

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Comments of the Government of Malta on the Fifth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Malta

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received on 17 February 2021

**Comments from line Ministries on the fifth Opinion on Malta of the Advisory Committee
on the Framework Convention**

Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement

In reference to paragraph 41, the Line ministry has the following comments:

As from August 2020, all written and online reports and investigations are handled by the Vice Squad within the Malta Police Force. The Vice Squad follows internal circulars which lay down the procedure to be followed by any member of the Police Force in receipt of reports to ensure that no data being processed is lost. Moreover, the Police Incident Reporting System (NPS) has been upgraded and equipped with a radio button intended to classify whether a report is being generated for a hate crime incident or otherwise. This classification is compulsory. The data inputted in the NPS can be converted into statistics during the compilation of response. Upon request, these statistics are made available to the public.

National Statistics Office

In reference to paragraph 21, the Office made the following comments:

The questions inserted in the census are specifically designed to reflect our national context, and more importantly a process guided by public consultations. The public consultation specifically highlighted race, sexual orientation, religion, and language as important elements; and unprecedentedly these will all be included in the 2021 census. Moreover, this time round, further questions on the topic—considering the new additions— would add burden on respondents which we want to avoid.