

Freedom of Information Request

Date of receipt: 4th February 2022

Date of response: 4th March 2022

Freedom of Information request regarding Stalking Offences

Request:

I'm seeking details on the number of stalking offences recorded and subsequent sanctions by the force annually from 1st January 2020 onwards. I'm also seeking details on the number of Stalking Protection Orders applied for, and breached, during this period.

Please could you provide the following under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. How many stalking offences were recorded during the following time periods?
 - a. 1st January 2020 - 1st January 2021
 - b. 2nd January 2021 - 31st January 2022
2. How many stalking sanction detections were recorded during the following time periods?
 - a. 1st January 2020 - 1st January 2021
 - b. 2nd January 2021 - 31st January 2022
3. On how many (unique) occasions did your force apply for a Stalking Protection Order or interim Stalking Protection Order for the following time periods?
 - a. 1st January 2020 - 1st January 2021
 - b. 2nd January 2021 - 31st January 2022

Response provided by the Committee *for* Home Affairs:

The Bailiwick of Guernsey does not have on statute an equivalent of Section 2A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, 'Offence of stalking', neither is there any provision for Stalking Prevention Orders, and therefore no comparative data is available.

However, the Protection from Harassment (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2005, does deal with a range similar matters:-

- 2020 = 119 reported cases of harassment (all types)
- 2021= 130 reported cases of harassment (all types)

Crimes that may have included an element of 'stalking' type behaviour, which escalate to more serious offences, would not be individually recorded as such, it is the more serious crime that would be reported. It is not possible to determine how many without reviewing each individual crime case, this would clearly take a disproportionate amount of time.

A course of action undertaken, e.g. spying on someone, following them, unwanted calls, etc. may, depending on the circumstances, also contravene a range of other types of local legislation, such as conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, misuse of telecoms, etc. or even liable to civil action. There is no list or automated search to determine how many of these types offences could reasonably be said to have involved an element of 'stalking'.

There is no indication that instances of 'stalking' type behaviour is more or less prevalent in the Bailiwick of Guernsey than any other similar jurisdiction.

At present stalking can be prosecuted as harassment, but it is not seen as a separate, more serious offence. However, the Committee *for* Home Affairs has identified the need to draft policy proposals to add a section relating to stalking within the existing Protection from Harassment (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2005.