

Reporting homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incidents - what can you expect from the Police?

To report an incident to Thames Valley Police: Dial 101
or online at www.report-it.org.uk

There is an alternative reporting option available via HALT - see page 2 below.

ALWAYS DIAL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.

If you want to report a homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incident to Thames Valley Police, they will ensure that:

- ✓ You are treated with **respect** and as an individual
- ✓ Your incident is treated very **seriously**
- ✓ Your incident will be handled **promptly** and with **sensitivity**
- ✓ The information you provide will be treated as **confidential**. It will not be shared with your family, friends or work colleagues
- ✓ They will only contact you according to **your wishes** and at a place you're happy with

What happens when you first contact the Police to report an incident?

- The police operator will create a unique reference number for the Incident
- They will also try to gather as much information as possible from you about what happened
- At this point, it is important for you to give your view as to why you think the incident was homophobic/biphobic/transphobic
- It would be helpful if you could suggest a suitable premises/location or contact number where you are happy to be reached
- If you do not want the police to call at your home or work address, you should tell the operator to record that request
- The operator will inform the duty sergeant of any reported homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incident who will then allocate the matter to a police officer to attend

How will your reported incident be followed up by the Police?

- The police officer will meet with you (**at a location you're comfortable with**) to take a statement from you about the incident
- At this point, you will have the opportunity to ask the police to pursue the incident or to record it but take no further action
- Depending on the type of incident you have reported, the police officer may search the scene to try to secure forensic evidence
- The police officer will try to identify and arrest a suspect if there is enough evidence that they have committed a criminal offence. The Crown Prosecution Service will then consider the best way of progressing the case (e.g. taking it to court)
- It's important to know that some homophobic/biphobic/transphobic incidents may not be classed as criminal offences. However, any incident should be reported to Thames Valley Police as they will still take them very seriously and investigate them

How will the Police keep you informed about the progress they are making?

- The police officer investigating the incident will keep you updated on progress on a regular basis
- You will only be contacted using the details you have provided and are comfortable with
- A Community and Diversity Officer (known as a CADO, employed by the Police) will contact you where possible to find out if you are satisfied that you have received a professional service from the Police

If you want to tell somebody about a homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incident but would rather not go straight to the Police, you can contact **HALT**.

We can provide you with support and help you report the incident to the police if you want to. Call 01865 243389 (office hours)

This sheet has been put together by Oxfordshire Homophobia Awareness Liaison Team (HALT). HALT is a multi-agency partnership working to make Oxfordshire a safer and more inclusive community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. For more information about HALT, please go to www.oxhalt.co.uk.

