



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00612

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Anti-Trafficking Resources

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Budgets/funding or any other resources directly allocated by the Force towards anti-trafficking activities and/or activities to combat 'modern slavery' in 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years (i.e. dedicated projects, anti-trafficking operations, members of staff, information campaigns etc.) and what these activities are.

#### Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

No funding has been specifically allocated to human trafficking activities. The PSNI has set up a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit from 1st April 2015 although as stated no specific funding has been allocated to this unit with funding coming from an overall Serious Crime branch budget.

#### Question 2

If available, a copy of the organisational strategy or any other document which sets out what actions are to be taken by the Force to combat trafficking in human beings and/or 'modern slavery' as mandated by the UK Government Human trafficking Strategy (2011), Modern Slavery Act (2015) and Modern slavery strategy (2014)

#### Answer

Please find below links to the information/strategy documents used by the PSNI in relation to combating Human Trafficking in Northern Ireland. These include the Northern Ireland Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy for 2015/16, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Strategic Plan 2015-2017 and the NI Policing Board and the PSNI policing plan for 2015-16.

<https://www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy-2015-2016>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/468729/IASC\\_StrategicPlan\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/468729/IASC_StrategicPlan_2015.pdf)

[http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/final\\_pdf\\_policing\\_plan\\_2015-16\\_web\\_version.pdf](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/final_pdf_policing_plan_2015-16_web_version.pdf)

<https://www.psni.police.uk/>

The PSNI can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to this request as the duty in Section (1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) 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 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](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.