Keeping People Safe

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request Number: F-2015-00719

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Against Sex Workers

Request and Answer:

Question

Please can you tell me how many reports, arrests and convictions there were for crimes committed against sex workers (NOT by sex workers) in Northern Ireland in 2014? Of those reports, arrests and convictions, can you tell me how many were for violent crimes? Separately can you tell me the same figures for this year so far?

Clarification Sought

To enable the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to meet your request could you please provide further clarification on the following - Please advise if the reports, arrests and convictions you require for crimes against sex workers is for any circumstance where they have been victims of crime and not necessarily in connection with their occupation. Statistics Branch can identify crimes where the victim's occupation has been input as 'prostitute'. Figures and number of arrests may also be available for the crime classifications Exploitation of prostitution, Trafficking for sexual exploitation and Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography.

Clarification Received

I'm interested in crimes committed against prostitutes by clients, potential client, or members of the public. So not exploitation of prostitutes or trafficking etc.

Further Clarification Received

Please could you include trafficking and exploitation figures, but not crimes against minors? Ideally a break down of the crimes would be very helpful if that doesn't put this request outside the funding limit for an FOI.

Answer

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

Please find below Tables 1 and 2 showing the number of crimes recorded and the number of related arrests for Offences of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation and Exploitation of Prostitution between 1st January and 31st December 2014 and 1st January to 27th February 2015. The figures provided in Table 1 are based on crimes recorded within the classifications of Exploitation of Prostitution (Miscellaneous crimes against society) and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation (Sexual offences).

These figures were extracted from the recording system on 27th February 2015 and include crimes recorded to that date. Table 2 shows the number of crimes where one or more persons were arrested and detained in custody in connection with the crimes recorded in table 1. There were 14 different persons arrested in total.

The figures provided are based on the second clarification provided, as a search based on the victim's occupation being recorded as 'prostitute' did not produce any results that fell within the original requirements for crimes against sex workers.

Please note: figures in Table 1 from 1st April 2014 are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised crime figures are published in May 2015.

Table1: Number of crimes recorded	January 2014 to December 2014	January 2015 to February 2015
Exploitation of Prostitution	17	2
Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation	4	0

Table 2: Of those crimes recorded, the number where there was one or more arrest in connection with the crime	January 2014 to December 2014	January 2015 to February 2015
Exploitation of Prostitution	11	1
Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation	3	0

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Regarding the number of crimes recorded and related arrests supplied in Tables 1 and 2 above, I can advise that to date there have been 2 convictions and 2 Restorative Cautions relating to Exploitation of Prostitution.

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.