





not linked to radicalisation and an onward referral might be made for another form of support. All *Prevent* referrals are confidential and do not result in a criminal record or any other form of sanction.

## 1.4 The Channel programme

The Channel programme in England and Wales is an initiative that provides a multi-agency approach to support people vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation. For those individuals where the police assess there is a risk of radicalisation, a Channel panel chaired by the local authority, and attended by other partners such as representatives from education and health services, will meet to discuss the referral. They will discuss the extent of the vulnerability, assess all the circumstances of the case and decide whether to adopt the individual as a Channel case. Cases are adopted in order to further assess the vulnerability, or to provide a tailored package of support where necessary and proportionate to do so. A Channel panel may decide that a person's vulnerabilities are not terrorism-related and refer the person to other forms of support. Information shared among partners is strictly in accordance with the terms of the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed the Channel programme on a statutory footing and created a duty on each local authority in England and Wales to ensure that there is a panel in place for its area. Statutory guidance for Channel panels was published in March 2015.

## 1.5 Providing support and leaving the programme

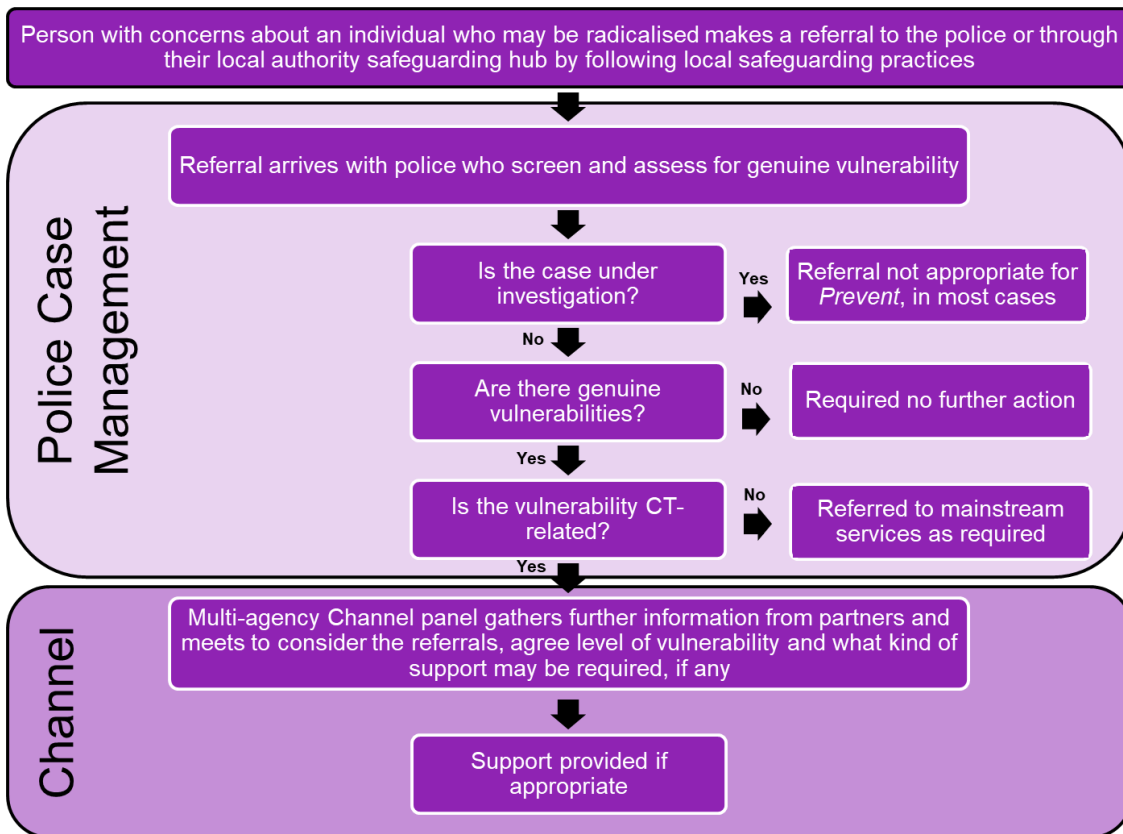
Participation in the Channel programme is confidential and consent is obtained before Channel support is provided to individuals. Many types of support are available, addressing educational, vocational, mental health and other vulnerabilities. Ideological mentoring is common. Tailored support is provided based on the needs identified for an individual. The role of the Channel panel is to coordinate new activity through statutory partners and/or Channel-commissioned Intervention Providers, or oversee existing activity depending on what is most appropriate and proportionate for the case.

A Channel panel will, on a monthly basis, review the progress of an individual in the Channel programme. The panel decides that a person will leave the Channel programme when there is no further risk of radicalisation. Support to address particular non-radicalisation-related concerns could continue in some cases and would be managed outside of the Channel programme.

People in receipt of support from the Channel programme, but who drop out, may be offered alternative forms of support by the local authority or other providers. In these circumstances, any risk of terrorism that they might present will be managed by the police.

After an individual has left the Channel programme, their progress will be reviewed after 6 and 12 months. If the individual shows further radicalisation-related concerns they can re-enter the Channel programme and receive further support.

Figure 1: Prevent process flow diagram



Source: Home Office





- Ultimately, 10% (561) were adopted as a Channel case<sup>1</sup>

Of the 2,823 referrals signposted to alternative services for support, they were most commonly directed to the Education sector (791; 28%).

Of the 1,320 referrals deemed suitable through preliminary assessment to be **discussed at a Channel panel** in the year ending March 2019:

- 759 (58%) referrals did not go on to be adopted as a **Channel case**; of these, the majority (530; 70%) were signposted to alternative services<sup>2</sup> where the panel deems the individuals to have non-radicalisation-related vulnerabilities
- 561 (43%) referrals were adopted as a **Channel case**, of which most (474; 84%) have now left the Channel process; 87 (16%) remained a Channel case at time of data extraction (October 2019)

Of the 474 referrals adopted as a **Channel case** in the year ending March 2019 who subsequently exited the process, 402 (85%) were recorded as having exited with no further radicalisation concerns. Exploration of case outcomes for those exiting the Channel programme during the year ending March 2019 showed that this includes individuals:

- who had a vulnerability to radicalisation addressed by a Channel-commissioned Intervention Provider
- for whom the Channel panel oversaw existing support already in place through statutory partners
- and individuals adopted as a Channel case to further assess whether a vulnerability to radicalisation was present and determine whether or not additional support was needed

The remaining 72 referrals (15%) were for individuals who withdrew from the Channel programme (60), or who were withdrawn because it was no longer deemed appropriate (12), although in some cases support from other services may still be in place. Any terrorism risk that might be present is managed by the police.

## 2.2 Referrals over time

In the year ending March 2019, 5,738 **referrals** to *Prevent* were recorded, a 22% decrease in comparison with the previous year (7,318). The number of referrals recorded generally fluctuated across the year, with a 20% increase from the 1,387 referrals made in Q1 of the year ending March 2019 to the annual peak of 1,660 in Q4.

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<sup>1</sup> An additional 11 cases were open at the information gathering stage at the point of data collection (29 October 2019).

<sup>2</sup> The sector that the individual is signposted to upon exiting the *Prevent* process may engage other statutory partners to appropriately address the concern for that individual.







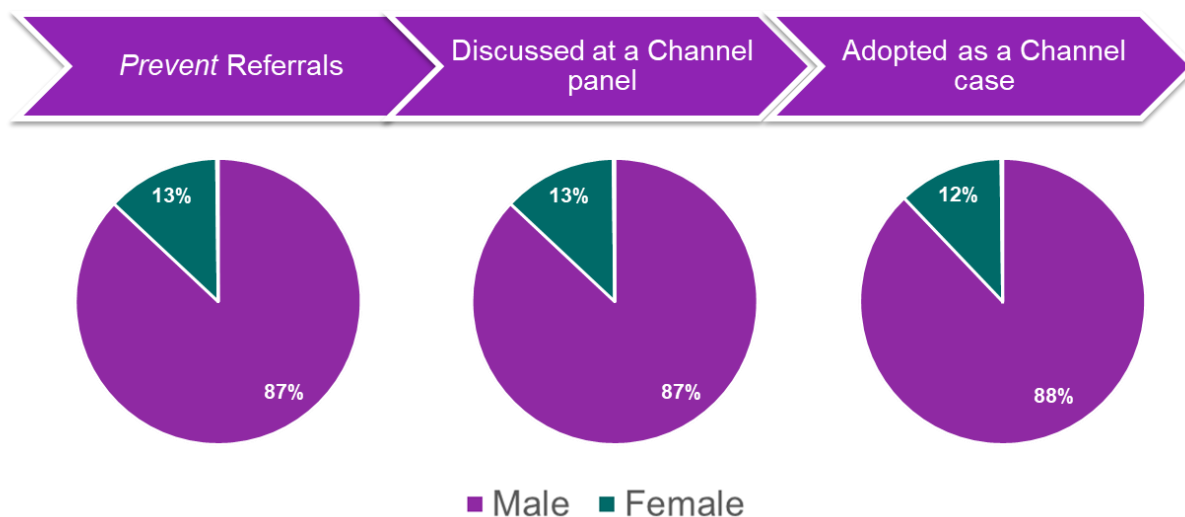
authority (17), Other (21), Friends & Family (22.5), Police (25), Community (27), Health (28).

### 3.2 Gender

In the year ending March 2019, of the 5,738 **referrals**, the majority of individuals were male (4,991; 87%). Males also made up the majority of the 1,320 individuals **discussed at a Channel panel** (1,143; 87%) and the 561 individuals that were adopted as a **Channel case** (493; 88%).

From the year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2019, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of males **referred** (78% to 87%), **discussed at panel** (80% to 87%) and adopted as **Channel cases** (85% to 88%).

**Figure 5: Gender of those referred, discussed at a Channel panel and adopted as a Channel case, year ending March 2019**



**Source:** Home Office, Individuals referred to and supported through the *Prevent* programme, England and Wales, April 2018 to March 2019. Annex A, table [D.02](#)

**Notes:** The 'Other' and 'Unspecified' gender categories each accounted for less than 1% of referrals, Panel discussions and Channel cases.

### 3.3 Type of concern

In the year ending March 2019, the amount of **referrals**, **panel discussions** and **Channel cases** was more balanced between right-wing and Islamist radicalisation in comparison with previous years.

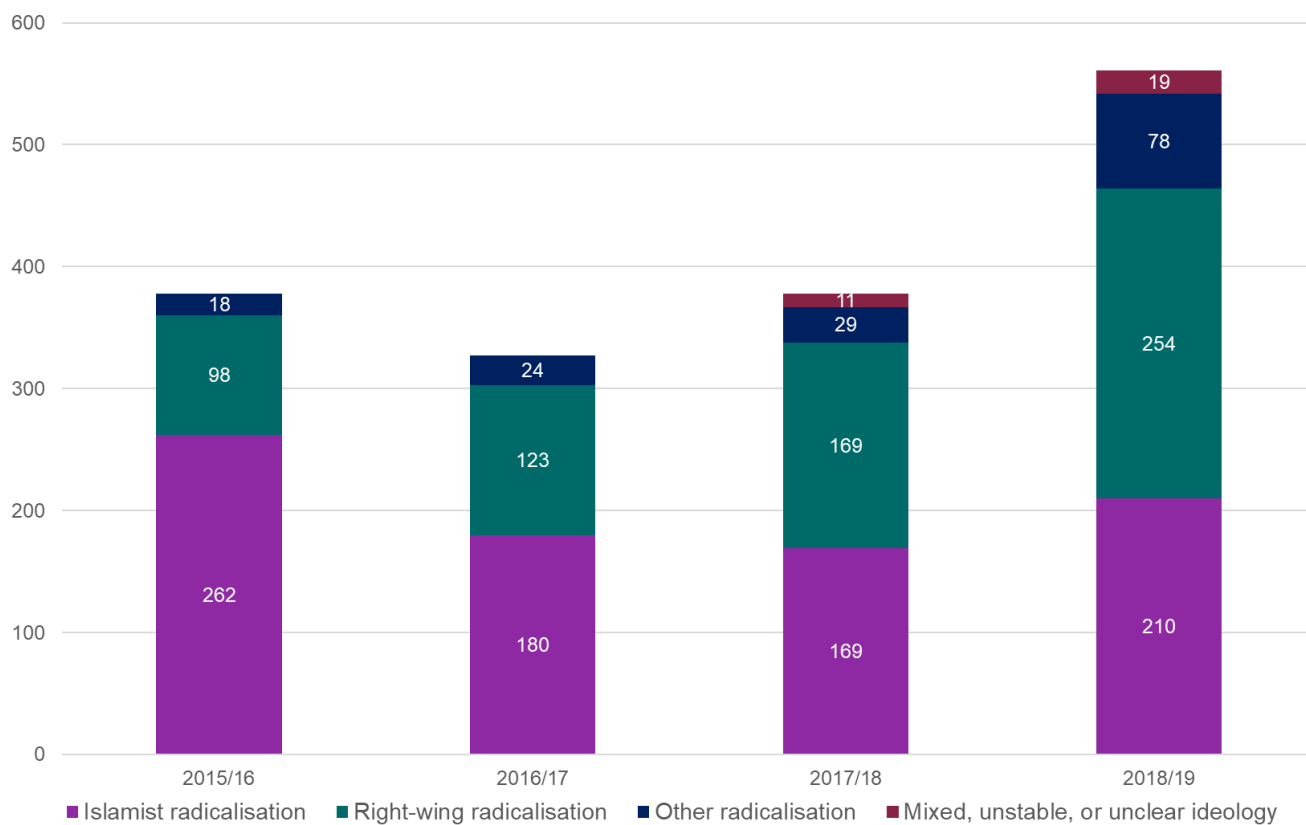
Of the 5,738 **referrals**, 1,404 individuals (24%) were referred for concerns related to Islamist radicalisation and 1,389 (24%) were referred for concerns related to right-wing radicalisation. A total of 2,169 individuals (38%) were referred with a mixed, unstable or unclear ideology,<sup>3</sup> of which the majority (1,252; 58%) had no concern identified following an

<sup>3</sup> This category reflects instances where the ideology presented is mixed (involving a combination of elements from multiple ideologies), unstable (shifting between different ideologies), or unclear (where the individual does not present a coherent ideology, yet may still pose a terrorism risk).





**Figure 7: Channel cases by type of concern, years ending March 2016 to 2019**



**Source:** Home Office, Individuals referred to and supported through the *Prevent* programme, England and Wales, April 2018 to March 2019. Annex A, table [D.16](#)

## 4 Regional trends

This section reports regional trends in individuals referred due to concerns about their vulnerability to the risk of radicalisation. Geographic regions are reported according to their progression through *Prevent* as well as the type of concern raised by the initial referee. The figures in this section include individuals referred multiple times during the 2018 to 2019 financial year (making up less than 1% of all referrals), as well as trends over time based on comparable data since the year ending March 2016.

In the year ending March 2019, of the 5,738 **referrals**, the largest proportion of individuals were from the North East region (972; 17%), followed by London (915; 16%).

The largest proportion of the 1,320 referrals which were **discussed at a panel** were individuals from London (231; 18%) followed by the West Midlands region (196; 15%). Of the 561 referrals adopted as a **Channel case**, the largest proportion were from the North West region (96; 17%), closely followed by the North East region (94; 17%).

From the years ending March 2016 to March 2019, there have been large fluctuations in the number of **Channel cases** by region. The biggest increase in number of cases was in the East Midlands (23 to 54; 135%), whereas the biggest decrease was in Wales (31 to 12; - 61%). Please see table [C.07](#) in Annex A for a more detailed breakdown.

**Figure 8: Regional distribution of those referred, discussed at a Channel panel and adopted as a Channel case, year ending March 2019**

Region	Prevent Referrals		Discussed at a Channel panel		Adopted as a Channel case	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
North East	972	17%	188	14%	94	17%
North West	786	14%	147	11%	96	17%
East Midlands	565	10%	172	13%	54	10%
West Midlands	634	11%	196	15%	80	14%
East	442	8%	187	14%	44	8%
London	915	16%	231	18%	91	16%
South East	743	13%	132	10%	73	13%
South West	423	7%	54	4%	17	3%
Wales	258	4%	13	1%	12	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Home Office, Individuals referred to and supported through the *Prevent* programme, England and Wales, April 2018 to March 2019. Annex A, table [D.04](#)









## 6 Further information

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### 6.1 Changes to this release

In this release, the section on outcomes assigned to previous open cases has been removed. This is because the data in Annex A includes the updates on these cases. Therefore, the figures in Annex A and this report may not match those included in previous versions of the 'Individuals referred to and supported through the *Prevent* programme' statistics release.

### 6.2 Uses of the statistics

Uses of these statistics are listed below using the standard categorisation for Official Statistics.

#### a) Informing the general public

- About the state of the economy, society and the environment – figures are made available to increase transparency around the *Prevent* programme and provide the general public with an accurate source of information on referrals.
- About the activity of the police – figures are requested via Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information requests.

#### b) Government policy making and monitoring

Statistics are used to inform government policy by providing a national overview of how the programme is working on the ground.

#### c) Resource allocation – typically by central and local government

These statistics are used, alongside other information, to help determine the locations where the threat from terrorism and radicalisation is greatest, in order to allocate resources accordingly.

#### d) Third parties

These statistics are used by a range of third parties from civil liberty groups to academics.

### 6.3 Other related publications

Forthcoming publications are pre-announced on the [statistics release calendar](#) on GOV.UK website.

Previous releases of these statistics can be found [here](#).

### 6.4 Feedback and enquiries

If you have any feedback or enquiries about this publication, please contact [PreventResearchTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:PreventResearchTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk).

The 'Individuals referred to and supported through the *Prevent* programme' release is an Official Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by analysts working in the Home Office Analysis and Insight Directorate in accordance with the Home Office's ['Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics'](#) which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, and the Head of Profession, report to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office Official Statistics products with respect to the [Code of Practice](#), being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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