



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01082

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Prostitution

Request and 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.

Request 1

I wish to obtain the following information in categories for each of the following years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 (as this year has yet to be complete, information for this year thus far would be acceptable). I wish to know, for each of these years, how many people have been: Arrested on suspicion of purchasing sexual services.

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of individuals arrested and processed through police custody for Paying for Sexual Services. The information provided for 2018 is up to 25th July 2018. Those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. community resolution, and etc. are not be included in the figures.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
0	2	2	6	5	3	9	4	2

Request 2

Successfully prosecuted for purchasing sexual services.

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of cases where a prosecutorial decision to prosecute for a relevant offence has been recorded against the case. The information provided for 2018 is up to 31st July 2018.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0

Request 3

Arrested in connection selling sexual services e.g. prostitution or brothel keeping.

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of individuals arrested and processed through police custody for controlling prostitution or brothel keeping offences. The information provided for 2018 is up to 25th July 2018. Those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. community resolution, pnd etc. are not be included in the figures.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
10	19	21	11	21	14	11	18	7

Request 4

Successfully prosecuted in connection with selling sexual services e.g. prostitution or brothel keeping.

Answer

Please see table below showing the number of cases where a prosecutorial decision to prosecute for a relevant offence has been recorded against the case. The information provided for 2018 is up to 31st July 2018.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
3	6	13	7	5	3	6	9	4

Request 5

I also wish to obtain a copy of the PSNI's current guidelines for officers and other employees responding to cases where alleged prostitution has occurred.

Answer

PSNI follow the National Policing Sex Work Guidance. Please find a copy attached.

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.