|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |



**City of Westminster**

**Project Brief (2020-21)**

**WCC Domain Advisor for MSc Student:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Marta Costa | mcosta@westminster.gov.uk |

**WCC Problem Owner(s)**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Angela Lambillion | alambillion@westminster.gov.uk |

**Project title:**

|  |
| --- |
| Diversity and Inclusion in Westminster: an analysis of Met Police and Westminster 2020 data |

**Project description:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Background**  In the period of July 2018 to July 2019, 1,535 racist and religious hate crimes were reported in Westminster – nearly double that of the next highest London borough and constituting a 12% increase over the previous year (across London, the increase was around six per cent).  The Council’s annual household survey in 2019 showed that ‘communities tend to get on well’ and that people feel safe in their neighborhoods. Indeed, 79% of residents felt that hate crime is not a problem, and 77% said that neighbours help each other. This has led to the hypothesis that hate crime is under-discussed and underreported in the community, but also that the huge number of visitors increase its incidence in the borough.  Westminster attracts around a million visitors each day and is an extremely diverse borough in all aspects where different identities, realities and behaviours co-exist. The city is centre-stage for national protests, marches and religious celebrations which commonly take place around Parliament Square, Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park. Westminster’s high number of visitors and tourists can lead to higher rates of crime in general including hate crime. In 2019, most hate crimes were racially motivated (78%) followed by homophobic hate crimes (15%).  Given the prominence of events in the borough and the lack of information around how these might influence hate crime rates, a statistical analysis has been conducted using 2019 Metropolitan Police data, to appraise whether there was a statistical link between hate and events. This statistical analysis showed a significantly higher number of hate crimes were reported when there was a coinciding event (of any kind) on the same day, within the same ward (Analysis of variance; F=274.1, p<0.001). On average, reports of hate crime were 3.57x more prevalent when there was an event in the same ward on the same day.  During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen less visitors in Westminster and a decrease in crime rates in general, except for those committed inside the home or in the community, like domestic abuse and anti-social behavior. This has become increasingly important given the ramifications that Covid-19 will have for months beyond the end of official lockdowns, as people are not only forced to spend more time at home, but where vulnerability, disadvantage and the economic disruption will be exacerbated and can lead to social tensions and the exploitation of people’s identity beyond the protected characteristics set out within the definition of hate crime (disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity). Domestic Abuse is itself referred to as a hate crime, which illustrates new avenues of enquiry that are relevant to the current situation.  **Main Questions**:   1. Exploring the relationship between specific types of events (e.g. protests) and incidences of hate crime in the area (i.e. are there any particular types of events that are higher risk and translate into a rise in hate crime), and between specific types of hate crime. 2. By combining Met Police open data with Westminster’s own datasets, can we delve deeper into the trends of the 2020, see how they differ from 2019 and whether other vulnerabilities not currently stated under the protected characteristics become more prominent in hate crime/vulnerability-related crimes.   **Intelligence needs / business problems**  This is a non-exhaustive list of many different angles that the research around hate crime in Westminster can take. There is a prioritisation of questions around the correlation between events and crime reports, but the specific question can be tailored to the student’s interests and specialism.   * A “community cohesion index” which combines the analysis of crime statistics (Met Police) alongside residents’ perceptions (can be derived from the City Survey) and geo-demographic types. We can see how it varies in space, if there are areas of concern, and could also correlate it with various factors (licensed premises etc.) * Deepening the understanding of the link between hate crime and the night-time economy * Link between hate crime and terrorism; * How might we explore the hypothesis that hate crime in the community is under-reported in Westminster?   **The following Westminster data can be provided:**   * List of events in Westminster (including date and location) * Licensed premises locations * Council’s City Survey (resident views and perceptions 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020) * Acorn (CACI) geo-segmentation data of residents * Safer Stats – databases of crime data, including TFL   The above can be combined with Met Police open data to address these research questions. |

**Deliverables:**

|  |
| --- |
| * Dissertation in full * Executive summary for policy and practitioner audience * Presentation to council stakeholders * Access and sharing of code on WestminsterBI GitHub |