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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0608 (Aberdeen Health and Care Village)
IM-FOI-2022-0609 (Borders General Hospital)
IM-FOI-2022-0610 (Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary)
IM-FOI-2022-0611 (Oak Tree Family Centre, Stranraer)
IM-FOI-2022-0612 (University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock)



Date: 14 April 2022

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your five recent requests for information which have been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing a response.

All five requests have been individually considered in terms of the Act and the individual reference numbers for each are included above - this combined response is for administrative purposes only.

The department is incredibly busy at the moment and it saves time and resource not to have to draft five separate documents with almost identical content, send and save five separate emails etc.

This is an administrative decision only which I trust you will understand in the circumstances.

For ease of reference, your first request is replicated below for reference.

I note that with the exception of location/ time period, all of your requests were identical - referring to the various hospitals referenced above for each year 2016 to 2021 inclusive.

Have there been any reported and documented incidents of harassment, intimidation, or public disorder, associated with either pro-life prayer vigil groups or pro-choice groups at [location], between 1 January 2016 and 1 January 2022.

Can the details of any recorded incidents, including dates, times and exact locations please be provided. Of any reported incidents, please can you outline which resulted in arrest or conviction.

In researching your various requests, our main source of data would be the Police Scotland incident recording system - STORM.

To explain, when a matter is reported to the police - usually by 101 or 999 call - or otherwise comes to police attention, an incident will be logged on this system.

Incidents are categorised to an extent but I would stress first of all that there is no incident classification which would directly relate to the type of incident described in your request.

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On the contrary, it is considered likely that such incidents could be recorded under a number of different categories depending on the circumstances - for example *noise, disturbance, assault, crime in progress, concern for person* etc.

As such, there is no meaningful way the incident classifications could be used to narrow down the information held in relation to each location in terms of your request.

Furthermore, it is recognised that such groups can tend to congregate around the outskirts of the hospital/ clinic - the junction/ road leading up to etc.

For that reason, it was considered more likely that any incidents of relevance to your request might actually be recorded *not* at the exact address of the hospital/ clinic but at a location in the near vicinity.

We initially carried out general incident searches for each location and I'm sure you can appreciate that even for a period of a just a year, a busy hospital can be recorded as the locus for a great many incidents, each of which would have to be individually assessed for potential relevance to your request.

Taking all of the above into account, and in terms of our section 15 duty to advise and assist applicants, we have opted on this occasion to take a different approach which I trust you will find acceptable.

For each location, we have carried out a search of the incident log for the words/ phrases - 'pro-life', 'pro-choice', 'abortion', 'vigil' or 'prayer'.

We have also extended the location search to between a 100m and 300m radius of the address (depending on the size of the location).

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis in most circumstances and there may well be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrases we have included.

Whilst it would be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms, it is however considered likely that the phrases used ought to have captured any incidents of relevance.

All incidents reporting protests, demonstrations, leafleting, visitors being approached etc would have been included albeit whether these could be classed as harassment/ intimidation would be entirely subjective.

A small number of incidents have not been included where it was clear from the incident description that it was not directly relevant to your request - for example where the keyword hit has been a mere coincidence rather than directly relevant.

The results of the exercise are set out below:

Oak Tree Family Centre, Stranraer (within 100m)

Zero

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Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village (within 100m)

Zero

Borders General Hospital (within 225m)

Zero

Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary (within 100m)

Zero

University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock (within 300m)

Zero

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 29 March 2022.*

*The data was extracted from the Storm Unity Database using the incident's raised date.
Transferred, duplicate and linked incidents are all included within the extract.*

The Grid East and Grid North attributed to the Storm Incident were plotted on an ArcGIS Map.

Please note, the Grid East and Grid North relates to where Police Officers are directed to attend.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.