



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-00228

Keyword: Crime

Subject: CHINESE CITIZENS CLAIMING ASYLUM IN THE UK

Request and Answer:

Question

How many Chinese citizens who have claimed to be seeking asylum in the UK have been prosecuted for entering Northern Ireland illegally through Belfast International Airport since 2000?

By illegally I mean without a valid passport. I know that in many cases asylum seekers are provided with a false passport, which they then give to a people smuggling agent on the flight, and arrive at immigration with no documents whatsoever. This is the scenario I am referring to.

Answer

I can advise that the Police Service of Northern Ireland Immigration Team and Foreign Nationals Unit do not hold the information that you have requested.

The UK Border Agency (formally known as the Borders and Immigration Agency, BIA) are the lead agency for illegal immigration in the UK and within Northern Ireland and the PSNI have a team of police officers seconded to them who support this work. Any records, if held, are maintained by the UK Border Agency (which is part of the Home Office and whose website can be viewed at www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk) and the Home Office may be best placed to answer the question you have raised.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.