

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It has come to my attention that the organisation Mend (HYPERLINK "http://www.mend.org.uk" www.mend.org.uk) claim to "secured the commitment to record Islamophobia as a separate crime flag" from ten police forces, including the West Midlands Police.

You can find this reference on page 14 of their Activity Report 2014. This report is available at the following URL and uploaded as an attachment:  
[http://mend.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MEND\\_Activity\\_Report\\_2014\\_Low\\_Res.pdf](http://mend.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MEND_Activity_Report_2014_Low_Res.pdf)

There is a clear suggestion that it was specifically the work of Mend that led to a change of policy in West Midlands Police on 1 April 2014, when the force announced that hate crime would be better recorded and that "perceived identity" of the victim of religious hate crime would be recorded.

Please send me:

- 1) Confirmation of whether or not the work of Mend directly influenced the decision of the West Midlands Police to record Islamophobia under a separate crime flag.
- 2) Confirmation of whether or not the work of Mend directly influenced the decision of the West Midlands Police to improve recording of hate crime.
- 3) Confirmation of whether or not the work of Mend directly influenced the decision of the West Midlands Police to record "perceived identity" of the victim of religious hate crime.
- 4) If the work of any other groups influenced the above changes in policy detailed in points 1-3.
- 5) If the work other groups did influence the policy changes detailed in points 1-3, the names of the other groups.

**The former Police and Crime Commissioner (Bob Jones) made the decision when he included it within the Police and Crime plan in 2014. We believe the majority of discussions took place within social cohesion City Council Committee. It was the decision of the Force Silver Lead for Hate Crime, that the perceived AND actual religion of the victims of Hate Crime should be recorded, we have no recorded information regarding any representative from Mend being involved.**

<http://www.birminghampost.co.uk/news/local-news/islamophobic-hate-crimes-should-reported-4865127>

- 6) Confirmation of the number of hate crime cases referred to the West Midlands Police by Mend in 2014.
- 7) Confirmation of the number of hate crime cases referred to the West Midlands Police by Mend since January 2015.

**West Midlands Police will neither confirm nor deny that we hold any relevant information in relation to questions 6 and 7. See covering letter.**