



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-01446

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Modern Slavery

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

Does your force have a dedicated anti-modern day slavery unit? If so – since when?

#### Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates.

The PSNI have had a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit since April 2015.

#### Question 2

How many crimes has the force recorded under the Modern Slavery Act over the last 2 years, (i) Between April 2016 and March 2017 and (ii) Between April 2015 and March 2016?

#### Answer

In Northern Ireland the offences which are classified by the Home Office as Modern Slavery are recorded under different legislation considered the equivalent to the Modern Slavery Act such as Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act 2015, Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 and Sexual Offences Order NI 2008.

Please find a link below to crime tables showing the number of crimes recorded in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in Table 7.

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/2017/march/monthly-crime-summary-tables-period-ending-mar-17.xls>

#### Question 3

How many charges were brought under the Modern Slavery Act over the last 2 years, (i) Between April 2016 and March 2017 and (ii) Between April 2015 and March 2016?

#### Answer

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 9 persons were arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged with human trafficking offences, 6 in 2015/16 and 3 in 2016/17. One individual may have been charged with multiple offences.

#### **Question 4**

How many successful prosecutions have there been over the last 2 years under the Act?

#### **Answer**

There have been 5 successful prosecutions over the last 2 years under the Act.

Please note this information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

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.