| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0212  Responded to: 13 March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

**I would like to request information regarding protests outside sexual health clinics.**

**As such, I’d like as full disclosure as possible in relation to the following:**

**Could you please list the number of times you received calls to an incidents with a description that includes any of the following key terms ‘protest’, ‘abortion’ or ‘pro-life’ within 100 metres of the listed locations from February 2018 to date?**

* **Sandyford Sexual Health Service, 2-6 Sandyford Pl, Glasgow G3 7NB**
* **Spire Murrayfield Hospital, 122 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UD**
* **Chalmers Sexual Health Centre, 2a Chalmers St, Edinburgh EH3 9ES**
* **Craigmillar Medical Centre, 106 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4DT**
* **Spittal Street Clinic, 22 – 24 Spittal Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DU**
* **Sighthill Health Centre, 380 Calder Road, Edinburgh, EH11 4AU**
* **Ninewells Hospital Sexual & Reproductive Health Clinic, South Block, Ninewells Ave, Dundee DD1 9SY**
* **The Corner, 13 Shore Terrace, Dundee, DD1 3AH**
* **Grampian Sexual Health Services, Community Health and Care Village, 50 Frederick St, Aberdeen AB24 5HY**
* **Aberdeen Community Health & Care Village, 50 Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY**
* **Drumhar Health Centre, North Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5PD**
* **Inverness Highland Sexual Health Clinic, Zone 14, Raigmore Hospital, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3UJ**

Our source of data for requests of this nature is 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.

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.

Furthermore, it is recognised that protest groups can tend to congregate around the outskirts of such premises - particular larger hospitals - the junction/ road leading up to etc. For that reason, it is considered more likely that any incidents of relevance might actually be recorded not at the exact address of the premises but at a location in the near vicinity. 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.

I cannot stress enough that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis in most circumstances - however we do have the ability in STORM to conduct such searches.

A keyword search will undoubtedly include incidents not relevant to your request - for example where the keyword hit has been a mere coincidence rather than directly relevant. We did however weed these out for the most part by reviewing each incident for relevance.

* **Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Grampian Sexual Health Services, Community Health and Care Village**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Ninewells Hospital Sexual & Reproductive Health Clinic**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Craigmillar Medical Centre**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Drumhar Health Centre**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Sighthill Health Centre**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Spire Murrayfield Hospital**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Spittal Street Clinic**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **The Corner**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Inverness Highland Sexual Health Clinic**0 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request
* **Chalmers Sexual Health Clinic**25 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request.  
  It should be noted that many of the incidents are simply informing Police Scotland of the presence of protestors as opposed to reporting any issues as such.
* **Sandyford Sexual Health Service**32 hits assessed as relevant to subject matter of request.  
  It should be noted that many of the incidents are simply informing Police Scotland of the presence of protestors as opposed to reporting any issues as such.

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.