

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
14 August 2019
Our ref: 5471030

Thank you for your request received on 16 July 2019, for the following information:

I would like to request the following information regarding Channel (Prevent) referrals:

- 1. How many Channel referrals were there in the years 2017/18 and 2018/19?**
- 2. Of these how many referrals were related to Islamic extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?**
- 3. Of these how many referrals were related to Far-right extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?**
- 4. Of these how many referrals were related to other forms of extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?**
- 5. How many of these referrals were enrolled onto the channel programme 2017/18 and 2018/19 for both Islamic extremism and Far -right extremism?**

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

I would like to request the following information regarding Channel (Prevent) referrals:

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- 2. Of these how many referrals were related to Islamic extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?***
- 3. Of these how many referrals were related to Far-right extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?***
- 4. Of these how many referrals were related to other forms of extremism for years 2017/18 and 2018/19?***
- 5. How many of these referrals were enrolled onto the channel programme 2017/18 and 2018/19 for both Islamic extremism and Far -right extremism?***

See Refusal Notice below.

24 National security.

(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.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 31(1) provides a prejudice based exemption which protects a variety of law enforcement interests

Section 31(3) provides an exemption to the duty to confirm or deny whether the information requested is held for the purpose of law enforcement.

Section 24 and 31 are both prejudiced based qualifications and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not confirming that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest.

Overall harm

In order to counter extremist behaviour it is vital that police and other agencies have the ability to work together, where necessary covertly, in order to gain intelligence within current legislative frameworks. A number of UK extremists have publicly stated their intention to target individuals and organisations whose work the extremists oppose and a number of attacks against people and property have taken place, therefore the nature of the threat is known to be real.

Disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are disclosures to the world, not just to the individual making the request. Disclosure of information in response to this request will mean information is available to those that may be engaged in extremist activities and will provide intelligence to them to indicate whether their activities are likely, or unlikely, to be subject to interest or investigation from the appropriate authorities.

Any information identifying the focus of domestic extremism policing activity could be used to the advantage of extremists or criminal organisations, thus undermining the operational integrity of these activities, adversely affecting public safety, and having a negative impact on both national security and law enforcement.

Disclosure of any information could undermine the Prevent program and could put national security at risk by jeopardising or negating the government's efforts to prevent acts of terrorism and terrorist related crime. Channel aims to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and therefore criminality.

Organisations and partner organisations are given reassurances that information will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Confirming whether or not information is held could therefore erode trust in the Channel process from partners which in turn could threaten the successful delivery of Channel and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Public interest test

Factors favouring S24(1)(2) and S31(2)(3)

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by confirming or denying that any information relevant to the request exists could lead to a better informed that can take steps to protect themselves.

By confirming or denying that information exists increases transparency of policing operations, and provides assurance that the police service and Local Authority Community Safety Teams are appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by domestic extremism through engagement of national bodies and organisations.

Factors Against S24(1)(2) and S31(2)(3)

By confirming or denying information relevant to the request exists would render security measures less effective. There is a public interest in not disclosing information that would compromise national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in these highly sensitive areas. There is a public interest in not disclosing information that would undermine the relationship between the Local Authority and law enforcement bodies and would compromise the free flow of information and intelligence for the purpose of monitoring and countering extremism.

Disclosure of the requested information into the public domain may render security measures less effective. There is a public interest in not disclosing information that would both compromise national and local level security in these sensitive areas. To allow extremists to understand strategies and protective measures may allow their effectiveness to be reduced.

On balance, the information cannot be provided to you as disclosure of information around Channel referrals risks identifying:

- how safeguarding resources are apportioned and where capability is focussed
- Potentially revealing of areas with the highest threat

This risks undermining Prevent Delivery by enabling individuals to better focus radicalisation efforts.

This should not be taken as an indication that information is held by the Council.

Further information

You may wish to consider directing the requestor to published channel stats (see link below), which provide a regional breakdown

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/individuals-referred-to-and-supported-through-the-prevent-programme-statistics>

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications

Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.