

Anita Morrison,  
Joint Head of Justice Analytical Services Division

Sent via email.

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13 October 2017

Dear Committee Clerk

**Locus of offences under section 1 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.**

Thank you for your e-mail seeking information about the locus of offences under section 1 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 (OBFTC). I am responding in my capacity as joint Head of Justice Analytical Services (JAS) Division.

The information requested is provided in a Scottish government report, produced by JAS, entitled 'Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in 2016-17'. This report was published on 9 June 2017 and can be accessed via this link: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/7620>.

Specific information about the locus of offences under section 1 of the Act is provided in pages 21-22 of this report. The text on page 21 offers some commentary on trends over time, and Table 11 on page 22 provides information on the locus of section 1 offences for each year that the Act has been in force. For ease, I have reproduced this information below:

**Text reproduced from page 21 of the report:**

"As in all previous years since the Act was introduced, the majority of the charges occurred at a football stadium (69%). This represents an increase of 85% from period 2015-16 (from 142 charges to 262 in 2016-17). This increase is attributable to 137 of the 140 charges associated with the Scottish Cup Final 2016 occurring at Hampden stadium.

"After charges occurring at football stadiums, the next most common are on a main street (19%), followed by public transport (8%). The number of charges occurring on public transport has decreased by 53% since last year. However, the number of charges in 2015-16 was particularly high compared to previous years and was partly attributed to two incidents which accounted for 26 of the

66 charges”.

**Table 11 reproduced from page 22 of the report:**

	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
Locus of offence	No. charges	%	No. charges	%	No. charges	%	No. charges	%	No. charges	%
Football Stadium	165	62	109	54	89	46	142	50	262	69
Main Street	60	22	70	34	71	37	70	24	72	19
Public Transport	24	9	9	4	10	5	66	23	31	8
Residential Area	8	3	6	3	5	3	0	-	2	1
Pub or Club	8	3	8	4	15	8	9	3	4	1
Police Station / vehicle	0	-	1	1	0	-	0	-	0	-
Other	3	1	0	-	3	2	0	-	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100</b>

If the Committee has any questions in relation to this information, then please let me know and I will be happy to respond to these.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Morrison, Joint Head of Justice Analytical Services Division