

The Hate and Signal Crime Role

If you report a sectarian incident the Neighbourhood Policing Team Officer will carry out the Hate and Signal Crime role and will contact you, (unless you indicate that you do not want them to) and provide information about the incident and any developments in the investigation. They will also provide information on crime prevention, police powers and procedures and appropriate support groups.

The officer can be spoken to in confidence, offer a sympathetic service and respond appropriately to the individual needs of the victim.

Information including contact details for Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers in your district and confidential online reporting at

www.psnl.police.uk



Protecting Your Rights

If you have been the victim of a sectarian incident contact the police, and some of the organisations listed who may be able to help you.

Community Relations Council

028 90 227500
www.nicrc.org.uk

Samaritans

0845 790 9090
www.samaritans.org.uk

Victim Support

028 90 244 039
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

028 90 500 600
www.equalityni.org

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

028 90 243987
www.nihrc.org

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org



Keeping People Safe

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has appointed Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers who will fulfil the hate and signal crime role, in every police district. These officers have been specially trained to support victims of sectarian incidents.

The officer/s carrying out the hate and signal crime role have an additional responsibility to engage with individuals and groups who work to support and assist victims of sectarian incidents.

What is a Sectarian Incident?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland define a sectarian incident as

Any incident which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person

Sectarian incidents may take many different forms, for example

Assaults, damage to your home or other property, verbal abuse or hate mail.

The police recognise the impact that even minor sectarian incidents have on the victim and wider community. We will, therefore, respond to all incidents reported to us, whether or not they amount to a crime.

If you are the victim of a sectarian incident the police will investigate it in a professional and sensitive manner.

This leaflet tells you what to do, and who can help.

Protecting Your Rights

What should you do if you have been the victim of a Sectarian Incident?

If you have been abused, threatened or assaulted in any way, contact the police in the normal manner and an officer will be appointed to investigate the case.

If you feel under immediate threat Call 999

If you do not require an immediate police response you should contact the police on the non-emergency number **101** and ask for the police station of the area where the incident occurred. An officer from that area will be appointed to investigate the incident.

The police recognise that some people, for whatever reason, may be reluctant to report this type of incident to them.

If the police are to prevent sectarian incidents and make those responsible accountable to the law, incidents must be reported. Even if you do not wish the police to investigate the incident, **it is important to report it for information to have the incident recorded.**

If applicable, the police can arrange for an interpreter to assist you.

If you do not wish to contact the police directly, you may do so through a third party or report on line via the Police Service of Northern Ireland website or any one of the organisations listed at the back of this leaflet.

What will the Police do?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has a clear policy in respect of the investigation of these incidents. If you report at a police station, a room will be made available where you can discuss the matter in private.

A Police Officer will be appointed to carry out an investigation and you will be updated on the progress of the investigation in accordance with the instruction of the Chief Constable. You should note the Police Officer's name and station, date and incident number for further reference.

The local Neighbourhood Policing Team Officer carrying out the hate and signal crime role will be informed and unless you indicate otherwise, this Officer will contact you to offer advice and support. The police will deal with your complaint in a professional, confidential and sensitive manner.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted at

