



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2011-02055

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Detection Of Human Trafficking/Brothels

Request and Answer:

Question

What information can the PSNI supply on its successes in detecting 1) Human trafficking victims 2) Brothels in NI in the past three years.

I am particularly interested in geographical locations of detections.

Answer

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In relation to successes in detecting any other Human Trafficking victims and brothels in NI in the past 3 years the information requested is not held centrally by PSNI and is therefore not easily accessible.

To ascertain this information for Human Trafficking alone, for a three year period would necessitate contacting each of the Districts and some Headquarter Branches. Police electronic and manual systems would also have to be interrogated in order to identify the number of Human Trafficking cases detected and the locations etc. Once this information is extracted it would then have to be analysed in order to answer your request in full. This exercise for Human Trafficking alone is estimated to take approximately 2 -3 weeks and is well in excess of the 18 hour limit or £450 cost limit as defined in the Freedom of Information Act.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit'. In compliance with Section 16 of the Act, I have considered

how your request may be refined to bring it under the appropriate limit however the nature and structure of the information unfortunately makes this impossible.

Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

For your information a previous FOI response in relation to Human Trafficking can be viewed at

http://www.psni.police.uk/human_trafficking-3.pdf

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.psni.police.uk

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