



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2023-00979

Keyword: Crime/Incident Statistics Drugs and Alcohol

Subject: NRM data and cannabis cultivation

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. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request

I am currently conducting an exploratory study to investigate the relationship between Albanian nationals and cannabis cultivation in the UK.

Using data from NRM referral records, could you please inform me of the number of NRM referrals, broken down into nationalities, which concern cannabis cultivation.

Could I please have the data from 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 presented in a similar format as seen below?

Answer

This financial year is from 1st April 2022 and up until 28th February 2023, ten Potential Victims of Trafficking (PVoT) who are in the NRM in Northern Ireland alleged that they were the victim of Criminal Exploitation and that it involved the drugs trade; unfortunately we can not specify if this specifically involved cannabis cultivation.

It should be noted that the location of exploitation varies from individual to individual with some alleging exploitation within Northern Ireland and others alleging exploitation outside the UK.

Financial Year 2023/23

	2022	
Nationality		Number of NRM Referrals re: Cannabis Cultivation
Albanian		4
Chinese		3
Jordanian		1
Czech Republic		1
Eritrean		1
Grand Total		10

Please see the link attached which is the UK wide NRM statistics including NI specific statistics are released every quarter on the website. [National Referral Mechanism statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

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 their 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.