



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-01784
Keyword: Crime
Subject: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Request and Answer:

Question

It is reported that twenty human trafficking victims have now been rescued in NI in a little over a year.

- 1) Please confirm the number of human trafficking victims rescued as such by the PSNI since it recognised this crime, or since Pentameter 1.
- 2) Please advise how many of the people rescued did police believe were in forced prostitution.
- 3) Please advise how many of these people were processed as illegal immigrants
- 4) How many were processed as victims of organised crime.
- 5) Please advise how many of these people disappeared with no police knowledge of where they went to/before investigations were completed?
- 6) How many made formal statements to police?

Please indicate clearly how questions 1-6 apply to each individual person rescued.

Answer

PSNI have supplied a few websites below which you may find helpful.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre publishes national statistical information quarterly, see below link

<http://www.ukhtc.org/Published> Version Statistical Data for Defendants and Victims 01 January 09 to 31st March 2009.pdf

National statistics relating to Pentameter 1 are also in the public domain, see below link:

<http://www.pentameter.police.uk/docs/pentameter.pdf>

<http://www.psnireland.police.uk/chiefconstablesannualreport2009.pdf>

The Police Service of Northern Ireland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to Operation Pentameter 2 as the duty in s1 (1)(a) of the Freedom of Information 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information Supplied by or relating to Security Bodies
Section 30(3) Investigations

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement
Section 38(2) Health and Safety
Section 40(5) Personal Information
Section 44(2) Prohibitions on Disclosure

To the extent that these exemptions applies, we have determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether we hold the information.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

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 @ www.psnipolice.uk

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