

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-02415

Keyword: Crime

Subject: HFEA (2015-2020)

Request and Answer:

Request 1

For the last 5 calendar years (January to January, from 2015 onwards, including up to the most data you have for 2020). Please break down the data for each year and provide: How many cases have been made aware of where it is alleged a person has procured or distributed gametes intended for human application without a license issued by the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA) per calendar year, as described above?

Request 2

How many cases has the force decided to prosecute for the crime described in Point 1, for each calendar year, as described above?

Request 3

How many individuals has the force decided to prosecute for the crime described in Point 1, for each calendar year, as described above? (One individual may have more than one case of breaching the rules)

Request 4

How many successful prosecutions for the crime listed in question 1 per calendar year as described above?

Request 5

Please list the range of outcomes for people who have been successfully prosecuted, over the 5 year period, for proceeding or distributing gametes intended for human application without a license issued by the HFEA per calendar year, as described above i.e. any fines the amounts, jail time/length of sentence?

Answers to Requests 1 to 5

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 not hold information in relation to your requests.

PSNI conducted searches of the database NICHE for the following offence: SB5017208 'Unlawfully Possessing Human Eggs, Section 41(2)(C) Human Fertilization and Embryology Act 1990' which identified the offence code, however it failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your

request based on the information you have provided.

PSNI have no record of crimes recorded under this offence code and 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.psnj.police.uk

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