



## Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 23-0892

Responded to: 28 April 2023

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

- 1. Have there been any reported and documented incidents of harassment, intimidation or public disorder, associated with either pro-life prayer vigil groups or pro-choice groups, outside or in and around Chalmers Sexual Health Centre, 2A Chalmers Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9HQ, between 01 Sep 22 and 28 Feb 23**
- 2. Full details of every incident; including the date, time and specific location in which any such incident occurred; the name of the individual/ group reporting an incident; details of any group or organisation the reporting individual belonged to; full details of any incident including any action required following the incident and the final outcome**

Our source of data for requests of this nature is the Police Scotland incident recording system - STORM.

To explain, when a matter is reported to the police (usually by 101 or 999 call) or otherwise comes to police attention, an incident will be logged on this system.

Incidents are categorised to an extent but I would stress first of all that there is no incident classification which would directly relate to the type of incident described in your request.

On the contrary, it is considered likely that such incidents could be recorded under a number of different categories depending on the circumstances - for example noise, disturbance, assault, crime in progress, concern for person etc.

As such, there is no meaningful way the incident classifications could be used to narrow down the information held in relation to each location.

Furthermore, it is recognised that protest groups can tend to congregate around the outskirts of such premises - particular larger hospitals - the junction/ road leading up to etc.

For that reason, it is considered more likely that any incidents of relevance might actually be recorded not at the exact address of the premises but at a location in the near vicinity.

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I'm sure you can appreciate that even for a period of a just a year, a busy hospital/ clinic can be recorded as the locus for a great many incidents, each of which would have to be individually assessed for potential relevance.

I cannot stress enough that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis in most circumstances - however we do have the ability in STORM to conduct such searches.

A keyword search will undoubtedly include incidents not relevant to your request - for example where the keyword hit has been a mere coincidence rather than directly relevant. We can however weed these out for the most part by reviewing each incident for relevance.

In response to your request, we have carried out a keyword search of incidents within 100m radius of Chalmers Sexual Health Centre where the terms 'protest', 'abortion', 'vigil', 'pro-life' and/ or 'prolife' are recorded.

The table below details incidents meeting those terms recorded between 1 September 2022 and 28 February 2023:

Date	Time	Description	Outcome
03/10/2022	16:14	Anon call re protesters with religious fuelled hate protest signs within buffer zone	Not ongoing, Hate Crime.
04/10/2022	12:58	Female scared to pass protestors to access her car	Assistance/Advice Given
11/10/2022	11:36	Prolife protester has stuck a sign into grass on private land opposite clinic and is refusing to remove it.	Advice given and signed removed from grass.
20/10/2022	11:55	Member of public harassing persons taking part in vigil	Assistance/Advice Given

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 13/4/2023.*

*Specified areas have been selected using GIS Mapping - 100 metres radius from Chalmers Sexual Health Centre, 2A Chalmers Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9HQ.*

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Please be advised that no named organisation is contained within any of the above incident reports. I can further advise you that none of the incidents resulted in a crime report.

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the name of the individual/group reporting the incidents.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is section 38(1)(b) - Personal data

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](#) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](#), by [email](#) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.