



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2021-01194

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Vice Related Offences

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

Refinement from FOI-2020-00883

I previously submitted an FOI request (ATI Request FOI-2020-00883) which was denied due to excess cost of providing the requested data. I was advised to submit a follow up request for less granular data.

Therefore I would like to submit a Freedom of Information Request for the following information:

Please could you provide details of:

- a) how many instances have been recorded by police of
- b) how many people have been charged for

The following vice-related offences in Northern Ireland. Could I please have these numbers:

- 1) By year for the years 2005 to 2019 inclusive
- 2) By offence where the offences are:

- Loitering or Soliciting for Prostitution
- Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Causing
- Inciting and Controlling Prostitution for Gain
- Keeping a Brothel
- Paying for Sexual Services

Answer

Please see attached document titled, 'Vice Related Offences Spreadsheet'.

Please note: Crimes are recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules and the principal crime rule, i.e. where more than one offence has been committed the most serious offence

will be recorded.

There may be incidents where a more serious offence is recorded over the offences listed and they will not be reflected in the recorded crime data.

Some of the offences requested fall within the Modern Slavery crime classification and in these circumstances the modern slavery offence is recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence involving the same offender-victim.

This data for part b) of the request is extracted from the custody data from the NICHE database and will be independent to that provided at part a) which is sourced from the recorded crime data series. It should be noted that persons may be dealt with through alternative means to a charge and will not be included in these figures. Custody data is only available from 2006 onwards.

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.