

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



COMBATING RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIME IN IRELAND: Is our legislation adequate?

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CJI INSPECTION OF HATE CRIME

BY

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Origin of Criminal Justice Inspection

- Belfast Agreement of 1998
- Criminal Justice Review 2000 recommended creation of:

“a statute-based, independent Criminal Justice Inspectorate responsible for ensuring the inspection of all aspects of the CJS other than the courts, and for determining its own programme of inspections.”



REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2006/07

- Inspection of the Compensation Agency
- Inspection of Maghaberry Prison
- Thematic Review of Avoidable Delay
- Inspection of the Benefit Investigation Service
- Review of the Causeway IT Programme
- PBNi Corporate Governance
- State Pathologist's Department Review
- Community Safety Partnerships Inspection
- Review of the role of the Voluntary & Community Sector
- The Management of Sex Offenders (Interim Report)
- Unannounced inspection of Magilligan Prison
- Handling Volume Crime and the Use of Police Bail
- Improving Procurement in the Criminal Justice System
- Management of Hate Crime in Northern Ireland



HATE CRIME IN CONTEXT

Size of Crime

Hate crime represents approximately 2% of all reported crime in Northern Ireland.

Definition

‘any hate incident which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.’



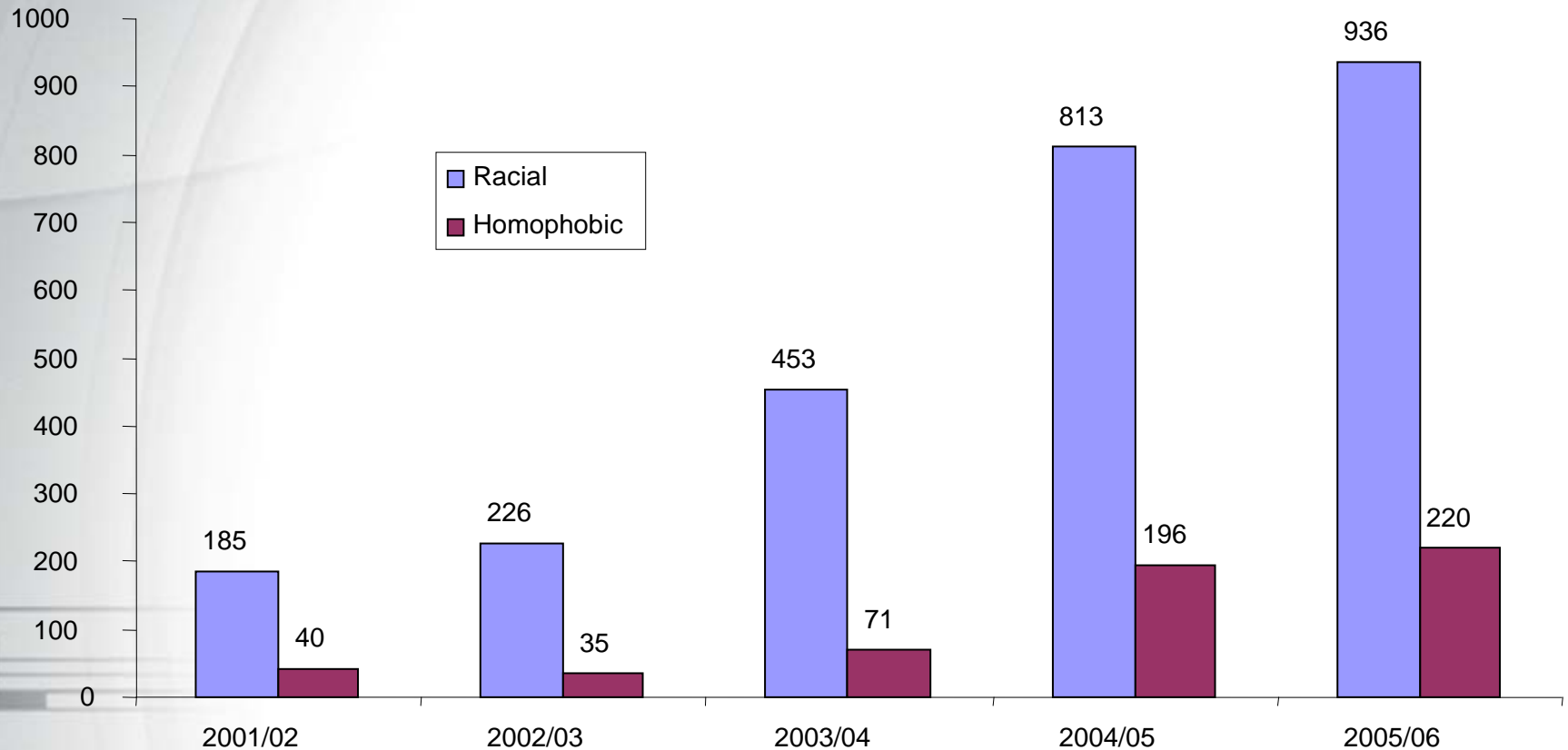
WHY INSPECT HATE CRIME?



- Scrutiny by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee April 05 *'The Challenges of Diversity: Hate crime in NI'*
- Public Interest
- High media profile
- A reflection of a changing society: influx of Migrant workers, Census
- Increase in reported incidents of hate crime.
- Level of under-reporting



REPORTED INCIDENTS OF HATE CRIME

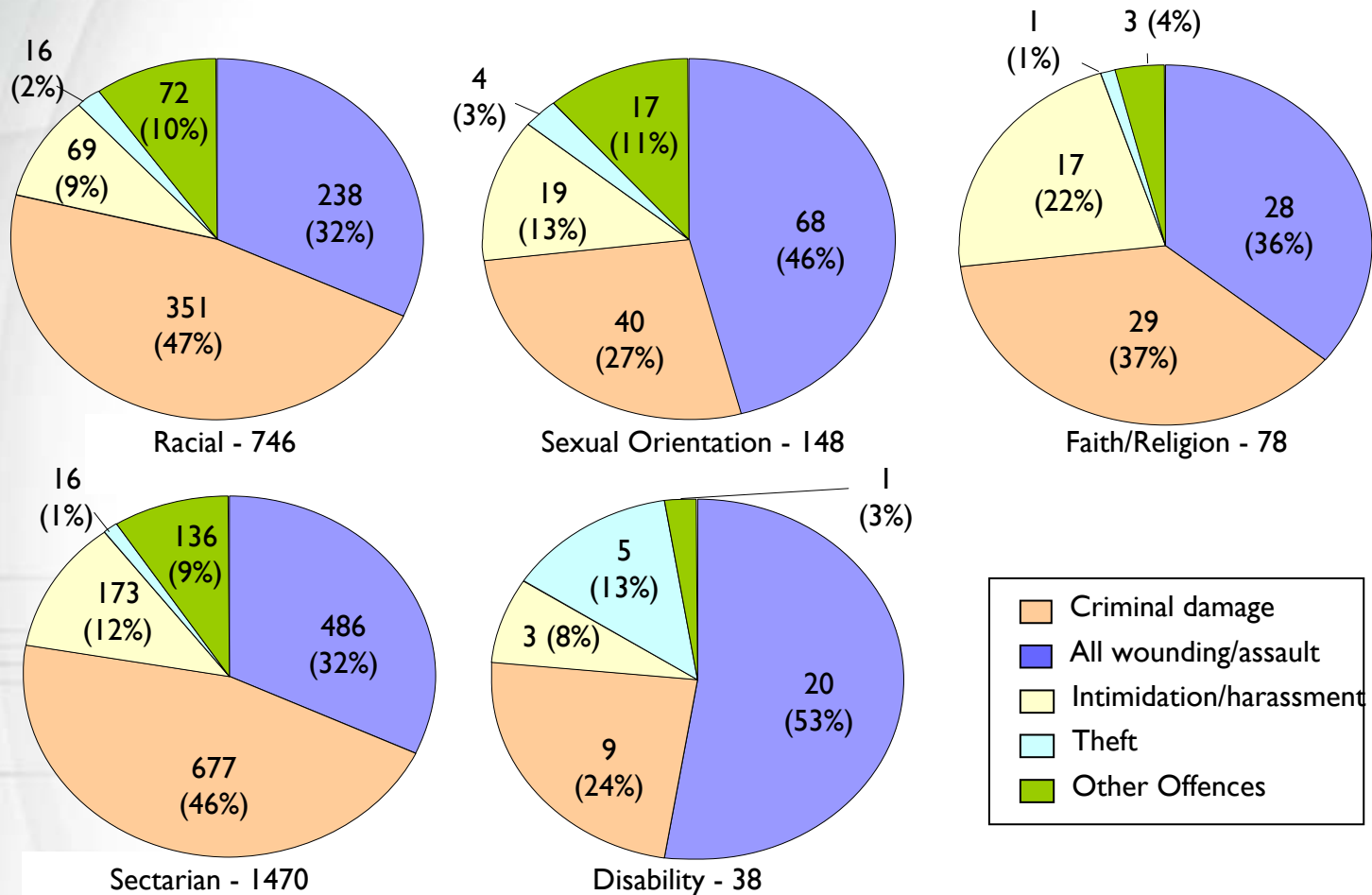


In 2005/06 the PSNI began to formally record further categories of hate crime incidents:

Sectarian	1,701
Disability	70
Faith/Religion	70



HATE CRIME OFFENCES 2005/06



Other Offences include: murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, robbery, burglary, other violent crime, and all other notifiable offences



LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Northern Ireland does not have any specific hate crime offence legislation.

Legislation that influence offences of Hate Crime include breaches of existing legislation e.g.

- Common Law
- Offences Against The Persons Act (1861)
- Criminal Damage (NI) Order (1977)
- Theft Act (NI) 1969

Legislation that impacts on the management of hate crime includes:

- Criminal Justice (No.2) Northern Ireland Order 2004.
- The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Section 75)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Race Relations (NI) Order 1997
- Human Rights Act 1998



INVESTIGATION AND CLEARANCE

- Minority Liaison Officers (MLO's)
- Knowledge of PSNI policy
- Interpretation - use of language line and translators through NICEM
- Types of offences cleared and targets
- Improving for racial and homophobic
- Rate for faith/religion and sectarian low.



MANAGEMENT ACROSS CJS

- Insufficient data to communicate progress – causeway
- Lack of public understanding of what clearance rates actually mean and how they are accounted for.
- No administrative system in place to record any information on use of hate crime legislation.



CJI WEBSITE

For further information please access our website at

WWW.CJINI.ORG

