

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 000098/15

Thank you for your request for information regarding Channel Referrals which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

1. How many people were referred to the Channel project since the programme started in 2007?
2. How many people were referred last year, 2014?
3. Of these how many were under 18 and;
4. Under 16 and;
5. Under 10 (if you record under different age brackets, please can you provide that info instead.
6. What was the age of your youngest referral?
7. How many have been referred in 2015 to date?

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold information captured by your request.

1. A total of 6306 individuals have been referred to Channel since 2007.
2. 1681 referrals were made to Channel in 2014.
3. 577 of those were under the age of 18 on the date of referral.
4. 382 were under the age of 16 on the date of referral.
5. 47 were under the age of 10 on the date of referral.
6. The age of the youngest referral is recorded as 4 years old. Due to operational circumstances an entire family was referred to Channel, the youngest member of which was 4 years old. This is a very rare occurrence in which it was felt that channel was the best support mechanism to safeguard the child and that it was necessary to enable the family unit to benefit from the expertise and wrap around support that Channel provides. No one else of this age has been referred to date.
7. Up to and including 25/05/2015, 2015 referrals have been made.



Channel is a pre-criminal diversionary programme, and there is not the same degree of reliability usually associated with regularly published police held data, which is often governed by prescriptive 'counting rules'.

By way of context; across forces, the recording of information relating to Channel referrals has varied over time and across forces, so aggregated data may not be consistent which has resulted in a degree of inconsistency and some variation in recording practices between forces.

There have also historically been minor variations and inconsistencies in the way that details relating to referrals were collated prior to the introduction of the case management system between September 2014 and January 2015 which will provide a more robust way of recording data nationally.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.