



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI429836404

Thank you for your request for information relating to Referrals relating to radicalisation concerns.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide the following information for the financial years 2015 to 2021 (beginning 01 April 2015 ending 31 March 2022) broken down by year i.e. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022:

- 1. The number of people under the age of 18 referred to children's services in your area for 'radicalisation concerns'?**
- 2. Of these, how many were referred by the local authority as a as a First Responder to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of human trafficking and/or modern slavery?**

For Questions 1 to 2, it is confirmed that the Council holds this information. However, it is the Council's view that the information for Questions 1-2 is exempt from disclosure under the following exemption in the FOIA:

Section 24(1) Safeguarding National Security

The Council believes that disclosure of information as requested above constitutes a risk to national security. Section 24(1) FOIA provides that information is exempt from disclosure where it "is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security." Section 24(1) provides that

information is exempt if disclosure would be harmful e.g. if its release would undermine national security.

Individuals could use the information requested in these questions to gauge the level of threat both in this area or nationally. Individuals referred and adopted into Prevent are those suspected of being at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Terrorism is a serious crime and the information collected by the Council could be used by the police for the prevention and / or detection of crime.

Section 24(1) is a qualified exemptions where a public interest test (PIT) must be performed in order to assess the public interest arguments for and against declaring whether or not the requested information should be released.

The 'public interest' is not necessarily the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we have considered the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole if the information is released or not.

Arguments for Disclosure:

- Confirmation of the number of cases would demonstrate a commitment to transparency with regard to the Council's undertaking.
- There is a general public interest in disclosure and the fact that openness by the Council increases public trust in, and engagement with, the Council.
- The disclosure of some information could enhance the openness of the Council and help the public understand, in greater depth, how the Council is responding to a range of factors that can draw people into terrorism or pull people away from it.
- Disclosing the number of cases referred to the local authority due to concerns that they are vulnerable to extremism will reassure the public that Prevent activity is being undertaken to ensure individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism are being supported by the Channel project. Anything that allows the public to feel reassured about the work of the local government and partner agencies, and will therefore lead to an effective challenge to those that seek to damage the communities in and around the UK, would be in the public interest to disclose.

Against Disclosure:

- Individuals are referred into Prevent when someone is seriously concerned that they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism
- Disclosing the number of people under the age of 18 referred to Prevent would provide an indication of how many people in this area are vulnerable to being radicalised
- Providing any breakdown of this category would also provide a strong indicator of the number of people who are vulnerable to radicalisation
- Individuals could use this information to create a 'threat map' of the UK. This would allow them to better target radicalisation efforts on areas with high number of referrals to Prevent

- Conversely, if individuals had local knowledge that a particular area had a large number of people vulnerable to radicalisation, but the number of Prevent referrals is low then this would identify a gap in the governments Counter Terrorism efforts
- There is a serious terrorist threat to the UK. Providing information on past referrals would provide access to information on how these numbers had changed over time. This would highlight any trends in an area

On balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the disclosure of the information.

3. Of these, how many were cautioned or arrested for terrorism related offences?

We confirm that we do not hold the information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This information is held by West Midlands Police (WMP).

To assist you further, please contact WMP for information. Contact details are accessible using the link below:

<https://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/>

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance