| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0061  Responded to: 24 January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The definition of Prevent Case Management.

## In the year ending 31 March 2022, how many individuals were referred to the Prevent counter terrorism programme in Scotland.

## Please specify who made the referrals (e.g. Police Scotland, the education sector, etc.)

## Please break down the referrals by age, gender and the type of concerns (e.g. right-wing extremism/Islamist extremism)

## Of all referrals, how many were deemed suitable for Prevent Case Management (PCM).

## How many individuals were deemed not suitable for PCM following an initial assessment.

**Of these individuals, how many required no further action and exited the process, and how many were referred onwards.**

In response to the questions above, please be advised that PREVENT information and data is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

I can further advise that data for 2021/22 is due to be published in the next 12 weeks and as such section 27(1) of the Act also applies - Information intended for future publication

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [Prevent Referral Data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/prevent-referral-data/)

## How many cases related to concerns surrounding activities related to Patriotic Alternative?

In terms of section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information you have requested is held.

Section 18 provides that an authority does not have to confirm whether or not information is held where; if the information were held, it would be considered exempt from disclosure in terms of any of sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act; and disclosing whether or not information is held would be contrary to the public interest.

If the information requested was held, I consider that it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of the following exemptions:

* Section 31(1) - National Security
* Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations
* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement
* Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 makes it a legal requirement that an authority has to not only provide information (unless it is exempt), but to also confirm whether or not that information is held, *unless* to do so would be contrary to the public interest and the information, if it was held, would be exempt from disclosure.

Any information identifying the focus of this activity could be used to the advantage of terrorists or criminal organisations to establish with some degree of accuracy whether the scale of their intentions are known to Police and adapt their plans accordingly.

Police Scotland works in partnership with other agencies in order to combat issues such as terrorism and organised crime. Disclosure of the information requested, if held, would seriously undermine this partnership approach, both in the UK and through international cooperation.

The key test when considering where the balance of public interest lies is to establish whether, in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in confirming or denying the information is held is not outweighed by maintaining the exemption(s).

In general terms the purpose of Prevent is to ‘stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and information is routinely published by Police Scotland and is in line with the three main operational regions: East, West and North, broken by financial year.

Data is published in this format to give an idea of the scale and nature of Prevent referrals across Scotland, without making it possible to identify any individuals, via the link provided in question1.

It is acknowledged that matters relating to such referrals are of public interest and such awareness may favour confirming or otherwise the existence of further information of relevance, as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the issue.

It is acknowledged that confirming or denying that information relevant to the request exists, would lead to better public awareness into Police Scotland’s monitoring of individuals who pose a security risk to the country and this awareness may lead to more information (intelligence) being submitted from the public.

However we must ensure that the release of this level of detail is not inadvertently harmful as individuals who are referred to the programme 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.

This is a matter of principle which applies equally to any information that could undermine the operational integrity of these activities which would adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on both national security and law enforcement.

Police Scotland’s priority is to keep the people of Scotland safe and irrespective of what information is or isn’t held, to merely confirm or deny that information is held would provide information which would assist those intent on causing harm.

In conclusion, it simply cannot be in the public interest for Police Scotland or any police force to confirm a more detailed breakdown relating to those individuals, who are currently, or have been in the past, subject to this process.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.