



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2012-02982

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Investigations into Human Trafficking

**Request and Answer:**

### Question 1

The number of investigations your force has conducted into human trafficking or slavery since April 2009. Please break this down into yearly figures.

### Question 2

The number of prosecutions your force has taken forward for human trafficking or slavery since April 2009 and the number of successful convictions you have seen. Please break this down into yearly figures.

### Question 3

The number of National Referral Mechanism referrals your force has made since April 2009. Please break this down into yearly figures.

### Question 4

The name of the Single Point of Contact on human trafficking and/or the number of officers with responsibility for trafficking in your force.

### Question 5

The number of hours of training on trafficking that has been commissioned for officers since April 2009.

### 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 or 18 hours work.

Question 5 alone covers too wide a spectrum as training takes place in many forms. This includes online training provided to every PSNI Officer, Specialised training to Organised Crime Detectives, specialised training to District Neighbourhood Officers and cross training with EU Law Enforcement Partners. It would subsequently be extremely difficult to identify how many staff has received training

on human trafficking and to then calculate the number of hours spent training. It is estimated this would be well in excess of the permitted 18 hours. In addition this would involve creating information which we are not obliged to do under the Act. Please note that when one part of a request exceeds the cost and Section 12 is applied, the whole request is considered over the cost.

### **Section 16 Advice and Assistance**

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. You may wish to request National Referral Statistics as they are now published and the name of the PSNI Single Point of Contact.

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.

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.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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