

24 September 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 520**

## **Request**

We received your request on 13 September 2024 for the following information:

*This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.  
We noted Monday's Stormont debate on racist attacks and measures around them  
(Places of Worship: Attacks: 9 Sep 2024: Northern Ireland Assembly debates -  
TheyWorkForYou).*

*In her statement the Minister of Justice referred to a number of schemes and  
programmes including a hate incident practical action scheme funded by the DOJ,  
DFC, PSNI and NIHE; the Hate Crime Advocacy Service funded by DOJ and PSNI;  
and a HELPinHAND app. Please forward any available information about these,  
including explanations of the policy; implementing guidelines; and how they can be  
accessed.*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

## **Our response**

The Hate Incident Practical Action (HIPA) Scheme is available to support victims of hate harassment where the motive of the perpetrators has been discrimination based on disability, race, sexual orientation/gender identity, sectarianism or religion. Victims may be owner- occupiers, tenants renting privately, Housing Executive tenants or Housing Association tenants. If the home has been damaged or the incident has occurred in close proximity to the property the scheme can provide personal and home protection measures. Further information on the HIPA scheme is available on the Housing Executive's website. [The Housing Executive - The Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme \(HIPA\) \(nihe.gov.uk\)](http://nihe.gov.uk),

In addition the Housing Executive have developed the 'Hate Harassment Toolkit' in partnership with other organisations to provide a wide range of information and advice about

Hate Harassment including support available such as the HIPA scheme. The Hate Harassment Toolkit provides practical information and advice to Housing Executive staff and other practitioners throughout Northern Ireland so that they are able to provide a comprehensive service to victims and witnesses of hate incidents. The Hate Harassment Toolkit can be downloaded from the Housing Executive's website. [Hate Harassment Toolkit \(nihe.gov.uk\)](http://nihe.gov.uk)

This concludes our response.