



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00522

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Trafficking Into Prostitution

Request and Answer:

Question 1

About 29 May 2012 a number of brothel raids were conducted in Northern Ireland as part of a cross border PSNI/Gardaí anti trafficking operation. At the time it was reported in the media that three suspected victims of human trafficking were rescued by the PSNI as a result of this operation.

I would like to request the following information:

Did any potential victims of trafficking into prostitution identified as a result of this operation received a positive conclusive decision from the NRM, and if so how many?

Answer

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

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 2 to 3 in full; and
- fully exempt information in response to question 1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 23 of the Act.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption/s, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 23(1) – Information Supplied By, Or Concerning, Certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is an absolute and class-based exemption which means that there is no requirement on

the public authority to evidence the harm in release or to conduct a public interest test.

Question 2

Have there been any successful prosecutions for trafficking into prostitution as a result of this operation or are there prosecutions pending?

Answer

There are no prosecutions pending.

Question 3

Have there been any successful prosecutions for brothel keeping as a result of this operation or are there prosecutions pending?

Answer

There have been 3 successful prosecutions for brothel keeping as a result of this operation.

In addition the PSNI can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request pursuant to the following exemptions:

Section 23 (5) – Information Concerning Certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is an absolute and class-based exemption which means that there is no requirement to evidence the harm in release or to conduct a public interest test.

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.