

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2021-02922

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Modern Slavery (2020 - 2021)

Request and Answer:

Request

How many cases of Modern Day Slavery have there been each month between September 2020 and September 2021?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the PSNI, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption has been applied:

Section 21 - Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means

The information you have requested may be found via the following link [National Referral Mechanism statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/national-referral-mechanism-statistics).

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Potential victims of modern slavery in the UK that come to the attention of authorised 'first responder' organisations are referred to the NRM.

In Northern Ireland authorised 'first responder' organisations include local authorities, police and specified government agencies. Adults (aged 18 or above) must consent to being referred to the NRM, whilst children under the age of 18 need not consent to being referred. Adults who were exploited as children can also be referred.

The Home Office publish Statistics each quarter on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism, for potential victims of modern slavery.

There are data tables on the website for each quarter which provides the following information:

- Number of NRM referrals received by the PSNI, by gender, age group at exploitation and exploitation type.
- Number of NRM referrals received by the PSNI, by nationality and exploitation type.
- Number of NRM referrals by first responder (referrals that were sent to police forces in Northern Ireland for investigation).

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 email.

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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their 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

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