

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 8 December 2022

Item 5: Prevent and Channel

Cllr S Carter and Cllr L Smetham (written response)

The information requested is exempt under Section 24(1) FoIA, which provides that information is exempt from disclosure if it is required for the purpose of safeguarding 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 Channel are those suspected of being risk of being drawn into terrorism. Providing information on the number of people referred and adopted into Channel for this area would provide a good indicator of the level of risk of vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism in this area.
- As individuals who are adopted onto Channel are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, those who refuse to consent to adoption as a Channel case will remain at significant risk of being radicalised. Providing information on the number of these people in an area would give a good indication of an at-risk pool of individuals who are already refused to engage with safeguarding efforts.
- The Channel guidance states that Channel panels should meet once a month, however panels are also required to meet more than once a month if the circumstances require it. More meetings than the baseline would indicate a higher caseload. This information could be used to create a 'threat map' of the UK via multiple FOI's. This could be used by individuals to better target radicalisation efforts, which could lead to more vulnerable individuals being drawn into terrorism.
- There is a serious terrorist threat to the UK.
- Providing information on past referrals to Channel, adopted cases, number of meetings or the number of people who were adopted onto Channel but withdrew from the process would provide access to information on how these numbers had changed over time. This would highlight any trends in an area.