| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0471  Responded to: xx March 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many times were Prevent, Police Scotland, contacted by NHSGGC within the following dates: 27th of November 2023 and 7th of December 2023?

## How many times were Prevent, Police Scotland, contacted by NHSGGC within the following dates: 8th of December 2023 and 22nd of December 2023?

For ease, Q1 and Q2 have been answered together.

Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit do not record routine contact with NHSGGC or other partners unless relating to nominals within Prevent Case Management.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

As per the Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland 2015, NHS staff follow a process of sharing Prevent relevant concerns to Police Scotland.

This is via the submission of a National Referral Form which is the recognised route to Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (Referred to in the 2015 guidance as Prevent Professional Concerns).

1. **How many cases of antisemitism were raised by NHSGGC with Prevent, Police Scotland, within the following dates: 27th of November 2023 and 7th of December 2023?**
2. **How many cases of antisemitism were raised by NHSGGC with Prevent, Police Scotland, within the following dates: 8th of December 2023 and 22 December 2023?**
3. **How many times did the “Special point of Contact” for NHSGGC contact Prevent, Police Scotland, regarding advice on possible Islamic extremism being expressed within the following dates: 27th of December 2023 and 7th of December 2023?**

Note to Q5: I must advise you that the date range appears to be flawed as the first date pre-dates the last. For the purposes of the response, it has been assumed that the relevant dates are 27th of November 2023 and 7th of December 2023 which is consistent with Q2 above.

## How many times did the “Special point of Contact” for NHSGGC contact Prevent Police Scotland within the following dates: 8th of December 2023 and 22nd of December 2023?

Note to Q6: Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit to not use the term “Special Point of Contact” and it is presumed this means SPOC – Single Point of Contact.

For ease, Q3 to Q6 have been answered together;

If the information requested were held I consider that it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of Section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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:

Section 31(1) - National Security

Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 35(1)(a) & (b) - Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

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.

Disclosure of the information requested, if held, would seriously undermine this partnership approach, both in the UK and through international cooperation.

Section 2(1) & (2) of the Act provide that information can only be considered exempt in terms of the exemptions set out above to the extent that the public interest in disclosing the information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption.

If such information was held and placed in the public domain, it could highlight the scope of intelligence held and consequently confirm this would dramatically weaken the effectiveness of intelligence led policing.

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 to combating terrorist activity across the UK and which could be used to undermine the effectiveness of such operations.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information, no matter how generic or statistical it appears to be.

Section 38(1)(b): Personal Data

In terms of the associated Section 38 (Personal Data) considerations your request raises, I believe it would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether or not the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and the expectation of confidence that the public have in Police Scotland as regards their information.

In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

To confirm whether any individuals were referred within a very limited reporting period by a specific partner agency 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.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released.

In this case, and irrespective of what information is or isn’t held, to merely confirm or deny that information is held would provide information which would directly or inadvertently assist those intent on causing harm.

No inference should be taken from this response as to whether the information you have requested does or does not exist.

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.