



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00542

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Trafficking Offences

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many people have been arrested, charged and convicted under:

- i) section 57 (trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation),
 - ii) section 58 (trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation) and
 - iii) section 59 (trafficking out of the UK for sexual exploitation)
- of Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in the following calendar years?- a) 2010, b) 2011, c) 2012 and d) 2013?

N.B. for the sake of clarity I refer to sections 57, 58 and 59 of Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act - according to the link below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>

Answer

Information provided below is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been put into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. The figures within the current financial year, from 1st April 2013, are provisional and will be subject to change.

Answer 1(i) and (ii)

The number of people arrested for trafficking for sexual exploitation offences please see the table below.

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8 |

N.B. – One individual may have been arrested for both trafficking into and within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The information in the table above relates to 30 individuals.

The number of people charged with trafficking for sexual exploitation offences is detailed in the table below.

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

One individual may have been charged with both trafficking into and within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The information in the table above relates to 10 individuals.

There were 10 convictions for trafficking within the UK

There were 5 convictions for trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation.

Answer 1 iii)

The PSNI has no information on any arrests, charges or convictions in respect of section 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Question 2

In each case please state the sentence the offender was given (i.e. one month in jail, £250 fine, 200 hours CPO etc)

Answer

In respect of the 5 convictions for trafficking into the UK I can confirm that in one case the sentence was imprisonment/detention for 9 months while in one other the sentence was imprisonment for 1 year. The Causeway System from which PSNI retrieve the information has not been updated by the N.I. Court Service to include the sentences for any of the other convictions.

The conviction figures relate to the number of offences resulting in a conviction, not the number of persons that were convicted as a person may be convicted of multiple offences, including multiple convictions for one offence type.

In addition the PSNI can neither confirm or deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23 – Information Supplied By, Or Concerning, Certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the 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.