



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01655

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Brothel Keeping Offences

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates and the decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

This request relates to the following offences: keeping a brothel (Section 33 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956), a landlord letting premises for use as a brothel (Section 34 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956), a tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel (Section 35 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956), a tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution (Section 36 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956), and controlling prostitution for gain (Section 53 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003).

For each of these offences, please supply the following data for each of the last three calendar years (2017, 2018, 2019), and any data you have for 2020 from 1 January 2020 to August 31 2020.

The total number of people arrested.

Request 2

The number of people charged.

Please can this data be broken down by gender.

Answer

Please see response to Request 1 & 2 below.

Please see the table below detailing the number of arrests¹ for brothel keeping offences.

Gender	2017	2018	2019	1 Jan - 31 Aug 2020
Female	4	4	2	2
Male	3	3	2	1

¹Arrested and processed through police custody.

Please see the table below detailing the number of charges² for brothel keeping offences.

Gender	2017	2018	2019	1 Jan - 31 Aug 2020
Female	4	1		
Male		1	1	1

²Arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged.

Please note: data is provisional and subject to change due to ongoing investigations.

Request 3

If possible within the cost threshold, a breakdown of the disposal type for each person arrested (e.g. how many were charged, for how many was no further action taken).

Just as a point of clarification, I am hoping to get the above data for all brothel keeping offences. I hope I have correctly identified them for you in my previous email, but if this helps, they should including the following home office codes:

- 024/19 keeping a brothel used for prostitution
- 107/01 keeping a brothel
- 107/02 letting premises for use as a brothel
- 107/03 tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel
- 107/04 tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution
- 107/05 keeping a brothel for homosexual practices
- 107/06 letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual purposes
- 107/07 tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual purposes
- 107/10 other brothel keeping offences
- 142/14 permitting licensed premises to be used as a brothel

Answer

Please see table below detailing the outcome/disposals. This information was taken directly from the disposal section of each respective custody record and or, the PPS Prosecutorial Decision contained within the cases files (where applicable).

YEAR	OUTCOME/DISPOSAL
2017	Withdrawn
	PPS Directed No Prosecution
	Released to be Reported
2017	Not Charged
2018	Withdrawn
	Caution PAYING OR THE SEXUAL SERVICES OF A PERSON
2018	Withdrawn
	PPS Directed No Prosecution

2018	Withdrawn PPS Directed No Prosecution
2018	Not Charged
2018	Withdrawn PPS Directed No Prosecution
2019	Not Charged
2019	Not Charged
2019	Not Charged
2020	Bail – Police
2020	Bail – Police

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.