



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-01667

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Sex-Work 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 information for each calendar month in 2019.

This information for each calendar month in 2020 (where available).

Arrests made regarding the offence of loitering and soliciting.

#### Request 2

Arrests made regarding the offence of keeping a brothel.

#### Request 3

Arrests made regarding the offence of assisting in the management of a brothel.

#### Answer

In relation to Request 1 – 3 information is provided for January 2019 – August 2020 based on the offence codes below:

- 4211012 and 4211013 - Prostitute – Soliciting
- 421104AA Aiding and abetting brothel keeping Art 64 (1) of the Sexual Offences NI Order 2008
- 4211044SB Brothel keeping Art 64 (1) of the Sexual Offences NI Order 2008
- 4211044CN Conspiracy to keep a Brothel used for Prostitution Article 9(1) of the Criminal Attempts and conspiracy NI Order 1983 and Art 64 (1) of the Sexual Offences NI Order 2008

The following information has been extracted from the custody data extracts from the NICHE

database for the offence code 4211044 – Brothel Keeping.

1 arrest in March 2019

2 arrests in September 2019

1 arrest in November 2019

3 arrests in July 2020

No soliciting offences recorded.

#### **Request 4**

Closure Notices issued regarding the offence of keeping a brothel.

#### **Answer**

The following response is based on the court results reported to PSNI by NI Courts Services for the offences below:

- SB4211044 - Brothel Keeping
- AA4211044 - Aiding and Abetting Brothel Keeping
- CN4211044 - Conspiracy to Keep a Brothel Used for Prostitution

No closure notices are recorded in relation to court results during calendar years 2019 and 2020.

#### **Request 5**

Prostitute cautions issued.

#### **Answer**

Enquiries made in relation to your request have failed to locate any records or documents held by PSNI relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. There is no offence for being a prostitute in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

#### **Request 6**

Civil orders issued - for example Criminal Behaviour Orders, Public Space Protection Orders and Engagement and Support Orders - regarding the offence of loitering and soliciting.

#### **Answer**

The following response is based on the court results reported to PSNI by NI Courts Services for the offences below:

- SB4211012 - Prostitute - Soliciting
- SB4211013 - Prostitute - Soliciting

No civil orders are recorded in relation to court results during calendar years 2019 and 2020.

***Please note: Figures for recent months are subject to change as cases may take time to be processed by the PPS and NI Courts Service and then reported back to PSNI.***

***Information relating to convictions and prosecutions is provided by NI Courts Service and the Public Prosecution Service to PSNI for information purposes only and may not be wholly***

**accurate.**

**For accurate figures the relevant information should be sought from either NI Courts or PPS directly.**

**Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording 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.**

**It should also be noted the Niche Technical team is not involved in checking reliability and validity of any data input onto Niche and cannot protect the data against any input errors which may have influenced these figures.**

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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