



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI-2020-02365

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Prostitution From 2015 - 2020

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 1

The type and number of each charge by suspect for controlling prostitution in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and for the end of the latest quarter in 2020

Answer

Please also note that the information requested has been provided in uncorrelated tables as the information is considered 'low level data' and therefore may be identifiable.

The information provided in the tables below refers to the number of people arrested and charged for paying for sexual services offences (Article 64a) where a person was arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged.

Table 1- Charges for each offence with reference to controlling prostitution / brothel keeping from 2015 – 2020

Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Brothel Keeping	6	1	5	3	1	1
Causing or inciting prostitution	0	1	0	0	1	0
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain	1	1	1	1	0	1
Controlling prostitution for gain (offence after 1 st February 2009) – Joint Substantive	0	0	2	0	0	1
Controlling prostitution for gain (offence after 1 st February 2009)	4	1	2	4	4	2
Total	11	4	10	8	6	5

Please find below the total number of individuals charged:

Year	Total Number of Individuals Charged
2015	3
2016	2
2017	10
2018	6
2019	3
2020	4

Please note that the information is extracted from custody charges data extracts from the NICHE database where the offence is causing/controlling prostitution for gain.

Request 2

Please split the outcomes by the number of suspects convicted / not convicted and any other charges against each suspect?

Answer

There were a total of 12 individuals convicted.

The data below provides charges for any offences which refer to the persons convicted, however it should be noted that not all the charges outlined lead to a conviction and or a custodial sentence.

Robbery
Possessing Indecent Photograph
Possession of Offensive Weapon with Intent
Rape
Concealing Criminal Property
Theft
Converting Criminal Property
Sexual activity by Adult with child under 17
Transferring Criminal Property
Using a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
Conspiracy to Traffick Within the UK for exploitation
Breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order
Failure to Comply with Notification Requirements
Kidnapping
Incite, Take, Permit or Make Indecent Photograph
Criminal Damage
Meeting a Child following grooming
Sexual communication with a child
Human Trafficking
Sexual activity with Child between 13 and 16 years
Fraud by False Representation
Adult causing or inciting a Child between 13 and 16 to engage in Sexual Activity

Request 3

Of those convicted, how many were given immediate custodial sentences and for what charge?

Request 4

How long was the sentence in months for each of those given an immediate custodial sentence?

Answers

Please note that the information has been provided in uncorrelated tables as the information is

considered 'low level data' and therefore may be identifiable.

Table 1 - Provides the offence title and codes

Offence Title and Code
Brothel Keeping – SB4211044
Controlling prostitution for gain (offence after 1 st Feb 2009) –SB4211041
Controlling prostitution for gain (offences after 1 st Feb 2009 – Joint substantive/aiding and abetting offence) – SB4211049
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain – SB4211045
Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography of person under 18

Table 2- Provides the total number of individuals convicted

Total Number of Individuals
12

Table 3- provides the length of the custodial sentences and there may be more than 1 person with each custodial sentence

Length of Sentences (in months)
9 months
12 months
12 months (suspended 24 months)
15 months
18 months
24 months

Please note the following in conjunction with the information provided:

- There may be convictions where the person has not been arrested and charged.
- PSNI are unable to reliably link convictions data from the occurrence level as the information has been provided from 2 separate datasets.
- 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.

Ref the purchase of sex in NI please advise;- in the same time frame if possible please;-

Request 6

The total number of people arrested to date?

Request 7

The total number of people charged and convicted?

Answers

There have been a total of 43 individuals arrested and processed through police custody from 2015 to date.

The table below provides the Arrests and Charges for Paying For Sexual Services (Offences under Article 64A Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008) from 2015 -2020

	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of individuals arrested	3	7	1	6	19	7
Number of individuals charged	0	0	1	1	3	4

A total of 3 individuals were convicted.

Request 8

Please list all disposal methods for this offence and the total number in each category so far since the offence came on the books

Answer

Please find below a table outlining the disposal methods and the total numbers for the offences;

Disposal Methods	AT4211054	SB4211054	SB4211056
Adult Caution	6	11	5
Community Resolution	0	1	1
Discretionary Disposal	1	0	3
Juvenile Caution	1	0	0
PACE 13.1.a (Police Bail)	3	8	7
PSNI Charge Sheet – Bail	1	1	4
PSNI Charge Sheet – Bail Denied	0	2	2
Released Unconditionally	0	1	1
Released to be reported	4	23	17
Transferred to Court	0	1	1

Please note that the offences code relate to the following offences;

AT4211054 – Attempting to pay for sexual services of a person

SB4211054 – Paying for the sexual services of a person (in force from 1st June 2015)

SB4211056 – Paying for sexual services of a person

Please note the following in conjunction with the responses provided above:

It should also be noted that PSNI cannot protect the data against any input errors which may have influenced these figures when being input onto the NICHE database.

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.

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.