

## **Police Scotland – media release of 2017/18 Prevent referral data**

Police Scotland is committed to working in partnership to deliver the aims of the Prevent strategy. This area of service delivery is very much a joint enterprise, with other public sector bodies and all communities all having a part to play.

Prevent is a strand of the UK Government's Counter-Terrorist Strategy known as 'CONTEST' and the purpose of Prevent is to 'stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. In Scotland, the Prevent strategy aims to tackle all forms of violent extremism and terrorism, including international, Northern-Ireland related and the extreme right wing.

Prevent is delivered in Scotland through a multi-agency approach which focuses on the early identification of individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism. At the heart of the strategy is a partnership response designed to put in place appropriate safeguarding and supportive measures. Prevent is not a police led agenda, it is founded on a shared responsibility across partners and communities to ensure that vulnerable people are appropriately supported.

The success of the Prevent strategy rests on organisations and communities being able to make referrals about people they are concerned may be drawn into terrorism. Police Scotland works to take initial receipt of these referrals and thereafter coordinates an appropriate multi-agency response to safeguard the individual.

In our efforts to be as transparent as possible about Prevent, Police Scotland has, along with partners, taken the decision to publish the data regarding Prevent referrals in 2017/18 which are shown below. The data for 2015/16 and 2016/17 has been published previously and can be found at (insert link to webpage - <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/prevent-referral-data/>)

A short Q&A briefing on Prevent can also be found here (insert link to Prevent Q&A supplied at appendix 1), which provides more information regarding the referral data.

If you would like further information on the Prevent Strategy, please contact 101.

## **Police Scotland 2017/18 Prevent referral data**

2017 / 2018: Total Prevent Nominals = 104

**Gender:**

Female = 8

Male = 96

Unspecified = 0

**Age:**

Under 15 = 28

15-20 = 34

21-30 = 25

31-40 = 7

41-50 = 8

51-60 = 2

61+ = 0

**Source Of Referral:**

Community = 0

Education = 40

Friends / Family = 7

Health = 11

Local Authority = 17

Other = 11

Police = 16

Prisons & Probation = 2

**Type Of Concern:**

Extreme Right Wing = 23

International Extremism = 38

Other = 17

Unspecified = 26

**Action:**

Accepted As PPC Case = 3

Referred To Other Services = 66

Requiring No Further Action = 35

**Outcome:**

No Prevent Issue To Be Addressed = 68

Ongoing = 3

Prevent Issue Mitigated = 25

Prevent Issue Not Mitigated = 7

Transferred To Other Force = 1

**Signposting / Onward Referral:**

Education = 15

Health = 19

Local Authority = 21

No Further Referral = 35

Other = 6

Police = 5

Prisons = 3

Appendix 1

**Scottish Prevent Referral Figures - Release by Police Scotland**

## **Question and Answer Briefing**

### **Prevent in Scotland:**

#### **Q. How does Prevent Work?**

A. Prevent works by identifying individuals who may be at risk of being exploited by violent extremist narratives and drawn into terrorism; assessing the nature and the extent of their vulnerability, and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. A concerted effort has been made to ensure that the preventative, rights based approach taken in Scotland is balanced, proportionate and aligned to existing safeguarding procedures.

#### **Q. What happens when someone is referred to Prevent?**

A. No matter the ideology or idea which sits behind vulnerability, the collective focus is always the early identification of risk to an individual in order to safeguard their wellbeing. In certain cases a Prevent related concern can initially be dealt with by partner agencies using existing internal safeguarding processes and procedures. Where concerns require further escalation a referral can be made to Police Scotland. After receiving a Prevent referral, Police Scotland's Prevent Delivery Units undertake an initial assessment of vulnerability before agreeing the appropriate response with partners.

In certain instances where a vulnerable individual has been identified, multi-agency partners will come together as part of the Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) process. A PPC case conference is convened allowing partners to consider the circumstances surrounding an individual and work together to safeguard the individual and identify and provide appropriate support.

#### **Q. Who makes Prevent referrals?**

A. Anyone can make a referral. Referrals can come from a wide range of sources and could include: social services; health; education; police; and members of the public.

#### **Q. Is the process voluntary?**

A. Prevent is a confidential, voluntary programme. Safeguarding the individual remains the priority and participation of an individual of concern in activities that result from a PPC Case Conference remains voluntary. Consent is required to be given by the individual (or their parent/guardian in the case of a child) in advance of activities or actions being provided.

#### **Q. What kind of support can Prevent provide?**

A. Support may include signposting individuals to other professionals and may also include an opportunity to debate challenging issues with an accredited mentor who can challenge and suggest credible alternative viewpoints. Or, as is often the case, it may be about providing access to mainstream services which can then enable the individual to make a more positive contribution to society.

#### **Q. Why do so few cases get to the stage of a Prevent Professional Concern case conference?**

A. Police Scotland does not expect that every Prevent referral will lead to a Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) case conference. The PPC provides a structure for those very few number of cases where Police Scotland have assessed that the vulnerability factors affecting an individual are such that a multi-agency meeting should be held. Partners then consider the concerns about the individual and jointly develop a support plan for that individuals.

Police Scotland have robust procedures in place to assess vulnerability for every referral received. In the majority of cases the vulnerabilities can be effectively mitigated through signposting to other services without a need for a PPC meeting. These services can include: mental health professionals; social work; or family support services.

### **The Referrals:**

**Q. With no recorded referrals from communities direct, does this mean there is a lack of trust between the Police and local communities?**

A. The Scottish Government and Police Scotland strive to foster positive relationships with our communities and engage regularly to discuss a whole range of issues, of which Prevent is one. As a result of developing these strong community relationships over many years, we believe communities are comfortable that concerns can be raised in confidence without causing undue anxiety.

**Q. There has been an increase in the number of referrals from 2016/17 to 2017/18. Does that suggest Prevent delivery through the Scottish specified authorities is failing?**

A. No, all specified authorities continue to engage with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government, to ensure a collaborative and joined-up approach is taken towards Prevent delivery. Specified authorities continue to meet within bespoke networks to share good practice, learn from each other's experience and improve their own processes.

The numbers of referrals are not indicative of success or failure. The crucial aspect of Prevent delivery is implementing a partnership response to effectively support vulnerable people.

**Q. Comparison of the referral data from 2016/17 with 2017/18 shows that there has been an increase in the referrals received due to concerns of radicalisation associated with the Extreme Right Wing. Does this indicate an increase in the threat from these groups in Scotland?**

A. Ensuring that professionals and communities are properly equipped with the right awareness of the signs of radicalisation is a core way in which Prevent can be effectively delivered. This awareness raising covers all ideologies that can be used to radicalise vulnerable individuals and ensures that staff are aware of the signs that someone is being radicalised and are confident in knowing how to make a referral where appropriate. Whilst the number of referrals to Prevent in Scotland cannot be used to infer any particular trend of increased threat, we know that the risk from Extreme Right Wing groups has increased across the UK and it is vital that the awareness raising provided to staff and communities is reflective of this situation.

**Q. Why have you not included a breakdown of ethnicity and religion?**

A. Individuals are not referred to Prevent because of their ethnicity or religion. Referrals are made where there is a concern that an individual may be vulnerable to being drawn in to terrorism. The type of concern is provided but this is not the same as ethnicity or religion.

**Q. Why have you not included a breakdown by local authority or police force?**

A. Data has been provided to give an idea of the scale and nature of Prevent referrals across Scotland, without making it possible to identify any individuals. The number of people referred in any given local area will be small and could lead to the identification of those referred to the programme.

Individuals who are referred to Prevent and who receive support do so with assurances about the confidentiality of the process. There should be no concerns that the release of data will lead to the identification of an individual. This would undermine the approach and reduce the number of people willing to engage with the process.

**Q. Can you provide further breakdowns of data?**

A. No, Prevent is a confidential programme. Data cannot be broken down further as this may lead to the identification of individuals.

**Q. Will you publish statistics on an annual basis from now on?**

A. The Scottish Government and Police Scotland continue to make our approach to safeguarding vulnerable individuals as transparent as possible. Part of this going forward will include releasing Prevent referral figures on a regular and constant basis. However as noted above, any figures released must ensure the individuals being supported are not identifiable.

**Ends**

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