



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-02074

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Seizures Under Proceeds of Crime Act

Request and Answer:

Question

I would like to request details of assets seized by the force under the Proceeds of Crime Act between July 2012 and July 2017 in relation to prostitution or vice-related offences including, but not limited to: Loitering or Soliciting for Prostitution/Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, Causing, Inciting and Controlling Prostitution for Gain/Keeping a Brothel, Paying for Sexual Services and Prostitution: Advertising.

In the case of each occasion where the force has seized assets in relation to a prostitution case, I would like to know the date they were seized, the amount or value of assets seized and the related offence.

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.

Please see tables below providing details of confiscation orders and cash seizures for prostitution related offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act between 1st July 2012 and 31st July 2017.

Confiscation Orders

DATE	ORDER AMOUNT	OFFENCE
15/03/13	£68,015.00	Controlling prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.
15/03/13	£56,982.00	Controlling prostitution for gain.

Cash Seizures

DATE	AMOUNT (CASH)	OFFENCE
01/04/13	£2,600.00	Suspected proceeds from controlling prostitution.
18/11/13	£1,263.13	Suspected unlawful conduct of keeping a brothel.
17/04/14	£3,000.00	Suspected proceeds of drug supply and exploitation for prostitution.
20/04/15	£5,700.00	Suspected money from controlling prostitution for gain and brothel keeping.
03/11/15	£1,130.00	Providing sexual services.
29/07/16	£1,435.00	Suspected proceeds of sexual exploitation through prostitution.
27/03/17	£1,500.00	Suspected management of a brothel.

The PSNI can neither confirm nor deny that any other information is held relating to this request by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies – confirmation or denial that any other information is held would likely prejudice information directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any specified bodies.

Section 23 is a class based, absolute exemption, which means there is no requirement to articulate any public interest considerations or harm. Section 23 has an automatic bar to disclosure of information.

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

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.psnipolice.uk

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