

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-00455

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Prostitution arrests 2016-2021

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

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information:

The number of arrests in for each of the following:

- (i) managing or assisting in the management of a brothel,
- (ii) loitering for the purposes of prostitution, and
- (iii) soliciting for the purposes of prostitution.

In each case, please indicate whether the arrested person is male or female. Please provide the information for each calendar year from January 1st 2016 to the end of February 2021 (or whichever date this request is processed).

Answer to Parts (i) and (iii)

Arrests for Brothel Keeping (1 Jan 2016 – 25 March 2021)

Gender	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	3	4	4	2	2	0
Male	2	3	3	2	1	0

Arrests for Prostitute soliciting (1 Jan 2016 - 25 March 2021)

Gender	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	6	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0

This information has been extracted from the custody arrests data using offence codes for brothel keeping and prostitute soliciting, 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 these 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.

Enquires made in relation to Part (ii) loitering for the purposes of prostitution failed to locate any records or documents relevant to this part of your request as this offence is not valid in Northern Ireland.

Accordingly, we have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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.