



# ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

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24/01/2014

Dear Mr Whitehead

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 000117/13**

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

**Applicant Question:**

1. How many referrals has there been to prevent Channel programme since it was launched in April 2007?

(I am aware of figures published showing the number of referrals up to the end of 2010, but I would like the most up to date figures please).

2. Can you please break down the total number of referrals to those aged 18 and above, under 16, and under 12?
3. What is the age of the youngest person to be referred and how many people of that same year age were referred?
4. Of those aged under 16, please provide some examples of the reasons / concerns / activities that led to the referral
5. Can you please break down the total number of referrals by religion where it was recorded? Percentages will suffice if that is how it is collated?
6. Of the total number of referrals, how many were assessed as being vulnerable and therefore received further support?
7. Of those aged under 16, please provide some examples of the reasons / concerns / activities that led to the referral.
8. Have any referrals been as a result of drawings and, if so, how many and please give examples?
9. Of the total number of referrals, how many were made by teachers / education staff?
10. How many, or what proportion, of the total referrals were as a result of concerns of vulnerability to far right wing extremism?

On 29/06/2013 I contacted you to advise that ACPO are in the process of ascertaining whether data is held in order to provide an accurate and detailed response. I raised two queries with regard to your request for information specifically relating to data recorded by financial year rather than calendar, and data recorded by differing age brackets pre and post April 2012. You kindly confirmed your refined request as follows:

**Question 1**

How many referrals have there been to prevent Channel Programme since it was launched in April 2007 broken down by financial year (I am aware of figures published showing the number of referrals up to the end of 2010, but I would like the most up to date figures please)?

**Question 2**

Can you please break down the total number of referrals to:

Pre April 2012	0 – 8	9 – 12	13 – 16	17 – 20
Post April 2012	0 – 9	10 – 13	14 – 17	18 - 21

**Question 3**

What is the age of the youngest person to be referred and how many people of that same year age were referred?

**Question 4**

Of those aged under 16, please provide some examples of the reasons / concerns / activities that led to the referral?

**Question 5**

Can you please break down the total number of referrals by religion where it was recorded? Percentages will suffice if that is how it is collated.

**Question 6**

Of the total number of referrals, how many were assessed as being vulnerable and therefore received further support?

**Question 7**

Have any referrals been as a result of drawings and, if so, how many and please give examples

**Question 8**

Of the total number of referrals, how many were made by teachers / education staff?

**Question 9**

How many, or what proportion, of the total referrals were as a result of concerns of vulnerability to far right wing extremism?

**ACPO Response:**

Channel is a key element of the *Prevent* strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. In line with commitments made in the revised Prevent strategy the Channel Programme has been expanded to provide coverage across all areas of England and Wales. A national case management process was introduced in April 2012 which means consistency of data will be provided going forward. It is therefore our intention to release a data set on an annual basis going forward. Taking into account these data issues the responses to your questions posed under FOIA are below. I hope this information is helpful for you.

### **Question 1**

**How many referrals have there been to prevent Channel Programme since it was launched in April 2007 broken down by financial year (I am aware of figures published showing the number of referrals up to the end of 2010, but I would like the most up to date figures please)?**

The figures below are supplied by financial year:

2006/2007	05
2007/2008	75
2008/2009	179
2009/2010	467
2010/2011	599
2011/2012	580
2012/2013	748
Total since inception	2653

### **Question 2**

**Q2 Can you please break down the total number of referrals to those aged 18 and above, under 16 and under 12?**

In retrieving all of the data to enable us to answer all parts of your request, we have been able to provide the figures that you initially asked for.

Since inception	
Age Range	Referrals
18 years and over	1548
Under 16 years	645
Under 12 years	113

### **Question 3**

**What is the age of the youngest person to be referred and how many people of that same year age were referred?**

Due to operational circumstances an entire family unit was referred to Channel, the youngest member of which was 3 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.

### **Question 4**

Of those aged under 16, please provide some examples of the reasons / concerns / activities that led to the referral?

There are a number of behaviours and other indicators that may indicate the presence of vulnerability.

Example indicators that an individual is engaged with an extremist group, cause or ideology include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Their day to day behaviour increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups);
- attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology; or
- communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology.<sup>3.9</sup>

Example indicators that an individual has an intention to use violence or other illegal means include:

- Clearly identifying another group as threatening what they stand for and blaming that group for all social or political ills;
- using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group;
- speaking about the imminence of harm from the other group and the importance of action now;
- expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology;
- condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others;
- plotting or conspiring with others.

Example indicators that an individual is capable of contributing directly or indirectly to an act of terrorism include:

- Having a history of violence;
- Being criminally versatile and using criminal networks to support extremist goals;
- having occupational skills that can enable acts of terrorism (such as civil engineering, pharmacology or construction);
- having technical expertise that can be deployed (e.g. IT skills, knowledge of chemicals, military training or survival skills).

The examples above are not exhaustive and vulnerability may manifest itself in other ways. There is no single route to terrorism nor is there a simple profile of those who become involved. For this reason, any attempt to derive a 'profile' can be misleading. It must not be assumed that these characteristics and experiences will necessarily lead to individuals becoming terrorists, or that these indicators are the only source of information required to make an appropriate assessment about vulnerability.

### **Question 5**

Can you please break down the total number of referrals by religion where it was recorded? Percentages will suffice if that is how it is collated.

Between April 2007 and December 2010 the percentage of referrals that were recorded as being Muslim was 67 per cent, with other religions accounting for 7 per cent and where the religion is not known accounting for 26 per cent. Between January 2011 and March 2012 no data on religion was recorded.

From April 2012 of all referrals received from that time 57.4% were Muslim, 26.7% were not known, 9.2% were Christian, 4.4% No religion, 0.6% Sikh, 0.5% Hindu, 0.5% Jewish, 0.5% any other religion, 0.1% Buddhist and 0.1% prefer not to say.

### **Question 6**

**Of the total number of referrals, how many were assessed as being vulnerable and therefore received further support?**

A total of 587 have progressed through multi-agency panel to receive support. This evidences a robust multi-agency assessment process ensuring only individuals who are genuinely vulnerable progress to receive support.

## **Question 7**

**Have any referrals been as a result of drawings and, if so, how many and please give examples?**

On information held by ACPO no Channel referral has been made or adopted solely on the basis of a drawing. Any agency or individual can make a referral based on their belief that an individual is vulnerable to radicalisation. It is conceivable that the concern could be initially triggered by a drawing. Channel has a robust assessment process that means that only one in five cases go on to receive support. This means that if cases are made inappropriately although in good faith they do not progress. However we are aware through open source international reporting that vulnerability to radicalisation has been identified as a result of the completion of drawings often supported by text. This has been seen with AQ inspired and most commonly with extreme right wing, represented through symbols such as swastikas.

## **Question 8**

**Of the total number of referrals, how many were made by teachers / education staff?**

547 referrals have been made by the educational sector.

## **Question 9**

**How many, or what proportion, of the total referrals were as a result of concerns of vulnerability to far right wing extremism?**

Since inception of the Channel scheme up to and including the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2013 far right extremism has accounted for 14% of Channel referrals.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair  
**Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker**

[www.acpo.police.uk](http://www.acpo.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 ACPO to have the decision reviewed within 2 months 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 ACPO Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with ACPO, 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.