

Our Ref: 008788/15



**Freedom of Information Section**  
Nottinghamshire Police HQ  
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold  
Nottingham NG5 8PP

**Tel:** 101  
**Ext** 800 2507  
**Fax:** 0115 967 2896

05 January 2016

**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 04/12/2015.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

**RESPONSE**

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

**I would like to submit a Freedom of Information inquiry into the number of referrals made to the Channel programme, part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy Prevent, during the period November 2012 to November 2015.**

**I would like information on the following:**

- 1. The number of referrals made during this period**
- 2. The number of referrals which resulted in 'supportive interventions' during this period; that is, referrals that were taken forward by a multi-agency panel and dealt with through a tailored programme of intervention for "de-radicalisation" or "dis-engagement"**
- 3. The number of referrals during this period that were classified as vulnerable to 'far right extremism'**



**4. The number of referrals during this period that were classified as vulnerable to 'Islamist extremism'**

**5. The age profile of individuals referred under Channel by the following age group categories: (i) 6 - 10 years (ii) 11 - 15 years (iii) 16 - 18 years (iv) over 18 years.**

Nottinghamshire Police are unable to provide this information in relation to your question as this information would be exempt under the following sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 24(1) - National security  
Section 31(1) - Law enforcement  
Section 40(2) - Personal information

**24.** – (1) Information which does not fall within section 23 (1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1 (1) b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

**31.** – (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –

- a) the prevention or detection of crime
- b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

**40.** – (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if –

- a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1),

Section 40 is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test

Sections 24 and 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

#### Overall harm for Sections 31 and 24

The publication of specific Channel data would provide information to those who seek to challenge the process, which would not be in the public interest. Allegations of 'spying in the community' and 'targeting Muslims' misrepresent and undermine the intention of Channel and ultimately the Prevent programme, which seeks to support those individuals vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism. Figures on the ethnicity or age of participants, when compiled, may fuel perceived grievances such as the view that young

Muslims are being targeted or that the issue of political extremists (e.g. the far-right) are not being tackled. Revealing detailed site specific statistics could lead to the identification of:

- individuals who have been referred;
- those who may have referred individuals to Channel in confidence;
- local organisations who are working with us to protect and safeguard those at risk; and
- on-going cases which could lead to the withdrawal of individuals from the process and thus threaten the successful conclusion of a case.

This would bring the process into disrepute, destroy trust and damage Prevent at a National level

Channel is a multi-agency process, which aims to support those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism. It works by providing a mechanism for:

- Identifying individuals who may be at risk of and vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism.
- Accessing the nature and extent of the risk
- Where necessary, referring cases to a multi-agency panel which decides on the most appropriate support package to divert and support the individual at risk.

Channel aims to draw vulnerable individuals away from violent extremism before they become involved in criminal activity. Effective information sharing is crucial in ensuring that delivery partners, such as education, children's services, probation and local public health agencies and local community partners are able to build a comprehensive picture of an individual's vulnerability, and therefore provide the appropriate type and level of support to safeguard the individual at risk. This requires the local community to work in partnership with the police and other local agencies and to share information appropriately and responsibly.

The security of the country is of paramount importance and Nottinghamshire Police will not divulge any information which would undermine National Security or compromise Law Enforcement. Channel is part of the Prevent strand of CONTEST, the Governments' Counter Terrorism Strategy, and the information held by Nottinghamshire Police in regards to Channel directly relates to counter-terrorism policing. In addition, any prejudice to counter-terrorism policing directly impacts on the police support and the delivery of CONTEST.

Any detailed breakdown of the agencies, authorities or partners that made the referrals would lead to these partners disengaging from the referral process, as well as, potentially in some extreme cases, aid the identification of those involved in the referral process itself, or of those referred.

A list of local organisations and agencies who may be involved in Prevent can be found in the Prevent Strategy: An Updated Guide for Local Partners:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/general/updated-guide-for-local-partners2835.pdf?view=Binary>

The Channel Factsheet, produced by ACPO (TAM) Prevent Delivery Unit provides additional information about the partners and stakeholders:

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/TAM/2012/201210TAMChannelFactsheet.pdf>

#### Factors favouring disclosure of information for Section 31

There may be a public interest in the release of this information because it may reassure the public that there are effective processes in place to ensure that people showing signs or indicators that they are intent to use violence or other illegal means are monitored effectively and assessed for the presence of vulnerability. Disclosure of the information would provide reassurance to the public that the Police have in place protocols to deal with these types of incidents and offences. The Home Office regularly publishes national statistical data on Prevent data. It would also reassure the public that the Police have protocols in place to protect children from being drawn into violent extremism.

#### Factors against disclosure of information for Section 31

Disclosure of the information would mean that law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. More crime would be committed because criminals would know which forces are focusing on the Channel program. A fear of crime would be realised because if the terrorists identified more vulnerable areas, they would target and exploit these areas and the public would be in fear of more criminal/terrorist activity occurring. There would be an impact on police resources because if the measure used by forces to detect terrorist activities and safeguard children is disclosed and some areas are deemed to be 'softer' at managing this threat, terrorist cells may move to these areas in order to continue their operations and target vulnerable individuals. There could be local implications with wrongful identification of children and families which in turn could lead to further offences being committed in the community.

#### Factors favouring disclosure of information for Section 24

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by disclosing this information the public would be able to see where public money is being spent and know that forces are doing as much as they can to combat terrorism and radicalisation. Revealing this information would enable the public to have some reassurance that the Governments Counter Terrorism strategy is robust. This is an issue high on the public agenda and therefore the release of this information would contribute to an informed public debate.

#### Factors against disclosure of information for Section 24

Channel only operates in specific locations. Revealing detailed statistics may increase interest in cases which could ultimately lead to the identity of individuals and the organisations we work with, which may assist others intending to counter such work. Identification of those working locally to deliver the aims and objectives of Channel could enable those wishing to counter such work to engage in activity to disrupt and jeopardise the successful delivery of on-going work. This could threaten the successful delivery of Channel and the government's counter terrorism strategy and lead to the public being at increased risk from terrorism. There is also a potential for such data to be used to increase community tensions in an area which would not be in the public interest

Any information shared between agencies (intelligence) has the potential to cover all aspects of criminal activity, be it threats to National Security, future planned robberies or intelligence relating to terrorist activity. Disclosure of the information would enable those intent on engaging in terrorist activities to determine on a National level which areas within the UK may be a vulnerable area to target.

#### Balance test

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge information if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations, information gathering and in this case providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively safeguarding those who are vulnerable to radicalisation and targeting the cells behind the radicalisation, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in the highly sensitive area of terrorism.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Whilst there is a strong public interest in the transparency of policing programmes and in this case, providing assurance that the police service and other stakeholders are appropriately and effectively engaging with one another, combating the threat posed by individuals with the intent to use violence and other illegal means, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of the stakeholders within the programme.

Nottinghamshire Police will not divulge information if it is likely that it will compromise the work of the Police Service or place members of the public at risk. It is known that terrorist cells will try to radicalise people and children so that they believe in their ideology in order to encourage them to commit acts of terror. Disclosure of the requested information would highlight which forces may have individuals who are more susceptible to radicalisation and how each force tackles this within their communities. This will adversely affect Nottinghamshire Police's ability to detect this type of crime as it may alter the behaviours of those preying on vulnerable individuals. This in itself could put

the individual's life at risk along with that of National Security. It is therefore our belief that the balance test lies in favour of not disclosing the information.

### **Complaints Rights**

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

### **Copyright**

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail [freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk) quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

**Disclosure Officer**

## **Are you dissatisfied with your response?**

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

### **How do I appeal?**

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management  
Nottinghamshire Police  
Force Headquarters  
Sherwood Lodge  
Arnold  
Notts  
NG5 8PP

or alternatively [freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

### **What if I'm still not satisfied?**

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)