



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-00741

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Domestic Abuse Reports received between 2018 & 2020

Request and 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.

Request

The number of domestic abuse reports received between 2018 and 2020 by your force which were subsequently passed to the Home Office to review or check the immigration status of the individual making the report.

Please break down the information by year, as follows:

Number of domestic abuse reports passed to the Home Office for reasons relating to immigration status:

- a) 2018:
- b) 2019:
- c) 2020:

Answer

With regards to the number of domestic abuse reports passed to the Home Office to review. The answer is none, on occasion when Home Office Immigration Enforcement request specific details from police they will be advised that it is due to domestic violence, for example, if a foreign national is arrested for domestic abuse police will inform immigration but no statistics are generated.

With regards to the number of domestic reports passed to the Home Office to check the immigration status of the individual making the report. It has always been the policy of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to only pass the details of the offender to Home Office Immigration Enforcement and never the reporting person's details. Only if a foreign national is arrested for domestic abuse we will inform immigration, but if they are a victim we will not inform immigration, The reasoning behind this is that a level of trust must be retained with the migrant community in order to encourage them to report such offences to the PSNI.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.