| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2481  Responded to: 12 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I wish to query the organisational position of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, CYP Commissioner's Office and the Scottish Government regarding the manned Jehovah's Witness literature stands. These stands are prominently located in various places with high footfall, including in front of the Scott Monument, next to the Wellington Monument, and at the top of the Royal Mile, as well as other locations locally and nationally.

## Succinctly, the religion actively promotes beliefs that I would understand to;

## Contravene and undermine the UNCRC and GIRFE

## Increase the risk of harm to Children and Young people

## Directly oppose the Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland and Scottish Governments Equality and Diversity Frameworks.

## Potentially violate the [Street Trading Policy](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edinburgh.gov.uk%2Fdownloads%2Ffile%2F23534%2Fstreet-trading-council-policy&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7o6GjYx4dQoK3R7gwcMYYbCMZFFS8qfSesRejBQ08pM%3D&reserved=0)

## The literature at these stands, the website that they actively direct people to, as well as the members manning them, promote questionable beliefs and practices, including;

## *(all the links below are from the website people are directed to at these stands)*

## Homophobia

## The religion describes homosexuality as an "[abhorrent sin](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1983405%3Fq%3Dhomosexuality%2Babhorrent%26p%3Dpar&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FE1fWw1%2BcDSCi48HlqAZBrUOLWjm%2FzomPvD3GvEFEnA%3D&reserved=0)" and suggests that it can be resisted through biblical study. This stance, often targeting young individuals,

## aligns with the definition of "conversion therapy." An article entitled "[Young People Ask, Why do I have these Feeling](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jw.org%2Ffinder%3Fwtlocale%3DE%26docid%3D101995087%26srctype%3Dwol%26srcid%3Dshare%26par%3D22&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QC3yVZZW6rrLUqXoj87u3Rfl6aHX4leyNm0jwzH%2BCDo%3D&reserved=0)s?" compares succumbing to homosexual desires

## with molesting children. To join the church, anyone identifying as LGBT would need to abstain from and discontinue any LGBT sexual or romantic activity.

## I have provided a few examples and quotes of the content found within the literature, and website, that is advertised at these literature stands;

## [Is Homosexuality Wrong? | Young People Ask (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jw.org%2Fen%2Fbible-teachings%2Fteenagers%2Fask%2Fis-homosexuality-wrong%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=baqEvPJqK2P18Wp0CvN9t2JC6up4LZ5zzK%2Bjt67Uj6A%3D&reserved=0)

## [Homosexuality: Explain the Bible’s View—How? | Young People (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jw.org%2Fen%2Flibrary%2Fmagazines%2Fg201012%2Fexplain-bibles-view-of-homosexuality%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HUNkLlXtY9aQ%2FW%2BwdwJHnCEkBKv4xOoQFaKhLVExUQQ%3D&reserved=0)

## [*"In other words, their life becomes a life of unnatural sexual aberration; hence, a life devoid of God’s approval. In addition, they may suffer physical harm because of their perversions"*](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F101989491&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o5D0ocivID8qwLxOdFhcvr9i2AulvJirJbXzE7DVb54%3D&reserved=0)

## [*"Homosexuality thus cannot simply be passed off as an ‘alternate life-style.’ It is unnatural, a perversion of the way we were created. The Bible includes it among actions that result from “a disapproved mental state”"*](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F101988724&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TiwlctojCy2N9eomPw8xDuKMrr%2Fc3k%2BtH%2FivwQYblTo%3D&reserved=0)

## All content related to Homosexuality. [Homosexuality — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200272757&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g3LKmkoiLCk%2FaB6WlKz6KPwcTw1KmIHOWqKDVWCHlwA%3D&reserved=0)

## Shunning / Excommunication

## Members not adhering strictly to the doctrine, including children and young adults, face excommunication or shunning. This can result from many factors including living a LGBT lifestyle, dating non-Jehovah's Witness partners, or questioning church doctrine.

## Note: While the church does not practice infant baptism, Children and Young People are [encouraged to get baptised at a young age](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fpc%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200270668%2F64%2F2&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Sw66wAYg%2BQwzrQFdqxZzesILZcZh6H8iCfEyz9zYr70%3D&reserved=0), often pre-teen, thus binding them into the churches doctrinal framework.

## This is a recognised practice that the church members adhere strictly to, prompting Norway recently to remove their religious status. [Norwegian court maintains Jehovah's Witnesses’ ban on sealing marriage (cne.news)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcne.news%2Farticle%2F3409-norwegian-court-maintains-jehovah-s-witnesses-ban-on-sealing-marriage&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vuw8MnCnW8y7dcYbpRJfNo7ccjwk7fl1QA5X6IExpNY%3D&reserved=0)

## This practice is legally questionable in the UK. [Shunning from the Jehovah’s Witness Community: Is It Legal? | Journal of Law and Religion | Cambridge Core](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cambridge.org%2Fcore%2Fjournals%2Fjournal-of-law-and-religion%2Farticle%2Fshunning-from-the-jehovahs-witness-community-is-it-legal%2F6A3B5562BBB2D11A301769261B784258&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426567689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CAkdtycDt3P85bZY46Bp84Y21qfsSav70x23WAa6gQc%3D&reserved=0)

## I have provided a few examples and quotes of the content found within the literature, and website, that is advertised at these literature stands;

## [Display Christian Loyalty When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F202002285%23h%3D3%3A0-6%3A327&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9X%2Ble0iTasMJJ3jiAKhztZ5wH8TwGd8QNYjD3vSUbOc%3D&reserved=0)

## [Loyally Uphold Jehovah’s Judgments—Shun Unrepentant Wrongdoers](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jw.org%2Fen%2Flibrary%2Fvideos%2F%23en%2Fmediaitems%2FVODBiblePrinciples%2Fpub-mwbv_201709_6_VIDEO&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JKYoCZVqtObFkH4c8a9cccHNU1X92V4kk%2BkIXRE6eTs%3D&reserved=0) (families encouraged to remove young people from the house if disfellowshipped and not even answer their calls)

## All content related to shunning; [Disfellowshipping — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200271695&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HBELb4NyGqB38Hd5cLg9GL2aGt0tarrLGmFU28Gd7BM%3D&reserved=0)

## Concealing Child Sexual Abuse

## Members are urged to [report "sins" or confide in](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1102011168%23h%3D22%3A0-22%3A551&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZG%2F%2BhtcSvNfqbcm2GFFBDiZ4KpCIsn87hmk1KYJDbA0%3D&reserved=0) the exclusively male "elders" within the congregation. These elders then determine the validity of the claims, focusing on "spiritual" guilt that may require internal church actions such as shunning, or simply the [removal of duties](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fpc%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200271173%2F66%2F0&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o69V4UEIPUSMooM31pckG6jINMl7NXRT0Nf1Pzp%2FJtc%3D&reserved=0).

## [The process for how this is handled is described here;](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fpc%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200271173%2F68%2F2&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bY4%2Ffn4ekdCwc0mHyFMt3MPDvk71HmQbOkwxVuO0tIQ%3D&reserved=0)

## "What if the sufferer decides that he wants to make an accusation? Then the two elders can advise him that, in line with the principle at Matthew 18:15, he should personally approach the accused about the matter. If the accuser is not emotionally able to do this face-to-face, it can be done by telephone or perhaps by writing a letter. In this way the one accused is given the opportunity to go on record before Jehovah with his answer to the accusation. He may even be able to present evidence that he could not have committed the abuse. Or perhaps the one accused will confess, and a reconciliation may be achieved. What a blessing that would be! If there is a confession, the two elders can handle matters further in accordance with Scriptural principles. If the accusation is denied, the elders should explain to the accuser that nothing more can be done in a judicial way. And the congregation will continue to view the one accused as an innocent person. The Bible says that there must be two or three witnesses before judicial action can be taken. Even if more than one person “remembers” abuse by the same individual, the nature of these recalls is just too uncertain to base judicial decisions on them without other supporting evidence."

## These interactions are recorded. This results in the church possessing an extensive database of accused abusers, often with records of confessions from abusers.

## Compounding this matter, members of the church are encouraged to (outwith preaching) have [minimal dealings with](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fpc%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200276283%2F95%2F2&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aes3HyIIuGetdEsLIyUNXrVF65h3R5krDGcz0Yhs4xc%3D&reserved=0), and be suspicious of any external people or organisations. This exacerbates the mental challenge and barriers members of the church including children and young people, have when deciding to report any matter to secular authorities.

## However, there is no legal mandate to report any allegation, or even confession, to secular authorities, and elders are not mandated by the church to report these, thus often leaving the abuser to abuse again. This has been investigated and discussed recently in a [Telegraph podcast](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fart19.com%2Fshows%2Fcall-bethel&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8vqfA96Ygyf9oDmIv2JBgociJlHg899ufalpt%2Bv%2BIYs%3D&reserved=0).

## [During a Royal Commision into Child Abuse in Australia](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au%2Fcase-studies%2Fcase-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UQx1v84uiLUnX5c8rQn6TjclbB8ZZoIv6UCg%2BpAkDCY%3D&reserved=0), all of the aboved was evidenced, in that the church had the names and records of 1,006 alleged abusers (some of which included confessions), of which none had been reported to the authorities ([see section 6.1-6.3](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffile-list%2FCase%2520Study%252029%2520-%2520Findings%2520Report%2520-%2520Jehovahs%2520Witnesses.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CGbi8Q7ivva7fLetkaeilORObdmI%2FIHwazwKISQ8PMA%3D&reserved=0)).

## Note: The church will currently hold records detailing alleged and confessed abusers in Scotland, where it is extremely likely the authorities will have no knowledge of these individuals.

## All content relation to Child/Sexual Abuse: [Child Abuse — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200271173&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=peGKuOG2ennIgOl7T1RsLe%2Bx0igTynk6TwnafV6gwbw%3D&reserved=0)

## Pressure to Contribute Financially

## Members face pressure to financially support the church. While labeled as voluntary, it's deemed a mandatory part of their worship. Given the high footfall in these areas, I'd classify their activities with the literature stands as religious soliciting.

## I have provided a few examples and quotes of the content found within the literature, and website, that is advertised at these literature stands;

## [“Honor Jehovah With Your Valuable Things”—How? — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1997806%23h%3D1%3A0-24%3A294&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jeHVLMqZeFpYDHfSEaOUEklwJ62exu%2Fe9tmGFuPjxoo%3D&reserved=0)

## [How Is the Work of Jehovah’s Witnesses Financed? Ways to Donate (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jw.org%2Fen%2Fjehovahs-witnesses%2Ffaq%2Fdonations-worldwide-work-finances-money%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=88V0kH7DCQp78wUwlBfuyWLm2J4s9Vi%2BTgstN63I9c8%3D&reserved=0)

## *"Mature Christians today joyfully use their assets to support Jehovah’s worship. Imitate such ones by following the principle at 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2, regularly ‘setting something aside’ to contribute to the congregation and to the worldwide work of Jehovah’s Witnesses."*

## All content related to members pressured to contribute financially. [Contributions — Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY (jw.org)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwol.jw.org%2Fen%2Fwol%2Fd%2Fr1%2Flp-e%2F1200271386&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9mM4evlybKEd27PMtGaodoCuCzPxGWcLZgGKPU1lHhY%3D&reserved=0)

## Conclusion / FOI Questions

## Given the above evidence, can you please provide the organisational position from Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Government, and the Children and Young People’s Commissioner Office on the following;

## Please provide these statements from within the context that the current position would appear that this church is permitted to operate these literature stands currently within these high footfall areas.

## Do you consider the views of this church (that are promoted through these stands), in the context of what is detailed above, in harmony with UNCRC and GIRFEC?

## Do you consider the views of this church (that are promoted through these stands), in the context of what is detailed above "hateful" and therefore unlawful?

## Considering the evidence and international examples, what level of assurance do you have that existing child wellbeing and protection measures that exist within Scotland are sufficiently protecting children involved with the church, or members of?

## Is the active promotion of these practices and views in the capital's busiest areas tarnishing Edinburgh's reputation and, by extension, Scotland's?

## If so, what measures will be implemented to mitigate any reputational damage?

## Has an Impact Assessment as well as Children's Rights Impact Assessment been undertaken considering the impact of allowing these literature stands to operate?

## If not, will you commit to undertaking these assessments to evaluate the stands' impact on the city's residents and visitors?

## Do you consider the operation of these stands a beach of the [street trading policy](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edinburgh.gov.uk%2Fdownloads%2Ffile%2F23534%2Fstreet-trading-council-policy&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C19a9c540cda14c28272b08dbbd127a71%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638311659426723949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DeHOc8k%2BvdyrbOBSFdh7ANgYhmM6rQAnPL50to%2BRUSs%3D&reserved=0)?

Police Scotland is a values based organisation. Our values are fairness, integrity and respect and incorporate a commitment to upholding Human Rights.

The Human Rights Act 1998 set out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporated the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000.

Article 9 of the Human Rights Act advises that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this freedom includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching practice and observance.

Police Scotland is committed to working in partnership with other relevant agencies to share information to protect children, providing multi-agency support and intervention when required, with the needs and welfare of the child being paramount. If a member of the public has a concern about a child, they should report this to Police Scotland via 101 or if urgent via 999.

In response to your request, I must respond in terms of Section 8 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Section 8 states that a request must seek recorded information. Your questions request an opinion and as such are considered invalid.

With respect to question 6, I must advise that Police Scotland are not legally required to complete Children’s Rights Impact Assessments.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/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.