



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-01457

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Sexual Trafficking and Prostitution

Request and Answer:

Question 1

1) How many people were recorded as victims of sexual trafficking for each calendar year from 2000-2010? How many were children? How many were foreign nationals?

Please could these figures be broken down into each category (trafficking/children/foreign national) and by year. If the dates asked for above fall outside data available, then please give what is available.

Question 2

How many people were arrested for soliciting for the purpose of prostitution in the calendar years 2000-2010? How many people were arrested for kerb crawling in the calendar years 2000-2010? How many of these were foreign nationals?

Please could these figures be broken down into each category (prostitution/kerb crawling/foreign national) and by year. If the dates asked for above fall outside data available, then please give us what is available.

Answer

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an exemption where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Section 12 (4) provides that the Secretary of State may make regulations with regard to this exemption. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 were made in pursuance of this (and other) sub section(s) of the Act. Regulation 5 of the Regulations provides that where two or more requests for information are made by one person, (or by different persons who appear to be working in concert), and where the requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information, and the requests are received within 60 working days of each other, that the requests may be aggregated for the purpose of calculating costs. In other words the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests may be added together and if the total exceeds the appropriate limit, then the requests may be refused in pursuance of Section 12.

As the subject of this request is the same or similar to F-2011-01456 received from The Bureau of Investigative Journalism on the same date as this request and it appears that the requests are from

the same person or persons working as a group or working in concert, these requests have been aggregated for the purpose of calculating fees under the Regulations.

Due to the fact that time estimates for F-2011-01456 are in excess of 42 hours and the questions contained within this aggregated request are similar in nature it can be clearly seen that the aggregate cost of complying with all these requests for information would exceed the “appropriate costs limit” under Section 12 (4) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In accordance with Section 17 (5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice.

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

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.