| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0745  Responded to: 04 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I see that a spokes has responded to a request for information about the 3rd Party Reporting Centres, but the information supplied was not very helpful. I am therefore submitting this FOI request**

1. **I would like to know when these Reporting Centres were first set up, as your response says it was a number of years ago**

Prior to the formation of Police Scotland in 2013, Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC) were in use but there was no single governance structure due to legacy forces, therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

1. **I would like to know, for each year they have been in existence, how many reports have been received**

The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

This database was introduced in 2014, data prior to this date is no longer held due to our retention policy, therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

In relation to the data from 2014 to date, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we do not record if a report was made using a TPRC. Each report would have to be manually reviewed to determine if TPRC were mentioned and even if this task was carried out, the data gathered would not be accurate as it is not mandatory to be noted.

**3. I would like confirmation that each of these reports have been investigated and what the range of outcomes is**

**4. How many of each outcome resulted**

As per our response to question 2, it is not recorded if a TPRC is used when a report is made. We can however advise, Police Scotland consider each report on its own merit, taking into account unique and varying circumstances. Each report will be investigated to its full capacity, as such action is taken on each report made to the organisation.

To provide the actions taken and results for each unique report, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance, as each report would need to be manually assessed to determine the circumstances.

**5 What resource in terms of cost and police hours were used in pursuing those results**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To explain, we are generally unable to provide the true cost of any police investigation/ operation or particular types of operation. The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required and the number of officers required throughout will fluctuate. Officers can also be redeployed to other duties at any time, dependant on their skillsets.

**6. Details of the training provided to staff at the centres: who delivers it, using what training material, over how long a period, and covering what content**

TPRC undertake a 4-hour training programme which is delivered by police officers and can be flexible to suit the needs of each relevant organisation (face to face or remote online delivery). Details of which include - what is hate crime, the impacts of hate crime, why we need TPRC’s and how to respond if someone is looking to report a hate crime with support from a TPRC. A Short Life Working Group has been established to review current processes and procedures. Our training materials are part of this being updated to reflect the new legislation and training materials will be uploaded to our website once this has been completed.

**7. How many individuals are subject to recording of these reports against them, and what information is retained. If there is a discrepancy between the answer to 2. and this question please explain that difference including criteria adopted to decide whether or not to record.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we cannot identify if a report was made via TPRC, as this information is not retained. The TPRC act in a supportive way to assist members of the public to make a report.

**8. I note that your spokesperson assured these matters are constantly reviewed and therefore anticipate this information is already held and will pose no difficulty for you in obtaining it**

As you may be aware, the Act provides a right of access to recorded information only.  Requests seeking the creation of comment or opinion in relation to a particular query, are not therefore valid in terms of [section 8 of the Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/13/section/8).

**9. I would also like to know which parts of the scottish government are involved in these constant reviews and what their role is**

The Hate Crime Unit at the Scottish Government are working alongside Police Scotland in relation to TPRC review which is part of their Hate Crime Strategy and Delivery Plan. For further information please forward onto the Scottish Government for comment.

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.