past the bus stop. She was hit by what she presumed was an umbrella or a rolled up flag. When she stood up to challenge the man who struck her, she was verbally abused by his companion who swore at her and called her a “bomber”.

The Kilburn Times reports that the police “are treating the incident as racially aggravated common assault and are appealing for information to find the suspects”.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that CCTV enquiries were made to see if local shops had captured the incident, and that officers would continue to examine local authority CCTV in an effort to identify the perpetrators.⁹²

- 1.65** A pensioner was convicted of trying to kill a stranger by pushing her in front of an oncoming tube train at Piccadilly Circus station in London on 10 November 2015.⁹³

The film footage shot on the Bakerloo line platform at the station appeared to show the man standing on the platform before allegedly moving toward his victim and pushing her onto the tracks as a tube train entered the station.

Sheetal Kerai, 32, who was wearing a hijab at the time of the incident, had been standing a short distance from him behind the yellow line on the edge of the platform before she was attacked at 4.05pm.

Miraculously, she bounced off the side of the driver’s carriage and back onto the platform, suffering only minor injuries as shocked commuters rushed to her aid.

Yoshiyuki Shinohara, 81, was charged with attempted murder in connection with the incident.

Mr. Shinohara, a Japanese national, was found unfit to plead at a hearing on 18 April 2016. A jury of nine women and three men convicted Shinohara of attempted murder after a ‘trial of issue’.

Judge John Hillen subsequently ordered Shinohara be detained at a psychiatric hospital in Northampton. He told Shinohara: “You suffer from a mental illness, namely paranoid schizophrenia. It is therefore that you are to be detained in a medical hospital.”⁹⁴

Mr Shinohara was sectioned under Section 41 of the Mental Health Act at Blackfriars Crown Court.

- 1.66** Two Muslims were hit by suspected air rifle pellets as they left a mosque in Nelson.

The first incident occurred on Sunday 16 August 2015 around 9.30pm when a 58-year-old man reported being hit in the back of the head with what are believed to be air rifle pellets as he made his way to his car after leaving the Jamia Masjid Minhaj ul Quran mosque in Nelson, Lancashire.

A second man, aged 56, reported he was struck in the neck as he made his way to the same mosque at around 7.15pm on Monday evening. Both incidents happened in a car park on Brunswick Street, close to the mosque.

⁹¹ *Kilburn Times*, 7 August 2015

⁹² Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

⁹³ *Metro*, 18 April 2016

⁹⁴ *Daily Mail*, 8 July 2016

The local paper reported that both men “sustained minor injuries and received medical treatment at hospital.”

Police have stepped up patrols in the area to reassure the local community and to deter repeat attacks.

Inspector Dave Clark, of Burnley Police, said: “An investigation to find out who is responsible is already under way and I would urge people to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.”⁹⁵

Lancashire Police responded to a Freedom Information request to disclose that one arrest was made in relation to the incident but that no charges were made and the case has now been closed as ‘No Further Action’.⁹⁶

- 1.67** A man appeared in court suspected of launching a vicious assault on a young Muslim male at a metro station in South Tyneside.⁹⁷

Robert Taylor, 45, is alleged to have attacked Rahman Choudary, 20, at Simonside metro station with a hammer and a hockey stick on 31 December 2015.

Taylor appeared before South Tyneside Magistrates’ Court charged with one count of racially aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm, one charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, possessing an offensive weapon, namely a lump hammer, and a fourth charge of possessing a stick in connection with the same alleged incident.

The court heard Rahman Choudary had been to McDonalds before going to Simonside Metro Station. The court heard Choudary was “hit on the head with a hammer and on the knee with a hockey stick. He was left unconscious and had hospital treatment for a fractured jaw.”

Due to the seriousness of the charges, the case has been escalated to Newcastle Crown Court, with Taylor scheduled to appear on June 7.

- 1.68** A “racist addict” said “I’d love to kill a Muslim” before attacking a Holloway shop keeper with a knife on 23 September 2014.⁹⁸

Michael O’Leary, 35, burst into the DR Mart in Holloway road where Samsul Islam was working behind the counter. O’Leary pinned Mr Islam against the wall and gestured at him with a knife.

Mr Islam was pulled to the floor and beaten, but managed to grab one of the two knives that O’Leary was carrying and chase him out of the shop. He suffered a deep cut to his right hand whilst defending himself.

O’Leary, pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding of Mr Islam, but was cleared of attempted murder and wounding with intent, at Blackfriars Crown Court in March 2015.

The 35-year-old was sentenced to five years in prison on 31 March 2015 for assault to rob and wounding Mr Islam, and a further three consecutive for an earlier attack that day where he attacked a shopkeeper in Camden.⁹⁹

⁹⁵ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 20 August 2015

⁹⁶ Freedom of Information request, Lancashire Police, reference 004366/16

⁹⁷ *Sunderland Echo*, 14 May 2016

⁹⁸ *Islington Gazette*, 26 March 2015

⁹⁹ *Islington Gazette*, 31 March 2015

Mr O'Leary had been intoxicated by a cocktail of cocaine and alcohol, and had denied the claims when interviewed on arrest the next day. He initially refused to be processed by an Asian police officer.

- 1.69** A shamed JobCentre manager was among six men jailed for a "hooligan" attack on a peaceful protest march in Cardiff city centre.¹⁰⁰

Civil servant Barry Murphy, 34, was in a violent brawl when a pro-Palestinian march of 3,000 protesters walked passed the Mill Lane bar where he was drinking on 26 July 2015. The humanitarian marchers were chanting "Free, Free, Palestine" - but were hit by abuse from the group of boozy drinkers who shouted: "Go back to your own country."

Cardiff Crown Court heard Murphy gave the protesters a "single finger salute" before punching a protester in the back of the head. Father-of-one Murphy told police he attacked the protester "in retaliation" at having a chair thrown at him.

Judge Michael Fitton said the group were shouting "racist" abuse and throwing tables and chairs at the marching protesters.

Murphy and fellow drinkers Nicholas Carter, 32, John James Williams, 32, Daniel Woods, 23, and Grant Ashcroft, 23, were all jailed for violent disorder.

Daniel Smouth, 25, admitted affray for a separate action of throwing beer at the marchers.

Murphy was jailed for a year, Carter for a year, Williams for a year, Woods for two years, Ashcroft for two and Smouth for a year.

Two pro-Palestinian protesters Ahsan Malik, 57, and Yussef Asad, 28, were also sentenced for violent disorder after they were attacked.

Assad was jailed for two and a half years and Malik was handed a one-year sentence, suspended for two years, at the hearing at Cardiff Crown Court.

- 1.70** A Redditch man was jailed for two-and-a-half years for a racially aggravated attack on a taxi driver and punching another man on the head with a knuckle duster.¹⁰¹

21-year-old Liam Perkins had been drinking with friends when they all got a taxi back from Birmingham, Worcester Crown Court heard. They had agreed a fare of £35 and then a couple, including Perkins, asked to be taken further. An extra payment of £5 was negotiated but Perkins got angry about the cost, Andrew Wilkins, prosecuting, told the court.

He made a racial insult to the driver, Muzaffar Hussain and punched him on the back of the head. Mr Hussain fled from the car near the Winyates Centre in Redditch and Perkins ran after him, punching him to the ground and kicking him.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Hussain, a taxi driver for 15 years, said the incident had seriously affected his life. He had lost confidence because of the dental procedures and although he had carried on working, he was now fearful of taking large groups of passengers since the incident, on January 5 2014.

Judge Michael Cullum said Perkins, who pleaded guilty to all charges, had a record of violent offences and an immediate custodial sentence had to be imposed.

¹⁰⁰ *South Wales Evening Post*, 12 August 2015

¹⁰¹ *Redditch and Alcester Advertiser*, 25 February 2015

He was given a total of 19 months for racially aggravated assault causing actual bodily harm, five months for the second assault causing actual bodily harm and three months for having the knuckle dusters as an offensive weapon to run concurrently, making a total of 30 months.

- 1.71** Scores of people have attended an anti-racism rally in Derry to protest against an attack on an Egyptian man in the city centre.¹⁰²

Tharwat Elshahat needed three stitches to his face after being assaulted by a number of men outside the shop in which he works at Strand Road, on Tuesday 21 April 2015. Two men, aged 20 and 41, were later arrested and released on police bail pending further enquiries.

31-year-old Mr Elshahat, who has lived in Derry for three years, said he was assaulted with a crutch before being punched. Mr. Elshahat said he had not experienced any previous trouble in his time living in Derry and would not be driven out of the city as a result of the attack.

Speakers at the protest rally on Friday condemned the attack and said racism had no place in society.

- 1.72** A man who punched a taxi driver during a racially aggravated robbery in Liverpool was jailed for more than five years. Darren Seddon, 28, was one of three men who hit the cabbie until he handed over £230 during the attack on 6 September 2014.¹⁰³

Liverpool Crown Court heard how the private hire driver picked up the drunken group shortly before midnight. He took the men from Westminster Road in Kirkdale to Walton's Asda supermarket. They then asked to be taken to an off licence in Old Swan where they bought more alcohol, before stopping near Queens Drive and going back to Kirkdale.

Paul Blasbery, prosecuting, said the driver told the front seat passenger the fare was £17. The man asked if he had change for a £50 note and Seddon and the third man got out of the car. When the victim said he did not have any change, the first man called him a "lying p***". He punched him in the face and the driver gave him £10, but he said it was not enough and hit him again. Seddon and the other man then opened the door and also punched the driver. He gave them £120 but they continued punching him despite him begging for mercy.

The taxi driver was taken to hospital and treated for two swollen cheekbones, bruising to his jaw and lip and a minor head injury. Police identified Seddon on Asda's CCTV and he handed himself in to police after his mugshot was released. He denied taking part in the attack however and refused to name the other men.

Judge Andrew Hatton said, "This was a group attack, three men upon one. It was a group attack when you were in drink and there was a racist element to it. Taxi drivers are particularly vulnerable and the taxi drivers of this city will be protected by these courts."

He said Seddon was a dangerous offender and handed him an extended sentence of five years and three months in jail, plus four years on licence.

- 1.73** A pensioner responsible for racially abusing and assaulting a taxi driver was put on supervision after being declared unfit to stand trial at Cardiff Crown Court.¹⁰⁴

The jury, instead of being asked to return a verdict of guilty or not guilty on Harvey Cole, 66, was told to decide whether he had "done the act" of which he was accused. After deliberating, the nine women

¹⁰² *Derry Journal*, 25 April 2015

¹⁰³ *Liverpool Echo*, 3 July 2015

¹⁰⁴ *Wales Online*, 6 August 2015

and three men decided he had committed a racially aggravated assault on cabbie Mohammed Rahman.

The driver himself had described the pensioner becoming “angry and abusive” after getting into his taxi outside Bridgend bus station on 12 September 2014 and asking to be driven home to Odette Court in Whitchurch, Cardiff.

“On the M4, he started shouting and calling me swear words and ****”, the driver told the court. “He was screaming and shouting and tried to strangle me. I moved myself so he couldn’t grab me and he punched me to the side of my face.”

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Mr Rahman was so alarmed he contacted police as he drove and was advised to pull off the motorway, which he did at the junction 33 petrol station and shop.

Two psychiatrists agreed the defendant was unfit to participate in a trial or plead to a charge but did not recommend he needed a hospital order made against him under the Mental Health Act. The remaining alternatives available to the judge were only an absolute discharge or supervision. Judge David Wynn Morgan said the supervision would continue for the next two years.

- 1.74** A drunk racist thug who launched two unprovoked attacks on a man from war-torn Libya who had hoped to find “peace and security” in Wakefield has been jailed for two years.¹⁰⁵

Leeds Crown Court heard Daniel O’Hara twice racially abused and attacked the man, who needed hospital treatment. The court heard O’Hara’s victim had only been in the UK for six days after being placed in Wakefield by the Home Office when the attack happened in the evening on 1 July 2015.

Prosecutor Daniel Ritchie said O’Hara, 25, racially abused the man before punching him with an uppercut to his jaw. O’Hara then walked away, but returned brandishing a bottle. Mr Ritchie said: “He swung the bottle towards (the man) saying ‘come on, I will have you.’”

Police arrived and spoke to the attack victim as O’Hara left the scene. But as the man who had been attacked was walking away, O’Hara ran across Westgate and repeatedly punched him to the head. Police chased O’Hara and he was arrested.

The injured man was taken to hospital for treatment after suffering pain in his ribs and face. Mr Ritchie said: “He was very afraid during the incident. He said he thought the defendant wanted to kill him.”

O’Hara admitted two charges of racially aggravated common assault and was sentenced to two years in jail.

- 1.75** A thug who targeted two strangers in a racist attack in Orford, Warrington leaving one of the victim’s unconscious and in desperate need of hospital treatment is now behind bars.¹⁰⁶

Warrington Crown Court heard how two men of Iraqi-Kurd origin were walking along Orford Lane on 4 April 2015 at 6.40pm when they heard shouting and swearing from a group of men on the other side of the road. Ryan Swindells, 20, could be heard shouting racist abuse and crossed the road to approach the two men.

Prosecutor Paulinus Barnes said: “One of the victims thought if he was nice to him he would walk away but the other males were encouraging him. He then put his head towards one of the victims in a threatening manner.” A fight broke out with at least four others getting involved in the street brawl. At one point CCTV showed three men kicking one of the victims while on the floor.

¹⁰⁵ *Yorkshire Post*, 20 November 2015

¹⁰⁶ *Warrington Guardian*, 15 October 2015

One of the victims later lost consciousness and had to be put in the recovery position by a member of the public – his face covered in blood from the attack. The victim was taken to Aintree Hospital where he was treated for head injuries and a fractured collar bone.

Swindells was handed a three year sentence after pleading guilty to a section 20 assault and affray. Declan Jenks, aged 21, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison after admitting a section 20 assault, affray and breach of a suspended sentence. Joshua Williamson, also 21, pleaded guilty to affray and must carry out 160 hours of unpaid work, 35 days of rehabilitation activity and a thinking skills programme.

- 1.76** A Nelson taxi driver required 15 stitches in his left cheek after being punched by two men in a “racially aggravated attack”.¹⁰⁷

Kamran Hussain, 35, picked up a passenger from Walton Lane at around 11am on Saturday 29 August 2015. As the passenger was getting into the car two men standing nearby slammed the front door on the passenger’s side and kicked his car.

“I got out to make sure they had not done any damage,” Kamran explained. “I asked, ‘what did you do that for?’ At that point I said, ‘there is no need for this’, and they started walking towards me. They punched me in the face and I got knocked out. The next thing I know I got up and fell backwards on the headlight.”

Kamran’s family and Pendle Police appealed for any witnesses to come forward.

- 1.77** Paul Clarke, aged 36, from Long Eaton, was sentenced after pleading guilty to two charges of racially aggravated assault against Shahriar Alizad on 12 July 2015. He was given an 18 week jail term suspended for 12 months. He will also have to pay a criminal courts charge of £180, £85 to the Crown Prosecution Service and a £80 victim surcharge.¹⁰⁸

- 1.78** A shop worker was subjected to a racially aggravated assault while working at a store in Blackburn on 12 November 2015.¹⁰⁹

Two men entered the Londis convenience store in Ouseburn Road at around 10pm on the night of the incident. One of the men, Ian Anthony Keegan, didn’t think he should pay 5p for a carrier bag. Keegan, 46, then racially abused staff member Nabil Adil before picking up a calculator and throwing it at him, causing injuries to his nose. Keegan then punched 19 year old Adil twice.

Keegan admitted assaulting Adil at a magistrates’ court hearing in February. He was sentenced to a nine month community order with rehabilitation requirements and ordered to pay £100 compensation.

- 1.79** A woman who was hit with a baseball bat in a “racist attack” in Hull has said she is now afraid to leave the house.¹¹⁰

Joanne Ali, 42, says she was attacked after an argument with a woman she knows. She said the woman threatened to stab her and hurled racist abuse at her on 10 July 2015. Two days later, Miss Ali, of New George Street, city centre, went to confront the woman, who she claims had also sent her racist text messages.

¹⁰⁷ *Pendle Today*, 3 September 2015

¹⁰⁸ *Ilkeston Advertiser*, 29 October 2015

¹⁰⁹ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 12 February 2016

¹¹⁰ *Hull Daily Mail*, 23 September 2015

She says the woman came out of her house with a baseball bat and hit her around the head with it, leaving her with a black eye and a "huge, round bump". She said: "The woman came at me with a baseball bat, so in self-defence I grabbed her by the neck and pushed her to the ground. After the attack, I was taken to Hull Royal Infirmary, and was arrested as soon as I walked outside the hospital."

Miss Ali was accused of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and put in a police cell. But the allegation was dropped on the same day, because the police deemed that she had acted in self-defence.

A spokeswoman for Humberside Police said: "Between 1pm and 1.30pm on 12 July, a 42-year-old woman attended an address in Oakwell Grove, Hull, to confront a woman known to her about alleged text messages. During the visit, the victim was allegedly subjected to racist remarks before being assaulted. The victim sustained a black eye and a head injury. Numerous enquiries have been carried out and police are still investigating."

Humberside Police provided the following statement following a request for further information: "Regarding the case an arrest was made of an 18 year old woman. Following a number of enquiries she was subsequently released without charge as there was insufficient evidence to prosecute." The investigation has now been closed subject to any further information coming to light.¹¹¹

- 1.80** A man who man beaten with a plank by two Asian men was himself hauled before the courts for racially aggravated assault.¹¹²

Darren White, 32, was chased by the two men as he was fleeing through Sittingbourne High Street on 8 February 2015. White attacked two police officers on the same night and was found carrying cocaine.

Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court convicted White of assault and possession of an illegal drug, but he was found not guilty of racially aggravated behaviour. White was ordered to pay fines totalling £1,925 for assaulting the policemen and another £300 for having the drug.

The two men seen attacking White in CCTV footage initially denied any wrongdoing. But Muhammad Ahad, 24, and Sarwar Hussain, 25, both changed their pleas to guilty in court.

- 1.81** A man was racially abused and then assaulted in an attack in Exmouth on 25 October 2015.¹¹³

The 23-year-old victim was walking in Imperial Road, near to the footpath that leads to Halsdon Road, near the foot subway leading to the train station.

He was approached by a number of men who made racist comments and then punched him. The victim ran off but was chased by the offenders who caught up with him in Hartopp Road, and continued to assault him by punching and kicking him.

As a result of the assault, the victim sustained a fractured nose and ribs, and facial injuries.

Four men, two aged 19 years and two aged 18 years, were arrested in connection with this incident and have since been released on police bail until January 6 pending further investigation.

Devon and Cornwall Police confirmed in email correspondence that the four men arrested face charges and are awaiting crown court dates later in the year.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ Email from Humberside Police, 23 September 2016

¹¹² *Kent Messenger*, 11 September 2015

¹¹³ *Western Morning News*, 18 November 2015

- 1.82** A businessman received a six months' suspended sentence for racially abusing a restaurant owner in Caernarfon on New Year's Day.¹¹⁵

Kevin Jones, 44, pleaded guilty to provocation of violence and common assault, both racially aggravated, and possessing a small amount of amphetamine at Caernarfon crown court on 10 December 2015.

The court heard Mr Jones walked into Bella Pizza at 2.20am on 1 January 2015 and uttered a succession of racially and religiously abusive comments at Mr Hani Hussain. At one point, Jones grabbed Mr Hussain by the throat.

When Mr Hussain tried to push Jones out of the shop, Jones fell to the floor, but continued to make anti-Muslim comments.

Witnesses to the incident said Mr Jones was drunk.

Judge Geraint Walters imposed a six months' sentence, suspended for 12 months, and ordered Jones to pay £500 compensation to his victim.

Jones was also ordered to pay £1,600 costs and a restraining order banning him from contacting Mr Hussain or entering the takeaway for five years was imposed.

- 1.83** 26-year-old Gary McLellan was sentenced for verbally abusing and spitting at a corner shop worker in Renfrew, Scotland on 23 May 2015. Shop attendant Tariq Mahmood Khan Kattar had refused to sell him due to his intense state of inebriation. After repeating that he could not do this a second time, Mr. Kattar was spat at by Mr. McLellan and called a "P***." ¹¹⁶

Mr. McLellan had apparently been a geology student at Aberdeen University, but had dropped out due to a burgeoning drinking problem. Sheriff Canavan at Paisley Crown Court described him as "an intelligent young man" but warned him that he could face prison time for engaging in racially aggravated assault.

Paisley Sheriff Court confirmed that McLellan was given an 18-month community order with a rehabilitation requirement and 300 hours' unpaid work.

- 1.84** A drunk hurled racist abuse at an Asian man and hit him over the head in a racially aggravated attack in Dudley on 21 June 2014.¹¹⁷

Shane Whyte had downed 14 cans of lager before launching the verbal and physical attack as neighbour Abdul Wahid, 58, walked past the flats block where he lives in Highgate Road, Holly Hall, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

Jim Mason, prosecuting, explained: "The victim heard objects being thrown down and, when he looked up, saw this man standing on a balcony. The defendant shouted at him, 'what are you looking at Paki? Why don't you go back to your own country?' "

Whyte, a 35-year-old unemployed father of four, came down the stairs to confront Mr Wahid with a three feet long piece of wood allegedly picked up in the street, the court was told. He then hit the victim over the head but ran off after passing motorists got out of their cars to halt the assault.

¹¹⁴ Email from Devon and Cornwall Police, 3 October 2016

¹¹⁵ *North Wales Chronicle*, 11 December 2015

¹¹⁶ *Daily Record*, 16 March 2016

¹¹⁷ *Express and Star*, 22 June 2015

Whyte admitted racially aggravated assault and was given a 16 week jail sentence suspended for a year with 100 hours unpaid work and £280 costs. There was no order for compensation because the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has paid Mr Wahid £1,000.

- 1.85** A cab driver was assaulted and prevented from fleeing after refusing to take more passengers than legally required in an attack in Portsmouth on 26 December 2014.¹¹⁸

49-year-old Paul Welch had been out with his then-partner and a child and others and wanted the taxi driver to take five people in a taxi, despite the vehicle only being licensed to take four.

Judge Linda Sullivan said: "Paul Welch was holding the taxi driver back in some way, using his body to hold him so he couldn't get away from the young man who assaulted him and caused injuries to his face. By your actions you made sure he wasn't able to get out or defend himself." The victim drove to a police station, but Welch said: "Call the police and I will kill you... I will kill you right here."

Sumel Chowdhury, the taxi driver, suffered severe bruising to the right side of his head and a chipped tooth.

Jurors found Welch guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm at his trial in September 2015. He was sentenced to a 12-month jail term, suspended for two years. Welch must also complete 150 hours' unpaid work, pay £400 towards the prosecution costs and pay Mr Chowdhury £600 in compensation.

- 1.86** A delusional soldier was convinced the Taliban had taken over his local tandoori take-away and headed there with a machete.¹¹⁹

Scott Mackay, 32, was sentenced at Dunfermline Sheriff Court after being found guilty of acting in a racially aggravated manner on 20 September 2015 and being in possession of a machete and explosives.

Mackay called 999 on his way to Sizzlers takeaway on Queensferry Road, Rosyth and repeatedly swore on the phone to the police. He told officers he was armed with a machete and was "uttering threats of violence and death to Muslims."

A police search of Mackay's house in Rosyth on 21 September led to the discovery of "army explosives."

Mackay was said to hold "negative attitudes toward Muslims" and that these "had arisen as a result of his experiences and operations." He was also said to be suffering from mental health problems aggravated by "heavy alcohol consumption."

Sheriff Charles Macnair imposed a community payback order with three years' social work supervision, three years' supervision under the forensic mental health team and a three year ban on alcohol consumption on Mackay. He was also made subject of a restriction of liberty order for 12 months.

- 1.87** Two men were sentenced after a racially aggravated assault in Rotherham.¹²⁰

A 20-year-old man and a 15-year-old boy were verbally abused and assaulted outside Asda on Aldwarke Lane, Dalton, Rotherham. Both suffered minor head injuries in the attack, which occurred on 3 November 2015.

¹¹⁸ *Portsmouth News*, 8 October 2015

¹¹⁹ *Dunfermline Press*, 8 September 2016

¹²⁰ *Sheffield Star*, 5 November 2015

Lewis Michael Barker, 24, and Frankie Gary Fitton, 21, were both charged with racially aggravated assault. Mr Barker was also charged with criminal damage from an unrelated incident.

Both were found guilty and sentenced to 26 weeks in prison for the unprovoked assault. Barker was also handed a 4 week concurrent sentence in relation to the criminal damage charge.

A Freedom of Information request was submitted to South Yorkshire Police in relation to the ethnicities of the victims but the force could neither confirm nor deny whether they hold the information requested.¹²¹

1.88 A man was arrested after attacking a taxi driver in Poole on 6 October 2015.¹²²

An altercation took place on Ringwood Road between a taxi driver in a white VW Transporter and a man driving a black Audi A3. It is alleged a man got out of the Audi and approached the victim in his taxi, grabbed him, racially abused him and caused damage to his car.

The victim, a 34-year-old man from Christchurch, was uninjured.

A 39-year-old man from Poole has been arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated assault, racially aggravated criminal damage and racially aggravated fear or provocation of violence.

Dorset Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹²³

1.89 A man with a history of violence who hurled racist abuse at a Muslim couple and threatened them with a five-inch blade was charged with racially-aggravated violence and possession of a bladed article.¹²⁴

The incident, on 5 May 2015 in Heaton, Bradford involved Kevin Wilson, 47 and victims Rehana Shah and her husband Mohammed Tamwir.

Ms Shah and Mr Tamwir were arriving in their car at their new home with their ten-month old child when they heard "strange" noises. The couple got out of their vehicle and saw Wilson at a window in his mother's house shouting insults and telling them "Get away from here. I live here, and I'm a madman."

Wilson is then said to have produced a five-inch blade and threatened the couple saying "I will put it in you, I'll kill you. Get off the street and don't come back here."

Ms Shah went into her house and returned with a metal pipe from a vacuum cleaner before Wilson stopped with the abuse and threats. Ms Shah in a victim statement told Bradford Crown Court she was afraid Wilson would "come back and do something worse".

Wilson pleaded guilty to racially-aggravated violence and possession of a bladed article. The court heard Mr Wilson had "a history of illicit drug use and mental health issues, and was on anti-psychotic medication at the time of the incident."

Judge Colin Burn said Wilson was an individual with "undoubted mental health difficulties".

¹²¹ Freedom of Information request, South Yorkshire Police, reference 20161073

¹²² *Blackmore Vale magazine*, 7 September 2016

¹²³ Freedom of Information request, Dorset Police, reference 2016-847

¹²⁴ *Telegraph and Argus*, 23 October 2015

Wilson was sentenced to 15 months for both offences, to run concurrently. Judge Burn also granted a restraining order against the two complainants.

- 1.90** Lee Tyson, 41, was charged with one count of racially aggravated assault by beating in connection to an attack on Amjed Shah in November 2014.¹²⁵

Tyson denied the charge and was due to stand trial at Oxford Crown Court in December 2015.

Oxford Crown Court confirmed Tyson was found not guilty at a hearing on 25 May 2016.¹²⁶

- 1.91** A woman who racially abused and assaulted staff in takeaway restaurants because they would not give her free food was handed a community service sentence in July 2015.¹²⁷

On the night of May 6 2015, at around 10.30pm, Amy Jane Rendell went into Top Fryers fish bar in Invicta Parade in Sidcup, south London and started racially abusing staff and demanding free food.

Rendell picked up a bottle of chilli sauce and squirted into the face and all over the shirt of Ibrahim Karasan, a 33 year old male Turkish employee, before walking out of the shop.

Rendell then went to the China Garden takeaway and demanded free food. When she was refused she racially abused a member of staff, picked up the chip and pin machine and threw it, hitting 36 year old male employee Qi Yang on the head, and damaging the chip and pin machine so it no longer worked.

When the staff member called police she pushed a computer screen that was on the counter, which knocked a UV Lamp to the floor causing it to break. The estimated cost of damage to items was put at £550.

Rendell pleaded guilty to four counts of racially/religiously aggravated harassment, or racially/religiously aggravated common assault.

Bexley Magistrates' Court imposed a community service sentence on Rendell on 9 July 2015 and a requirement to attend an alcohol treatment programme. A restraining order was also made, preventing Rendell from going into China Garden or Invicta Parade until July 9 2016.

Rendell was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60, prosecutor costs of £85, criminal court charge of £180, and compensation of £550 for the damage in China Garden.

- 1.92** A man was sentenced in May 2015 in connection with a charge of racially aggravated assault and a separate assault charge for incidents occurring in November 2014.¹²⁸

Joseph David Evans, 31, appeared at Wrexham Magistrates' Court in March and pleaded not guilty to the charges. Evans changed his plea to guilty in a court hearing on 1 April after viewing CCTV footage of the offence.

The court heard Evans shouted "unsavoury" abuse at this victim Zayn Anwar on 26 November 2014.

Evans yelled at Mr Anwar telling him to find a place where there were no cameras, and threatened to "knock his head off." Evans also threatened to knock off the complainant's beard.

¹²⁵ *Oxford Mail*, 20 October 2015

¹²⁶ Email from Oxford Crown Court, 14 September 2016

¹²⁷ *News Shopper*, 10 July 2015

¹²⁸ *Wrexham and Flintshire Leader*, 2 May 2015

Robert Edwards, a council worker, tried to intervene but Evans threw a McDonald's McFlurry ice cream at Mr Anwar. The ice cream hit Mr Anwar on the side of the head, with some of it also spilling onto Mr Edwards.

The court was read a statement by Evans' doctor who said his patient had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and was looked after by a community psychiatric nurse.

Evans was ordered to pay £100 compensation to Mr Anwar, and £50 in compensation to Mr Edwards. He was also given a 12-month supervision order with the probation service.

1.93 University student Syed Adnan Mashrur, 19, was badly beaten on a tram in an alleged racist assault on 16 October 2015.¹²⁹

Mashrur, a student at Bradford University, was travelling home to Oldham when the incident happened. He boarded a tram in Rochdale and when it pulled into Newbold Station at around 8.30pm a group of "five thugs" began "shouting racist comments at him from the window."

One of the men then walked up to the tram door, leaned in and shouted further abusive words at him saying "What are you starting on my boys for?"

Mashrur said the gang made comments "centring around the fact he was Asian."

The gang then allegedly attacked Mashrur, punching him in the face until he was knocked unconscious and leaving him with a swollen jaw and cuts to his face which required stitches to his lip.

Syed said: "After that I don't remember anything, I was on the floor bleeding. At that point I was unconscious. I remember waking up bleeding, people were stood around me asking me if I was alright."

Greater Manchester Police confirmed the incident had been reported and was being investigated as assault.

1.94 A homeless man racially assaulted a takeaway worker when he was refused a free meal.¹³⁰

Ryan Walker, 20, had found a £20 note earlier in the day but spent it on drink. He then walked into Tasty Spot takeaway on Darwen Street, Blackburn at 2.15am saying he had no money and wanted food.

When he was refused, Walker became racially abusive and punched Mohammed Nawaz.

Walker pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault at Blackburn Magistrates' Court. The court heard Walker was so drunk, police had to wait 13 hours after his arrest before he could be interviewed.

He was made subject to community supervision for 12 months with a 60-day rehabilitation activity requirement and ordered to pay £100 compensation, £150 in criminal court charges, £50 in costs and £60 victim in surcharges.

1.95 Thames Valley police released a CCTV image of two people wanted for questioning in connection with an incident of religiously aggravated assault in Milton Keynes on 18 March 2015.¹³¹

¹²⁹ *Manchester Evening News*, 24 October 2015

¹³⁰ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 30 September 2015

¹³¹ *One MK*, 31 March 2015

The incident happened at the intu Milton Keynes centre where the victim, a 20 year old female of North African origin, was abused and spat at.

The victim was approached by a man and a woman near the Gap store when the man "stood in front of the victim and spat in her face."

The man then shouted at members of the public before he and the woman ran off in the direction of the Holiday Inn hotel.

Investigating officer, Sergeant Burrey Muzuva, said: "This assault is believed to be religiously motivated - the victim is of North African origin. To spit in someone's face is both deliberate and disgusting."

No further information is available in relation with this incident.

- 1.96** George Andrew Stephenson, 47, was sent on bail to Burnley Crown Court by Blackburn magistrates, charged with racially aggravated threatening behaviour to Wajheed Shah in Great Harwood, possession of cocaine and of a knuckle duster and a hammer.¹³²

No further information is available in connection with the incident.

- 1.97** Detectives appealed for witnesses after a woman was assaulted in Blackpool.¹³³

The incident happened between 9.30pm and 10pm on 25 April 2015 when a 35-year-old Asian woman and her family were outside Coral Island on the Promenade. She was approached by a group of people who made racist remarks towards her before one member of the group threw her to the ground and spat on her.

The woman did not sustain any injuries in the attack.

DC Duncan Worsley of Blackpool CID said: "This was a despicable incident which has understandably left the victim extremely upset. We do not tolerate any instances of racism and an investigation into what happened is already underway. We are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident or may have any information that could assist with our enquiries to contact us."

A 28 year old man and two women aged 33 and 20, all from Birmingham, have been arrested in connection with the incident and released on police bail.

It is not known if the victim was of Asian Pakistani or Asian Bangladeshi ethnicity. No further information is available in connection with the incident.

- 1.98** A Northampton man who was convicted of a racially aggravated assault on a taxi driver will have to pay more than £1,600 in court costs and compensation.¹³⁴

Ben Spick, 28, appeared at Northampton Magistrates' Court charged with assaulting the taxi driver on 3 May 2015.

The court heard that Spick became angry with the taxi driver after he was told that he could not bring his bottle of cider into the taxi. Stella Moses, prosecuting, said Spick racially abused the taxi driver

¹³² *Lancashire Telegraph*, 1 September 2015

¹³³ *Crime and Justice*, 8 May 2015

¹³⁴ *Northampton Chronicle*, 6 October 2015

and grabbed his jumper. Spick then started banging the passenger window and continued to verbally abuse the taxi driver. The taxi driver called the police and Spick was arrested after he ran away from officers.

Spick was given a 12-month community order including 120 hours of unpaid work. He must pay court costs of £1,560 and £100 compensation to the taxi driver.

No further information is available in relation with this incident.

- 1.99** A nurse punched a Muslim taxi driver 12 times after starting an unprovoked argument with him about the treatment of women in Islam during a journey on 10 June 2015.¹³⁵

Elaine Roots, 57, started berating the cabbie from the back seat after he picked her up from a night out in Nottingham.

She then grabbed the driver by the collar and pulled him towards her, ripping the buttons off his shirt. Roots, who had spent the night drinking wine, then repeatedly punched him in the head, neck and upper body.

The mental health nurse was then heard to say "he's a f***ing Muslim isn't he" when speaking about the taxi driver at a police station.

Roots pleaded guilty to religiously aggravated common assault at Nottingham Magistrates Court. She was given a community order placing her under curfew for 10 weeks and ordered to pay compensation of £60 as well as costs of £265.

¹³⁵ *Daily Express*, 5 October 2016

Attacks on Muslim property or institutions

- 2.1** Racially and religiously offensive graffiti was sprayed on council flats in Otley, West Yorkshire, on 31 January 2015.¹³⁶

“Shocking graffiti” directing violence towards Jewish and Muslim people appeared on a wall at Fairfax Flats. Both words were spelt incorrectly.

The graffiti carried an English Defence League signature, though some suspected it may have been an ill-judged attempt to mock far-right groups.

Otley Town Council Leader John Eveleigh responded by saying that all reasonable people would be appalled and disgusted by the incident.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Colin Campbell, who made sure the city council cleaning team responded urgently to remove the offensive message, said these incidents can only cause stress to residents and had no place in Otley.

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that they found no information in relation to this incident based on the details and were therefore unable to provide any further information requested.¹³⁷

- 2.2** A 28-year-old man who tried to burn down a mosque in Folkestone on 5 March 2015 was charged with attempted arson with intent to endanger life.

Phillip Donovan was accused of shoving lit tissue paper through the letterbox of a mosque. The mosque’s imam, Abdul Awal was inside asleep at the time. He was also accused of setting fire to a car parked near to the mosque in Folkestone.

When arrested, Mr. Donovan told officers that he did not belong to any hate groups. This was accepted by the Crown Prosecution Service, and reflected in the charge Mr. Donovan faced which did not contain a racially or religiously aggravated element.

Mr. Donovan pleaded guilty to two charges of reckless arson and was given an 18-month jail sentence suspended for two years at Canterbury Crown Court in August 2015. The judge heard that the attack was not a hate crime because Mr. Donovan committed arson when he was drunk.¹³⁸

- 2.3** A takeaway was set on fire in a racially motivated attack in Connah’s Quay, Flintshire on 9 March 2015.¹³⁹

Owner Mr. Rahman had built the building four months prior to the attack and had been having renovation work completed. Local residents said the building had not long had the roof replaced.

The arson attack was thought to be racially motivated because EDL signs were spray painted on the front and back of the property.

The attack came in the same week that North Wales joined other forces across the UK pledging support for the ‘We Stand Together’ campaign, which promotes community cohesion.

¹³⁶ *Wharfedale Observer*, 3 February 2015

¹³⁷ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3149/16

¹³⁸ *Kent Messenger*, 6 August 2015

¹³⁹ *News North Wales*, 11 March 2015

North Wales Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that following an investigation no suspect was identified and the case was closed.¹⁴⁰

2.4 Anti-Muslim remarks were written on a sign at a cemetery in Cathcart, Glasgow on 24 March 2015.¹⁴¹

The graffiti, which claimed to be by Britain First, was sprayed over the Muslim graveyard sign at Cathcart Cemetery.

Amjid Bashir, an entrepreneur from East Kilbride and one of the organisers of Islam Awareness Week in the city, said there was a problem of Islamophobia in Glasgow and it needed “to be addressed”.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no suspects were identified following their investigation into the incident.¹⁴²

2.5 Islamophobic graffiti was sprayed onto the Central Gurdwara in Glasgow in March 2015.¹⁴³

The Sikh building was vandalised after ‘thugs’ believed it to be a mosque. The words “F*** Islam. No SHARIAH!” and a Nazi swastika were scrawled onto the side of the Gurdwara.

Surit Singh Chowdhary, vice president of the Gurdwara said the Sikh Community abhorred Islamophobia, describing it as a “hateful ideology”.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no suspects had been identified after an investigation was carried out into the incident.¹⁴⁴

2.6 A package of pigs’ heads was left on the doorstep of an old ambulance station in Solihull on 13 April 2015, after claims it was being used as a mosque.

West Midlands Police described the incident as a hate crime after the plastic bag containing the four animal heads was left on the doorstep of what is now a community centre.

The week prior, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council was reported to be looking into allegations of a breach of planning rules after claims the centre was being used as a mosque without local authority consent.

Later investigation suggested that the event had been called “Building a Masjid” but there were no plans to turn the community centre into a mosque.¹⁴⁵

Carl Stephens, 34, was captured on CCTV leaving the heads at the Solihull centre. He denied causing religiously aggravated alarm or distress and said he had not known about the controversy surrounding the centre and that he had been paid to leave the pigs’ heads there. Mr. Stephens was cleared by the jury at Birmingham Crown Court on 4 December 2015.

¹⁴⁰ Freedom of Information request, North Wales Police, reference 2016/676

¹⁴¹ *Evening Times*, 26 March 2015

¹⁴² Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland, reference 2016-1688

¹⁴³ *Daily Record*, 13 April 2015

¹⁴⁴ Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland, reference 2016-1688

¹⁴⁵ *Birmingham Mail*, 4 December 2015

2.7 A window was smashed in an act of vandalism by a man at the Weymouth Islamic Centre on 22 March 2015.¹⁴⁶ The man walked up to the building and smashed a window, sometime between 12.15 and 13.30, before walking off.

Shalim Abdul from the Centre said the window had been broken but nothing else was damaged, and that it had been quickly repaired.

Dorset Police released CCTV footage of a suspect, requesting anyone with information to get in touch. A local man, aged 26, was reported to have come forward to help the police with their enquiries.

Cllr Francis Drake, spokesman for social inclusion at Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, urged anyone with information to contact the police.

"We don't allow this sort of thing to happen in Weymouth, and people should help the police if they can and report anything if they can," he said.

"We just don't want these sorts of characters in Weymouth, especially breaking windows." Dorset Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it due to Section 40 of the Act being engaged.¹⁴⁷

2.8 There were a series of arson attacks in Rochdale, including one on a mosque, on 7 June 2015.

Police were alerted to a fire at an outhouse on Derwent Street immediately after a wheelie bin was set alight.¹⁴⁸

Following this, a fire was started at the back of the Aysha Mosque on Whitworth Road whilst a 43-year-old man was inside.

Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service launched a joint enquiry and believe the incidents were linked.

Greater Manchester Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁴⁹

2.9 Religiously-aggravated graffiti was daubed on a mosque in Little Horton, Bradford on 21 June 2015.

The message read: "Shia Kafir", meaning Shia disbeliever, and was scrawled across the entrance to the Hussainia Islamic Mission.

Police arrested a 14-year-old boy from Bradford on suspicion of religiously aggravated criminal damage.¹⁵⁰

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that no further action was taken against a 14 year old male from Bradford arrested on suspicion of religiously aggravated criminal damage. The case has been finalised pending any further information coming to light.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁶ *Dorset Echo*, 13 April 2015

¹⁴⁷ Freedom of Information request, Dorset Police, reference 2016-714

¹⁴⁸ *Manchester Evening News*, 8 June 2015

¹⁴⁹ Freedom of Information request, Greater Manchester Police, reference 1819/16

¹⁵⁰ *Telegraph & Argus*, 24 June 2015

¹⁵¹ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3149/16

2.10 Muslim Graves were damaged in Nottingham on 29 June 2015.¹⁵²

At least ten plots at High Wood Cemetery were damaged.

Chief Superintendent Mark Holland said that Nottinghamshire Police liaised closely with the Muslim community after the Tunisia terrorist attacks in June 2015, and continued to be in close contact following the reports of the attacks on the graves.

Nottingham city council said it was treating the damage as a hate crime.

Nottinghamshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests have been made in connection with the incident and the offences are now filed as undetected pending any further information.¹⁵³

2.11 Woodford Green Faith Centre was vandalised in North London on 24 August 2015.¹⁵⁴

A brick was thrown through the Muslim centre in Snakes Lane East.

There were previous incidents against the centre. The word “bacon” was daubed on the door to the centre and a note was left saying: “A mosque is not wanted in Woodford. The rivers of blood are close to overflowing”.

Ilford North MP Wes Streeting spoke out against the vandalism, saying that it appeared to be “fuelled by anti-Muslim hatred”.

In response to a Freedom of Information request, the Metropolitan Police Service could neither deny nor confirm whether any further information is held regarding the incident.¹⁵⁵

2.12 Islamophobic graffiti was daubed on a Sikh temple in Thornaby on 2 September 2015.¹⁵⁶

“Die Muslims” and “White Power” was scrawled onto the outside wall of the Shri Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Stockton-on-Tees.

The vandalism came just weeks after thieves stole clothes and food from the Gurdwara and adjacent community centre.

Peter Brennan, of the Village Park Resident’s Association said “the vandals were obviously ignorant but the hate was real”.

Cleveland Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that following enquiries, no arrests were made in relation to this incident and the investigation is closed.¹⁵⁷

2.13 A Muslim shopkeeper had his car vandalised in a racist attack in Liverpool on 16 January 2015.¹⁵⁸

Mohammed Ashfaq had taken a friend to a local railway station but when he returned a group of youths began to shout racist language at him.

¹⁵² *Lancashire Telegraph*, 29 June 2015

¹⁵³ Freedom of Information request, Nottinghamshire Police, reference 005639/16

¹⁵⁴ *Ilford Recorder*, 27 August 2015

¹⁵⁵ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

¹⁵⁶ *The Gazette*, 3 September 2015

¹⁵⁷ Freedom of Information request, Cleveland Police, reference 2016/7683

¹⁵⁸ *Liverpool Echo*, 29 October 2015

A member of the group, a 16 year old boy, then used a golf club to cause damage to the body work of Mr Ashfaq's car.

Mohammad Ashfaq had been experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour from youths for some time.

The 16 year old boy had been due to stand trial for affray and racially aggravated criminal damage at Liverpool Youth Court, but entered a late guilty plea to both charges.

A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to Merseyside Police requesting further information on the sentencing of the defendant.

2.14 A man pushed a firework through the letter box of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Rhyl, North Wales, on 11 November 2015.

The firework caused damage to the box and mounting, the value of which is unknown.

Keith Edward Hall, 38, pleaded guilty to religiously aggravated criminal damage at the centre in Water Street.

Magistrates saw video footage which showed Hall twice approaching the Islamic Centre, lighting the fireworks and pushing them through the letterbox. In the background, a man and woman could be heard laughing and shouting: "Hurry up."

Having seen the film, Prestatyn magistrates expressed surprise that no-one else has been charged in connection with the attack.

Hall was given a 16-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, and must also observe a 7pm-7am curfew and attend a six-month alcohol treatment course and 25 days of rehabilitation.

He was banned from entering Water Street for 12 months and also ordered to pay compensation of £558, costs of £300 and a surcharge of £80.¹⁵⁹

2.15 A Muslim cultural centre was targeted in a firebomb attack in Bishopbriggs near Glasgow on 17 November 2015.¹⁶⁰

A fire was started at Al Sarouk cultural centre and may have been linked to the Paris terrorist incidents.

Police confirmed the fire was being treated as "wilful fire raising" though it was not initially treated as a hate crime.

No one was injured in the attack.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that no-one was arrested or charged in connection with the incident.¹⁶¹

2.16 A Muslim family's home was damaged in a petrol bomb attack in Northern Ireland on 17 November 2015.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁹ *Daily Post*, 12 January 2016

¹⁶⁰ *Evening Times*, 17 November 2015

¹⁶¹ Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland, reference 2016-1689

¹⁶² *BBC News*, 17 November 2015

The petrol bomb was thrown through the front window in Kintyre Park, Ballykeel. Four people in the house escaped without injury.

Margaret Ibrahim believed her family home was targeted because her husband is a Muslim.

Her husband, Amin Ibrahim said it was not the first time they had been the target of harassment.

The police treated the incident as a hate crime and Superintendent Henderson said he was “disgusted by the attack”.

Two men wearing hooded tops were seen leaving the area shortly after the attack.

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 30 (Investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁶³

2.17 A car wash in South Tyneside was destroyed in a suspected arson attack and covered in racist graffiti on 24 November 2015.

Some of the graffiti read “Muslims”, “Rats be gone! Pronto!”, and “car wash must go or suffer consequences”.¹⁶⁴ No one was injured in the arson attack.

Lalon Amin of Lawe Top, South Shields, believed that there had been a notable change in attitudes towards the borough’s Muslim community since the Paris terror attacks in November 2015.

A week prior to the arson attack, a group of men shouted “ISIS” at Mr Amin and spat on the window of the carriage as he travelled with his family on the metro to Newcastle.

Northumbria Police responded to a Freedom of Information request disclosing that no arrests have been made in relation to the incident and the case is now closed pending further information.¹⁶⁵

2.18 Two Newport mosques were vandalised with anti-Islamic graffiti in Newport on 25 November 2015.¹⁶⁶

Graffiti was reported at the Jamie Mosque on Stow Hill and the Islamic Society of Wales Mosque at Victoria Road, Newport. The latter had the words “Islam is Demonic” sprayed next to the entrance.

Gwent police treated the incidents as hate crimes.

A spokesman for the Muslim Council of Wales said they realised that the attack was likely the act of a single person or small local group, it was still “upsetting to see it happen”.

Gwent Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no arrests were made regarding the incident and that further information regarding this incident.¹⁶⁷

2.19 A man attempted to set fire to the Finsbury Park mosque in North London on 27 November 2015.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶³ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

¹⁶⁴ *The Shields Gazette*, 24 November 2015

¹⁶⁵ Freedom of Information request, Northumbria Police, reference 845/16

¹⁶⁶ *Wales Online*, 25 November 2015

¹⁶⁷ Freedom of Information request, Gwent Police, reference 2016/19042

¹⁶⁸ *BBC News*, 29 November 2015

A man was filmed on CCTV trying to set fire to the mosque before fleeing the scene on a moped. The suspect was described as “a white man who was wearing a hooded top”.

Metropolitan Police officers were treating the incident as an Islamophobic hate crime.

In response to a Freedom of Information request, the Metropolitan Police Service could neither deny nor confirm whether any further information is held regarding the incident.¹⁶⁹

2.20 A mosque in Gillingham, Kent, was vandalised on 30 November 2015.¹⁷⁰

The Nasir Mosque had eggs and paint thrown at one of its entrances.

The act was believed to be in response to the Paris attacks on 13 November 2015.

Imam Safeer Khan said that a man in the area asked him “are you happy with what you guys have done”.

Mr Khan said that the mosque had been very vocal in condemning extremism and members had written in to the press condemning extremism following the Paris attacks.

Police investigated the incident as an act of criminal damage.

Kent Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no suspect could be identified for the offence and the crime had since been filed.¹⁷¹

2.21 A man disrupted Friday prayers at a mosque in Dundee before vandalising the place of worship on 11 December 2015.

The incident happened at the Taj Dar-e-Madina Mosque on Victoria Road.

Donald Skene, 38, wandered into a children’s prayer group before punching glass frames containing holy verses of the Qu’ran. He intimidated young worshippers and uttered racist remarks against the Prophet Muhammad. Skene then struggled with police as they tried to arrest him saying, “I didn’t mean it to be religious”.

Skene made no plea or declaration at a short hearing in private at Dundee Sheriff Court on 14 December 2015. He was charged with conducting himself in a disorderly manner. Skene subsequently pleaded guilty on summary complaint to charges of breach of the peace and resisting arrest.

Allegations the offence was religiously aggravated were deleted by the Crown.

He was refused bail following a second trial, and was ultimately sent to prison in order to serve the remainder of a 10-month sentence he had originally been given for assaulting his sister. The court also ruled that upon his release, Mr. Skene be subject to a community payback order and remain under supervision for 12 months.¹⁷²

2.22 A man was arrested after two pig’s heads were left outside a Muslim School in Lancashire.

¹⁶⁹ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

¹⁷⁰ *Kent Online*, 30 November 2015

¹⁷¹ Freedom of Information request, Kent Police, reference 16/07/804

¹⁷² *STV News*, 10 July 2016

One head was thrown over the fence of the Markazul Uloom boarding school in Blackburn whilst another was found by the school gates.

They were left sometime between 5pm on Friday 18 and 8.30am on Saturday 19 December 2015.

The police carried out house to house inquiries and searched through CCTV in the area.

A 28-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated provocation and was bailed.¹⁷³

Lancashire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no further action was taken against the man arrested and the case was now closed.¹⁷⁴

2.23 Racist graffiti was daubed on Indian and Chinese businesses in Woking, between 7 and 8 December 2015.¹⁷⁵

“ISIS Paedo” and “Just us Whites here” were some of the offensive messages scrawled across properties which included an Indian and Chinese restaurant.

Most of the graffiti was on the shutters of The Village Takeaway and the adjacent Tiang Restaurant.

Residents said other messages were sprayed on the road and on other properties over a two week period.

Wokingham Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Andy Crane said there was no place for racially aggravated criminal damage and that it would not be tolerated.

Surrey Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in relation to the incident and the investigation has been closed.¹⁷⁶

2.24 A spate of Islamophobic graffiti appeared on streets in Hounslow, London, and was reported on 17 December 2015.

The words “Muslims hate us” and “Muslims are terrorists” were scrawled on the pavement outside a house in Bath road.

Hate-filled graffiti was also daubed on the pavement by the bus stop outside a small parade of shops opposite Saints Michael and Martin Church. A pig’s head was found close by in an alleyway.¹⁷⁷

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that a man aged 64 was arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated criminal damage. He was bailed pending further enquiries.¹⁷⁸

2.25 Police investigated two attacks on the home of Somali residents in South Belfast as racially motivated hate crimes.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷³ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 22 December 2015

¹⁷⁴ Freedom of Information request, Lancashire Police, reference 004331/16

¹⁷⁵ *Get Surrey*, 24 December 2015

¹⁷⁶ Freedom of Information request, Surrey Police, reference 165-16-735

¹⁷⁷ *Get West London*, 23 December 2015

¹⁷⁸ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

¹⁷⁹ *Belfast Live*, 5 January 2016

On 6 December 2015, a stone was thrown at an upstairs window.

In the second incident, ground floor windows of the same property were broken sometime between 6pm on December 22 and 11.15am on December 23.

Police Northern Ireland made an appeal for anyone with information to come forward.

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 30 (Investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁸⁰

- 2.26** A man attempted to burn down a Muslim-owned pizza shop in a racially aggravated attack in Grimsby on 10 November 2015.¹⁸¹

Two men entered a pizza shop belonging to Aziz Alehi but were asked to leave after a dispute over money to pay for food.

Aaron Bell, 23, then went to a nearby petrol pump and used it to put some fuel into an energy drink can. He told staff at the shop: "I am going to burn your shop".

He kicked at the shutters of the shop and threw pieces of brick or stone at the window.

Bell later told police: "If I go down for this, watch the shop go up in fire".

Bell admitted racially aggravated damaging of metal shutters, a plastic shop sign and a window.

Bell was given a one-year suspended prison sentence, 200 hours' unpaid work, 10 days' rehabilitation and a two-year restraining order.

- 2.27** A man scrawled Islamophobic messages on the Noor Islam Trust in Leyton, east London, on nine occasions between August 2015 and February 2016.¹⁸²

Tom Whelan, 53, wrote things like "deport Islam", "Islam is evil", "Arab Myth", "Nation destroyer" and "Allah Myth" on hoarding outside Noor Islam Trust in Leyton.

Whelan pleaded guilty to nine charges of racially aggravated criminal damage at Thames Magistrates' Court. He was told he must not go within 50 metres of the Noor UI Islam Trust, and not have a permanent marker pen in public.

He was given a four month sentence, suspended for two years, at Thames Magistrates' Court on 13 April 2016. He was also ordered to do 175 hours of community service.¹⁸³

- 2.28** A woman who draped a Union Jack bearing an image of a swastika over the gates of a primary school was fined and given a 12-month community order.

25-year-old Heidi Sawicki took a photo of herself placing the flag, which also contained the words "White Power" and "Muslims Out," on the rails outside Thornhill Primary School in Sunderland in October 2015. The picture also showed her giving a Nazi salute, which she then posted to her Facebook page.

¹⁸⁰ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

¹⁸¹ *Grimsby Telegraph*, 8 February 2015

¹⁸² *Metro*, 30 March 2016

¹⁸³ *Guardian Series*, 18 April 2016

Thornhill Primary School has a student intake that is nearly 30% Muslims of Bangladeshi origin. Sawicki had apparently said the school was full of “rodents” who “don’t deserve the name person.” She was arrested after being captured on CCTV footage. The fine she was handed by Sunderland Magistrates’ Court commanded her to pay £20, as well as £85 in costs and a £60 surcharge.¹⁸⁴

- 2.29** A woman was fined for shouting racial abuse at a taxi driver and damaging his vehicle in Chesterfield in December 2015. 22-year-old Kirsty Burton was accused of using racist language towards driver Nisar Suleman after she found out she did not have enough to pay the full taxi fare. After giving him her name and address and offering to pay the difference, Mr. Suleman told Ms. Burton he would be taking her to the police station instead. As well as shouting abuse, she kicked and smashed one of the windows in his cab.

Ms. Burton was convicted of racially aggravated criminal damage in May 2016. She was given a 12-month community order and told to undertake 120 hours of unpaid work. Furthermore, she was ordered to pay £621.95 in compensation, a £60 victim surcharge and £620 in costs.¹⁸⁵

- 2.30** A 26-year-old English Defence League (EDL) organiser was convicted in March 2016 for racially-aggravated criminal damage and harassment. Chris Conroy from Newark in Nottinghamshire was accused of racially abusing Eyup Sepet and for damaging a pane of glass on his front door. Conroy had previously set up the Newark branch of the EDL and had been involved in organising demonstrations for the far-right movement all over the country.

Mr. Conroy initially denied the charges, but later plead guilty. He was given a 12-month supervision order, including a demand that he perform 200 hours of community service, and was required to pay £100 in victim compensation for committing the offence, £395.42 for damage to Mr. Sepet’s door, and £560 in court costs.¹⁸⁶

An enquiry was made to the court asking for details about the date of the incident.

- 2.31** A man in Southsea was convicted for drunken racial abuse and damaging property at an Indian restaurant. 23-year-old Jake McElvenny was arrested for an incident in July 2015 where he shouted racist abuse at a waiter in an Indian restaurant before getting into a car and driving the wrong way around a roundabout.

Further, Mr. McElvenny was reported to have punched a table, turned it over and smashed everything that was on it. When waiter Shamsul Khan demanded he pay for the meal and cover the costs of the damage, he was met with a stream of racist language.

Mr. McElvenny pleaded guilty to the charges of dangerous driving, criminal damage, racially aggravated abuse, failing to give information to police and drink-driving. He was given a 120-day prison sentence suspended for 18 months, an 18-month driving ban and was ordered to pay £155 in compensation to the restaurant by Portsmouth Magistrates’ Court.¹⁸⁷

- 2.32** A teenager was amongst two individuals convicted for racially abusing a worshipper and attacking a mosque in Warrington on 7 July 2014.

¹⁸⁴ *Sunderland Echo*, 27 June 2016

¹⁸⁵ *Derbyshire Times*, 12 May 2016

¹⁸⁶ *Newark Advertiser*, 9 March 2016

¹⁸⁷ *Portsmouth News*, 16 January 2016

The court heard how a taxi driver from Warrington was making his way to the mosque on July 7 at 11.30pm when he came across Nathan Hancox, 20, and a teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, by chance.

Both Hancox and his friend launched an unprovoked verbal attack on the victim, using racist slurs and abusive threats.

As the man tried to escape by entering the mosque, Hancox grabbed a plank of wood and hurled it at the mosque's windows causing damage to the building. Muslims who were inside at the time were not injured in the attack.

Hancox and the teenager initially denied the crime was racially aggravated but changed their plea in court admitting guilt.

The teen, who pleaded guilty to racially aggravated intentional harassment, was handed a six month referral at Halton Magistrates' Court.

Hancox pleaded guilty to racially aggravated criminal damage and was handed a curfew from 6pm to 6am for six weeks, ordered to pay £100 in compensation to the mosque and a £60 victim surcharge.¹⁸⁸

2.33 Police have offered a £5,000 reward while issuing a fresh appeal for information regarding an arson attack on the Islamic Bravanese Welfare Association in Muswell Hill in June 2013.¹⁸⁹

The Somali centre was attacked in the early hours of 5 June 2013, days after the brutal murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich, south London with speculation rife that it was, like other attacks on mosques around the same period, a revenge attack against Muslims. The centre was almost burnt to the ground and the letters "E", "D" and "L" were found painted on one of the walls. The Met have been treating the incident as a possible hate crime and two years on from the fire, are launching a fresh appeal for witnesses and information.

The Met have put up a £5,000 reward and released a CCTV image of a "light-coloured Toyota Corolla Verso" car which was parked near the centre's location immediately before the time of the incident.¹⁹⁰

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident and the appeal is ongoing.¹⁹¹

2.34 Police appealed for witnesses after a suspected hate crime involving graffiti at a Chesterfield sports ground.¹⁹²

Offenders used spray paints to write the word "Islam" and draw the Star of David on a playing area of the Chesterfield Panthers Rugby Club on Dunston Road.

The criminal damage took place sometime between 9.30am on 22 January and 9.30am on 5 February.

¹⁸⁸ Warrington *Guardian*, 9 April 2015

¹⁸⁹ MEND OSCE Submission (2014) Hate Crime Report 2013, incident reference 2.25

¹⁹⁰ *Barnet and Potters Bar Times*, 5 June 2015

¹⁹¹ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

¹⁹² *Derbyshire Times*, 9 February 2015

Derbyshire Police responded to a Freedom Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in relation to the incident and the case has now been filed pending any further information coming to light.¹⁹³

2.35 Three windows were smashed at the Ihsan mosque in Norwich in a possible anti-Muslim hate crime.

Police appealed for witnesses after the incident which occurred around 6.30am on Saturday 7 February 2015, at the time of the early Morning Prayer. Three windows at the mosque were smashed causing “hundreds” of pounds of estimated criminal damage at the grade 2 listed property.

There were Muslims inside the mosque at the time of the attack. One of them, Rashid, told the local paper that the attack may have been caused by the current climate of anti-Muslim hostility. He said, “When I heard the glass being smashed I thought we were under attack. It is not nice to feel scared in a place of peace.”

He added, “With what has been going on in the world lately I would not be surprised if it was a deliberate attack against us.”¹⁹⁴

Norfolk Constabulary responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident.¹⁹⁵

2.36 A house shared by two Muslim brothers was vandalised with offensive graffiti painted on its walls.

Brothers Asim and Adil Sardar, who share the house in West Belfast, were confronted with graffiti with the word “Allah” daubed on the wall of their house on Friday 16 January 2015. The brothers reported the incident and spent their Saturday afternoon removing the graffiti.

Speaking to the local paper, Asim said that on a previous occasion his car windows had been smashed. Asim told the paper of their distress at the incidents saying “I will stay here for now but if things like this continue to happen and if I feel uncomfortable then I will think about moving.”

Ulster Unionist councillor for the West Belfast area, Bill Manwarring, said he suspected the attack was a result of events in Paris and the Middle East. He said. “This sort of incident is shocking. Intolerance like this leads to violence and aggression. There is no justification for such hatred. It frustrates me that bigots like this can create such a fear-factor in communities.”¹⁹⁶

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 30 (Investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.¹⁹⁷

2.37 A man was seen setting fire to the menu outside an Indian takeaway restaurant after claiming it was “an advertisement for funding Islamic terrorism.” 47-year-old David Soutar had been seen setting the menu alight of the Manzil Restaurant in Perth, Scotland, while screaming a torrent of racist abuse that included the words “We burn the b*****, the f***** scumbags.”

Mr. Soutar went on to post the video on social media, admitting this while at Bannatyne’s Health Club in October 2015. One of the staff at the restaurant in question was shown the footage, and the police were informed of the incident.

¹⁹³ Freedom of Information request, Derbyshire Police, reference 002188/16

¹⁹⁴ *Norwich Evening News*, 7 February 2015

¹⁹⁵ Freedom of Information request, Norfolk Constabulary, reference 002852/16

¹⁹⁶ *Belfast Telegraph*, 19 January 2015

¹⁹⁷ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

At Perth Sherriff Court, Soutar admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by posting a video to social media that was of a racially offensive nature. He was given a Community Payback Order which included completing 200 hours of unpaid work. The tablet used to record the footage was also confiscated from Mr Soutar.

2.38 A man put anti-halal stickers on meat at a Sainsbury's store in Salford, Greater Manchester on 18 February 2015.¹⁹⁸

Liam Gary Edwards, 29, put round red stickers, which displayed the words "BEWARE! Halal is barbaric and funds terrorism #BanHalal" on meat packages and equipment.

Edwards pleaded guilty to criminal damage at Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court on 18 March 2015, but he denied a more serious charge of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage, proclaiming his actions had been for the love of animals.

However Edwards pleaded guilty to racially aggravated criminal damage at a second trial on 23 July 2015 at Manchester Magistrates' Court.¹⁹⁹

He was given a four-week curfew to run between 9pm and 7am and was ordered to pay £100 prosecution costs, a £60 surcharge and £16.50 in compensation.

2.39 A spate of Islamophobic graffiti were daubed on buildings in Birmingham by a man between May and June 2015.²⁰⁰

Hate-filled messages were left at a bus stop outside Card Factory between 15 and 18 May and between 3 and 10 June, where the words "No More Mosques, Scum of the Earth" were scrawled on a telephone kiosk.

Four further racist graffiti attacks occurred on Kings Heath High Street after community activist Luke Holland edited the meaning of the remarks from offensive to positive.

The offensive words reappeared as soon as they were scrubbed away, and continued to be written in communal locations.

Holland said he spoke to a number of concerned residents and one stressed they had never seen racist graffiti such as this and felt scared because of it.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁰¹

2.40 In the week of 14 December 2015 a spate of anti-Muslim graffiti was found on the walls of a Muslim school in Blackburn.

The words "no mosque" were found painted onto the walls of the Islamic girls' school Markazul Uloom. The incident came a week before two pigs' heads were thrown over the walls of the school. Lancashire police established extra patrols in the area to reassure residents following the attacks.

¹⁹⁸ *Daily Mirror*, 18 March 2015

¹⁹⁹ *Manchester Evening News*, 23 July 2015

²⁰⁰ *Birmingham Mail*, 18 June 2015

²⁰¹ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

The incidents followed a planning application submitted by the school to build a mosque on the premises. A petition opposing the application generated almost 2,000 signatures.²⁰²

- 2.41** Two teenagers were convicted of spraying swastikas and other offensive graffiti in Welshpool on 27 November 2015. The words "ISIS kill", as well as an offensive term about Pakistani people were found on the grandstand at Maesydre Football Ground, home to Welshpool Town Football Club.

The graffiti also included references to the KKK, the infamous American white supremacist group. Swastikas were also discovered to have been drawn over the town council noticeboard and the road near the football ground.

Jordan Beeson, 18, and James Karl Mechash Harris, 19, were tried for racially and religiously aggravated criminal damage, and pleaded guilty on 28 July 2016.

Mr. Harris received a two-year conditional discharge, along with also receiving a £15 surcharge and £85 in costs. Mr. Beeson was given a 12-month community order and commanded to complete 40 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £85 costs.²⁰³

- 2.42** Eight Muslim-owned businesses were attacked in two separate incidents in Birmingham on Saturday 10 January and Monday 12 January 2015.²⁰⁴

Witnesses claim groups of men shot at and used hammers to attack the shops, restaurants and boutiques in the Small Heath and Sparkbrook areas of the city. There were no reported injuries.

Reporting from the scene, BBC Midlands Today correspondent Peter Wilson said that because the incidents happened shortly after the attacks in Paris last week, "people are jumping to the conclusion that they are somehow linked". Because no one knows for sure, Wilson added, "it's all adding to the sense of fear".

A West Midlands Police spokesperson told i100.co.uk that there was no known motive for the attacks and it was unclear if the two incidents were actually linked.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁰⁵

- 2.43** A man was locked up after racially abusing a bus driver in Hull. Mark Code, 49, boarded a Stagecoach bus outside The Grange pub in Bilton Grange, east Hull, on 6 July 2015.²⁰⁶

As the bus reached Falkland Road, the driver noticed he was smoking. Hull Crown Court heard the driver shouted at him to stop and Code responded by saying: "You're just a n*****." He continued to smoke and the driver stopped and told him to leave.

Phillip Evans, prosecuting, said: "The defendant became aggravated, approached the driver and screamed at him through a glass partition. He said he wasn't getting off and said 'You're just a n*****. I'm BNP. I'm EDL. I'm English. You're a Muslim. I bet you're a Muslim. I take this route every day. If I see you again I'll smash your head in.' "

²⁰² *Lancashire Telegraph*, 20 January 2016

²⁰³ *County Times*, 28 July 2016

²⁰⁴ *The Independent*, 15 January 2015

²⁰⁵ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

²⁰⁶ *Hull Daily Mail*, 24 July 2015

Code then punched the glass and the driver feared he would break it and attack him. Code then spat through the opening where tickets are given and the spittle landed on the driver's shirt. He broke a mirror and "brandished" a piece of glass at the driver, threatening violence if police came.

Code urinated at the rear of the bus in front of children, then returned to the front and started kicking the doors in an attempt to escape. He made further threats to the driver and struck the glass again before police arrived.

Code admitted racially aggravated assault, racially aggravated damaging of property, and assault. He was jailed for nine months and ordered to pay costs of £900.

2.44 Police released CCTV images in the hunt for a man suspected of hurling bricks and bottles at a Wolverhampton Mosque.²⁰⁷

Windows were smashed at the Baitul Atta Ahmadiyya Mosque on Willenhall Road just after 4am on 21 June 2015.

Sergeant Martin Hewitt, from Wolverhampton police, said: "We are dealing with this crime as a hate crime. Someone deliberately targeted the Mosque and this has caused considerable distress within the community."

2.45 Two men were sentenced for damaging a delivery driver's car in a racially motivated attack in Ilkeston on 13 October 2015.²⁰⁸

Connor Sowersby and James Whitworth kicked at the doors and pulled at wing mirrors of a kebab shop delivery driver, Serwan Abdullah, before Whitworth opened the driver's door and shouted racial abuse at him.

Mr. Whitworth, 30, was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison after admitting racially-aggravated criminal damage.

Mr. Sowersby, 19, who did not racially abuse the victim, pleaded guilty to criminal damage in relation to the incident. He was handed a 12-month community order, with 60 hours' unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £150 compensation.

In a victim impact statement, the delivery driver said he "is a family man who tries to work hard and the two men had attacked him for no reason". The Star Kebabs delivery driver said he was "worried about going to work" and was left frightened by the attack.

2.46 Offensive slogans were written on a mosque in the suburb of Selly Oak, Birmingham in January 2015.²⁰⁹

Offensive graffiti was written at Jalalabad Mosque between Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January 2015.

Sergeant Pete Sandhu said mindless hate had "no place" in Birmingham.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²¹⁰

²⁰⁷ *West Midlands Police*, 2 August 2015

²⁰⁸ *Nottingham Post*, 18 January 2016

²⁰⁹ *Birmingham Post*, 19 January 2015

2.47 Offensive graffiti was found on a University of Birmingham building in Edgbaston, Birmingham on 18 January 2015.²¹¹

A swastika and the words “Islam must die” were scrawled on the campus’ psychology building, said the university.

The Guild of Students at the university said it was supporting the police investigation into the vandalism.

A spokesman said: “We believe that all students have the right to live and study in a safe and supportive environment and actions such as this graffiti have no place in our society, or on our campus.”

Sergeant Pete Sandhu, responsible for policing in Edgbaston, said: “My officers have visited both sites and spoken to a number of people. Evidential photographs have been taken and CCTV which may have captured the vandal is currently being reviewed.”

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²¹²

2.48 Racist graffiti was found on an underpass in Swindon in July 2015.²¹³

Two swastikas and a message reading “Swindon is not for u Muslims” was sprayed in red across the pavement of a subway at the end of Tydeman Street.

Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Police were called about the incident on 14 July 2015 and acted promptly to have it removed but a resident said they had seen it three days prior.

Wiltshire Police issued a witness appeal and released a statement saying “as a racially aggravated incident it is something taken very seriously by the police”.

Wiltshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in relation to the incident and the investigation has been closed.²¹⁴

2.49 Pigs’ heads were left outside a disused building in Belfast on 24 October 2015.²¹⁵

The pigs’ heads were daubed with anti-Islamic slogans and left outside the building of the Shankill area of Belfast.

The incident was believed to be linked to rumours the building was to become a mosque.

Dr Raid Al-Wazzan, a leading member of Northern Ireland’s Muslim community said he would like to meet those responsible and voiced his opinion that he did not believe the incident was backed by the wider community.

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 30 (Investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²¹⁶

²¹⁰ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

²¹¹ *Birmingham Post*, 19 January 2015

²¹² Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

²¹³ *This is Wiltshire*, 15 July 2015

²¹⁴ Freedom of Information request, Wiltshire Police, reference 2016-602

²¹⁵ *Belfast Telegraph*, 26 October 2015

2.50 Three men verbally abused and damaged a man's car in a racially aggravated incident of criminal damage.²¹⁷

A 46 year old man and his family returned to his parked BMW in Commercial Street, Batley on 30 August 2015.

Three unknown males approached the vehicle and one of them shouted verbal abuse at the victim, and is believed to have kicked the vehicle, causing damage to it.

PC Chris Birkenshaw, of Batley and Spen Neighbourhood Policing Team appealed for witnesses to come forward.

The incident was treated as racially aggravated by West Yorkshire Police.

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in connection with the incident, and that following investigation, the matter has now been finalised pending any further information coming to light.²¹⁸

2.51 A customer who racially abused staff at a chicken restaurant and pushed a cash till off a counter because he was unhappy with his food was handed a community service sentence in June 2015.²¹⁹

Kaspars Runkauskis, 30, admitted racially aggravated criminal damage and causing racially aggravated alarm or distress at City Chicken in Butchers Row, Grantham.

Grantham Magistrates' Court heard Runkauskis had called staff "f***** Pakis".

Magistrates were told Runkauskis was drunk and could not remember using racist words.

Runkauskis was ordered to carry out 60 hours' unpaid work and pay £250 compensation for the damage to the till, £85 costs, and a £60 victim surcharge.

²¹⁶ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

²¹⁷ *Spenborough Guardian*, 5 September 2015

²¹⁸ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3150/16

²¹⁹ *Grantham Journal*, 16 June 2015

Verbal abuse and hate speech/social media abuse

3.1 A Muslim family from Middlesbrough cut their holiday to Blackpool short after suffering racist abuse.²²⁰

Imtiaz Hussain, his wife Barbara and their three daughters were on the first day of their holiday when they were subjected to racist abuse from two 23 year old women who had been drinking.

Blackpool Magistrates' Court heard how Mrs Hussain was racially abused and two of her daughters who were wearing headscarves taunted with "Ban the Burka" chants.

The incident escalated with young men joining in shouting "EDL" and "BNP". At one stage the family were surrounded and had nowhere to escape until coastguard officers intervened and called the police.

The three daughters were reduced to tears as both parents were challenged to fights and threatened with being bottled.

Natalie Wilkinson admitted three charges of racially aggravated threatening behaviour and disorder. She was sent to be sentenced at Preston Crown Court because she was already on a suspended sentence.

The second woman, Nicola Lloyd, 23, was found guilty in her absence and a warrant issued for her arrest. Lloyd denied three offences of racially aggravated threatening behaviour but was found guilty at a trial in Blackpool Magistrates Court.²²¹ She was sentenced to 20 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, ordered to do 150 hours unpaid work for the community, put on a year's supervision and ordered to pay compensation totalling £300 to the victims plus an £80 victim's surcharge.

The youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hussain has said she will no longer wear the headscarf.

3.2 Manchester United sacked one of their European scouts after he posted racially offensive comments on Facebook on 14 January 2015.²²²

Torben Askjaer's contract was terminated by Manchester United after the club was alerted to a stream of racially offensive comments on social media in which one mosque is described as a "conspiracy-potential prayer-shop".

The comments made by Askjaer, who was based in Copenhagen, also indicated support for Denmark to close its borders and put personnel on "every cross over and exit so that all that eastern Europe dirt and sh** can be kept out".

His Facebook page also included a message of support for the right-wing Dansk Folkeparti's views about border control and a photograph of six pigs with a caption: "It's time to deploy our secret weapons against Islamists".

Manchester United initially received evidence from the Guardian and launched an immediate inquiry. Following the Termination of Askjaer's contract, Old Trafford released a statement saying the club was an inclusive organisation and would "not tolerate this sort of behaviour".

²²⁰ *Gazette Live*, 16 January 2015

²²¹ *Blackpool Gazette*, 02 March 2015

²²² *The Guardian*, 14 January 2015

Aakjaer denied that he was responsible for all of the comments and denied posting the photograph of the pigs or mocking Islam. He did not dispute that he made comments about public money being used for mosque building.

3.3 A Manchester City Council worker was suspended in February 2015 over an Islamophobic Facebook post.²²³

Town hall Worker, Dave Balderstone aged 46, replied to a British National Party post with the message “Kick Islam out of Britain – we need our country back”.

The IT support technician was suspended from his position while the post was investigated.

Mr Balderstone also replied to a BNP post about mass immigration in October writing: “taxpayers picking up the bill as usual and we are being treated like s***”.

Manchester City Council’s social media guidelines state that serious breaches of the social media guidelines they set could result in sacking or even legal action or prosecution.

3.4 Police investigated a photograph that sparked outrage amid claims that Metropolitan Police officers laughed at a Muslim mother allegedly attacked by three women who punched her and ripped of her hijab.²²⁴

Photographs taken at the incident spread across social media with users suggesting the police officers at the scene had joined the harassers in laughing at the victim.

The Metropolitan Police reported that a formal complaint was made by the victim and that the incident was to be “investigated fully”.

This incident is linked to incident 1.6 in section 1 of the report, as the same woman was the victim in both incidents.

The Metropolitan Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that following an investigation and review of the complaint, the force was satisfied there had not been a failure and the complaint was not upheld.²²⁵

3.5 A UKIP General Election candidate quit his position after it was revealed he had endorsed offensive far right internet posts in February 2015.²²⁶

Donald Grewar withdrew from the race for Newport East.

UKIP launched an investigation after it was reported that Grewar backed a post about same sex marriage on the British National Party’s website which referred to gay people as “perverts” and “paedophiles”.

He also backed a post by the English Defence League calling for “no surrender to militant Islam or political correctness” and told the far-right group “well done” for summing up the mood of the nation.

²²³ *Manchester Evening News*, 26 January 2015

²²⁴ *East London Lines*, 18 June 2015

²²⁵ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001153

²²⁶ *ITV News*, 3 February 2015

UKIP Chairman, Steve Crowther, responded to Grewar's letter of resignation published on the party's website, and said he was sorry to lose Mr Grewar as a candidate but thanked him for his "hard work" and "commitment to the cause".

3.6 A man uttered anti-Islamic slurs on a bus travelling from Halifax to Bradford on January 8 2015.²²⁷

The man, boarded the 576 Halifax to Bradford bus, took a seat directly behind an Asian passenger and made "derogatory comments about Islam".

West Yorkshire Police released a CCTV image of the man. He was described as "white, aged 40 to 50, about 5ft 8ins tall, and was wearing a black woolly hat and black jacket that may have had a bit of red on it".

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in connection with the incident, and that following investigation, the matter has now been finalised pending any further information coming to light.²²⁸

3.7 An anonymous campaign was waged in Exeter in February 2015 against the application for a community centre to provide a meeting space for the South West Ahlulbayt Centre – a Shia Muslim organisation.²²⁹

A group calling itself the St. Thomas Residents Awareness Alliance distributed leaflets which highlighted the words "Shia Muslim" three times and used the Help for Heroes logo without the charity's permission.

An offensive sticker was also placed at the building where the centre was planned and depicted two headless people under the words "Jihad Free Zone". It included the Labour party logo but has nothing to do with the political party.

The planning application was made on behalf of the local Shia organisation by Mahmood Hameed, a businessman who has lived in Exeter for 15 years. His 21-year-old son said "these people are trying to incite racial hatred. I feel worried and don't feel very safe in Exeter anymore".

The Hameed family and other members of the centre behind the application were so upset at the response to the plan they withdrew the application on 13 February 2015.

Neighbourhood Police team leader said the offensive sticker would be recorded as being a public order hate crime.

Devon and Cornwall Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no suspects were identified following their investigations and the crime was now filed.²³⁰

3.8 A council road worker called 999 and threatened to kill "all the Muslims in the country" after reading about the Paris terror attacks near Edinburgh on 17 January 2015.²³¹

Vincent Hannah, 51, told the operator at Bilston control room to "Get all those Muslims out this country they killed out people".

²²⁷ *Telegraph and Argus*, 1 February 2015

²²⁸ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3149/16

²²⁹ *Exeter Express and Echo*, 15 February 2015

²³⁰ Freedom of Information request, Devon and Cornwall Police, reference 3793/16

²³¹ *Edinburgh Evening News*, 14 February 2015

The operator asked Hannah if he needed police but he replied: “No, I dinnae, this is the National Front here by the Way. The Police don’t give a f*** about this country, and you dinnae, because all the Muslims in the country, I’m going to kill them”.

Hannah had been drinking heavily and was on medication.

Police traced Hannah’s address in Gorebridge and arrested him that evening.

Hannah admitted making grossly offensive phone calls by uttering threats and using racially offensive language at Edinburgh Sherriff Court in February 2015. Sheriff Gail Patrick fined Hannah £400.

3.9 It was alleged that a Leicestershire UKIP activist posted a series of racist comments on Facebook in 2013.²³²

Richard Crouch, UKIP’s South Leicestershire branch secretary, allegedly referred to the city as a s***hole and used a racially offensive term to describe the Pakistani community.

Other posts from Mr Crouch’s Facebook profile described Romanians as “pick pocketing criminals” and referred to members of “the Taliban” in Leicester.

The posts on the social media site were brought to light by campaign group Hope Not Hate which had been researching UKIP members.

Mr Crouch had communicated with the press that he had reported the matter to Leicestershire Police and said he had deleted the Facebook account on the advice of officers. However, a spokesman for the Leicestershire Police said they were unable to find reports of this nature.

3.10 A Christian street preacher targeted Muslims and gay people in “religiously aggravated” sermons in Taunton in June and July 2014.²³³

Taunton Deane Magistrates’ Court heard that Michael Overd, 50, made defamatory comments about the Prophet Muhammad. Witness Shelley Cunningham said there was “no mention of the good of the faith [Islam], no mention of repenting, they were all going to hell”.

Over the loudspeaker system which Mr Overd set up in the High Street of Taunton, he also described gay people as sinners and that “God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve”.

Mr Overd was accused of using threatening and abusive words, and causing racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress. He was found guilty of a public order offence in March 2015 and fined £200 and ordered to pay compensation and costs totalling £1,200.

However the conviction was quashed by Judge David Ticehurst at Taunton Crown Court on 11 December 2015.²³⁴

3.11 A man who put up anti-Islamic posters near Walsall mosque between 1 and 3 July 2015 was given a suspended sentence.

Francesco Riccobono pasted the posters near the Aisha Mosque over a three day period. Riccobono was spotted putting up a poster by police on 3 July 2015.²³⁵

²³² *Leicester Mercury*, 27 February 2015

²³³ *BBC News*, 11 March 2015

²³⁴ *BBC News*, 11 December 2015

He pleaded guilty to racially/religiously aggravated intentional harassment.

In November 2015 Riccobono was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and was ordered to pay £510 in court costs and £50 in compensation at Walsall Magistrates' Court.

Presiding magistrate Irene Gutteridge highlighted that we are fortunate in the UK there is freedom of speech but that it was not acceptable for an "individual to cause harassment, alarm and distress by displaying posters intentionally to cause offence".

3.12 A Muslim mum and baby daughter were subjected to racist taunts in a Cambridge playground on 14 March 2015. ²³⁶

Samrah Sehar had been playing with her 1-year-old daughter in the park when a gang of young white men gathered at the playground's fence and hurled racial abuse at her.

The gang shouted at Mrs Sehar, who wears the hijab, to ask whether she and her young daughter were going to join ISIS.

Mrs Sehar said it was not natural for her to stay quiet in these types of situation but she was genuinely scared that the gang might have resorted to violence.

She said what saddened her most was that there were two other parents in the park who witnessed the incident but failed to come to her and her daughter's defence.

Mrs Sehar did not report the issue to the police, but made a complaint to Cambridge City Council.

3.13 An EDL member posted dog excrement through her Muslim neighbour's letterbox in Grays on 13 November 2015. ²³⁷

Karen Hastie took to Facebook to "brag" about filling a bag full of dog excrement and posting it through the letterbox of her Muslim neighbour.

She used abusive language on her Facebook page to describe her Muslim neighbour which included calling her a "M** R** B***".

Hastie received a caution from Essex Police for malicious communications, while the forces' hate crime unit confirmed they would not be pursuing further investigations of the incident.

3.14 A UKIP candidate for Chingford warns we will have "Shariah law" in Britain whilst out canvassing in March 2015. ²³⁸

Freddy Vachha played on concerns expressed by voters over immigration and a 'Muslim take over' whilst soliciting support for UKIP ahead of the May 2015 general election.

Vachha reportedly said to a local resident that "...we'll have Shariah law" if Muslim fertility rates carry on apace". The UKIP candidate went on to say that "under the current, mathematically speaking, trends, it is a no brainer".

²³⁵ *Express and Star*, 10 November 2015

²³⁶ *Cambridge News*, 24 March 2015

²³⁷ *Thurrock Gazette*, 27 November 2015

²³⁸ *EN.HABERLER.COM*, 1 April 2015, accessible at: <http://en.haberler.com/ukip-s-rhetoric-resonates-in-tory-heartland-693424> [last accessed on 2 April 2016]

"If there is a section of the population where the fertility rate is much higher, there will be a catch-up...in the UK, it's Islam. This is simply demographics. There is a possibility of [Shariah Law] if the majority want it in the country. If Conservative policies continue, which is mass, uncontrolled immigration, this is the mathematical result".

3.15 Katie Hopkins was reported to the police for "inciting racial hatred" on 23 March 2015. ²³⁹

After Labour MP for Rochdale, Simon Danczuk, marked Pakistan National Day by raising the Pakistani flag in his constituency, Hopkins tweeted a picture of men convicted of sex grooming offences in Rochdale saying:

"Are these your friends too @SimonDanczuk? Is this why you are raising the Pakistani flag in Rochdale? 77 years inside".

She followed up the tweet with a number of other messages which included:

"Your Pakistani friends saw young white girls as fair game when they abused them"

"Raising a Pakistani flag in Rochdale is not helping community Cohesion...It is inflammatory. @SimonDanczuk you & your party disgust me".

"Do NOT lecture me on community cohesion fool".

Danczuk referred the messages to the police stating, "I don't think we should beat about the bush here, Katie Hopkins is inciting racial hatred".

The MP said "Rochdale has a proud history of coming together to mark special days in different cultures, from St Patrick's Day to the Ukrainian Holodomor, and our town will not take any lessons from Katie Hopkins on community cohesion".

Greater Manchester Police passed on the complaint to the Rochdale division to be reviewed.

Greater Manchester Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. ²⁴⁰

3.16 A primary school head teacher was banned from the classroom for a racist remark directed at a Job applicant and other offensive comments made over a "sustained period" between 2007 and 2013. ²⁴¹

A disciplinary panel of the National College for Teaching and Leadership in Coventry ruled that Margaret Gretton "exhibited clear intolerance on the grounds of race, as well as disability".

She reportedly showed no remorse for "deliberate" and "repeated actions" while head of Burton Joyce Primary School in Nottingham.

Margaret Gretton was banned indefinitely from the teaching profession after she referred to an Asian job applicant as "Taliban" and talked of "bombs and blowing up the school" in an Asian accent.

She referred to the male applicant as "Mohammed", or words to that effect, and referred to "bombs and blowing up the school", or words to that effect.

²³⁹ *Manchester Evening News*, 30 March 2015

²⁴⁰ Freedom of Information request, Greater Manchester Police, reference 1819/16

²⁴¹ *Mail Online*, 10 April 2015

The panel heard that she mocked special needs students by referring to them “as cuckoo” and she did not want to encourage children “like that” to come to school.

Ms Gretton was also alleged to have made racist comments, asking a staff member if her mother’s partner, who was black and from Jamaica, “had big lips” before going on to make monkey noises.

- 3.17** A UKIP election candidate standing in Failsworth was reported to the area’s election chief over racist comments posted on his Facebook account in April 2015.²⁴²

Graham Whitehead, who planned to stand against the borough’s council leader Jim McMahon, was reported to the election chief over comments on his private account.

They included a joke about inter-racial marriage apparently posted by the candidate beneath a picture of two children holding monkeys.

He also appeared to have condoned a racist message during an exchange about a Muslim group burning poppies on Remembrance Day.

Labour police commissioner Tony Lloyd reported Mr Whitehead to Oldham council returning officer Carolyn Wilkins.

- 3.18** A man uploaded a picture to Twitter of two Muslim men praying during the half time of a match at Anfield, Merseyside with an Islamophobic caption on 8 March 2015. Stephen Dodd, a Liverpool supporter, tweeted a photograph of the two Muslim men with the caption ‘Muslims praying at half-time at the match yesterday #disgrace’.

Liverpool Football Club reported the tweet to Merseyside Police who subsequently investigated the matter and decided that no criminal offence had taken place.

The matter was referred back to LFC who said they would “take appropriate action” against the supporter.²⁴³

The two men, Asif Bodi and Abubakar Bhula reportedly asked for Liverpool FC to show restraint after they decided to investigate the incident.

Mr Dodi said that he had supported Liverpool for 40 years and did not want Dodd who “is probably a boyhood fan” excluded from the ground.²⁴⁴

- 3.19** A UKIP candidate standing for Parliament described Islam as an “evil cult” in October 2014.²⁴⁵

Stephen Latham, a UKIP candidate who stood as a candidate in West Bromwich East made Islamophobic remarks on his Facebook page on 15 October 2014 but they came to light in the run up to the 2015 general election.

The post read: “So the Muslims have infiltrated the Labour Party. What a surprise! Who would have guessed such a thing was possible?”

“The Labour Party of Dianne Abbott [sic] and Harriet Harman infiltrated by the evil cult of Islam. Wow.”

²⁴² *Manchester Evening News*, 19 April 2015

²⁴³ *Mail Online*, 15 April 2015

²⁴⁴ *Mail Online*, 17 April 2015

²⁴⁵ *Express and Star*, 30 March 2016

UKIP initially stood by Mr Latham after investigating the incident. The party said they could not drop him as a candidate even if it had wanted to as nominations closed on 9 April 2015.

He was later banned from standing as an MP or Councillor for UKIP and he was dropped from driving a coach on National Express routes.²⁴⁶

3.20 A UKIP candidate from Leeds resigned from his role as a school governor after he was accused of posting Islamophobic comments online.²⁴⁷

Craig Sweatton who campaigned for a Leeds council seat in Middleton, was alleged to have shared a Facebook post which advocated burying bacon on sites where mosques were planned to be built.

The post, which was reproduced on the Hope Not Hate campaign's website, quoted a Craig Sweatton commenting that "we can start with a slice of bacon for every 10 sq' of Miggy [a derogatory term] ha ha".

Mr Sweatton denied sharing the Facebook post but admitted posting the comments, which he said were airing his concerns about "cultural identity".

The Leeds primary school where Mr Sweatton was a governor published a public letter to "completely distance" themselves from the comments.

3.21 Two UKIP election candidates were filmed making Islamophobic comments at a far-right rally in Westminster on 11 April 2015.²⁴⁸

Magnus Neilsen and Anne Marie-Waters were guest speakers at a weekend event organised by Mothers Against Radical Islam and Sharia (MARIA).

Mr Neilsen, who stood for the marginal North London seat of Hampstead and Kilburn, was filmed telling the audience Britain "is at war with Islam" and had been the "enemy of every democratic and free society" since its creation.

Ms Marie Waters who stood as a candidate for Lewisham East, was also filmed telling an undercover reporter "a lot of people need to be deported" and "many mosques need to be closed down". She was also recorded telling the crowd that their vote was still bigger than the Muslim vote.

Activists from fascist groups were welcome to come and hear the UKIP speakers and MARIAS leader Toni Bugle recorded a video message where he opened the event out to the English Defence League, Britain First and the National Front.

UKIP failed to respond after being provided with details of the allegations.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that they found no information in relation to this incident based on the details and were therefore unable to provide any further information requested.²⁴⁹

3.22 A women launched a racist tirade against a women wearing a hijab on the London Underground on 10 March 2015.²⁵⁰

²⁴⁶ *Express and Star*, 9 October 2015

²⁴⁷ *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 30 April 2015

²⁴⁸ *Daily Mirror*, 15 April 2015

²⁴⁹ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

²⁵⁰ *Evening Standard*, 25 April 2015

Police said the abuse began on the eastbound Piccadilly line platform at King's Cross and continued after the two women boarded the train.

PC Elspeth Cook said the victim was waiting to board a train when she felt someone push against her, turned around, and was racially abused by a woman. The abuse continued on the train.

The victim, who was "left extremely upset" was comforted by other passengers, until the train reached Caledonian Road where she left and reported the incident.

British Transport Police released a CCTV image of a woman they want to speak to over the incident.

British Transport Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no individual was arrested in relation to the offence and the case is now closed pending further identification.²⁵¹

3.23 A head teacher was sacked for racially abusing staff and making Islamophobic comments at school in Essex.²⁵²

Anupe Hanch, 49, who was in charge of Gearies Junior School in Ilford said "if we have any more Muslims in here it's going to start looking like Al Jazeera" while checking CVs.

In July 2010 Hanch locked the assistant headteacher of the school in her office for three hours and a year later, got another staff member to place the jobs section of the Times Education Supplement on the assistant head's desk every Friday.

Hanch denied the allegations made against her but a National College for Teaching and Leadership panel found them to be proven. She was found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct after the panel spent two weeks hearing evidence from witnesses.

A report published following the inquiry said Ms Hanch made racist remarks over Muslim colleagues taking the religious holiday of Eid off in September 2010.

It was also proven to the panel that Ms Hanch said "I'm going to have to break down 5,000 years of Islam to get through to her" when a staff member asked for time off to volunteer at the 2012 London Olympics.

3.24 A woman was found guilty of a religiously aggravated public order offence which happened in Watford on 17 April 2014.

During the Jewish holiday of Passover, Linda Jones, 65, and other members of the Beit Nitzachon congregation were manning a council-approved literature table in Watford town centre. The table was draped with national flags of Britain and Israel and carried Messianic Jewish literature.

Hamza Shah, 21, and Haroon Munir, 24, both Muslims, approached the table and engaged in heated discussion with Mrs Jones.

As Shah led Munir away from the argument, Jones called the two Muslim men "terrorists with guns in their pockets".

Jones was found guilty of a religiously aggravated section 4A public order offence at St Albans Magistrates' Court on 22 May 2015. She was sentenced to a 12 month community order and a six week curfew for the incident.²⁵³

²⁵¹ Freedom of Information request, British Transport Police, reference 929-16

²⁵² *Daily Mail Online*, 14 May 2015

²⁵³ *Hertfordshire Advertiser*, 29 May 2016

3.25 A Police Officer who posted offensive and racist comments about Muslims on Facebook was dismissed from Greater Manchester Police Force.²⁵⁴

A panel chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Ian Wiggett heard how an officer, who remained anonymous throughout the hearing had posted “offensive and racist” comments Facebook.

The officer had made a comment below an article published in the Daily Mail on 14 September 2014 about the number of Muslim and Christian children in Birmingham which read: “because we have allowed them to settle into their own communities and they have no desire to mix, they would rather take over areas and breed like rabbits”.

“If you look at the way they take over certain areas it’s not unlike what the Germans did in Europe, they get a stronghold and then go for broke”.

Mark Alberry, defending, insisted that the officer was not a racist individual with entrenched views.

One gay colleague said the officer was one of the most open minded people on the division whilst a Muslim colleague described him as considerate.

But Greater Manchester Police barrister Jennie Farrario said the force could not simply regard the comments as “clumsy and crass”.

The officer admitted gross misconduct by breaching professional standards for equality and diversity and discreditable conduct.

Greater Manchester Police bosses said the outburst came at a time when the force is “at the heart of tackling hate crime and defying racism” and dismissed the officer immediately.

3.26 Four teenage girls were arrested after they were accused of hurling racist abuse at a couple travelling on a tram with their baby near Rochdale on 12 June 2015.

A group of about six girls got on the tram at the Shaw and Crompton station before the incident occurred on the Metrolink.²⁵⁵

The victim, who posted the video of the incident online, said one of the girls asked his wife if she was feeling hot in her niqab, to which she replied, “that shouldn’t concern you”.

The girls continued to make remarks and use “condescending swearwords” towards the victim’s wife. He informed them his wife’s mother had just passed away to which they showed no remorse or empathy and continued using abusive language and swearing. They also threatened to punch the victim’s wife.

Off duty police officers who had been at the other end of the tram intervened and threw the girls off at the next stop.

The four girls arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence were between the ages of 16 and 18.

Greater Manchester Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on an exemption under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁵⁶

²⁵⁴ *Manchester Evening News*, 5 June 2015

²⁵⁵ *Mail Online*, 14 June 2015

²⁵⁶ Freedom of Information request, Greater Manchester Police, reference 1819/16

3.27 Racist and homophobic comments were made by a councillor in Wales and were deemed offensive but did not breach ethics according to a council watchdog.²⁵⁷

Torfaen councillor, Michael Harris, used the derogatory term “Muzzy” in a comment made under a Daily Mail article entitled “ Hamas executes 11 Israeli informers” in August 2014.

The independent councillor also called on gay women to buy a Barbie doll if they wanted “to play at being mum”.

Torfaen council’s ethnics and standards committee investigated Cllr Harris’ comments and found that both were offensive.

However the committee took into consideration the higher level of protection afforded for political expression to Harris under both the common law and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protect freedom of speech.

A report by the ethics and standards committee showed complainants had said the public postings were of a “sexist and racist nature” and “offensive, racist, Islamophobic”.

3.28 A pastor in Northern Ireland faced up to six months in prison for Islamophobic comments made in 2014.²⁵⁸

James McConnell, 78, was charged under the 2003 Communications Act with “sending, or causing to be sent, by means of public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that was grossly offensive”.

The charge centred on a sermon he gave in his church in Belfast in which he said: “Islam is heathen, Islam is satanic, Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell”. The sermon was streamed on the internet.²⁵⁹

The Principal Prosecuting authority in Northern Ireland said McConnell was prosecuted because he had declined the offer of an “informed warning”.

McConnell stressed that he did not hate Muslims and that his church funds medical care for 1,200 Muslim children in Kenya and Ethiopia.

McConnell was found not guilty at Belfast Magistrates’ Court in January 2016. Judge Liam McNally told the court he thought the pastor’s passion in preaching meant it had caused him to lose the run on himself and advised him to consider the impact of his words in the future.

Judge McNally said that while he considered the remarks offensive, he did not consider that they reached the high threshold of being “grossly offensive under the law”.²⁶⁰

3.29 Four Muslim women were racially abused by a National Express coach driver.²⁶¹

Yusra Ahmed, 20, and three friends were travelling from Manchester to Leeds on 14 June 2015 when they were allegedly “humiliated and victimised” by the coach driver.

²⁵⁷ *South Wales Argus*, 10 June 2015

²⁵⁸ *Belfast Telegraph*, 19 June 2015

²⁵⁹ MEND OSCE Submission (2015), Hate Crime Report 2014, incident reference 3.5

²⁶⁰ *BBC News*, 5 January 2016

²⁶¹ *The Mirror*, 24 June 2015

Yusra, a Leeds University student, wrote on a Facebook post that she and her friends “received hostility” when the driver checked their tickets.

The driver reportedly analysed each ticket and coach cards very closely, something she did not do to any of the other passengers.

They were then asked if they had any hot food in their bags, to which they replied they had only cold lasagne and rice.

The driver then shouted loudly that the girls were not allowed to eat on the coach and they “better not be taking ‘curry’ on to her coach”. After Yusra said they were not intending on eating on the coach, the driver continued to shout about “stinking up her coach with curry”.

Losing patience, Yusra complained the driver was being racist, to which she responded with rage and said the women were not allowed to travel on the coach.

Yusra said no apology was made by National Express and they received no contact within the designated three days.

When National Express did respond, they offered the four girls a refund and a voucher but did not mention the driver’s alleged remarks or if any disciplinary action had been taken against her. ²⁶²

3.30 A member of staff at a secondary school in Bradford allegedly shared an Islamophobic Facebook Post.²⁶³

Angie Dunn, a member of non-teaching support staff, allegedly shared a post by far-right organisation Britain First which described the niqab as offensive.

Bosses at Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College reported the matter to the police as a hate crime and said “prejudice and racism in any form is not acceptable” in or out of the school.

School Principal, Jen McIntosh, said the matter was dealt with swiftly and the police were informed immediately.

A letter was sent from Mrs McIntosh to all parents informing them of the “tasteless and offensive Facebook post regarding the hijab” and that the action did not in any way represent the “thought, feelings or actions” of the college.

Dunn made a complaint to the police that her “Facebook account was maliciously hacked”.

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that Dunn was spoken to and advised about her use of social media, with the school informed of the action taken. No arrests were made and the matter has now been finalised pending any further information coming to light.²⁶⁴

3.31 A Christian church leader was accused of making Islamophobic and Homophobic comments at a Sunday Sermon in Birmingham. ²⁶⁵

Peter Steve Crosthwaite, 37, of Wythall’s Hollywood Christian Life Centre, told his 60-strong congregation “Islam is not a peaceful religion. Islam is a religion of hatred”.

²⁶² *The Star*, 30 June 2015

²⁶³ *Telegraph and Argus*, 25 June 2015

²⁶⁴ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3150/16

²⁶⁵ *The Mirror*, 14 July 2015

The pastor said that Islam taught “permissible sins” and for a Muslim to say “I love you, I’m a peaceful guy and it be a lie, well Allah forgives that sin”.

Mr Crosthwaite also said that “For a Muslim to go out and kill someone, to commit murder in the name of Allah, that is a permissible sin”. He told the congregation that in a multicultural society people could not insult Islam.

In the same sermon, Mr Crosthwaite also equated homosexuality with paedophilia.

The sermon was described as “disgusting and selfish” by the Rev Anthony Howe of the nearby Unitarian Church and said that at a time when people of different religions should be working together for peace, it was sad to hear such outrageous comments.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁶⁶

3.32 An independent councillor from Fareham shared Facebook posts from Britain First.²⁶⁷

Nick Gregory, who represents Fareham West on Fareham Borough Council shared at least two posts from far right group Britain First’s Facebook page, one which supported bringing back national service and one which condemned terrorists who go abroad to fight for ISIS.

Simon Magorian from Campaign Group Unite Against Fascism said Gregory should be “careful as he is in an elected position and he should not be sharing the views of people that want to destroy our country’s democratic ways”.

Mr Gregory said he had shared the two posts but he deleted them when he realised they originated from Britain First. He said that he would be checking more carefully in future as he did not back their politics.

Jayda Fransen, deputy leader of Britain First, said that the party was in the process of organising a day of action in Fareham, and she invited Councillor Gregory to attend.

3.33 Two students at Edinburgh University were reported by the *Student* newspaper on 28 November 2015 to have been on the receiving end of a spate of Islamophobic abuse. The two were apparently spat on and called “mother***** terrorist whores” by their assailants. It was reported by one of the university’s lecturers, Dr. Talat Ahmed, who maintains two students came up to her after the attack. One was apparently wearing a hijab.

A spokesperson from the university said that neither Edinburgh University nor Police Scotland had received any reports about the incident. They did however urge anyone who undergoes any kind of abuse to come forward.²⁶⁸

3.34 A man from Livingston was charged with threatening to burn an ISIS flag in front of worshippers at a mosque.²⁶⁹

Kenneth Meek, 54, made a number of threats on his Facebook page in 2014.

²⁶⁶ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8439/16

²⁶⁷ *Portsmouth News*, 18 July 2015

²⁶⁸ *The Student*, 28 November 2015

²⁶⁹ *The Scotsman*, 4 August 2015

He threatened to burn an ISIS flag in front of worshippers at a mosque in Livingston during Friday prayers and also claimed he would arrive at the building while armed.

Meek mentioned the English Defence League in his post and encouraged friends to film themselves burning similar flags and upload the images onto social media sites.

Meek appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff court where he denied allegations against him. He was due to appear for trial in August 2015 but pled guilty and was sentenced to a 18-month Community Payback Order in October 2015.²⁷⁰

3.35 A pensioner sent an Islamophobic and an offensive letter to the head teacher of the Manchester Islamic High School for Girls.²⁷¹

Rose White, 68, was accused of sending an indecent or grossly offensive letter to Mona Mohammed, the head teacher of Manchester Islamic High School for Girls between 1 May and 14 May 2015.

Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court heard that the headteacher returned to the school in May following a break and found the letter which contained words and comments making reference to Allah and "Muslims being doomed to die".

It also included a 23-page cartoon booklet called "Is Allah Like You?" which featured a cruel Muslim father who is nicer to his family after converting to Christianity.²⁷²

White denied the letter was offensive.

White was sentenced to 100 hours unpaid work, a 12 month community order and £510 costs by Judge Duncan Birrell at Manchester Magistrates' Court in December 2015.

3.36 A protester was caught on tape shouting racist abuse in Blackburn.²⁷³

Clare Louise Arrowsmith, 38, of Bothley Road in Blackpool, had travelled to Blackburn to take part in a far right protest organised by the Northwest Infidels.

She told police she was demonstrating against Islam because they were "grooming and murdering our children".

Catherine Allan, prosecuting, said Arrowsmith went on to express "some extremist views about Muslims".

She pleaded guilty to religiously aggravated threatening behaviour and was given a conditional discharge for 18 months. She was also told to pay £85 in costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

3.37 A woman was fined for a racist rant in a takeaway in Forres, Scotland, which occurred on 25 April 2015.

Christine Williamson, 55, told a takeaway employee in Moray to "go back to his own country".

²⁷⁰ Email response from Edinburgh Sheriff Court, 9 August 2016

²⁷¹ *Manchester Evening News*, 6 August 2015

²⁷² *The Sun*, 9 December 2015

²⁷³ *This is Lancashire*, 11 August 2015

Williamson who had been drinking, told Ahmet Topak, from Turkey, that he was “taking our jobs” and earning “too much money”.

She then gestured a slashing motion across her neck and said “I’m going to cut your throat”.

Williamson admitted behaving in a racially aggravated and threatening manner when she appeared at Elgin Sheriff Court on 6 August 2015.

Sheriff David Hill fined Williamson £450.²⁷⁴

3.38 A man was charged with causing racially aggravated fear and violence.²⁷⁵

Jonathan O’Brian, 33, brandished a meat cleaver and made racist comments in Dewsbury on 16 July 2015.

O’Brian, who had been drinking, stopped a man walking along the Greenway footpath and showed him a meat cleaver before telling him “I’m going to give the P**** what they deserve”.

As soon as O’Brian moved on, the man called the police who came quickly to the scene and found him hiding in a bush nearby. He was arrested and records showed at the time he was under a community order imposed on 1 May by Kirklees Magistrates’ Court for an offence of damage.

O’Brian admitted having an offensive weapon and causing racially aggravated fear of violence at Leeds Crown Court on 19 August 2015.

Judge Sean Morris sent him to 21 months in prison.

3.39 A fire service employee was investigated for allegedly making anti-Islamic posts on a far-right website during work time.²⁷⁶

The clerical worker, who was not named, quit the service in Colwyn Bay, North Wales following the allegations being made.

The individual was probed over allegations they uploaded material onto a Norway-based website which is described by its critics as “one of the main forums for Islamophobic debate”.

Articles understood to have been written by the fire service worker included one which suggested “jihadists” were being recruited by councils in Northern Europe.

The website was allegedly used by the worker to publicise demonstration by the far-right English Defence League.

Other articles apparently written by the individual highlight mainstream UK media stories about offences committed by Muslims and immigrants.

Martine Aurdal, op-ed edition and political commentator on Norwegian daily newspaper Dagbladet, described the website, saying “It is the largest Islam-sceptic, right-wing Norwegian website” and that it is the “main forum for Islamophobic debate in Norway”.

It was understood that the inquiry into the allegations, first made around May 2015, was carried out by fire service chiefs following complaints made by a member of public.

²⁷⁴ *The Aberdeen Press and Journal*, 7 August 2015

²⁷⁵ *The Huddersfield Examiner*, 19 August 2015

²⁷⁶ *Daily Post*, 25 August 2015

3.40 A candidate was suspended from UKIP for posting on Facebook that immigrants should be gassed.²⁷⁷

Bobby Douglas, a candidate for the Bedwa, Trethomas and Machen by-election was suspended by UKIP and resigned from the party after posting on Facebook that immigrants should be gassed.

He also labelled Muslim men paedophiles after claiming marrying children is sanctioned by Islam whilst he described migrants as “sponging, scrounging parasites”.

It was also discovered that Douglas had liked at least seven Facebook pages associated with the English Defence League and shared a letter penned by them in January 2015 that stated students should not to be taught about Islam in religious education.

3.41 Police investigated photographs of far right activists protesting outside an Islamic prayer centre in County Down, Northern Ireland.²⁷⁸

Two photographs were posted on Facebook showing northern activists of the ‘Britain First’ group alongside leader Paul Golding.

The first photograph was taken in Conway square, Newtonards with the caption “Here they are in Newtonards outside the new big mosque in town”.

The supposed Mosque however is Ards Arts Centre. Muslims in the town, where there is no mosque, instead worship in the Bangladesh Islamic Community Centre in Greenwell Street.

A second photograph published on Facebook of the three men posing with a Northern Ireland flag was taken close to the prayer centre.

The posting led to a number of aggressive comments on social media, with one man stating that it was “outstanding how this building hasn’t been torched yet”.

Police treated the allegation as a hate incident after receiving complaints from a member of the public.

Police Service of Northern Ireland responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they hold information relevant to the incident but would not disclose it based on an exemption under Section 30 (Investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁷⁹

3.42 A Polish man shouted anti-Muslim abuse at a charity event held in Blackburn town centre on 11 July 2015.²⁸⁰

Marcin Bakun stormed round a “Feed the Needy” Charity event in Blackburn town centre shouting “vile” comments about Muslims and people from Pakistan.

Organisers of the event tried to calm Bakun and even offered him food but eventually had to order him to leave. He returned shouting more racist abuse and was eventually restrained until the police arrived.

Bakun pleaded guilty to racially aggravated threatening behaviour at Blackburn Magistrates’ Court in September 2015.

²⁷⁷ *Caerphilly Observer*, 26 August 2015

²⁷⁸ *Irish News*, 29 August 2015

²⁷⁹ Freedom of Information request, Police Service of Northern Ireland, reference 2016-00805

²⁸⁰ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 2 September 2015

He was sentenced to six weeks in prison suspended for 18 months and ordered to pay £180 in criminal court charge, £85 costs and £80 victim surcharge.

- 3.43** A woman launched a shocking tirade of abuse at KFC staff in Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester on 18 December 2015. The incident was recorded by a fellow customer and subsequently uploaded to YouTube.²⁸¹

The blonde female can be seen in the footage talking to staff at the counter of the restaurant before losing her temper and throwing what look like napkins at the staff twice. She shouts: “You *****g little black b****, I’ll kill you”, directed at a staff member in a hijab.

Another female intervenes and tries to move her away from the counter and tells her to “get out of here now”. She is then heard swearing ferociously in front of shocked diners before returning to launch yet another item that almost hits the person filming the scene.

A KFC spokesman said: “It is horrible to see this kind of behaviour towards our Team Members. We want to ensure they feel safe at all times when they’re at work and have offered them our support while we investigate further.”

- 3.44** A man who verbally abused a Muslim employee in a fast food restaurant was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison.²⁸²

Patrick McCaughen, 65, entered a McDonald’s in Langley Green, West Sussex, in June 2015 and racially abused assistant manager, Mohamed Mahroof.

Maughen asked Mohamed if he was a Muslim and then asked him if he wanted to chop off his head.

Maughen was asked to leave, but after turning away, he returned to harass Mohamed and again said “you Muslim, you want to chop off my head”.

Melanie Wooten, prosecuting, said Maughen then knelt down and mimicked “how a Muslim would pray”.

Crawley Magistrates’ Court heard that Maughen was given a 15 month community order in June for a separate incident of racially aggravated harassment.

Maria Kempshall, chair of the bench of magistrates, said: “These offences are so serious only a custodial sentence can be justified”. He was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison in September 2015.

- 3.45** A man racially abused an Asian taxi driver in Birmingham in June 2015.²⁸³

A man dressed as father Jack called an Asian Taxi driver a “f***** p*** b*****” outside Edgbaston Cricket Ground during the Ashes series.

He then smashed a piece off the window as the driver pulled up outside the Birmingham venue.

According to West Midlands Police, the suspect was just a passerby and not a passenger.

The driver took an image on his mobile phone immediately after the attack and it was released by officers looking for the suspect.

²⁸¹ *Spenborough Guardian*, 5 September 2015

²⁸² *The Mirror*, 7 September 2015

²⁸³ *Daily Star*, 9 September 2015

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.²⁸⁴

3.46 A man racially harassed two women in Waltham Forest, London on 20 August 2015.

Two Asian women in their 30s and 40s were subjected to racially aggravated harassment outside Leytonstone Tube station.²⁸⁵

A man allegedly approached the two women and gave them a Nazi salute and said “Heil Hitler”.

He continued to say “Hitler did the right thing, he got rid of you lot, you invaded our country, he burnt two million of your lot, go back to your country, you are all terrorists”.

One of the victims took a photo of the perpetrator on her phone and contacted the police who released the image to the public.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that after releasing the image the suspect voluntarily attended an East London police station in September 2015, and was scheduled to further meet officers on a date to be arranged.²⁸⁶

3.47 A Manchester City Councillor sent a racist and Islamophobic e-mail to a man on 17 August 2016.²⁸⁷

Labour Councillor Mark Hackett was accused of abusing and intimidating a Muslim man helping to organise a Manchester Stop the War Coalition event.

The man emailed councillors seeking their support for the event to remember the children of Gaza.

Mr Hackett allegedly replied, copying in all other Labour councillors, accusing organisers of supporting Hamas and Islamic State. The man was also allegedly accused of playing “a possible role in the abduction of a Salford man in Syria” and a “possible role as Islamic State sleeper in Salford”.

The man submitted a formal complaint to the council and asked for an official probe into Mr Hackett’s conduct.

Manchester City Council responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that the incident was not referred to police by the Council but that Mr Hackett ceased to be a member of the Council on 23 January 2016 after failing to attend any council meetings throughout a period of six consecutive months.²⁸⁸

3.48 A man shouted offensive comments at a woman wearing a niqab in Norwich on 25 April 2015.²⁸⁹

A man on a mountain bike cycled past the woman and shouted offensive comments about her clothing in Orford Place, Norwich.

²⁸⁴ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8441/16

²⁸⁵ *Waltham Forest Guardian*, 15 September 2015

²⁸⁶ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

²⁸⁷ *Morning Star*, 22 September 2015

²⁸⁸ Freedom of Information request, Manchester City Council, reference SOL/ACRFVQ

²⁸⁹ *Eastern Daily Press*, 29 September 2015

The cyclist was described as being approximately 25 years old and with blonde hair. The police appealed for witnesses.

Norfolk Constabulary responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident.²⁹⁰

3.49 A man racially abused a black cab driver in London on 22 March 2015.²⁹¹

The man was picked up on Camberwell New Road but became abusive during the journey home.

The driver stopped on the King's Road, Chelsea, and asked the passenger to pay his fare and get out of the car. When the passenger refused, the driver locked the doors.

The abusive passenger climbed out of the car window before spitting at the driver and shouting "Your mother's a P*** you c***".

He then kicked the car and ran off.

The taxi driver uploaded the video of the incident onto YouTube in September 2015. The Metropolitan Police appealed for information following the video being made public.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that officers had investigated all available lines of inquiry and the investigation was now concluded.²⁹²

3.50 A woman racially abused the owner of a pizza restaurant in Blackpool.²⁹³

Donna Saunders, 35, stormed into Riccardo's pizza restaurant and yelled "This is England – this is not your country".

She also shouted that she would burn the shop down before telling the proprietor to "get out my country".

Saunders denied racially aggravated behaviour causing fear of violence and behaving in a threatening manner, but was found guilty of both offences at Blackpool Magistrates' Court.

She was sentenced to a 12 month community order with up to 20 days' rehabilitation supervised by the probation service, put on an eight week curfew from 9pm to 6am from Mondays to Thursdays and ordered to pay £50 compensation with £350. Saunders was also told to pay a £1,000 court charge plus a £60 victim surcharge by Blackpool Magistrates' Court.

3.51 A woman shouted abuse at Muslim passengers on board a London bus on 19 October 2015.²⁹⁴

A video uploaded to Facebook shows Simone Joseph, 36, racially abuse Hanane Yakoubi and her two friends, after hearing them speak in their first language.²⁹⁵

Joseph, who had a child in a pram with her, shouted "Talk your f***** language. Keep laughing. With your bombs hiding underneath your clothes."

²⁹⁰ Freedom of Information request, Norfolk Constabulary, reference 002852/16

²⁹¹ *Daily Mail*, 1 October 2015

²⁹² Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

²⁹³ *Blackpool Gazette*, 1 October 2015

²⁹⁴ *Daily Mail*, 16 October 2015

²⁹⁵ *The Guardian*, 19 October 2015

She continued the torrent of abuse and shouted “I don’t f***** like you people because you are f***** rude....go back to your f***** country....don’t come here where we are free”.

A women sitting at the front of 206 bus travelling to Brent tried to intervene but Joseph resorted to more abuse and was filmed shouting “F***** sandbags. F***** ISIS b*****”.

At one point Joseph’s child asked what was happening. She crouched down and replied “What happened? What happened? ISIS got into the country, that’s what happened”.

Joseph also threatened to assault the women, and said “I will pull that down and kick you, so you never have a kid again”.

The footage of the incident was shared on Facebook more than 14,000 times and viewed over 750,000 times.

Joseph admitted to racially and religiously aggravated abusive behaviour on 19 October 2015 at Hendon Magistrates’ court.

She received a 16 week jail sentence, suspended for 18 months on 13 November 2015 at Hendon Magistrates’ Court. She was also ordered to pay £500 in compensation and £180 in court costs and was given 60 hours of unpaid work.²⁹⁶

3.52 A man racially abused an elderly Muslim man and threw his walking frame off a bus service in Tottenham, North London, on 15 October 2015.²⁹⁷

Kashif Samuels, 25, shouted a range of insults and threats including “go back to Turkey” and “I’ll shove a pig’s c*** in your mouth, what’s f***** Allah going to say about that”.

The incident was filmed by a fellow passenger on the 149 bus and shows Samuels grab the elderly passenger’s walking aid and throw it off the bus onto the street after he apologised to fellow passengers for the abuse and told them to vote UKIP.

Samuels pleaded guilty to a racially aggravated public order offence and was sentenced to 16 weeks in jail at Highbury Magistrates’ Court on 5 November 2015.²⁹⁸ He was also ordered to pay £320 in court costs.

Magistrates heard that Samuels committed the offence while on bail for a similar public order offence which was not racially motivated in January 2015.

3.53 Police appealed for information regarding an incident of racially-aggravated harassment in Carlisle on 5 September 2015.²⁹⁹

The incident occurred at the Denton Holme Indigo restaurant where a staff member was subjected to racist abuse after he asked a group of young males to leave the restaurant.

Cumbria Police released CCTV images of the young males and asked anyone who may be able to identify the young men to come forward.

Cumbria Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that an unspecified number of persons were arrested in relation to the alleged offence but no further action was taken as there was insufficient evidence to proceed.³⁰⁰

²⁹⁶ *London Evening Standard*, 13 November 2015

²⁹⁷ *The Mirror*, 21 October 2015

²⁹⁸ *Daily Mail*, 5 November 2015

²⁹⁹ *ITV News*, 22 October 2015

3.54 A racist man's vile abuse against a Pakistani male in an unprovoked attack in Hull was branded "utterly unacceptable" by a judge.³⁰¹

Ashley Moss, 26, and gang member Terry Sullivan, hurled racist abuse at Mohammed Azizi as he was sitting with friends in Pearson Park, west Hull in November 2014.

Prosecutor Holly Betke said: "He [Azizi] was approached by four males. They were drunk and carrying alcohol. One of the males started shouting, 'Why don't you get back to your own country?' Mr Sullivan joined in, also shouting abusive words at Mr Azizi."

Moss was jailed for ten months, while Sullivan was given a 12-month community order because he has recently had a brain tumour removed.

Judge Jeremy Richardson QC told Moss: "It was utterly uncivilised. There must never, never, never be a repetition of this appalling racism."

3.55 A man racially abused a worker in a take away in Ilford on 20 October 2015.³⁰²

Vincent Bradley threatened Khawaja Afzal with violence in SSS chicken shop in High Road, Ilford – only 20 metres from the Ilford Police Station.

Bradley pleaded guilty to a charge of racially aggravated abuse and threatening behaviour at Barkingside Magistrates' court. He was sentenced to eight weeks imprisonment and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80 and a criminal courts charge of £180.

3.56 A women abused and assaulted hospital staff and police officers in Maidstone on 11 July 2015.³⁰³

Alexandra Crouzieres, who had been a college lecturer, went to Maidstone Hospital believing she had broken her arm. When Dr Wamda Elhag confirmed that her arm was not fractured, Crouzieres became abusive, calling her a Muslim and black African who knew nothing.

Elhag left the room but Crouzieres followed her down the corridor, grabbed her and spun her around.

A security guard intervened and was punched on the nose and a nurse stepped in and was bitten.

Crouzieres then sat in a wheelchair and mimicked an African accent before kicking a police officer who approached her. She also racially abused a separate police officer and spat in the face of another.

Crouzieres admitted assault causing actual bodily harm, racially aggravated assault, racially aggravated harassment and three offences of assault by beating and assault with the intent to resist arrest.

Judge Jeremy Carey sent Crouzieres to 18 months in prison at Maidstone Crown Court however her sentence was halved because of the time spent in custody for a previous offence of driving under the influence of alcohol. Crouzieres was sentenced to 18 months in jail, ordered to pay court charges of £900 and a victim surcharge of £100.

³⁰⁰ Freedom of Information request, Cumbria Police, reference 649/16

³⁰¹ *Hull Daily Mail*, 15 January 2015

³⁰² *Ilford Recorder*, 29 October 2015

³⁰³ *Kent Messenger*, 3 November 2015

3.57 A nurse was allegedly racially abused at a hospital in Wolverhampton on 3 November 2015.

Zahid Akhtar published a post on Facebook describing how his wife was verbally abused while she was working at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

The man allegedly called Mr Akhtar's wife a "P***" and pushed her to "take her Niqab off".

According to the Facebook post, Mr Akhtar's wife feared that the man would pull off her Niqab and also stated that the security guards did little to stop the man from abusing his wife.

Mr Akhtar's wife managed to record the man as he was escorted outside by the security guards who allowed the man back into the maternity ward after having words with him.

Mr Akhtar stated that his wife planned to report the incident to the police.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.³⁰⁴

3.58 A woman wearing a veil was racially abused in a supermarket in Burnley on 3 October 2015.³⁰⁵

Rahela Chowdhury, 32, was verbally abused by a man in front of her four children. The man approached Mrs Choudhury and started shouting "why can't I see your face?"

Mrs Choudhury said that she froze when the man started shouting at her and did not know what to do. Her four year old child "started crying uncontrollably" and the incident only ended when a member of staff intervened.

Another victim of racially aggravated verbal abuse was Tanu Miah. Two men were charged at Burnley Magistrates' Court: John Steven McDougall, 50, and Jordan Steven McDougall, 28.

John McDougall admitted a racially aggravated charge of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour thereby causing that or another person harassment, alarm or distress. He was ordered to undertake 200 hours unpaid work within 12 months, to pay a combined total of £100 compensation to the victims, as well as a £60 surcharge. He was also ordered to pay £85 in costs and a £180 criminal court charge.

Jordan McDougall admitted a charge of using threatening or abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress. He received a conditional discharge for six months and was ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and a £150 criminal court charge.

3.59 A woman made Islamophobic comments on her business's Facebook page in November 2015.³⁰⁶

Following the November 2015 terror attacks in Paris, a 43-year-old woman who ran 'Blinks of Bicester Salon' wrote on the business's Facebook page "Blinks of Bicester are no longer taking bookings from anyone from the Islamic faith whether you are UK granted with passport or not".

The post continued on to state "Sorry but time to put my country first".

Thames Valley Police detained the woman after a number of complaints about a racially abusive post on social media.

³⁰⁴ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8441/16

³⁰⁵ *Lancashire Telegraph*, 13 November 2015

³⁰⁶ *London Evening Standard*, 15 November 2015

The woman was arrested under section 19 of the Public Order Act which relates to the displays of written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting with the intention of stirring up racial hatred, and for producing malicious communications.

Thames Valley Police responded to a Freedom of Information request in relation to this incident confirming that no further action was taken against the woman arrested and the investigation was now closed.³⁰⁷

3.60 A Muslim woman was verbally attacked by shoppers at a supermarket in Swadlincote on 14th November 2015.³⁰⁸

A Muslim woman posted on her Facebook page “to the lady and man in Morrisons who felt the need to call me a murdering Muslim in front of the whole supermarket, thank you for making my five year old son cry”.

The woman told the *Big News Network* that other shoppers “looked on and just looked at the floor like it didn’t happen”.

The woman, who had been widowed three years previously, said that her son was suffering separation anxiety and was fragile after his grandmother passed away a month before the incident.

A spokesperson for Morrisons said that while he could not comment on the exact incident, the supermarket chain took the safety and respectful treatment of all customers very seriously.

Derbyshire Police responded to a Freedom Information request to disclose that they hold no information in relation to the incident.³⁰⁹

3.61 A man sent a racist tweet to SNP MSP Humza Yousaf calling him a “P***” in March 2015.

Johnathan McAuley, 20, sent a racist tweet to Humza Yousaf after the International Development Minister went on Twitter to call the BBC’s coverage of Jeremy Clarkson’s suspension for attacking Top Gear producer “naval gazing”.³¹⁰

A reply from McAuley’s Twitter account @AcuraBray, read “Your [sic] a p***. Don’t tell us white guys what we can and can’t do”.

Yousaf reported the message to Police Scotland who traced the message to McAuley’s account.

In November 2015, McAuley pled guilty at Airdrie Sherriff Court to acting in a racially aggravated manner which caused alarm and distress.

Following the November 2015 terror attacks in Paris, Yousaf was reportedly swamped with posts on Facebook and Twitter accusing him of supporting Isis.

McAuley was fined £500.³¹¹

3.62 A hypnotherapist posted Islamophobic comments on his business’s Facebook page on 17 November 2015 near rugby.³¹²

³⁰⁷ Freedom of Information request, Thames Valley Police, reference 002280/16

³⁰⁸ *Big News Network*, 15 November 2015

³⁰⁹ Freedom of Information request, Derbyshire Police, reference 002188/16

³¹⁰ *Daily Record*, 19 November 2015

³¹¹ *The Scotsman*, 16 December 2015

Christian Bell who runs Rugby Hypnotherapy in Newbold on Avon posted “I’m sorry to say this, but after the Paris atrocities, I’m not prepared to treat any client of a Muslim background – English or not”.

The post went on to state “I’m so incensed that it would not be professional. I choose my clients to be the best to work with and succeed, but for the moment, my security and country come first.”

The Rugby Advertiser spoke to Mr Bell who admitted that he made the comment when he was upset at his “fellow man”. He added that he would continue to treat Muslims as if he had no problem with the community.

A spokesman for Warwickshire Police confirmed officers had launched an investigation into a social media post in the area.

Warwickshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they would not be providing information related to the incident based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information), Section 30 (investigations) and Section 31 (law enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act.³¹³

3.63 A man racially abused two Muslim women on the Metro near Newcastle.³¹⁴

Andrew Thompson, 26, told two Muslim sisters, Kalema and Fatema Rahman to “get the f*** off the train, I want to sit down, I’m English”, on the Tyne and Wear Metro. He also told other passengers that the two girls could “bomb the train”.

However Thompson was forced off the train by angry commuters.

Thompson was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison suspended for 12 months at Newcastle Magistrates’ Court. He was also ordered to pay £200 compensation to each victim, a £180 court charge, a £80 victim surcharge and £80 costs.

In a victim impact statement, Kalema, said the incident had made her feel scared and her sister Fatima said it had made her not want to go out at night.

3.64 A takeaway customer hurled racial abuse at a Muslim pizza shop boss in Burnley on 31 October 2015.³¹⁵

Phillip Devlin, 52, shouted racist abuse at the owner of a Domino’s Pizza in Church Street, Burnley. He was arrested at the scene where he was found to be in possession of cannabis.

Devlin admitted to possessing cannabis and using racially aggravated threatening or abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

He was found guilty at Burnley Magistrates’ Court and fined £80, with a £150 criminal courts charge, a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

3.65 Police appealed for witnesses after a woman and her son were allegedly racially abused in Exeter city centre on 21 October 2015.³¹⁶

³¹² *Rugby Advertiser*, 18 December 2015

³¹³ Freedom of Information request, Warwickshire Police, reference 2016-00618

³¹⁴ *Daily Mail*, 16 December 2015

³¹⁵ *Burnley Express*, 26 November 2015

³¹⁶ *Exeter Express and Echo*, 26 November 2015

A woman and her 9 year old son were walking in Sidwell Street when they were verbally abused by a woman.

The abuse and comments made were regarded as both a racially and religiously motivated hate crime.

Police appealed for information and witnesses. In particular police tried to identify a male passer-by who gave comfort to the victim and her son.

Devon and Cornwall Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that no suspects were identified following their investigations and the crime was now filed.³¹⁷

3.66 A man racially abused and threatened a woman in Reading town centre on 17 November 2015.³¹⁸

A 24 year old woman was walking in West Street with her two friends when a white man in his forties walked up to her, dressed in a camouflage jacket and a beige baseball hat, and made a threatening hand gesture before using aggressive language suggesting the woman should be killed. The incident happened between 6.15 and 6.30pm.

Thames Valley Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no suspects were identified in relation to the incident and the investigation has been filed.³¹⁹

3.67 A man was racially abusive and made Islamophobic comments on flight between Dubai and Birmingham Airport on 16 September 2014.³²⁰

Jasbir Singh Bharaj, 46, drunkenly abused an air hostess after she refused to serve him more alcohol. Bharaj told a female member of cabin crew that if she were on the ground he would punch her in the face.

Bharaj caused more than £2,500 worth of damage to an in-flight entertainment console and shouted "f***** Muslims – send them back to where they came from" and "f***** ISIS".

When arrested at Birmingham airport, Mr Bharaj racially abused the police, referring to them as "White w***** and White b*****." He also bit one of the police officers on the arm.

The 46 year old was found guilty of drunkenness on an aircraft, criminal damage, racially aggravated words and behaviour and common assault at Birmingham Crown Court in November 2015.

Judge Burbridge QC sentenced Bharaj to 11 months in prison.

3.68 A Northumberland Councillor made Islamophobic comments on a social media site on 14 November 2015.³²¹

David E Clark of Morpeth Town Council posted on a Facebook page "as nice as it is for us all to put up French tricolour (sic) on our Facebook pages, the fact remains ISIS needed to be wiped off the face of the earth. Islam is the biggest threat to World Peace".

³¹⁷ Freedom of Information request, Devon and Cornwall Police, reference 3793/16

³¹⁸ *Slough and South Bucks Observer*, 29 November 2015

³¹⁹ Freedom of Information request, Thames Valley Police, reference 002280/16

³²⁰ *Birmingham Mail*, 24 November 2015

³²¹ *Chronicle Live*, 27 November 2015

His comments were condemned by users of the 9,372-strong Morpeth Matters (now closed) Facebook page where the comment was posted by Clark, who is an administrator of the page.

The comment was reported to Northumbria police which carried out enquiries before establishing no crime had been committed.

When Chronicle Live pointed out to Mr Clark that his post said Islam, not radical Islam, he replied “I obviously meant Islamists or radical Muslims”.

Northumberland County Council confirmed that as no complaint was received against Mr Clark, no investigation or action was taken against him.³²²

3.69 A pregnant Muslim woman was called a “Muslim terrorist” by a drunk man on a London bus on 23 November 2015.³²³

The man abused the Turkish woman as she travelled on a 259 bus along Blackstock Road near Finsbury Park.

The man reportedly was drunk and shouted things like “B***, get back to your country”. The tirade lasted for 15 minutes without intervention from other passengers. When the man leaned forward to punch the woman, a man intervened and stopped him.

The bus driver who remained in his cabin stopped the bus and instructed passengers to get off as he called the police.

A 38 year old man was arrested on suspicion of religiously and racially aggravated public order offences. He has been bailed pending further inquiries.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that the 38 year old man was arrested and then bailed to return to a North London police station pending further enquiries.³²⁴

3.70 A man allegedly hurled racist abuse at a man in a takeaway in Yeovil.³²⁵

James Richard Turton, 22, appeared before Somerset Magistrates’ Court in November 2015 for allegedly shouting racist abuse at a Turkish kebab shop worker, Servet Cirit, and told him to go back to his country.

Turton denied an allegation of intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress with use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour. He also denied that the offence was racially aggravated.

A review was conducted and the case was adjourned for Turton to return to the court for a trial to take place in February 2016.

Turton was found not guilty and charges against him dismissed.

3.71 A women was racially abused and threatened by a man on a bus in Birmingham on 1 December 2015.

³²² Email response from Northumberland County Council, 9 August 2016

³²³ *London Evening Standard*, 28 November 2015

³²⁴ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

³²⁵ *Western Gazette*, 30 November 2015.

Police said that a “racist and Islamophobic” attack took place on a 22-year-old woman on the number 50.³²⁶

The man repeatedly lit a lighter towards the end of the abuse that lasted half an hour.

The woman was not injured as a result of the threats but she was badly shaken and got off the bus two stops early as she feared for her own safety.

West Midlands Police said a 49-year-old man had been arrested.

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.³²⁷

3.72 Posters intended to incite racial hatred were plastered on lampposts in Charlwood, Surrey.³²⁸

Posters were plastered on lampposts in the village of Charlwood where asylum seekers from countries including Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are being housed.

Police were called in to investigate on 25 November 2015 after a dozen small posters were found.

One of the posters said: “Europe belongs to ethnic Europeans. This isn’t a refugee crisis, it is an invasion. Deport them all now”. Another said: “Refugees not welcome”.

Mole Valley neighbourhood commander Richard Hamlin said the comments “overstepped the mark of what is lawful protest or freedom of expression”.

Surrey Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests were made in relation to the incident and the investigation has been closed.³²⁹

3.73 A man shouted racist abuse through the intercom of a home for adults with learning difficulties on 2 July 2015 in Newsome, near Huddersfield.³³⁰

Steven Kelly, 21, leant into the intercom and said “P***, go back to where you’ve come from. You Jihadists, I don’t care if you call the police”.

A staff member contacted police and Kelly threw a large stone through the double glazed door, causing £1,500 damage.

Kelly pleaded guilty to charges of racially aggravated threatening behaviour and criminal damage at Kirklees Magistrates’ Court and was fined £200 and ordered to comply with a four week curfew. He was also ordered to pay £500 compensation to the home as well as £150 in court charges, £85 in costs and £20 in victim surcharges.

3.74 Police investigated an alleged incident of a teacher calling a student a terrorist in Rotherham, on 17 November 2015.³³¹

³²⁶ *BBC News*, 1 December 2015

³²⁷ Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8441/16

³²⁸ *Surrey Mirror*, 30 November 2015

³²⁹ Freedom of Information request, Surrey Police, reference 165-16-735

³³⁰ *Huddersfield Examiner*, 4 December 2015

³³¹ *The Star*, 8 December 2015

The mother of a 14-year-old student told the Sunday Time that her son was told in a lesson to “Stop talking, you terrorist”.

A South Yorkshire Police spokeswoman said: “Police are investigating reports of a racially aggravated incident at Clifton Community School.”

Karen Borthwick, Rotherham Council’s Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning, said the authority took its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and confirmed it had received a complaint regarding the incident and was working with the school to investigate the matter.

South Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold some information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.
³³²

3.75 A former deputy leader of the Labour party in Wales posted an “inflammatory and bigoted statement” about Islam on Facebook.

Councillor Ralph Cook claimed that his words were not bigoted and were merely a result of him exercising his right to freedom of speech.

However, after reading the councillor’s Facebook post, Plaid Cymru group leader Neil McEvoy said: “At such a tense time, such inflammatory and bigoted comments don’t belong in the public domain from anybody claiming to be in mainstream politics.”

Ralph Cook had been due to re-enter the Labour party after being suspended in June 2015 for opposing the party’s transport plan for Cardiff, but was due to be re-admitted on 29 December 2015. The discovery of his Facebook postings resulted in his suspension being extended. The investigation continues.³³³

3.76 A gang racially abused a family and drove them from their home in Pontarddulais on 27 June 2015.³³⁴

A group of five males shouted racist abuse at a Bangladeshi-British family’s house in South Wales.

The group swore and screamed racist abuse at the family and told them to “go home” and “go back to Saddam Hussein land” before arming themselves with metal bars, a car exhaust and stones.

The sons of the family went outside to try to prevent the group from entering their property, and were goaded by the gang who then threatened to burn down their house.

Brothers, Luke Harper, 22, and Jake Christopher, 18, pleaded guilty to a racially aggravated public order offence.

They were sentenced to 30 weeks in prison at Swansea Crown Court in December 2015.

The family had been subjected to racist abuse from some members of the community since moving into the house in the “quiet and seemingly respectable area” two years prior, including having a dead rat with a racist note attached put through their letter box.

The family decided to move away from the town following the abuse by Harper, Christopher, and their associates.

³³² Freedom of Information request, South Yorkshire Police, reference 20160917

³³³ *Wales Online*, 17 December 2015

³³⁴ *Southwest Evening Post*, 18 December 2015

Judge Paul Thomas QC said that the police would be “failing in their duty” if they did not try to identify and catch the other three members of the group.

In response to a Freedom of Information request, South Wales Police could neither confirm nor deny whether they held further information regarding the three other suspects in the attack.³³⁵

- 3.77** A man racially abused a worker at a pharmacy in Lockwood near Huddersfield, on 26 August 2015.³³⁶

Richard Hall, 36, became aggressive and called pharmacist Ibrar Khokhar a “P***” when he refused to provide Hall with his heroin replacement drug after seeing him steal £20 from the till.

Hall said he would “come back and light the shop on fire and burn it to the ground”.

Hall found guilty of attempted theft, threatening behaviour and racially-aggravated threatening behaviour at Kirklees Magistrates’ Court. He was sentenced to a community order as a direct alternative to custody. This included 20 days rehabilitative activities and a nine-month drug rehabilitation order.

He also was ordered to abide by a two-week curfew and pay a £1,000 court charge, £200 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

- 3.78** A man who went into a newsagent's shop to talk to the shopkeeper about a forthcoming court case ended up hurling racist abuse at the man.³³⁷

Cameron Perry, went into the shop in New Town Street, Luton, to talk to the Asian shopkeeper about a court case that was coming up. The shopkeeper called the police who went to the shop and caught his offensive behaviour on the body cameras they were wearing.

Perry called the man a “Sri Lankan p....” and a “P... b.....”, and was promptly arrested.

21-year-old Perry appeared at Luton Crown Court to admit a charge of causing racially aggravated harassment to the shopkeeper on the evening of 4 March 2015.

Judge Richard Foster sentenced Perry to six months imprisonment, but suspended it for 12 months and placed him under the supervision of the probation service for the next 12 months.

In addition, Perry was ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work and, for the next three months, will be the subject of a three month electronically monitored home curfew between the hours of 8pm and 6am.

- 3.79** A woman was subjected to Islamophobic abuse by a man on a bus in Islington, London, on 29 December 2015.³³⁸

Iqra Mohamed, 20, wrote on Twitter that “A white man spat at me in a buss [sic] of people and kept on cussing me out cause of my Hijab while people smiled and laughed along”.

³³⁵ Freedom of Information request, South Wales Police, reference 804/16

³³⁶ *Huddersfield Examiner*, 22 December 2015

³³⁷ *Bucks Free Press*, 14 September 2015

³³⁸ *London Evening Standard*, 22 December 2015

Mohamed reported that she had been with a friend when they heard a man “chuntering away at the back of the bus”. When her friend got up to get off she moved to the front of the bus and when she turned around the man said “she’s got a cheek to look at me”.

The man moved closer to Mohamed and called her a “racist” and a “terrorist” before ranting that people like her “were coming into this country and taking all the jobs”.

It was not until the man was confronted by Mohamed’s friend Fatima, who boarded the bus at a later stop, that the man ceased his rant.

Ms Mohamed later said “I didn’t think I would leave that bus alive”.

The incident was reported to the British Transport Police, who confirmed that the case would be down to the Metropolitan Police to investigate.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests had been made in relation to the incident and enquiries were ongoing.³³⁹

3.80 A man was racially abused at a restaurant in Dundee on 28 December 2015.³⁴⁰

A woman who was collecting a take away abused a Muslim man who was with two younger girls in the Kobee restaurant on Dock Street.

The woman, who was with a partner, walked into the restaurant after receiving her takeaway order and said “I hate Muslims”. She leant into the face of one of the young girls as she directed her comments.

Alistair Robb, the restaurant manager, witnessed the incident and said he was “left disgusted by what he saw”. After hearing the comments he told the woman and the man to leave and telephoned the Police.

Valy Ossman, the restaurant owner said “there is absolutely no excuse for any sort of hate crime taking place anywhere in the UK today, let alone in the restaurant – it cannot be tolerated”.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that a female was reported to the Procurator Fiscal in February 2016 in connection with the incident.³⁴¹

3.81 A group of young males shouted taunting comments about ISIS outside the campus Muslim student centre at Sussex University on 20 November 2015.³⁴²

The group stood outside the Muslim student centre and shouted “run, ISIS are coming” before popping a party balloon and shouting “bomb”.

The incident occurred during Friday prayers.

The perpetrators were identified as participants in a scheme run by Albion in the Community, Brighton & Hove Albion’s charitable arm. A spokesman for Albion in the Community said the six individuals had been suspended from participating with the community programme.

³³⁹ Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2016070001085

³⁴⁰ *Evening Telegraph*, 29 December 2015

³⁴¹ Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland, reference 2016-1689

³⁴² *The Badger*, 24 November 2015

Ridwan Barbhuiyan, President of the Islamic Society and Sussex University expressed hope the perpetrators might agree to meet him to prevent anybody “passing premature/unqualified judgement on each other”.

Sussex Police responded to a Freedom of Information request confirming that they had investigated the incident and concluded that no crime was committed.³⁴³

3.82 A man racially abused Turkish staff in a kebab shop in Deeside on 14 December 2015.³⁴⁴

Keith Alan Hibbert, 29, entered the Shotton Takeaway and was asked by staff member Tahir Konuksever whether he wanted to place a food order but Hibbert said he didn't want food and started shouting abuse about “Turkish people and Muslims”.

He continued to shout before speaking of “killing them all” and saying “you foreign people, you stay in my country”.

Hibbert was told to leave, and eventually did so but then returned and threw a bottle at the window, causing damage.

Hibbert admitted a racially aggravated public order offence at Flintshire Magistrates' Court. He was ordered to pay £730 for the window he broke with £85 costs together with a £15 surcharge.

Judge Bates said that the offence was “aggravated by hostility” and the racial element meant that he would impose the maximum number of hours.

He was given a four month sentence, suspended for two years, at Thames Magistrates' Court on 13 April 2016. He was also ordered to do 175 hours of community service.³⁴⁵

3.83 Two men have won High Court damages from the Metropolitan Police over an incident when they were teenagers.³⁴⁶

Awarding £11,950 to Basil Khan and £2,500 to Omar Mohidin, Mr Justice Gilbert said both had been subjected to racist abuse.

Khan and Mohidin, both of Arab origin, were 16 when they were stopped in Edgware Road, central London, in June 2007 by officers from the Territorial Support Group, who thought that some of their group had been making gestures or mouthing obscenities.

Two officers, PC Mark Jones, 42, and PC Neil Brown, 33, were cleared by a court of racially aggravated assault and racially aggravated threatening behaviour at an earlier trial in 2009.

Giving his decision, the judge said that Khan had endured a wrongful arrest, a blow with some abuse from one officer and a sustained assault from another, which was accompanied by racist abuse.

He said that Mohidin was forced into the van and falsely imprisoned for a few minutes, during which he was subjected to “racist humiliation”, but he had not suffered acute stress disorder at any stage.

The judge dismissed a damages claim for false imprisonment, assault and race discrimination brought by a third man, Ahmed Hegazy.

³⁴³ Freedom of Information request, Sussex Police, reference 755/16

³⁴⁴ *The Leader*, 1 February 2016

³⁴⁵ *Guardian Series*, 18 April 2016

³⁴⁶ *BBC News*, 2 October 2015

- 3.84** A woman was accused of drunkenly abusing Muslims in Lord Kensington Gardens, London on 4 August 2015.³⁴⁷

Virginia Agraviador, 53, was accused of telling passers-by wearing Islamic dress to “f*** off back to your own country” while sitting near the Princess Diana Memorial in Kensington Gardens.

Delia Ahmed tried to calm down Agraviador, who replied, “get out of my f***** face, I don’t hijab, I work for Mother Theresa, get out, get out!”.

Agraviador was said to have hurled her wine bottle in the direction of Mrs Ahmed, who was with her husband and two 11-year-old daughters and said she felt it hit her calf. Mrs Ahmed phoned police and minutes later Agraviador was pinned to the ground and arrested.

Agraviador was acquitted of one charge of racially aggravated abuse at Southwark Crown Court.

The Court heard she has three previous convictions for racially aggravated abuse and had pleaded guilty to all three. Agraviador, a former legal worker, insisted she would have admitted her guilt a fourth time if she believed she had done anything wrong.

- 3.85** A customer racially abused a takeaway owner in Ulverston, Cumbria, on 19 September 2015.³⁴⁸

Lee Alty, 44, shouted abuse at staff and used a racist slur against Pakistani people following a row over a kebab order.

Alty entered Okkes Ozmicco’s Flames Pizzeria and shouted “go back to your country”. After staff informed him they were phoning the police, Mr Ozmicco left.

Alty pleaded guilty to causing racially aggravated distress at Furness Magistrates’ Court on 5 January 2016. He was fined £140 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20.

- 3.86** A drunken man threatened to cut the throat of a security guard and racially abused him in Grimsby on 23 December 2015.³⁴⁹

Shane Watkins, 20, hurled racist abuse at Yamin Butt who was working as a security guard at Sainsbury’s, during an argument in the store. He told Mr Butt “I’ll cut your throat and your family’s” and was ejected from the store.

He was again abusive, but was escorted out by a customer with children.

Watkins, who rated himself on a scale of drunkenness as 10 out of 10, contacted the police about the incident himself.

He admitted racially aggravated threatening behaviour and breaching his antisocial behaviour order at Grimsby Magistrates’ Court. The judge handed him a 12 week suspended prison sentence, 80 hours’ unpaid work, 10 days’ rehabilitation and was ordered to pay £100 compensation and £85 costs.

- 3.87** A soldier was fined for refusing to pay his fare to an Asian taxi driver and uttering a racist comment in Hereford on 23 October 2015.³⁵⁰

³⁴⁷ *Daily Mail*, 5 January 2015

³⁴⁸ *North West Evening Mail*, 8 January 2016

³⁴⁹ *Grimsby Telegraph*, 10 January 2016

³⁵⁰ *Hereford Times*, 12 January 2016

Asif Nazir picked up Christopher McMahon from Commercial Road and was asked to drive to Bullingham Lane. On arriving at their destination, McMahon, 34, said he had no money while the other passenger ran away.

McMahon then made a racist comment but the taxi driver was unsure whether it was aimed at him or the person who fled.

Mr Nazir drove McMahon to a petrol station to get cash before taking him to an Asda. McMahon entered the supermarket but returned to the taxi and asked to be taken to Bullingham Lane. When Mr Nazir said he had an outstanding fare, McMahon threatened to break his jaw.

At Hereford Magistrates' Court, McMahon was given a conditional discharge of 18 months and ordered to pay £130 compensation to the taxi driver. He was also ordered to pay £135 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

3.88 An aide to SNP deputy leader Stewart Hosie was accused of sending Islamophobic texts to a Muslim colleague.

Craig Melville, 35, allegedly sent texts to a female Muslim SNP employee between 2.55pm on 14 November 2015 and 3.12am on 15 November 2015 following the Paris attacks on 13 November.

One text allegedly said: "It's not personal I just f***** hate your religion and I'll do all in life to defeat your filth".

Melville then sent a message saying "and in your favour we live in an uneducated loopy left lift loopy lift win society who is more interested in claiming benefits and being ignorant to the threat of your horrible disease which is a make believe "c***" in the sky".

A third text was also sent which read: "and Muslim politicians in the UK have a duty to speak out and educate...that should be their number one priority, not staged photos taking refugees off boats and writing patronising messages of support...had to unfollow that c***". The text was apparently referring to the SNP international development minister Humza Yousaf.

Melville became councillor for Dundee's Maryfield in 2009 and was Dundee City Council's environment convener at the time of sending the texts.

The councillor had been given a police warning in January 2016 after an alleged assault at the SNP parliamentary office in Dundee's Old Glamis Road in December 2014.³⁵¹

Melville was suspended from his job as aide to deputy SNP leader Stewart Hosie on 15 January 2016.³⁵² He stood down as councillor for the Maryfield Ward in Dundee in February 2016. He was charged with a racist offence by Police Scotland in April 2016.³⁵³

3.89 A man made racist comments and offensive references over the phone to staff at a Cardiff butcher's shop during a five week period in October and November 2015.³⁵⁴

Vernon Mitchell, 81, made seven phone calls over the five week period using various telephone kiosks.

During these phone calls he made racist comments and offensive references to the preparation of Halal meat and threatened to cause damage to the shop.

³⁵¹ *STV News*, 5 February 2016

³⁵² *Daily Record*, 16 January 2016.

³⁵³ *BBC News*, 6 April 2016

³⁵⁴ *Wales Online*, 18 January 2016

Mitchell pleaded guilty to religiously aggravated harassment at Cardiff Magistrates' Court.

Mitchell was given a 10 week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and a 60 day curfew between 6pm and 6am. He must also pay his victim £400 compensation, £85 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

3.90 A man racially harassed a Muslim woman in Woking on 15 November 2015.³⁵⁵

David Sadgrove, 61, approached Zamurd Saltana initially asked Zamurd Saltana to move her car which was parked on the pavement near his home.

He then asked her "if she was a Muslim and if she was religious" before becoming abusive and aggressive saying "you have killed so many people in Paris".

Two men further up the street heard Sadgrove shout "you are a terrorist, you are going to blow someone up".

Sadgrove also verbally abused Pervaiz Mohammed who lived on the same street before being arrested by the police.

Sadgrove pleaded guilty to two counts of racially aggravated harassment at a hearing at Guildford Magistrates' Court on 19 January 2016.

He was fined £382 and ordered to pay £87 in costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

3.91

3.92 A man racially abused Scottish Government minister Humza Yousaf on social media in the wake of the Paris attacks.³⁵⁷

Garry David, 42, told the Muslim MSP on Facebook to "get the f*** out of my country" on 14 November, the day following the Paris terror attacks.

He also wrote "F*** you, your name tells me everything I need to know about you". He went on to write "Get to f*** out of my country" and called him "a smelly P*** b*****".

³⁵⁵ *Get Surrey*, 27 January 2016

³⁵⁶

³⁵⁷ *Daily Record*, 12 February 2016

David admitted to acting in a racially aggravated manner at Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Sheriff Craig McSherry fined him £700.

- 3.93** A drunken former soldier shouted religious abuse at staff at a fast food shop before threatening them with a knife in Armley, near Leeds on 20 November 2015.³⁵⁸

Stanislav Yordanov, 44, asked the man serving him in the takeaway if he was a Christian. When the man replied that he was a Muslim he began swearing at him.

Yordanov then made the sign of the cross before pulling a kitchen knife out of his jacket and said to them “do not look into my eyes”.

Yordanov continued to wave the knife around and shouted more abuse. One of the workers called the police and when officers arrived they found Yordanov nearby eating the food he had ordered.

He dropped the knife as he was being restrained by officers before asking one of the officers if he was a Muslim and telling him he would find and kill him when released.

At Leeds Crown Court, Yordanov pleaded guilty to religiously aggravated threatening behaviour and making a threat with a blade in public. He was jailed for 12 months.

- 3.94** A man accused Muslims of being behind the Glasgow bin lorry crash in December 2014 and posted abuse on social media.³⁵⁹

Robert Rankin, 52, made several offensive remarks about Muslims between December 2014 and January 2015.

Rankin was due to go on trial but admitted his guilt after his lawyer struck a deal with prosecutors, which led to three other charges against his client being dropped.

Rankin admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive way by posting offensive comments about Islam on Twitter on 22 December 2014 and posting further anti-Muslim tweets on 12 January 2015.

Sheriff Simon Fraser fined Rankin £450 at Paisley Sheriff Court on 16 February 2016.³⁶⁰

- 3.95** A man walking three large dogs hurled racist abuse at a boy in Golcar near Huddersfield on 15 March 2015.³⁶¹

Adam Haggarty approached the 15 year old boy and called him a “P****” and made rude gestures towards him.

The boy ran into a nearby takeaway and Haggarty and another male followed him into the shop, still making rude gestures towards him.

Police had to use electric shields to bring the dogs under control.

Haggarty pleaded guilty to racially aggravated harassment and was ordered to complete 240 hours of unpaid work as well as paying £38 compensation to the shop, £150 costs and £60 surcharge.

³⁵⁸ *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 12 February 2016

³⁵⁹ *STV News*, 16 February 2016

³⁶⁰ *Clyde Bank Post*, 17 February 2016

³⁶¹ *Huddersfield Examiner*, 17 February 2016

3.96 A man sent a Muslim MP a grossly offensive email on 1 December 2015.³⁶²

James Learmonth, 68, emailed Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh ahead of the commons vote on the issue of whether to commence bombings in Syria.

He was lobbying the Ochil and South Perthshire SNP MP to vote in favour of military intervention and addressed his email "Dear Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh. Feel free to bomb the Muslim b*****s to oblivion".

Although the email was not seen by Mrs Ahmed-Sheikh, 45, an office worker read the mail on 19 December and found its contents to be racist and offensive.

SNP officials reported the incident to the Metropolitan Police and Learmonth was interviewed by police in Scotland.

Mr Learmonth was fined £500 for the email sent from his home in Alloa to Mrs Ahmed-Sheikh's constituency office in Clackmannanshire town.

3.97 A woman racially abused the staff in a takeaway and assaulted a customer in Aberdare, South Wales in August 2015.³⁶³

Taryn Phillips, 25, became "aggressive and threatened to jump over the counter" when she found the takeaway had run out of her favourite food.

The staff offered to make her an alternative meal but Philips told them "F*** you, f*** off back to your own country, you f***** c*****".

Robert Pickard, a customer in the takeaway, tried to restrain Phillips but she bit hard into his arm. Mr Pickard was left with a large scar and needed a tetanus injection.

Phillips admitted causing actual bodily harm and racially aggravated assault at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court in February 2016.³⁶⁴

Judge Richard Twomlow said she deserved to go to prison but her two young children would "suffer if she was behind bars".

Phillips was given a 16 month suspended prison sentence.

3.98 Two men went on a racially abusive rant in Arbroath marina near Dundee on 12 July 2015.³⁶⁵

Richard Hartshone, 41, and John Sharp, 49, became heavily intoxicated on a yacht in the Marina before Hartshone began "a rant of racially offensive language" about people of Pakistani origin which was captured on CCTV.

When police attended the scene, Sharp became "extremely aggressive and abusive" and both men "gesticulated" at officers with their middle fingers.

Hartshone admitted racially aggravated abuse and refusing to desist when told to by police and was fined £840 at Forfar Sheriff Court.

³⁶² *STV News*, 29 February 2016

³⁶³ *Daily Mail*, 22 February 2016

³⁶⁴ *The Mirror*, 18 February 2016

³⁶⁵ *The Courier*, 9 July 2016

Sharp was on a community order in Scunthorpe and his sentence was initially deferred for the preparation of criminal justice social work and his bail was continued. He was eventually given a £300 fine.

- 3.99** A woman was fined £50 for racial harassment after claiming her dog had attacked a Muslim woman because of her religion.³⁶⁶

Fiona Connolly's Jack Russell raced towards victim Candice Legister and chewed her dress.

Miss Legister asked Connolly, 43, to keep the dog away and she responded saying "no because my dog doesn't like Muslims". Miss Legister said she was a Christian and that it had nothing to do with the matter.

Miss Legister bumped into Connolly in Tesco Express in Kensington and Chelsea and asked if she was sober. Connolly replied: "yes you stupid black b****".

Senior district judge, Howard Riddle found Connolly guilty of racially aggravated harassment during the confrontation in Tesco on 15 July, noting her "inconsistent" account of events. However, Connolly was cleared of religiously aggravated harassment the day before saying the comment was "not offensive in its own right".

Connolly had three previous convictions for racially aggravated offences.

- 3.100** A man racially abused shop workers on 24 October 2015 in Paisley near Glasgow.³⁶⁷

John Shirley, 35, was asked to close the door in the store to which he responded "f*** the door" before getting into an argument with staff.

Shirley threatened to put a bullet in the head of staff members if they came outside and threatened to blow the shop up.

Police officers approached Shirley and he shouted "f***** monkey b***** come to this country and think they can do what they f***** want". He then went onto say "they should all be blown up, Putin has the right idea". The case is the latest attack against Scottish-Asian shop workers in Renfrewshire.

Mr. Shirley was handed a fine of £600 in May 2016, with an order that it be paid back in instalments of £15 per week.

- 3.101** A man was convicted for shouting threats and racial abuse at a Muslim man on 9 December 2015. 39-year-old Robert Spilsbury was accused of shouting racially-motivated insults at Asim Latif on a bus in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent.³⁶⁸

Mr. Spilsbury pleaded not guilty to the charge of racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress, but was convicted after a trial in July 2016, having been granted unconditional bail until that date.

The court required him to undergo Alcohol Dependency Treatment for six months, and partake in any rehabilitation activity that was required of him for up to a maximum of 20 days. He was also handed a fine of £180, a victim surcharge of £60, and ordered to pay costs of £300.³⁶⁹

³⁶⁶ *Daily Mail*, 4 April 2016

³⁶⁷ *Daily Record*, 2 May 2016.

³⁶⁸ *Stoke Sentinel*, 27 May 2016

3.102 A pensioner who sent abusive letters to a female Muslim MP was fined in June 2016. 68-year-old David Crozier from Mossbank, Shetland was ordered not to contact Scottish MP Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh for five years. The letters Mr. Crozier sent her in May 2015 containing “vile and gratuitously offensive” language that made Ms. Ahmed Sheikh fear for her safety.

Mr. Crozier had a track record of sending letters to his local MP. Crozier insisted to police that he was “expressing an opinion and exercising his right to freedom of speech.” As well as being banned from writing to Ms. Ahmed-Sheikh, he was fined £500.³⁷⁰

3.103 A man was arrested on suspicion of inciting racial hatred after he distributed election campaign leaflets in Stoke referring to little girls being “gang-raped by Muslims”.³⁷¹

Craig Pond, contesting the parliamentary seat of Stoke on Trent North as an independent candidate in the 2015 general election, was arrested by police and released on bail after the leaflets came to light.

Pond is accused of inciting racial hatred with the leaflets which state, “Vote Labour, vote paedophile”. The leaflets also accuse the Labour party of displaying “disgusting and unforgivable behaviour toward our children”.

In response to a Freedom of Information request, Staffordshire Police could neither confirm nor deny whether they hold further information regarding the incident.³⁷²

3.104 A former care-home worker from Glasgow faced a disciplinary hearing over using racist and unprofessional language while working in Bupa’s Wyndford Locks care home between 2010 and 2014. 58-year-old Yvonne Mclean was discovered to have posted updates to her Facebook page referring to “dirty clatty Muslims.” She also expressed a desire to “blow their black faces off.”

Ms. Maclean was given a six-month suspension in February 2016 by the Scottish Social Services Council after the allegations were revealed. She was also reported to have previously used racist language in front of her colleagues, claiming to a co-worker that “people like you become racist because of people like him”, referring to another co-worker who was Muslim. She also told a Muslim colleague who was fasting that he was “not fit for his job.” It was decided that she would face further hearings in front of the SSSC in June 2016.³⁷³

3.105 A man from Lancashire was handed a community order after posting racist Facebook messages in November 2015. 45-year-old Gary Farrimond was accused of posting photos linking refugees to ISIS on his Facebook page. They included photos of a Trojan horse with ISIS on its forehead and Syrian refugees on its body, and posts saying “All foreigners teach their kids to hate the English. Let’s do it to our own.” He was also involved in starting a petition calling for refugees not to be housed in a hotel in Wigan.

Mr. Farrimond initially claimed his account had been hacked but admitted to the charge of sending offensive communications. He was sentenced at Wigan and Leigh Magistrates’ Court in June 2016. The presiding magistrate imposed a 12-month community order upon Farrimond, consisting of 100 hours’ unpaid work. This was increased from 60 hours due to the racial nature of the offence.³⁷⁴

³⁶⁹ Email response from Staffordshire Magistrates’ Court, 9 August 2016

³⁷⁰ *BBC News*, 8 June 2016

³⁷¹ *BBC News*, 9 February 2015

³⁷² Freedom of Information request, Staffordshire Police, reference 7183

³⁷³ *Daily Record*, 6 June 2016

³⁷⁴ *Wigan Today*, 10 June 2016

3.106 A man was acquitted of racially aggravated threatening behaviour after accusations made against him by a Muslim taxi driver. Self-employed builder Paul Leadley was said to have called the taxi driver a “Muslim suicide bomber” after being picked up in central York in November 2015. Joynul Al Ameen claimed he was subjected to other foul and racist abuse by Mr. Leadley. The abuse was apparently so bad that Mr Al Ameen had to stop the taxi.

Mr. Leadley admitted to using threatening behaviour but claimed that it was not racially aggravated. York Magistrates’ Court dismissed the charges of racially aggravated threatening behaviour, but gave him an 8-week curfew and demanded he pay £105.50 in compensation, £85 in costs and £60 in victim surcharges.³⁷⁵

3.107 A 21-year-old woman was banned from entering clothes shop River Island on Oxford Street after verbally abusing a female Muslim store manager. Ellie Simpson told the woman she would “slap that hijab off her face” in September 2015. She was apparently angered by the delay to her online order that she had tried to collect from the store.³⁷⁶

Salma Begum was also called a “f***** b****” by Ms. Simpson. The latter continued to shout and scream at her while she was being ejected from the store by a security guard.

Police arrested Ms. Simpson in January 2016 after her online details were linked to the incident. She pleaded not guilty at Westminster Magistrates’ Court to one count of threatening or abusive behaviour, but was barred from entering the store in question until her upcoming trial in December 2016.³⁷⁷

3.108 A former UKIP parliamentary candidate for Richmond was convicted after subjecting Tesco employee Mohammed Wafta to a barrage of verbal abuse on 22 March 2015.³⁷⁸

Sam Naz, 33, was accused of shouting racially-aggravated insults at Mr. Wafta, 48, after he attempted to intervene in a dispute between her and another customer in the supermarket’s car park in Leytonstone, London. Ms Naz responded by yelling a barrage of abuse at him calling him a “f***ing foreigner”, a “f***ing b***ard” and telling him to “go back to where you came from.”

Ms Naz is said to have taunted Mr Wafta asking him “What kind of f***** foreigner are you?” She was arrested shortly after the incident and put on trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Ms Naz denied a charge of racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress but was convicted following a trial. She was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £3,500 in costs.

3.109 A pensioner was charged with racially abusing a hijab-wearing Muslim woman outside a Sainsbury’s supermarket in Bexhill-on-Sea. 77-year-old Barbara Anne Blauvelt told Ritha Ahmed in January 2016 that she looked like she was “about to bomb the place.” She also told her that she “should not cover up” and that “you should live by British rules.” Ms. Ahmed claimed she had been abused verbally by her in a previous incident in September 2015.

Ms. Blauvelt was charged by Eastbourne Crown Court with religiously aggravated verbal assault and given a 12-month conditional discharge. She was also ordered to pay £620 costs and £15 in victim surcharges.³⁷⁹

³⁷⁵ *York Press*, 9 May 2016

³⁷⁶ *London Evening Standard*, 5 May 2015

³⁷⁷ *Daily Mail*, 5 May 2016

³⁷⁸ *Daily Mail*, 20 September 2016

³⁷⁹ *Oxford Mail*, 29 April 2016

3.110 A man was convicted in March 2016 for posting offensive comments about Muslims on a Facebook page on 20 June 2015.³⁸⁰ Liam Calder was found to have written a number of expletives on Facebook that raged against mosques and Muslims in general, with Calder saying they “shouldn’t be aloud (sic) to preach over hear (sic).”

In the aftermath of a news story reporting on the radicalisation of a Scottish teenager in Scottish newspaper, *Press and Journal* in June 2015, police officers were ordered to watch social media sites for retaliatory comments, and the comments were traced back to Calder.

Despite Calder’s claim that the comments had few differences from those made by Donald Trump, the Inverness Sherriff Court found him guilty of breaching the peace, handing down a fine of £700.³⁸¹

3.111 A senior doctor working in Accident and Emergency medicine was accused of posting numerous expletive-laden messages on his Twitter feed.

Dr. Christian Solomonides, aged 37, admitted to writing 188 tweets of this nature between July 2011 and January 2015. The account has now been deactivated, but it contained tweets making derisive comments about patients, as well as about Muslims. One also describes David Cameron as an “obsequious Islamophile” who “sucks up to sick doctrines in the UK like Islam.” In other posts, he wrote about “banning the burqa,” and argued “religion was for those with below average IQ.”

At a meeting held on 25 January 2015, he accepted responsibility for the slurs. Counsel for the General Medical Council, Shirlie Duckworth, told the meeting, “He recognised he had overstepped the mark, the postings could cause offence and compromise his credibility.”

The tribunal hearing is still in progress.³⁸²

3.112 A nursery nurse who called a toddler a “terrorist” was banned from continuing her line of work. Nikki Alexander was accused of swearing at some of the children in her care on 29 June 2015, as well as pulling the arm of one, causing them to fall backward and bang their head.

She was then accused of calling a toddler a “terrorist” and telling them to “go away and bomb somewhere else” a month later. The events took place at the Busy Bees nursery in Edinburgh.

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) claimed that Ms. Alexander had racially abused the child in question and “put them at risk of harm.” The body’s sub-committee also said that her actions constituted “a breach of trust and confidence for social service users.” As a result, she was removed from the register of Practitioners in a Day care of Children services from 15 July 2016.³⁸³

3.113 A 42-year-old man was sentenced for racially abusing two security guards in February 2015. Neil Pengelley was picked up by the guards in question while sprawled out drunk on a bench in Chippenham outside the building where they were working. The guards called the police, who tried to move Mr. Pengelley on. He then hurled racist abuse back at the security guards, calling them “p****” and telling them to “f*** off back to your own country.” He then kicked a police officer.

Mr. Pengelley pleaded guilty to assault and racially-aggravated abuse, and he was given an 18 weeks’ prison sentence – 8 for racial abuse, 8 for assault, and 2 more for breaching a suspended sentence.³⁸⁴

³⁸⁰ Email response from Inverness Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court, 9 August 2016

³⁸¹ *Press and Journal*, 30 March 2016

³⁸² *The Guardian*, 1 March 2016

³⁸³ *BBC News*, 20 July 2016

³⁸⁴ *Gazette and Herald*, 4 March 2016

3.114 38-year-old Jaspal Bharya was convicted of a racially-aggravated breach of the peace after he hurled abuse at a Muslim shopkeeper in November 2015. Mr. Bharya became aggressive towards Muhammed Qamer, calling him a “p****” after Mr Qamer refused to sell him the item he was attempting to purchase due to his being 2p short of the cost. A member of the public who saw the exchange contacted the police, who the arrested Mr. Bharya.

During his hearing at Paisley Sheriff Court in March 2016, Mr. Bharya’s defence claimed he was remorseful for the incident and accepted that “he should not have done what he did.” He was let off with a warning about his future conduct.³⁸⁵

3.115 A man was convicted for verbally abusing two police officers and a passing jogger in November 2015. 46-year-old David Gregory was drunk in the streets of Derby just after the terrorist attacks in Paris, and began making anti-Semitic comments and other racist slurs. After his arrest he continued to make offensive comments in the back of the police car.

Mr. Gregory was given a 12-month community order with 150 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to carry out a ten-day rehabilitation requirement and to pay £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge. Magistrate Richard Price said that the sentence needed to reflect the “racially aggravated nature” of the crimes.³⁸⁶

3.116 A victim of racist abuse while driving a taxi filmed the footage on his phone, which was then passed on to police in Derbyshire. The taxi driver endured the abuse after picking up three passengers in Derby in December 2015. One of the passengers began harassing the taxi driver about his views on terrorism, with his comments becoming increasingly aggressive and abusive. One passenger told the driver, “every sane-thinking white person in this country hates Muslims” and “all Muslims should burn”. The passenger also told the driver to “f*** off back to Syria or wherever you f***** belong”. As the abuse escalated, the driver, who chose not to be identified, asked the three men to leave the taxi.

The footage of the passengers has been circulated by Derbyshire police among their officers. They have also encouraged members of the general public to view the footage and come forward if they recognise the abuser.³⁸⁷

Derbyshire Police responded to a Freedom Information request to disclose that the offender was now subject to a restorative disposal.³⁸⁸

3.117 The Sikh victim of a racist hate crime has donated the compensatory funds he received as a result to a charity that helped him throughout his case. 24-year-old Navjot Sawhney endured a stream of racist abuse in January 2015 from Dean Kent, aged 22.

Mr. Sawhney was approached by Mr. Kent in Malmesbury while the former was taking photos, whereupon he was called a “p****” and a “raghead.” A nearby spectator encouraged Mr. Sawhney to report the incident to the police after she noted down the number plate of the car Kent was sitting in.

Mr. Sawhney told the police, and Mr. Kent was convicted of racially aggravated behaviour in January 2016. He was required to pay £50 compensation as well as £100 in fines and a £20 victim surcharge. Mr. Sawhney donated the money he received to the charity HEALS, which was managed by Alison Cross-Jones, the woman who encouraged him to report the incident. He said that “I wouldn’t have pursued the incident if it wasn’t for Alison, who said ‘you can’t let that go.’”³⁸⁹

³⁸⁵ *Daily Record*, 4 March 2016

³⁸⁶ *Derby Telegraph*, 16 February 2016

³⁸⁷ *Daily Mail*, 11 February 2016

³⁸⁸ Freedom of Information request, Derbyshire Police, reference 002188/16

³⁸⁹ *Wiltshire and Gloucester Standard*, 26 January 2016

3.118 A Muslim student who was ejected from a National Express coach in December 2015 for making some women feel “uncomfortable” was given a refund, but no apology by the coach service. 42-year-old Ibrahim Mohamed Ismail was asked to leave the vehicle, which was travelling between Bristol and London, despite having not caused any deliberate distress or disturbance.

Not long after taking his seat, some women on the coach spoke to the driver, who asked him to leave. Mr. Ismail got off without objecting, but later accused National Express of religious discrimination, maintaining that he had been asked to leave purely because he was a Muslim.

National Express eventually refunded Mr. Ismail’s fare. However they did not issue an apology, insisting that the dispute had been over luggage and not over religious identity.³⁹⁰

3.119 A man who threatened to blow up a mosque two days after the massacres in Paris in November 2015 was convicted by Bradford and Keighley Magistrates’ Court. 46-year-old Darren Wainman had called West Yorkshire Police while drunk, claiming he was planning to create a bomb and blow up a mosque.

Mr. Wainman claimed that he did not intend to actually create the bomb, but insisted he had the ability to do so. He had later called the constabulary back, saying that he was “only joking.”

He later pleaded guilty to charges of sending menacing or offensive communications in December 2015, and was given a 12-week curfew, imposed by an electronic tag, and a requirement to pay £145 in costs. Given that he had made the phone call under the influence of alcohol, the court urged him to take control of his drinking.³⁹¹

3.120 Banning orders were placed on several fans of the football team Sheffield United after it was revealed they had been involved in racist chanting in December 2015.

Sheffield United and the Football Association began the investigation after reports that fans had chanted phrases such as “You’re just a town full of ISIS” at fans of the team Bradford City during a match against them.

The fans in question were identified after CCTV footage of the incident was scrutinised in the aftermath of the game. They also passed the evidence on to the South Yorkshire Police. The club claimed that ‘further incidents will be treated in a similar manner.’³⁹²

3.121 An ice cream vendor was accused of shouting racist insults at an Edinburgh professor in July 2015. 49-year-old Edward Barr had parked on the driveway of Professor Waleed Bin Rashid, blocking the latter when he tried to exit his driveway. When the law professor, who was from Saudi Arabia, asked him to move, Mr. Barr responded with a barrage of abuse.

The phrases he used included calling Professor Bin Rashid a “f***** foreigner” and telling him to “go home.” He also was reported to have called him a “P**** c***.” His actions were affirmed by Professor Bin Rashid’s neighbour, 23-year-old Andrew Beveridge, who went outside when he heard the two men shouting at each other.

Mr. Barr denied the charges, but was found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in June 2016. He was sentenced to carry out 200 hours of unpaid community service.³⁹³

³⁹⁰ *Western Daily Press*, 10 January 2016

³⁹¹ *Telegraph and Argus*, 31 December 2015

³⁹² *Telegraph and Argus*, 8 January 2016

³⁹³ *The Scotsman*, 17 July 2016

3.122 A 49 year old man was charged with committing a religiously/racially aggravated public order offence at The Big Fish chip shop in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 20 August 2015.³⁹⁴

Simon Edwards is alleged to have threatened and verbally abused staff at the takeaway shop at approximately 7pm on 19 August 2015.

Edwards appeared at Aylesbury Magistrates' Court on 9 September 2015. Thames Valley Police confirmed in a Freedom of Information request that Edwards was convicted and sentenced to a £90 fine and £20 victim surcharge.³⁹⁵

3.123 A poster calling for Muslims to "get the f*** out of our countries" was found displayed at a pub in Feltham on 20 August 2015.

The poster, on display on a noticeboard at a JD Wetherspoon establishment, was noticed by a customer who was at lunch with a Muslim colleague.

The poster is the work of "Infidels against Islam/ The Infidel Brotherhood" and is modelled on the Lord Kitchener war recruitment poster.

The customer said: "I'll never go back to one of their pubs ever again. They should have employees making sure racist propaganda like this will not be tolerated in this country."

A spokesperson for the pub chain apologised for the racist poster. In a statement, the pub said: "A poster was displayed on the notice board at The Moon on the Square, by a customer at the pub, without the knowledge of the pub staff.

"As soon as this came to light, staff immediately removed the discriminatory material."³⁹⁶

3.124 A BNP-affiliated teacher was banned from teaching for 3 years following an investigation by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) on 5 May 2015.

'Reverend' Robert West, 59, faced a week long panel hearing at the end of which he was found guilty of "unacceptable professional conduct" and "conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute". The NCTL panel in its report further stated that West's conduct "could damage the public's perception of the teaching profession."

The Mail on Sunday had speculated that a lifetime ban was likely to be imposed on West by the Department for Education for making comments such as being "allergic to Mohammedans" and "Muslims worship the devil" during lessons at Walton Girls' High School, Grantham in November 2013.

The Spalding Guardian notes that West has been banned from teaching for 3 years after being "found guilty of 10 out of 12 charges, while another two were unproven".

West can apply to have the ban lifted after this time, on May 12 2018, but the local paper notes that "even then, the ban could stay in place."³⁹⁷

3.125 An English Defence League demonstration in Bradford on Saturday 14 November 2015 resulted in eight arrests being made by West Yorkshire Police on the day.³⁹⁸

³⁹⁴ *Get Bucks*, 21 August 2015

³⁹⁵ Freedom of Information request, Thames Valley Police, reference 002280/16

³⁹⁶ *Daily Mail*, 21 August 2015

³⁹⁷ *Spalding Today*, 18 May 2015

Around 80-100 EDL protestors gathered in Bradford, two years after their last protest in the city.

The local paper reported that the eight arrests included “one arrest for inciting racial hatred and two arrests for public order offences.”

“Others arrests included for a breach of the peace and possession of class B drugs.”

Counter-protestors from the group We Are Bradford also assembled in the city to reject the EDL’s divisive message.³⁹⁹

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that they made four arrests in relation to this incident. One of these four arrests resulted in an offender being charged with racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress. This offender was subsequently found guilty and ordered to pay a fine, victim surcharge and costs.⁴⁰⁰

3.126 The leader of Britain First threatened to bury a pig at the site of a proposed mosque during a protest in Dudley.

Paul Golding addressed the crowd at the protest on 9 May 2015 saying “There’s been a petition in this town – tens of thousands of people in this town are against this mosque, this mega-mosque.”

He went on to make remarks which have been reported to the police as a possible public order offence. Golding, referring to an anti-mosque protest in Spain, spoke of how protestors dumped pig’s heads on the proposed site for a mosque in Seville. He added, “You know what? That mosque was never constructed because it’s against the rules of the Koran. In the worst case scenario, if we have to, I will personally go and bury a pig.

“If they throw me in prison I will sit there in my cell for a year or two with a smile on my face because I’ll know that big mosque never went up.”

The Birmingham Mail reported that disparaging remarks made about the Prophet Muhammad had also been reported to the police.⁴⁰¹

West Midlands Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to confirm that they hold information in relation to the incident but refused to disclose it based on exemptions under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 30 (investigations) of the Freedom of Information Act.⁴⁰²

3.127 A taxi driver was verbally abused by four men in Cardiff on 4 December 2015.⁴⁰³

Kanak Hirani, 37, says he picked up four passengers in Cardiff city centre around 3.45am. The four men asked to be driven to a cashpoint before heading toward their destination on City Road, stopping at a McDonald’s restaurant en route. When the cab arrived at the McDonalds, two men went in to pick up an order and two remained in the car. When the two men returned, Mr Hirani claims the men asked to be driven to another destination at which point he asked for the fare to be paid in part.

³⁹⁸ *Telegraph and Argus*, 14 November 2015

³⁹⁹ *Telegraph and Argus*, 14 November 2015

⁴⁰⁰ Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, reference 3150/16

⁴⁰¹ *Birmingham Mail*, 9 May 2015

⁴⁰² Freedom of Information request, West Midlands Police, reference 8441/16

⁴⁰³ *Wales Online*, 12 December 2015

Mr Hirani alleges that on being asked to pay for the £20 fare incurred, the man sat in the passenger seat of the car spat on the floor. Mr Hirani pulled the car over and protested at the man's behaviour saying he would prefer to have part payment up front.

Mr Hirani alleges that the men verbally abused him with one of them saying "How do I know you're not from Isis?" and another threatening to knock him out.

Mr Hirani said that he then hit the panic button at which point the men left the car. The four passengers left without paying their fare.

A spokesman for South Wales confirmed the incident has been reported to the police stating, "Police in Cardiff are investigating allegations of racial abuse and failure to pay a taxi fare following an incident which happened shortly after 4am on Friday, 4 December."

South Wales Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that an individual was dealt with via a community resolution.⁴⁰⁴

3.128 A man who racially abused staff at an Indian takeaway before directing abusive comments towards police was sentenced in December 2015.⁴⁰⁵

Thomas McNeill, 21, went into the Indian Ocean takeaway in Portstewart on 15 October 2015 and asked what he could get for £1. He was given some chips but then demanded more and became abusive toward a member of staff calling him a "P*** b*****d."

McNeill then continued to Shennanigans Bar where police found him.

McNeill and a second man, Kristin Mulholland, 21, began singing loyalist songs and directed abuse at police. As McNeill was being led away he called officers "black b*****ds" and "F*nian b*****ds".

Coleraine Magistrates' Court was told McNeill came to police attention again, on November 8, when he obstructed traffic and racially abused a police officer saying "What are you doing here? F**k off back to your own country."

District Judge Liam McNally, said McNeill had previously been given court orders which were breached and he was back in court for behaving in an "appalling manner" with racial incidents. McNeill was jailed for seven months. He was released on his own bail of £500 pending appeal.

3.129 A woman who racially abused takeaway staff at several shops received a suspended sentence and mandatory requirement to attend an alcohol treatment programme.⁴⁰⁶

Jasmine Leigh Astin, 22, walked into Mimi's takeaway in Rawtenstall on February 7, 2015 at around 2.30am and was asked to leave after hassling customers in the shop. Astin threatened to return to the shop with a knife and later walked in shouting "racist and abusive language to staff members" who were "predominately Asian."

Customers were "alarmed and frightened" with one customer left in a "very distressed state" on account of the incident. The takeaway owner successfully disarmed Astin before the police arrived.

Burnley Crown Court heard Astin was bailed for the offence but then went on to visit a takeaway in Blackburn on February 14 where she "climbed over the counter" before "interfering with the grill."

⁴⁰⁴ Freedom of Information request, South Wales Police, reference 754/16

⁴⁰⁵ *Coleraine Times*, 28 December 2015

⁴⁰⁶ *Rawtenstall Free Press*, 3 April 2015

When challenged, Astin shouted racial abuse and tried to spit at staff. She then visited a takeaway shop next door where she threw chairs around.

Astin pleaded guilty to two racially aggravated public order offences and possessing a bladed article in a public place.

She was jailed for 12 months, suspended for 18 months with a conditional discharge, a 12-month rehabilitation requirement and an order to reside at The Thomas Project in Salford.

3.130 Wiltshire police appealed for witnesses to an incident on a bus on 11 December 2015 where a woman reported being subjected to anti-Muslim abuse by a fellow traveller.⁴⁰⁷

The woman, who wished not to be named, told the Swindon Advertiser that she was travelling on the number 16 Thamesdown Transport bus from Fleming Way when a man "unleashed a torrent of racist abuse directed at the Muslim faith."

The woman said, "It made me so angry that someone could say those things about the Muslim faith, it was embarrassing. I couldn't believe it, that someone could say, let alone think that."

The woman said "How are we supposed to stay united and overcome terrorism and hatred if we let people like this ostracise and publicly humiliate and openly judge an entire race based on the actions of a few people who misinterpreted the Quran? It's disgusting."

The woman also reported being distressed that no-one on the bus intervened during the incident.

A police spokesman said: "Wiltshire Police are appealing for witnesses to an incident on a bus in Swindon, after a woman was verbally abused. The incident happened on Friday, 11 December, 2015 on the number 16 Thamesdown Transport bus, which leaves Fleming Way at 5.50pm.

"A man became racially abusive towards the woman on the bus soon after it had left its stop. This type of verbal abuse is harmful and upsetting to the victim. Although she wasn't physically harmed, she was shaken by the language used and aggressiveness displayed by the offender."

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

3.131 A man faced trial after allegedly calling two female neighbours "Isis slags" and "Isis bitches".⁴⁰⁸

Christopher Blurton, 51, was charged with racially aggravated harassment in connection with the alleged offences which happened between June 28, 2015 and August 19, 2015.

The two women are said to have moved into the Manchester Street property in Derby in 2014 and the court heard how they initially experienced no problems.

Blurton, who used to be in the armed forces, is alleged to have shouted the abuse whilst in his garden and in his home.

Prosecution barrister Jonathan Dunn said Blurton posted an offensive note through the neighbour's letter box which referred to Isis.

Blurton is also alleged to have called the two women "Isis bitches" and "Isis slags" and also allegedly said he would "burn the holy Qur'an".

⁴⁰⁷ *This is Wiltshire*, 28 December 2015

⁴⁰⁸ *Derbyshire Telegraph*, 13 September 2016

Derby Crown Court heard after the police were alerted to the trouble that the alleged behaviour stopped for a period.

One of the victims told the court: "(It) will be quiet and then we would hear racist remarks such as 'hope the dirty P**** die'."

She also said Blurton told them he would "slice us up". Blurton denies the charge.

- 3.132** A gang of youths who racially abused a Turkish kebab shop owner, threatening to kill him and causing criminal damage to his car, were sentenced at Wrexham Magistrates' Court and Wrexham Youth Court in July 2015.⁴⁰⁹

Ricky Lee Hope, 19 and James Alan Millington, 18, and two others aged 16 and 17, who cannot be named for legal reasons, committed the offences against Ali Ozdemir on 13 April 2015. Three of the four teenagers admitted racially abusing Mr Ozdemir. Millington also pleaded guilty to damaging Mr Ozdemir's car. One teenager denied racial abuse but admitted being in possession of a knife on 16 April, days after the initial incident.

Flintshire Magistrates' Court heard that the gang appeared outside the Royal Oak Kebab House in Coedpoeth on 13 April where they shouted abuse at Mr Ozdemir saying "Why are you living here? Go back to your own country or we will kill you."

The windows of Mr Ozdemir's Ford Focus car were smashed in the incident.

A few days later, on 16 April, a "number of the group" returned - two of them armed with a knife.

Prosecutor Andrew Sinker told Flintshire Magistrates' Court "On this occasion, one of the youths told staff to 'Get back to your own country'."

Sinker told the court, "As they entered the rear car park of the kebab shop, one youth says he was passed a knife by another male. He said someone else brought the knife to the scene. He said he 'held the knife but did not threaten anyone'."

Prosecutor Andrew Sinker said the gang were all "part and parcel" of the hate incident saying their "culpability was equal".

Millington was sentenced to a 12 month community order requiring him to undertake 200 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay £200 in compensation for the criminal damage to the car, £100 in compensation to the victim, £85 costs, a £180 court charge and a £60 victim surcharge.

Hope was sentenced to a 12-month community order requiring him to undertake 220 hours of unpaid work. He will also pay £100 in compensation to the victim, £350 costs, a £180 court charge, and a £60 victim surcharge.

Both defendants were given restraining orders not to enter the Royal Oak kebab shop for four years.

- 3.133** A Muslim woman was subjected to racial abuse on a bus while traveling to work in Leicester on 25 February 2015.⁴¹⁰

Maryam bint Adam reported that she boarded the bus and went to sit upstairs as usual. Shortly after two people came and sat directly behind her, despite there being a number of other empty seats.

⁴⁰⁹ *Wrexham and Flintshire Leader*, 21 July 2015

⁴¹⁰ *5Pillars*, 5 March 2015

Maryam said: "I felt uneasy when they sat behind me but felt it would be rude to get up and move, and I knew that it would probably cause some conflict. They were talking quietly at first and I understood they were a couple. About halfway into the journey, I saw from the reflection of the glass, the man's hand move away from my hijab whilst his girlfriend said repeatedly 'what are you doing?' and he replied 'I don't care, I don't care, she's a f****n Paki'. I don't know what he was trying to do, and I dread to think what would've happened if his girlfriend didn't loudly question him."

Maryam then experienced a panic attack before being subjected to more abuse. Maryam explained, "As we approached the city centre, the man suddenly started getting really agitated. One comment I caught was, 'why is she f— shaking so much? Why [is] she moving around?' and he repeatedly started kicking my chair, hard. He then came up close behind me and said that he did love the taste of pork and made some weird sounds whilst repeating the word bacon over again. He also mentioned something about beef, which shows how ill-informed he actually was regarding the basic tenants of Islam."

Maryam believes she was targeted because of her dress. "I'm easily identifiable as a Muslim, wearing both abaya and hijab Alhamdulillah, and they thought that as a woman, I wouldn't speak up or retaliate. They picked on someone they perceived to be weak."

Maryam reported the matter to the police. The police have been in touch with Arriva and have obtained CCTV footage from the bus. Police are dealing with the case as racially-aggravated hate crime.

No further information is available in connection with the incident.

3.134 Two teenage boys shouted racially motivated abuse at Domino's Pizza staff in Alloa on 19 June 2015.⁴¹¹

At around 10pm, staff became aware of the two youngsters kicking the front door of the Candlerbiggs shop while serving customers. After going outside, the staff, who are of Pakistani descent, found the boys at the end of the street. Impersonating a Pakistani voice, the pair started to shout abuse towards the staff, which was followed by racially motivated abuse.

The two boys then headed towards Tesco and staff contacted Police Scotland. They are described as 14 years of age, white males, one between 5ft and 5ft 6in with a slim build, blonde hair wearing a grey hooded top with the hood up and dark denims. The other suspect is described as 5ft 6in tall with a dark jacket.

3.135 A man was given a suspended sentence for racial abuse after getting drunk on the first anniversary of the death of his cousin and abusing a passerby.⁴¹²

Steven Johnstone, 21, got drunk on 11 November 2015, the first anniversary of the death of his eight year old cousin in a traffic accident the previous year. Instead of going to the grave with the rest of his family, Johnstone got drunk in Ballymena and abused a male calling him a "P*** b*****d".

When confronted by officers and told to desist, Johnstone told police: "That person should not be in this country".

Johnstone appeared before Ballymena magistrates' court in October 2016. Johnstone was handed a three months jail sentence suspended for 18 months.

⁴¹¹ *Alloa Advertiser*, 24 June 2015

⁴¹² *Ballymoney and Moyle Times*, 5 October 2016

3.136 A Muslim man and his son were repeatedly racially abused by a gang of teenagers in Felling, Gateshead.⁴¹³

The gang of teenagers attacked Ali Awan, 41, and his son Hassan, 21, on 31 December 2015.

A group of 40 15 and 16-year-olds stood outside the shop “shouting and screaming racist stuff” and going on “about upstairs being an ISIS training camp”.

Ali told them to “clear off” but the youths did not listen and a couple of them tried to punch him and when Hassan came to his aid, he too was attacked.

Eventually the teenagers backed off and Ali called the police but no arrests have yet been made and Ali says they have since returned to his shop.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident on New Year’s Eve.

Northumbria Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests have been made in relation to the incident but that enquiries are still ongoing.⁴¹⁴

⁴¹³ *Chronicle Live*, 13 February 2016

⁴¹⁴ Freedom of Information request, Northumbria Police, reference 845/16

Anti Muslim public discourse

Hate crime is enabled by a myriad of factors that single out target communities and render them vulnerable to acts of hostility and violence. Anti-Muslim public discourse, whether indulged in by politicians, media or far right social movements, can have a profound impact on Muslim communities. Acts of physical violence or harassment are grave manifestations of this impact but the underlying, steady normalisation of derogatory language and negative characterisations or stereotypes are just as pernicious.

In August 2015, an 81 year old Muslim grandfather, Muhsin Ahmed, was brutally attacked in Rotherham by two men who taunted him with jibes about being a "groomer" before beating him and leaving him seriously injured by a roadside. Mr Ahmed died from his injuries days after the assault. The reference to "groomer" derives from stereotypical depictions of Muslim men in the UK media as sexual predators.⁴¹⁵

In October 2015, following two speeches by Prime Minister David Cameron which were widely reported on by the British media, the Royal United Services Institute in a report criticised the Government's use of "emotive" and "confrontational" language declaring it "counter-productive" to its outreach work with British Muslims and to the "generational" struggle against extremism.⁴¹⁶

Negative media portrayals of Islam and Muslims and political rhetoric that periodically characterises British Muslims as the 'Other' is not without consequence. This section details developments in media reporting on Islam and Muslims, developments in political speech and public commentary about Islam and Muslims, and policies which have fostered a divisive rhetoric, further emboldening ideas of British Muslims as a community apart from the rest of society.

British media and reporting on Islam and Muslims

In 2015, we commissioned a report by the authors of the largest study on media representations of Islam and Muslims in the British nationals. Professors Tony McEnery and Paul Baker were asked to analyse media representations of Islam and Muslims in the British nationals from 2010 - 2014, expanding and comparing to an earlier body of corpus analysis covering the period 1998-2009.

The study, completed in October 2015, reinforced a number of patterns in media reporting on Islam and Muslims from the earlier period, and identified several newer developments emerging in more recent years, particularly in relation to news reporting on 'extremism and radicalisation'.⁴¹⁷

Among principal findings in the report are the following:

- Between 2009-2014 press interest in Islam has risen, with conflict-based events like the Arab Spring, the civil war in Syria, the killing of Lee Rigby and the rise of ISIS resulting in spikes in media attention.
- Since 2010, Islam has been less strongly associated with terrorism, military conflict and war. However, it is increasingly linked to political instability and jihad. Since 2010, the press have shown increasing concern with the process of becoming extreme within Islam.

⁴¹⁵ Muslim grandfather, 81, was 'racially abused then beaten to death yards from his home as he walked to prayers at his local mosque', *Daily Mail*, 9 February 2016

⁴¹⁶ David Cameron's 'confrontational language undermines UK Muslim outreach work', *Belfast Telegraph*, 4 October 2015

⁴¹⁷ Paul Baker and Tony McEnery. (2015). *The Representation of Islam in the British Press and Social Media: 2010-2014*. (London: MEND)

- Since 2010, the religious aspects of Islam appear to have been downplayed, indicating that Muslims are being written about in ways that do not directly relate to their religion.
- Since 2010, the term Islamic has retained its negative association with extremism and conflict - in almost 1 in 4 cases it now refers to Islamic State.
- By continuing to use terms like Muslim world, Muslim community and Muslim countries the British press continue to collectivise large numbers of Muslims as living in similar circumstances, implying that they are separate from everyone else.
- When Muslims are discussed as a collective group the most salient pattern is in the context of the radicalisation of young British Muslims.
- Islam is often constructed as an entity that is prone to be insulted, and any insults provoke strong reactions by its adherents
- In articles about Muslims and Islam in the British press references to conflict overall have increased slightly since 2010. As with the 1998-2009 articles, in 2010-2014 we find that conflict is the most frequent theme in the corpus.
- While references to Muslims as extremists have fallen in the British press since 2010, journalists are writing about the abstract concept of extremism much more frequently than they used to. Also, the concept of Islam is also more likely to be referred to as extreme than it used to be. Extremism is still a hot news topic but in this context there has been a move towards focussing more on the religion rather than on its adherents.
- Over half of the references to devout Muslims in the articles are seen as problematic and hypocritical (either not really devout, their devoutness seen as a precursor to extremism or conflicting with 'western' values).
- Since 2010 there has been a small but significant increase in positive discourses around Muslim women, particularly in terms of questioning their oppression or discussion of positive female role models. However, the main picture is a continuation of older discourses which focus on Muslim women as victims, receiving special treatment, victimisation or problematizing their dress.
- Over time, the veil is more likely to be described in negative terms, either as Muslim women being forced into wearing it, or in terms of them demanding or insisting on wearing it. Discussion of the veil as a right appears to have sharply declined, although it is slightly more likely to be described as a choice.
- Stories about Muslim men in the British press have focussed around them as either victims or perpetrators of crime, with particular focus on the sexual abuse of white girls or the risk of them being radicalised.
- Discussion of Islamophobia is most commonly found in broadsheet newspapers, particularly in the Guardian where it is much less likely to be criticised as a concept than other sections of the British press.

The mainstream British media continued to support negative stereotypes about Islam and Muslims with familiar themes about halal meat, Islamic dress, the size of the British Muslim population, shari'ah tribunals and child sex exploitation featuring prominently in media output over the course of the year. The looming shadow of counter-terrorism over much public debate surrounding Muslim communities had a strong showing with a number of newspapers publishing front page stories on Prime Minister David Cameron's speech to the Global Security Forum in Bratislava in June 2015

and his 'Munich 2' speech in July 2015 with headlines such as 'PM: UK Muslims Helping Jihadis' (Daily Mail); 'Muslims must do more to resist ISIL' (Daily Telegraph); and 'Cameron crackdown on 'anti-British' Muslims' (The Times).

No better an example of media misreporting on British Muslims in the context of counter-terrorism can be offered than the alarming front page story published by The Sun newspaper declaring that "1 in 5" British Muslims harboured "sympathy for jihadis".

The newspaper misreported the results of a Survation poll maintaining that a question which did not mention IS (Daesh) nonetheless revealed "sympathy for jihadis" held by one fifth of British Muslims.

We contested the veracity of the reporting and the interpretation by The Sun of the polling data challenging the assertions published in the newspaper in its front page coverage and a double page spread 23 November. In March 2016, over a month after notifying us of its decision to uphold our complaint, the press regulator (Ipso) released the decision to the public at the Easter weekend. The decision to withhold the decision's publication was not explained and the period of its release, a long bank holiday weekend, did not go unnoticed.

It is our belief that the press regulator should be expected to expedite decisions with a firm rule against publishing its decision during national, public holidays.

Further infractions by newspapers have occurred throughout the year. As noted in our previous reports, the constricting of the regulatory code to news reporting only, omitting comment pieces from the regulator's oversight, maintains a system in which the worst infractions are allowed to persist under defence of free speech. While freedom of expression is the bedrock of a democratic society, as argued by the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Woolf in February 2015, "The power of the pen can be mighty and even cartoonists who rely sometimes on gross exaggeration to make their point do need to exercise self-restraint, particularly in sensitive areas where religion is involved."

"Despite the importance of the right to free speech, you are not intended to exercise it regardless of the rights of others."⁴¹⁸

The Times newspaper faced accusations in August 2015 of having misquoted journalist Rukmini Callimachi's piece about Islamic State's attempts to use religion to justify the rape of women. The newspaper printed the article with the title 'Koran encourages rape,' amid much complaint from Callimachi and many readers, before amending the headline.⁴¹⁹

We referred the paper to the press regulator, Ipso, in May 2015 following the publication of a front page story headlined 'Muslims send death threats to teachers' in which it was alleged that teachers at schools in Birmingham were continuing to experience negative reactions following the 'Trojan horse' affair. The headline article contained no verifiable information affirming the 'death threats' sent to teachers were from identified Muslim individuals. Despite our efforts to seek a correction to the front page story, the newspaper maintained the claims made by a teacher, whose account was disputed by articles published elsewhere, were defended as sufficient to corroborate the claim Muslims sent the 'death threats'.⁴²⁰

The Daily Telegraph columnist Allison Pearson claimed in July 2015 that too many Muslims did not 'share our values,' and that multiculturalism had allowed Muslim men to get away with abusing young women, due to a climate of fear around criticising minority groups. Daily Mail journalist Melanie Phillips had also maintained several months earlier in February 2015 that there had been no mention of the religion of the men implicated in the Rochdale sex grooming scandal. She claimed the authorities had bowed to "political correctness by failing to acknowledge that the cultural factor

⁴¹⁸ Cartoonists 'should not offend Muslims' says former Lord Chief Justice, *The Times*, 10 February 2015

⁴¹⁹ MEND, 19 August 2015 (available at: <http://mend.org.uk/the-times-and-anti-muslim-prejudice/>)

⁴²⁰ Birmingham headteachers say they are subject to campaign of intimidation, *The Guardian*, 3 May 2015

behind the Rotherham grooming gangs is not that they are Pakistani but Muslim. It's not Pakistani Christians, Hindus or atheists who are involved in these crimes."⁴²¹

The Times went further with a front page headline declaring the need for a 'national debate' on 'Muslim sex grooming' in March 2015.

Stories about halal slaughter also continued to be prominent in coverage about Muslims in 2015. In February 2015, a front page report in The Independent revealing secret film footage of animal abuse discovered at a halal abattoir invited subsequent coverage elsewhere in the British press with the Daily Express⁴²², Daily Telegraph⁴²³, Daily Mail⁴²⁴, The Times⁴²⁵ and ITV News⁴²⁶ all covering the story with each mentioning a petition to ban unstunned slaughter that was submitted in January 2015.

The petition attracted more than 100,000 signatures prompting a debate in Westminster Hall. During the debate, MPs Diane Abbott and Mike Freer spoke of the fears expressed by their Muslim and Jewish constituents who observed in animal rights advocacy in relation to religious slaughter deliberate attempts to demonise their respective religions.

MP Mike Freer referred to communications received from constituents who proclaimed: "I don't want my meat touched by a dirty man in a beard" or "I don't want Muslim meat"— whatever Muslim meat is."⁴²⁷

Fellow MP Diane Abbott, added: "My local Muslim community is concerned about this debate. Many do not feel that it is really about animal welfare; they worry that it is some sort of covert attack on them and their way of life. I am glad that so many of the speeches today have confirmed the importance - for some of us, at least - of not only animal welfare, obviously, but the right of communities to slaughter meat in the way they wish to under the law."

She also remarked at how the animal welfare debate revealed that "perhaps ignorance, racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism lurk behind some of the respectable arguments."⁴²⁸

The Independent front page story prompted a letter from a representative of Animal Aid challenging the biased narrative in the press coverage around the video. Ben Martin wrote: "A great deal has been made of the fact that the slaughterhouse featured in Animal Aid's latest undercover investigation was a non-stun, halal operation. However, the cruelty we exposed is by no means limited to businesses conducting religious slaughter.

"Prior to our latest investigation, Animal Aid filmed inside nine randomly selected abattoirs, all of which pre-stunned animals for slaughter. In eight of them we also found vicious and illegal abuse taking place, including animals being tortured with stunning equipment."⁴²⁹

The correction appears to have had little effect on some publications with the Daily Express newspaper running a poll in June 2015 asking "Should halal meat be labelled?"⁴³⁰

⁴²¹ *Daily Telegraph*, 21 July 2015

⁴²² 'Vicious and inexcusable' Animals at halal slaughterhouse have throats HACKED with saws, *Daily Express*, 3 February 2015

⁴²³ 'Secret halal slaughterhouse film reveals 'horrific' animal abuse', *Daily Telegraph*, 3 February 2015

⁴²⁴ Inside the halal house of horrors: Sickening footage shows 'evil' abattoir staff 'taunting sheep before hacking them to pieces', *Mail Online*, 3 February 2015

⁴²⁵ Sheep 'hacked to death' at halal abattoir, *The Times*, 3 February 2015

⁴²⁶ 'Horrific animal abuse' captured on halal slaughterhouse spycam, *ITV News*, 3 February 2015

⁴²⁷ HC Debate, Animal Welfare (Non-stun Slaughter), 13 February 2015

⁴²⁸ HC Debate, Animal Welfare (Non-stun Slaughter), 13 February 2015

⁴²⁹ Secular abattoirs are cruel too, *The Independent*, 5 February 2015

⁴³⁰ Vets urge shops to label halal meat after mass public outcry – but will Cameron act?, *Daily Express*, 9 June 2015

THE SCOTTISH Sun

LOUISA
I won't be just another flop

Antonia's fit-trot

See pages 12 & 13

JUSTICE EXCLUSIVE

Veil row halts race trial

MUSLIM'S REFUSAL TO SHOW FACE

DEMAND IS FIRST IN SCOTS COURT

THE TIMES

2-1 Fashion

Anna Murphy: The only models you need to know

Hugo Rifkin: The only models you need to know

Ex-marine is killed after volunteering to fight Isis

Call for national debate on Muslim sex grooming

Thousands of young girls abused over 10 years in India

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PM: UK MUSLIMS HELPING JIHADIS

Communities must stop 'quietly condoning' barbaric IS, he warns

Face it, would you have known this was Kate?

THE TIMES

Lives of the super-rich revealed: Art parties and \$125,000 in facials

How to beat Poldark at his own game

Royal archive blamed for leak of Nazi salute film

Cameron crackdown on 'anti-British' Muslims

Putin demanded share of my company, claims businessman

METRO

HELLO GIRLS!

Stormtrooper teachers used to fight terror

We're being asked to spy on 'radical' Muslim pupils, say union members

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THE Sun

2-1 WINTER DAYS OUT

EXCLUSIVE: SHOCK POLL

1 in 5 Brit Muslims' sympathy for jihadis

Charles: Climate change link to IS

WAKE-UP CALL AFTER PARIS BUTZ

THE TIMES

Bargain homes abroad

Russian envoy called in after nuclear bombers cross Channel

Big increase in religious slaughter of animals

Muslim campaigners report rise of stunning

Censored: Blair's links with Rwanda

THE INDEPENDENT

Farage: scrap race discrimination laws

'I was overcome by the enormity of the situation. I told a terrible lie...'

Total Football

The Daily Telegraph

Mosques ordered to root out extremists

Government edicts mean Muslim leaders in UK may have to root out extremists

Call me flexible, says Freddie

UK 'failed to act' over St Helena child sex abuse

THE INDEPENDENT

Sharia courts: the inside story

A profile of the Muslim world in London, from the Sharia courts to the halal food industry

THE TIMES

Young Muslims fuel huge rise in Sharia marriage

Sharia marriage: Young Muslims fuel huge rise in Sharia marriage

BP at risk of foreign takeover after record £12 billion fine

Sp DAILY EXPRESS

JUDGE BACKS MUSLIM VEIL

Defendants can cover their faces in court

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THE TIMES

The yuccies are coming

Watch out! Young urban creatives are taking over

Leaders warn Greece will leave EU if it votes no

Check schools for future terrorists, heads are told

One school officer for Tunisia shot in weekend victim of home

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the guardian

Muslim 'fifth column' fuels fear - Farage

Ukip leader says he would get rid of 'fifth column' anti-discrimination laws

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CHARLES TO UK MUSLIMS: ABIDE BY OUR VALUES

Prince: If you come to live here you must respect us

He will tell Saudi King: Stop 1,000 lashes for jailed blogger

Absolutely nuts! Joanna Lumley and a bizarre diet secret

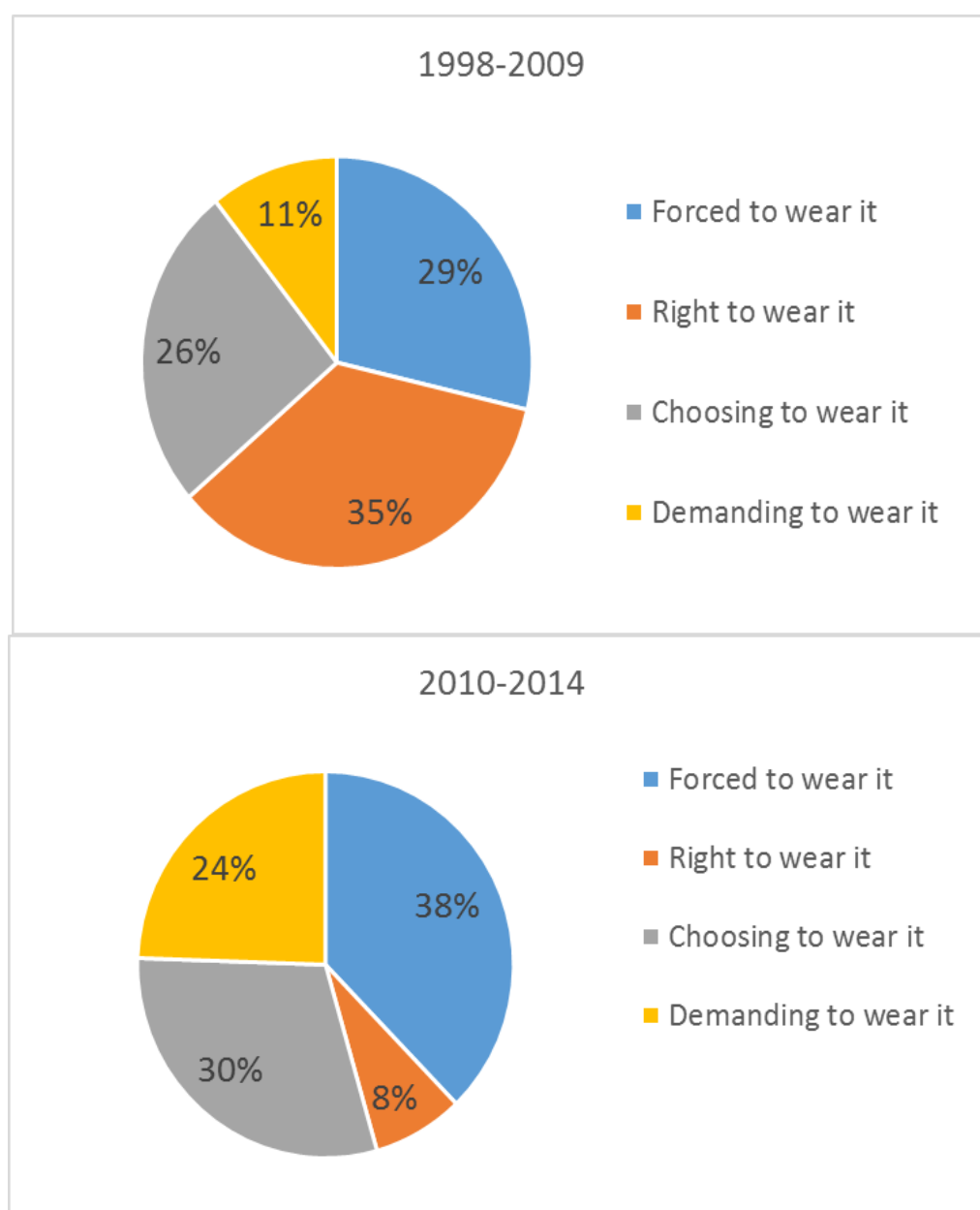
THE INDEPENDENT

Outcry after undercover film exposes brutality of halal industry

How the 'Maltese Parrot' found his voice

The singling out of Islam in the religious slaughter debate, with much coverage labelling Islamic practices as "barbaric" reinforces the prejudice reserved for Muslim communities in public debate about accommodating minority religions. Its impact should not be underestimated with the far right movement Britain First launching an "anti-halal operation" in Dartford in late June 2015.⁴³¹

The veil issue appeared on front page stories related to the observance of veiling in courtrooms. The *Scottish Sun*⁴³² and the *Daily Express*, both of which have persistently published commentary sympathetic to the imposition of veils bans in the UK, featured stories about Muslim women and the practice of veiling when offering testimony in criminal trials. In the case of the *Daily Express*, its misrepresentation of a speech delivered by the president of the Supreme Court, Lord Neuberger, to the Criminal Justice Alliance on 10 April was met with a 'clarification' issued by Lord Neuberger's office challenging the paper's front page rendering of his speech under the headline 'Judge backs Muslim veil'.⁴³³



⁴³¹ MP Gareth Johnson contacts police over Britain First "anti-halal operation" in Dartford, *Kent Messenger*, 22 June 2015

⁴³² Veil row halts race trial, *The Scottish Sun* 15 December 2015

⁴³³ *Daily Express*, 18 April 2015

Changes to the way the veil has been portrayed in the British media between 1998-2009 and 2010-2014 is illustrated in the charts above which denote a growth in the number of articles in 2010-2014 which present the veil as something Muslim women "demand" to wear or are "forced" to wear with a sharp decline in the number of articles which portray the practice as the "right" of Muslim women to wear. There has been a perceptible increase in the number of articles which refer to Muslim women "choosing" to wear the veil but the overall tendency in UK news reporting is to portray the veil in negative media frames.

Counter - terrorism and security

Counter-terrorism strategies continue to play a significant role in perpetuating an environment conducive to anti-Muslim prejudice and hostility. The consequent 'Muslim exceptionalism,' that derives from the tendency to commonly associate Islam with violence and terrorism or to discuss counter-terrorism policy with a disproportionate focus on Muslim communities, renders Muslims vulnerable to hostility, particularly after terrorist incidents.

The Government's Prevent strategy, primarily aimed at deterring violent extremism has continued to face intense criticism from a range of expert voices. The passing of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act in 2015, placing the Prevent programme on a statutory footing for a range of public bodies, from nurseries, schools, universities to prisons, hospitals and the probation service, has further heightened fears of Muslims being treated as a 'suspect community' with reports of profiling, discrimination and the policing of legitimate political views under the auspices of a programme intended to counter 'non violent extremism'. The expansion of the duty's parameters to include 'non-violent extremism' has reinforced the stigmatisation of Muslim communities by bringing more and more of religion within the purview of 'tackling extremism' such as identifying religious behaviours, like adopting the wearing of the headscarf or growing a beard, as 'signs of radicalisation'.

Guidance by one London council presented the following as 'signs of radicalisation' to be monitored by local officials: "Appearing angry about government policies, especially foreign policy" and "Showing mistrust of mainstream media reports and belief in conspiracy theories."⁴³⁴

Given the propensity of the British media to misrepresent Muslim communities in the UK, one would regard "showing mistrust of mainstream media reports" a healthy sign of scepticism and critical inquiry. Not, it would seem, under the new paradigm of the Prevent duty where distrust of mainstream media is interpreted as portentous of 'radicalisation'.

Perceptions of Muslims as inherently disposed to anti-Western attitudes, radicalisation and extremism were further indulged by interventions by Government ministers and the Prime Minister, David Cameron, who in a speech delivered in June 2015 accused Muslims of "quietly condoning" extremism.

Europe's main human rights watchdog, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, has insisted that Prevent is a dangerous strategy. Nils Muiznieks claimed in May 2016 that Prevent is at serious risk of "isolating the very communities whose cooperation is most needed to fight violent extremism."⁴³⁵ In 2015, the UN Human Rights Committee recommended that the UK's counter-terrorism legislation be overhauled and be brought into line with international human rights agreements.⁴³⁶

Last year also saw dissenting voices from within the Conservative party hierarchy with the Conservative peer Baroness Sayeeda Warsi criticising the Government for alienating Muslims and

⁴³⁴ 'Young people who question Government or media may be extremists, officials tell parents', *The Independent*, 1 December 2015

⁴³⁵ 'Commissioner on UK 'Prevent' Strategy for Education,' 17 May 2016 (available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/edc/-/commissioner-on-uk-prevent-strategy-and-education>)

⁴³⁶ *The Guardian*, 23 July 2015

failing to fully engage with Muslim communities by regarding many British Muslim organisations as "beyond the pale."⁴³⁷

Her criticisms were in reaction to a letter sent to a thousand mosques in the UK by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sir Eric Pickles, in January 2015 calling upon mosque leaders to "demonstrate the true nature of British Islam today". In the letter, the then Communities Secretary argued "strong community-based leadership" was necessary to supplement Whitehall efforts on "integration and radicalisation" and that mosque leaders bore "a precious opportunity, and an important responsibility" for teaching "British Islam" to their congregations.

The letter stated: "There is a need to lay out more clearly than ever before what being a British Muslim means today: proud of your faith and proud of your country."

The letter was widely criticised by British Muslims for being patronising and for deliberately feeding stereotypical views about Muslim disloyalty or notions of a discord between Muslim faith identity and national identity.⁴³⁸

In January 2015, human rights campaigners spoke out against proposals by the government regarding their new counter-terrorism legislation, claiming that it would turn swathes of public servants into 'spies'.⁴³⁹ For similar reasons the former Labour leader Ed Miliband called for an overhaul altogether of the Prevent strategy in February, claiming that "parents, families, neighbours, mosques and friends" all need to be in the frontline in the fight against violent extremism.⁴⁴⁰

Yet the backlash against Prevent still comes up against the anti-Muslim narratives prevalent in the media. Shortly after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January 2015, writer Douglas Murray claimed that the massacre was indicative of a campaign "to place that religion – Islam – above the level of all other religions or ideas and make it immune from criticism."⁴⁴¹

The idea was echoed elsewhere in the British media later in the year when the then leader of the Labour Party pledged to "root out Islamophobia as a hate crime."⁴⁴²

Commentary in the right wing papers by columnists, who have some form in deriding Islamophobia as a concept and as an infringement of free speech, took the usual turn with Melanie Phillips arguing, "Charges of racism or Islamophobia are routinely used to intimidate those who criticise Muslims or Islam. They have been used to enable the systematic sexual enslavement of thousands of young teenage girls."⁴⁴³

In the Daily Telegraph, Allison Pearson wrote: "If Miliband's definition of Islamophobia includes shouting until one's last breath against the disgusting chauvinists who prey on young girls and treat women as second-class citizens, then please do count me in. I'd gladly go to jail for that."⁴⁴⁴

And in the Daily Express, columnist Leo McKinstry stated: "In Miliband's Britain, it will become impossible to criticise any aspect of Islamic culture, whether it be the spread of the burka or the establishment of sharia courts or the construction of colossal new mosques. We already live in a society where Mohammed is now the most popular boy's name and where a child born in

⁴³⁷ Muslims will speak up for British values only when they know they will be heard, *The Guardian*, 24 January 2015

⁴³⁸ Government tells mosques: force out the preachers of hate, *Daily Telegraph*, 18 January 2015

⁴³⁹ Anti-terror plan to spy on toddlers 'is heavy-handed', *Daily Telegraph*, 4 January 2015

⁴⁴⁰ Miliband: 'Real Fear' Among Jews And Muslims, *Sky News*, 17 February 2015

⁴⁴¹ Douglas Murray, 'A threat to every single one of us: the cold-blooded outrage in Paris is about our right to be free to express ourselves,' *Daily Mail*, 7 January 2015

⁴⁴² 'Labour to outlaw Islamophobia', *Muslim News*, 24 April 2015

⁴⁴³ The poor suffer when free speech is denied, *The Times*, 27 April 2015

⁴⁴⁴ The price that Ed Miliband is prepared to pay to win the Muslim vote, *Daily Telegraph*, 29 April 2015

Birmingham is more likely to be a Muslim than a Christian. If he wins, Miliband will ensure that the accelerating Islamification of our country will go unchallenged."⁴⁴⁵

While Muslim struggle to be heard under the weight of a counter-terrorism programme that has a harsh discriminatory impact and which reinforces their depiction as a "threat" or "fifth columnists", efforts to tackle Islamophobia are ridiculed as privileging Muslim communities and placing Islam "beyond criticism".

Schools

The Prevent strategy has had profoundly worrying implications for Muslim pupils in schools. A primary school pupil in Birmingham was referred to the Channel programme in October 2015 for expressing views no more extreme than a belief that his school needed a prayer room and that girls should wear headscarves, something one can assume to be the individual's personal view.⁴⁴⁶ In a similar case, a child at a North London school was referred to Child Protection officers in September 2015 for using the term 'eco-terrorism' in the classroom. His parents were spurred into pursuing legal action against the school following concerns about the school's handling of the situation without a parent or guardian present and the enduring effect of the trauma on the boy's well-being.⁴⁴⁷

There was also outrage in May 2015 in the London Borough of Waltham Forest after an attempt to get primary school pupils to respond to a survey aimed at providing clues about possible radicalisation was uncovered. Under a funded programme called BRIT (Building Resilience through Integration and Trust), Waltham Forest Council piloted a scheme among five primary schools all of which, incidentally, had high numbers of Muslim pupils. Parents complained that they had not been told beforehand about the questionnaires, which included questions on topics such as whether women are just as good as men at work and whether pupils would be willing to cause harm to someone who made fun of their religion, and that the children's anonymity had not been safeguarded due to children being asked to put their names and other personal details on the survey forms.⁴⁴⁸

The 'profiling' of young people in schools through the use of the questionnaire pales in comparison to the large scale profiling of Muslim schoolchildren under the Prevent statutory duty,

The Guardian newspaper published statistics showing that in 2015, 1,319 referrals to the Channel programme, out of a total of 3,994, came from the education sector. In total, the majority of those referred came from Muslim backgrounds, with 1,394 being reported in 2015. 54% of these cases were also of people under the age of 18.⁴⁴⁹

The National Police Chiefs Council published data on Channel referrals which disclosed the number of void referrals to be as high as 80%, or four in every five cases referred to the authorities. Figures released under Freedom of Information denote the sharp rise in referrals under the Coalition Government, 2010-2015, with numbers rising sharply after the introduction of the Prevent statutory duty.⁴⁵⁰

Al-Jazeera also reported that a Muslim pupil faced harassment and questioning by a Prevent officer in July 2015 after he brought literature into his school that declared his support for Palestine.⁴⁵¹

⁴⁴⁵ Dare to speak out and Ed will send in Thought Police, warns Leo McKinstry, *Daily Express*, 27 April 2015

⁴⁴⁶ *Daily Mail*, 12 October 2015

⁴⁴⁷ *The Guardian*, 22 September 2015

⁴⁴⁸ *The Guardian*, 28 May 2015

⁴⁴⁹ *The Guardian*, 12 July 2016

⁴⁵⁰ National Police Chiefs Councils disclosures on Channel referrals under Freedom of Information

⁴⁵¹ *Al-Jazeera*, 23 July 2015

In December 2015, the Waltham Forest Council of Mosques went so far as to boycott the Prevent programme, which it claimed was a racist attack on Britain's Muslims. The organisation condemned Waltham Forest council's support for the aforementioned BRIT programme in primary schools, as well as the Prevent strategy. Waltham Forest Council of Mosques claimed the programme "overtly targets members of the Muslim faith," stating that they have "no confidence in the BRIT project and the Prevent strategy overall."⁴⁵²

December 2015 also saw Muslim religious leaders in the London Borough of Newham maintain the Prevent strategy was alienating Muslim pupils by encouraging "spying" and leading to a "breakdown in trust" in colleges and schools. The statement was backed by student unions, teachers and community organisations.⁴⁵³

Schools are also increasingly becoming breeding grounds for bullying and hate crime as a result of the increasing association between Muslims and terrorism, a problem exacerbated since the introduction of the Prevent duty. A teacher in Rotherham was reported for causing considerable upset to a Muslim pupil after she called him a 'terrorist' in December 2015,⁴⁵⁴ while another in Coventry had been banned in April for referring to an applicant as 'the Taliban'.⁴⁵⁵

Furthermore, in January 2015 the Independent newspaper reported that there had been a spike in Islamophobic bullying in schools in Britain after the Charlie Hebdo murders in Paris.⁴⁵⁶ Similarly, just after the second set of attacks in Paris in November 2015, Childline, the UK's national helpline for young people, received numerous calls from schoolchildren who were terrified of being attacked or bullied as a result of the attacks.⁴⁵⁷

Reports of these incidents were underpinned by academics from universities in Newcastle, St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, who published research in October 2015 drawing attention to a 'majority' of Muslim pupils at schools in Scotland having endured Islamophobia in some form.⁴⁵⁸ Notably, there was an increase in such incidents by 155% since 2010 within schools in Glasgow.⁴⁵⁹

The research is supplemented with a huge survey of schoolchildren in England and Wales, conducted by Dr Paul Jackson of Northampton University for the charity, Show Racism the Red Card, which revealed disturbing attitudes on Islam prevalent among young people. The study, which polled 6,000 British schoolchildren found that 31% agreed with the statement "Muslims are taking over our country."

On average, pupils believed Muslims made up "36% of the population" and around a quarter of young people (26%) said "Islam encourages terrorism/extremism."⁴⁶⁰

It is difficult not to question the contribution of the Prevent strategy to attitudes displayed among young people which suggest that a connection between the religion of Islam and terrorism/extremism is too readily drawn. It further raises questions about the role of teaching environments in challenging negative perceptions about Muslims that are rising among young people in Britain.

⁴⁵² *The Guardian*, 17 December 2015

⁴⁵³ *The Guardian*, 6 December 2015

⁴⁵⁴ *The Star*, 8 December 2015

⁴⁵⁵ *Daily Mail*, 10 April 2015

⁴⁵⁶ *The Independent*, 23 January 2015

⁴⁵⁷ *Daily Express*, 20 November 2015

⁴⁵⁸ *Herald Scotland*, 23 October 2015

⁴⁵⁹ *Evening Times*, 19 January 2015

⁴⁶⁰ Racist and anti-immigration views held by children revealed in schools study, *The Guardian*, 19 May 2015

Universities

Examples abound in 2015 of the Prevent strategy having deeply concerning consequences for Muslims on university campuses, the preservation of academic freedom on campus and the engendering of critical thinking skills among students in the higher education sector. The former Business Secretary Vince Cable appeared at a conference in October 2015 where he went so far as to criticise the legal requirement for universities to comply with the Prevent strategy, saying that it threatened to lead to campus debates that would be 'inoffensive' and 'bland.'⁴⁶¹

In September 2015 a student at Staffordshire University was accused of being a 'potential terrorist' after he was spotted by a university staff member reading a text book for a masters' course he was completing in Terrorism, Crime and Global Security.⁴⁶²

Furthermore, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) was one of several universities that lashed out against being 'named and shamed' by the Home Office in September 2015 for apparently hosting 'hate preachers' on its campus. The School claimed this was inaccurate, as one of only 6 speakers named by then Prime Minister David Cameron had spoken at the school.⁴⁶³

The result of so many of these incidents was a campaign launched by the National Union of Students (NUS), entitled 'Students Not Suspects', in September 2015 which aimed to boycott the government's counter-radicalisation strategy and its requirements of universities.⁴⁶⁴

A terrorism expert at Oxford University, Professor Louise Richardson, dismissed the government's attempts at linking universities with extremism, claiming instead that universities were "the perfect place to challenge and debate radicalised ideas" through a conducive environment, rather than through spying and scaremongering.⁴⁶⁵

As in schools, examples of bullying and abuse, often rooted in a perceived link between Muslims and violence, have been frequent. Two students at the University of Edinburgh were allegedly verbally abused and spat upon in November 2015 while on campus, being called 'motherf***** terrorist whores' by their assailants,⁴⁶⁶ while a group of students at the University of Sussex shouted abuse outside a prayer room used by the university's Islamic Society in November 2015, which included comments about ISIS.⁴⁶⁷

Anti-Muslim graffiti was also found at the University of Birmingham for a third time in March 2015. The words 'Muslims Must Die' and 'Kill Islam Before it Kills You' were found daubed across walls on the campus. Previously, the same message had been discovered on two other university buildings.⁴⁶⁸

The UK's Muslim population has the youngest age profile of all religious groups in the UK with a third of Muslims aged under 15 and almost half the British Muslim population (48%) aged 24 or under. The details outlined here of the spread of dangerous and divisive narratives about British Muslims in schools and universities, consistent with the wider environment where such stereotypes are plainly observable, bode ill for the future.

⁴⁶¹ The *Guardian*, 27 October 2015

⁴⁶² The *Independent*, 24 September 2015

⁴⁶³ The *Independent*, 17 September 2015

⁴⁶⁴ The *Guardian*, 2 September 2015

⁴⁶⁵ *BBC News*, 2 June 2015

⁴⁶⁶ University of Edinburgh students allegedly attacked on campus as Islamophobia surges Scotland-wide, *The Student Newspaper*, 22 September 2015

⁴⁶⁷ *The Badger*, 24 November 2015 (available at: <http://thebadgeronline.com/2015/11/islamophobic-taunting-reported-outside-the-muslim-prayer-centre/>)

⁴⁶⁸ *Birmingham Mail*, 17 March 2015

Young Muslims are growing up amidst widespread negative imagery about their religion while spaces that ought to nurture their growth, learning and development are becoming the loci of surreptitious monitoring. Engendering feelings of widespread insecurity among Muslim students is neither desirable nor demonstrable of a successful strategy for integration, cohesion and social harmony.

Far-right protests

Demonstrations by extreme right-wing groups, including the English Defence League and Britain First, were a recurring site across Britain in 2015. Frequent reasons put forward for any protests that were distinctly anti-Muslim in character were the construction of new mosques as well the presence of halal abattoirs, both being cited as an unwelcome incursion and attempt at 'Islamifying' British communities. Concerns about 'Muslim grooming gangs' were also a resurgent theme, as they were in 2014.

In our log of incidents occurring in 2015, we identified 44 protests taking place over the course of the year. They included attempts to stage a protest in Anglesey by extreme right-wing protesters in November 2015. They were outnumbered by a counter-protest seeking to 'celebrate diversity,' with the counter-protesters out-stripping those on the radical right by approximately 10 to 1.⁴⁶⁹

Eight people were arrested at a protest in Bradford staged by the English Defence League in November, with 80-100 people in total being present at the protest. The reasons for the arrests included drug possession, breach of the peace and incitement to racial hatred.⁴⁷⁰

A month before then, a far-right protest was staged outside an abattoir for animals being slaughtered for halal meat. The incident happened in Cleveland in the north-east of by people maintaining they wanted to 'reclaim the village.' Those taking part claimed that the noise, the smell and the traffic from the site was 'ruining their lives.'⁴⁷¹

Similarly, restaurant owners in Dartford were targeted by members of Britain First for selling halal foods. The organisation's leader Paul Golding claimed they were starting an "anti-halal operation," with supporters handing out leaflets discouraging people from attending restaurants where halal meat was apparently used. Mr. Golding insisted that people who consumed such meat were inadvertently funding terrorism.⁴⁷²

Similar incidents included the threat by the EDL to hold a demonstration in Walthamstow, east London against what they saw as the 'Islamification' of their area. Topics the far right group wanted to address at the protest rally included 'the radicalisation of young UK Muslims,' the 'spread of mosques' and the 'intrusion of unlabelled halal foods.'⁴⁷³ This prompted local authorities in Waltham Forest to appeal to the Home Office to enact special powers under the Public Order Act in order to allow local councils to ban far right demonstrations from groups such as Britain First and the English Defence League.⁴⁷⁴

The EDL also planned to hold a protest (eventually cancelled) at Waterworld waterpark in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire over the summer against the plans for the park to have 'women-only' days.⁴⁷⁵

Further far-right protests in places like Burton⁴⁷⁶ and Rotherham⁴⁷⁷ were staged in opposition to the building of mosques and the perceived lack of action over child sex abuse scandals caused by what the protesters described as 'Muslim grooming gangs.'

⁴⁶⁹ *Wales Online*, 21 November 2015

⁴⁷⁰ *Telegraph & Argus*, 14 November 2015

⁴⁷¹ *Northern Echo*, 26 October 2015

⁴⁷² *Kent Online*, 22 June 2015

⁴⁷³ *Waltham Forest, Chingford, and Wanstead & Woodford Guardian*, 2 April 2015

⁴⁷⁴ Campaigners criticise police response to EDL march, *East London and West Essex Guardian*, 25 May 2015

⁴⁷⁵ *Stoke Sentinel*, 18 July 2015

Demonstrations by the organisation Pegida, which claims it is fighting against the 'Islamisation' of Europe, were also held in Newcastle in February 2015,⁴⁷⁸ in Edinburgh in March,⁴⁷⁹ and in London in April 2015.⁴⁸⁰ Originally founded in Germany, Pegida claims its aim is to 'raise awareness of the detrimental affect radical Islam and slack border controls/mass immigration is having on our country.'

These protests were often characterised by violence and disorder, which has placed a strain on local towns as well as on the police forces required to keep order at the events. In the space of two months, West Midlands Police claimed they spent £100,000 between June and August purely on policing far-right protests,⁴⁸¹ while the head of the police force in Bedfordshire, Olly Martins, insisted that the high cost of having a police presence at far-right protests had become 'untenable.'⁴⁸² People in the Midlands town of Dudley, the location of several anti-mosque protests, described how such demonstrations had come to 'blight' their town.⁴⁸³

This is of particular concern in areas such as Rotherham in Yorkshire, where the police spent £4m on policing far right protests in the area between 2012 and 2015. As well as stretching police budgets during a time of extensive government cuts, the protests have also negatively affected local businesses. Law enforcement in the area have talked about imposing a ban on the demonstrations, which have ranged between 14 and 20 in recent years.⁴⁸⁴

Overall, far right protests targeting Islam and Muslim communities numbered a total of 39 in 2015, compared with 40 in 2013 and 36 in 2014. Regions which saw the largest number of protests across all years were Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. From the information MEND was able to derive through FOI or open sources, the total cost for the three years was over £9.5 million. Despite this, there appears to be no cohesive local police strategy for tackling far-right activity.⁴⁸⁵

Literature, postings and public statements from politicians; elected and prospective

2015 was an election year in the UK with a general and local elections held in May 2015. As in previous election years, anti-Muslim prejudice has been prolifically spread by various incumbent and prospective politicians.

The anti-Muslim sentiments expressed by many within the political sphere, both about Muslims across Britain and towards Muslim politicians, has continued to progress unabated. Dame Tessa Jowell, a Labour candidate for the most recent London mayoral election, was forced to issue an apology after it was revealed that in September 2015 that a volunteer for her campaign had warned a party supporter against supporting Sadiq Khan, for fear that his Muslim background would make him a 'liability.'⁴⁸⁶ Prior to this, despite Mr. Khan going on to secure a victory in the elections and becoming the current Mayor of London, a YouGov poll had announced in August 2015 that nearly 1 in 3 Londoners, 31%, claimed to be uncomfortable with having a Muslim mayor.⁴⁸⁷

Such incidents continue to illuminate the extra layer of scrutiny Muslim politicians are continually subject to with suspicions being voiced over potential terrorist sympathies, purely because the

⁴⁷⁶ *Burton Mail*, 21 October 2015

⁴⁷⁷ *The Star*, 5 September 2015

⁴⁷⁸ *BBC News*, 28 February 2015

⁴⁷⁹ *Edinburgh Evening News*, 19 March 2015

⁴⁸⁰ *The Independent*, 4 April 2015

⁴⁸¹ *Express and Star*, 21 September 2015

⁴⁸² *Police Oracle*, 2 July 2015

⁴⁸³ *Dudley News*, 24 June 2015

⁴⁸⁴ *The Star*, 10 September 2015

⁴⁸⁵ Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, MEND Manifesto 2016, p. 21-22 (available at: http://mend.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/PCC_Manifesto_2016.pdf)

⁴⁸⁶ *Evening Standard*, 3 September 2015

⁴⁸⁷ *The Independent*, 13 August 2015

individuals in question happen to identify with Islam. This has continued across the political hierarchy. Muslims MPs and councillors have been subject to abuse and verbal attacks, including online hatred, as experienced by the Scottish Muslim minister Humza Yousaf in the aftermath of the attacks in Paris in November 2015 by militants linked to Islamic State.

Mr Yousaf was accused via Twitter and Facebook of supporting the violence in Paris and being told that he was a danger to Britain and should be deported.⁴⁸⁸ This was part of a general rise in Islamophobic abuse, both online and offline, reported in the aftermath of the violence in France with a fellow Muslim Scottish National Party member allegedly receiving abuse via text message from a party councillor in Dundee days after the Paris attacks.⁴⁸⁹

Muslim activists within the various political parties have also faced harassment and abuse at the hands of councillors. September 2015 saw the condemnation of a Labour councillor in Manchester who abused and intimidated a Muslim party activist who had volunteered as part of the Stop the War Coalition. Mark Hackett emailed the activist in question accusing him of being an 'Islamic State sleeper in Salford'.⁴⁹⁰

Councillors and MEPs from the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) have also been noted for their willingness to publicly voice extreme right wing ideas in their speeches as well as on social media. Politicians from UKIP have expressed a willingness to ban the religious slaughter of animals, repeal existing laws against racial discrimination and force mosques to have licences simply to operate as religious buildings. They include the words of the former UKIP leader Nigel Farage, who claimed some British Muslims want to form "a fifth column to kill us", and that there has never before been a migrant group that wants to "change who we are and what we are".⁴⁹¹

He also insisted that his party would scrap race discrimination legislation if it got into power.⁴⁹² UKIP candidate Magnus Nielsen, who stood for election in Hampstead and Kilburn said he would force mosques to only allow 'licenced' imams to preach there with the view to preventing any from speaking if they attempted to preach on subjects that 'contravened UK law and human rights'.⁴⁹³

These deeply repressive measures, clearly targeted at Muslims, have generally been justified with statements questioning the extent to which Islam is compatible with 'British values' and often denouncing Islam as an inherently violent faith. Frequently, these individuals' links to far-right political parties like the English Defence League (EDL), Britain First and the British National Party (BNP) have been exposed, with instances including the investigation of six UKIP candidates for harbouring far-right tendencies. They include Bill Walker, the party's candidate in Aldershot, Hampshire, who tweeted a racist cartoon depicting Muslims as suicide bombers where he added the caption 'Brits are treated like second-class citizens in their own country.' The persistence of these ideas continues to toxify the discourse surrounding Muslims within British political debate.⁴⁹⁴

- A Labour party councillor from Cardiff, Ralph Cook, was suspended in December 2015 for making 'inflammatory and bigoted' statements about Islam on his Facebook page.⁴⁹⁵
- An independent councillor for Morpeth town, David E. Clark, was reported to the police in November 2015 for saying on his Facebook page that 'Islam is the biggest threat to world peace'.⁴⁹⁶

⁴⁸⁸ *Daily Record*, 19 November 2015

⁴⁸⁹ SNP councillor probed over 'anti-Islamic texts', *The Scotsman*, 16 January 2016

⁴⁹⁰ *Morning Star*, 22 September 2016

⁴⁹¹ Nigel Farage: British Muslim 'fifth column' fuels fear of immigration, *The Guardian*, 12 March 2015

⁴⁹² *BBC News*, 12 March 2015

⁴⁹³ *Ham & High*, 16 February 2015

⁴⁹⁴ *Daily Mail*, 29 April 2015

⁴⁹⁵ *Wales Online*, 17 December 2015

⁴⁹⁶ *Chronicle Live*, 27 November 2015

- UKIP candidate Steve Latham, who called Islam on Facebook an 'evil cult,' was banned in October 2015 from standing for the party in the Black Country.⁴⁹⁷
- UKIP suspended election candidate Bobby Douglas in the Welsh council of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen in August 2015 after he was found to have posted racist and abusive comments about Islam online. He was reported to have 'labelled Muslim men paedophiles after claiming marrying children is sanctioned by Islam.'⁴⁹⁸
- A fire service employee in North Wales, who was not named, was investigated in August 2015 for apparently sending anti-Islamic comments to a far-right website during work hours. The accused claimed that "jihadists" were being recruited by councils in Northern Europe.⁴⁹⁹
- The UKIP MEP for the West Midlands, Bill Etheridge, was found in July 2015 to have been added to a Facebook page titled 'Islam will not dominate the world.' He was criticised for this by a Labour councillor, who insisted he should have better monitored how his staff handled his communications.⁵⁰⁰
- A staff member at a school in Bradford was reported to the police in June 2015 for sharing a post from Britain First on her Facebook page, which was deemed 'tasteless and offensive' by the school. The post shows an image of women in niqab and states 'share if you find this offensive.' It was allegedly shared by a member of the college's support staff, Angie Dunn.⁵⁰¹
- An independent councillor in South Wales, Mike Harris, who used the term 'Muzzy' in a diatribe against Muslims on Facebook was deemed to have not breached any ethics by the council regulator in June 2015, even though it was regarded as 'offensive.'⁵⁰²
- A police officer in the Greater Manchester Police, whose identity was not revealed, was dismissed in June 2015 for posting 'racist and offensive' comments about Muslims on Facebook. The comment said: 'we have allowed them (Muslims) to settle into their own communities and they have no desire to mix, they would rather take over areas and breed like rabbits.'⁵⁰³
- A UKIP candidate who was standing for election to Leeds City Council resigned from his position as a primary school governor in May 2015, after it was revealed that he had made offensive and derogatory remarks about Muslims on social media. Craig Sweaton was reported for suggesting that bacon should be buried on sites where mosques were to be built.⁵⁰⁴
- A UKIP candidate running for the Mansfield District Council election, Sidney James Walker, was accused in May 2015 of having links to the far-right British National Party (BNP) after a list of its members was leaked by Wikileaks.⁵⁰⁵
- UKIP party candidate for Failsworth, Graham Whitehead, was investigated by the party in April 2015 after a series of racist and Islamophobic posts appeared on his social media page, including a joke about inter-racial marriage apparently posted by the candidate beneath a picture of two children holding monkeys.⁵⁰⁶

⁴⁹⁷ *Express & Star*, 9 October 2015

⁴⁹⁸ *Caerphilly Observer*, 26 August 2016

⁴⁹⁹ *Daily Post*, 25 August 2015

⁵⁰⁰ *Express & Star*, 20 July 2015

⁵⁰¹ *Telegraph & Argus*, 25 June 2015

⁵⁰² *South Wales Argus*, 10 June 2015

⁵⁰³ *Manchester Evening News*, 5 June 2015

⁵⁰⁴ *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 30 April 2015

⁵⁰⁵ *Mansfield and Ashfield Chad*, 29 April 2015

⁵⁰⁶ *Oldham Evening Chronicle*, 17 April 2015

- Nigel Farage was criticised in April 2015 for refusing to distance himself from the comments of another UKIP politician, one who had claimed that Jews were fearful of Muslims. Farage stated that in private, many Jewish people would 'echo' what he said.⁵⁰⁷
- UKIP candidate from Oxford, Alan Harris, claimed his Facebook account had been hacked after some anti-Muslim comments appeared on his page. They included statements such as "a bacon sandwich – a piece of English heritage the...Muslims don't want."⁵⁰⁸
- A UKIP candidate in Chingford, Freddy Vachha, made a claim that the UK would have 'Shariah law' and was under threat from a 'Muslim takeover' while out canvassing for the party in April 2015.⁵⁰⁹
- Leaflets appearing in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, purportedly from UKIP were reported to the police for brandishing messages such as urging voters to vote for another party if they wanted "a jihadi for a neighbour". UKIP denied the leaflets were produced by the party labelling them a "deception" by political rivals.⁵¹⁰
- UKIP candidate David Coburn compared Scottish minister Humza Yousaf to Abu Hamza in March 2015 prompting calls for his resignation.⁵¹¹
- A UKIP candidate for Monmouth, Gareth Dunn, was questioned in March 2015 over his promotion of EDL material on Twitter, where he urged people to watch a video of ex-leader and co-founder of the EDL, Stephen Lennon, speaking at the Oxford Union.⁵¹²
- Facebook posts on the page of a UKIP candidate in Leicestershire, Richard Crouch, were uncovered which made references to the Taliban and used the word 'P****'. UKIP claimed in March 2015 that they were investigating the claims.⁵¹³
- A UKIP candidate for Newport East, Donald Grewar, was forced to stand down in February 2015 after expressing support for the EDL responding to a post by the far right group stating "no surrender to militant Islam or political correctness" with the comment: "Thus sais it all [sic]... the mood of the nation... well done EDL".⁵¹⁴
- A council worker in Manchester, David Balderstone, was suspended in January 2015 after an anti-Muslim post on his Facebook page showed him declaring that Islam as a religion should be expunged from Britain.⁵¹⁵
- A UKIP MEP for London, Gerard Batten, stated his belief in January 2015 that British Muslims should be made to sign a 'Charter of Understanding' declaring their commitment to disavow violence in the name of Islam.⁵¹⁶ Batten's support for the 'Proposed Charter of Muslim Understanding' first emerged in February 2014.⁵¹⁷

⁵⁰⁷ *The Jewish Chronicle*, 13 April 2015

⁵⁰⁸ *The Independent*, 2 April 2015

⁵⁰⁹ *Harberler*, 1 April 2015 (available at: <http://en.haberler.com/ukip-s-rhetoric-resonates-in-tory-heartland-693424/>)

⁵¹⁰ UKIP denies producing 'jihadi' benefits leaflet, *BBC News*, 23 March 2015

⁵¹¹ *BBC News*, 25 March 2015

⁵¹² *South Wales Argus*, 10 March 2015

⁵¹³ *Leicester Mercury*, 27 February 2015

⁵¹⁴ *BBC News*, 3 February 2015

⁵¹⁵ *Manchester Evening News*, 26 January 2015

⁵¹⁶ *The Independent*, 14 January 2015

⁵¹⁷ Proposed code of conduct for British Muslims commissioned by Ukip MEP Gerard Batten – full document, *The Guardian*, 4 February 2014

- An ex-member of UKIP, Ian Couch, has faced a jail sentence in January 2015 for sending an email to a Cambridge mosque and for posting racial slurs on his Facebook page, which included statements about putting pigs' heads in the mosques.⁵¹⁸

Anti-Muslim attitudes among the British public

The polling agency YouGov carried out a survey in May 2015 assessing attitudes towards minority groups across European countries. In terms of intolerance towards Muslims, 40% of those polled in Britain admitted to a negative attitude towards Muslims, coming second only to Roma/Gypsies (at 58%). Although this was less than levels of anti-Muslim intolerance in Finland and Denmark, it was equal to France and higher than in Germany, Norway and Sweden.⁵¹⁹

Furthermore, a poll for BBC Radio 4 conducted by polling company ComRes in February 2015 showed that 46% of the 1,000 British Muslims surveyed felt that "prejudice against Islam makes it difficult to be a Muslim in the UK." Almost twice as many Muslim women than Muslim men, 19% to 10%, said that they do not feel safe as a Muslim in Britain.⁵²⁰

The charity Islamic Relief UK also found that when asked about which words individuals associate most with Muslims, the word 'terrorism' was the most common with 12% of respondents selecting it. The poll, conducted for the British Muslim charity by YouGov in June 2015, found a decline in support for refugees coming to Britain particularly those coming from the Middle East: only 29% of those polled said that Britain should offer refuge to those fleeing from Syria and the Middle East.⁵²¹

In August 2015, 81 year old Muhsin Ahmed was so viciously assaulted while on the way to his Rotherham mosque that he later died from his injuries. His aggressors reportedly accused him of being a 'groomer,' or paedophile, reportedly for no other reason than that he was Asian.⁵²²

The dangers of anti-Muslim discourse are real and serious. Its impact can be felt in the media reporting on Islam and Muslims that leaves Muslims susceptible to prejudice; in the far right protests which bring low level violence and intimidation to Muslim communities around the country; in the political climate and divisive tactics that leave Muslim individuals and groups alienated from political processes and in the weakness felt by Muslims at the disparity in legal protection that affords groups defined by race fuller protection under the law than groups defined by religion.

There are a number of agencies which need to do more to tackle this state of affairs.

The range of actions required stem from a bolder mandate for the Electoral Commission and Equalities and Human Rights Commission to tackle inflammatory hate speech during elections to the implementation of the Leveson recommendations by the Government delivering a fully compliant and officially recognised press regulatory system, complete with sanctions and incentives to improve media reporting on Muslims and other minority groups in the UK.

A society that values free speech must also recognise the diminishing effect of that same virtue among vulnerable groups who are unable to seek proper redress of grievance, whether legal or regulatory, against infractions which demonise whole communities and render its members vulnerable to hatred, prejudice and ultimately, hate crime.

⁵¹⁸ Cambridge News, 12 January 2015

⁵¹⁹ YouGov, 5 June 2015 (available at: <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2015/06/05/european-attitudes-minorities/>)

⁵²⁰ ComRes, 25 February 2015 (available at: <http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/bbc-radio-4-today-muslim-poll/>)

⁵²¹ Islamic Relief UK, 15 June 2015 (available at: <http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/news/poll-on-eve-of-ramadan-shows-hugely-negative-view-of-muslims-and-sharp-decline-in-support-for-refugees/>)

⁵²² *Yorkshire Post*, 21 August 2015

Positive developments

Among positive developments we have witnessed in 2015, the most notable was the announcement by the Prime Minister, David Cameron regarding police recording systems on hate crime in England and Wales and stating they would soon begin to record Islamophobia as a separate category of crime.

Police recording of Islamophobia

The move would bring Islamophobia on par with anti-Semitism in police recorded crime data, with information on the latter appearing in crime statistics since 2010.⁵²³

However, despite the announcement, as our FOI requests show, during the immediate period (April 2015 - March 2016), police forces in England and Wales did not regularly, on by obligation, uniformly record the religious identity of victims of religious hate crime nor fully capture the racial identity of victims of race hate crime.

It is disappointing to find police forces fall behind other public sector bodies that are urged to collect data commensurate with the protected characteristics recognised in the Equality Act 2010 in order to monitor race equality outcomes.

The PM's announcement is a welcome development but the reliability of data on Islamophobia will be guaranteed by the quality of police training and the rigour of recording systems, and not just on the availability of a 'crime flag' labelled Islamophobia.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week

National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2015 demonstrated the willingness of police forces to reach out to victim groups to encourage hate crime reporting. A range of public awareness campaigns were launched. In London, the Mayor Boris Johnson announced the launch of a hate crime app, facilitating easy reporting of hate crime to the police by victims.

In September 2015, Police Scotland launched a Transport Charter to encourage victims of hate crime on public transport networks to report all incidents to the police.⁵²⁴ The Transport Charter followed weeks of events run by Police Scotland under the banner 'Scotland - No Place for Prejudice', with forces each week focusing on one strand of hate crime; disability, race and religion, sexual orientation and transgender hate crime.

In August 2015, West Mercia campaign ran a similar campaign headlined 'Being you is not a crime: Hate crime is' to raise awareness about hate crime and to urge victims to report all incidents to the police, whether crimes or incidents, to enable the force to better understand victim needs.⁵²⁵

Other forces taking decisive action on hate crime include North Yorkshire police, which launched a 24 hour hate crime hotline⁵²⁶ and Thames Valley police, which opened new third party reporting centres.⁵²⁷

Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life

The launch in July 2015 of the Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life⁵²⁸ has provided an opportunity for Muslims to highlight lived experiences of anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crime to

⁵²³ Police told to treat anti-Muslim hate crimes in same way as antisemitic attacks, *The Guardian*, 13 October 2015

⁵²⁴ *Edinburgh Evening News*, 8 September 2015

⁵²⁵ New campaign launched to increase reporting of hate crime, *Redditch Advertiser*, 17 August 2015

⁵²⁶ 24-hour phone line launched for hate crime victims in North Yorkshire, *York Press*, 14 April 2015

⁵²⁷ Hate crime service in Thames Valley encourages victims to report, *Get Reading*, 13 June 2015

the Commissioners. At a panel hearing held in Cardiff in November 2015, Muslim men and particularly women were able to describe to Commissioners the impact of media reporting on Islam and Muslims on their daily encounters in their local communities and the heightened vulnerability of Muslim women whose visible Islamic attire can leave them more exposed to acts of hostility. One of those giving evidence to the Commission was a mosque youth worker, Ameira Kukut, who said, "Some girls say they don't want to wear veils and ask can they wear hats instead. They are constantly under pressure to justify their identity as Muslims and why actions across the world that are not related to them are happening."⁵²⁹

Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life

In December 2015, the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life published its report.⁵³⁰ The Commission report dealt with the issue of rising anti-Muslim hate crime and disparate protections under law for Muslims compared to 'race' groups such as Jews and Sikhs.

The Commission noted: "For Jews and Sikhs, however, the law now has a significant declaratory effect, for it clearly signals that crimes aggravated by animosity towards them will be more severely dealt with than the same crimes committed against others. The same level of declaratory protection is not, however, available with regard to crimes aggravated by animosity towards other religions. This anomaly is unjust and needs to be rectified. At present, it is Muslims who are in practice most seriously affected by it. But the reason for rectifying it is a matter of general principle, not of who happens currently to be most affected by it in practice."⁵³¹

The report also noted the anomaly as given effect in legislation on incitement to religious hatred which adopts a higher threshold for prosecuting such crimes than incitement offences affecting groups defined by race.

The report further noted the protection under the Equality Act which extends defence against discrimination in provision of goods and services to groups defined by race, under the Race Equality Directive while equivalent rights for groups defined by religion remain in abeyance. The Equal Treatment directive first proposed in 2008 remains un-adopted by the European Commission leaving Muslims and other groups unprotected against discrimination in goods and services while race groups enjoy such protections under full imprimatur of the law.

As the Commission report noted, the introduction of Islamophobia as a separate category for crime recording is not "a substitute for removing the injustice that Muslims do not have as much protection against hate crime as do the members of certain other religions."⁵³²

Ofcom and broadcast media regulation

In September 2015, Ofcom ruled against Fox News over interviews broadcast in January 2015 in which one US guest, Steve Emerson said: "So in Britain there are not just 'no-go zones' there are actually cities like Birmingham that are totally Muslim, where non-Muslims just simply don't go in. In parts of London there are actually Muslim religious police that actually beat and actually wound seriously anyone who doesn't dress according to Muslim religious attire."

Days later, UKIP leader, Nigel Farage appeared on Fox News making similar comments about parts of Paris proclaiming their were "big ghettos" in France where law enforcement officers were afraid to tread.

⁵²⁸ Boosting citizenship among Muslims will help tackle extremism, *The Guardian*, 19 July 2015

⁵²⁹ 'I have lost count of the verbal attacks' Muslim woman speaks out about life wearing a veil in Cardiff, *Wales Online*, 11 November 2015

⁵³⁰ Report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, *Living with Difference: community, diversity and the common good*, December 2015

⁵³¹ *ibid* p 75-76

⁵³² *ibid*.

Farage told the US based TV channel, "It isn't just France, it is happening right across Europe. We have got no-go zones across most of the big French cities."

"So wherever you look, wherever you look you see this blind eye being turned and you see the growth of ghettos where the police and all the normal agents of the law have withdrawn and that is where sharia law has come in and you know it got so bad in Britain that our last archbishop of Canterbury, the leader of our church, actually said we should accept sharia law."⁵³³

Ofcom ruled Fox News had breached clause 2.2 of the broadcasting code in the broadcasting of interviews featuring Steve Emerson and another US guest, Nolan Peterson. The code required broadcaster to note: "Factual programmes or items or portrayal of factual matters must not materially mislead the audience".⁵³⁴

Emerson's remarks had already earned him a rebuke from Prime Minister David Cameron, who branded him a "complete idiot" for suggesting Birmingham was a "totally Muslim" city.⁵³⁵

Visit My Mosque Day

The Muslim Council of Britain's 'Visit My Mosque Day' has grown since its initiation to include a larger number of mosques hosting open days as a way of breaking down barriers, facilitating community dialogue and de-mystifying the role of the mosque in local Muslim communities.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

As with previous years, our Community Engagement and Development team have organised a huge array of events to raise awareness about Islamophobia in towns and cities across the UK. Our activities during IAM, which falls in November each year, have included seminars, public meetings, exhibition displays and various types of local events to further three principal objectives during the month:

- Improve victim reporting of anti-Muslim hate crime;
- Improve police response to anti-Muslim hate crime;
- Raise awareness about anti-Muslim prejudice in society and its impact on British Muslims.

In addition to activities arranged during Islamophobia Awareness Month, our Community Engagement and Development team have delivered masterclasses on media and political literacy across the country reaching hundreds of people and training British Muslims to challenge media bias against Islam and Muslims more effectively. Our politics masterclass is equipping British Muslims with the tools to become actively engaged in the democratic process in order to further integration and enhance the benefits, individual and collective, that follow from active citizenship and political participation.

⁵³³ Nigel Farage tells Fox News there are no-go zones for non-Muslims in France, *The Guardian*, 13 January 2015

⁵³⁴ Ofcom criticises Fox News for calling Birmingham no-go zone for non-Muslims, *The Guardian*, 21 September 2015

⁵³⁵ David Cameron: US terror 'expert' Steve Emerson is a 'complete idiot', *Daily Telegraph*, 12 January 2015