



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-00819

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Prostitution Arrests

### Request and Answer:

#### Question

I wish to know how many people have been arrested in relation to sex work/ prostitution for instance, managing a brothel or soliciting.

I wish to obtain this information for the following calendar years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.

#### 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 does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

The table below shows the requested information of the number of persons arrested for prostitution related offences between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 and the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

Year	Number of Arrests
2010	13
2011	22
2012	23
2013	21
2014	28
2015	21
2016	20

Prostitution related offences include: Loitering or soliciting for prostitution, Causing, inciting and controlling prostitution for gain, Keeping a brothel, Paying for sexual services, Paying for sexual services of a child and Trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The information provided is a count of the individuals arrested for one or more of the offences per annum, the individual may have been arrested more than once per year and may have been arrested in each of the years requested.

The information has been extracted from the custody arrests data, please note this includes those

persons arrested and processed through police custody. Therefore, those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. discretionary disposal etc. may not be included in the figures.

**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.

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.psnj.police.uk](http://www.psnj.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.