



**Policy and Information Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR**

FOI 1995-18/19

Via email: [REDACTED]

10 January 2019

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 7 December 2018 in which you asked about the number of prosecutions / convictions / cases pending relating to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 since it was enacted.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act creates rights of access for any person making a request for information to a public authority. The rights of access are twofold. First, to be informed by the public authority if it holds information of the description specified in the request, and if that is the case, secondly, to be provided with that information. These rights are subject to important limitations, which are designed to achieve a proper balance between the right to know and considerations of law and policy in the broader public interest.

You had asked for the following:

"I wish to know:

1) The number of prosecutions and convictions, or any other official action, which have been made under this law since it was enacted.

2) The number of cases pending.

If possible, for this to include:

- relevant dates relating to each case,*
- age, sex, and nationality of the accused/convicted,*

- brief detail of any sentence or other outcome of the trial (e.g. length of sentence, if suspended, placed on the Sex Offender Register or something similar, etc.),
- the category of work the trafficked people were involved in/what the case relates to (e.g. domestic labour, agriculture, construction, sexual services, food processing, manufacturing, hotel work, restaurant work, forced marriage, etc.)."

Response

Between 2015 and 2018, 8 persons were prosecuted on indictment (i.e. in the Crown Court) in respect of offences under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims Act (Northern Ireland) in 5 separate cases. A list of the offences considered is detailed at **Annex A**.

An analysis of the age, gender and nationality of the 8 defendants is set out below.

Age, Gender and Nationality of Defendants

Defendant Age	Number of Persons
18-29	4
30-39	4
Defendant Gender	Number of Persons
Male	5
Female	3
Defendant Nationality	Number of Persons
Hungary	4
Romania	4

Note: Suspect Age is based on the age at the time of the offence.

The outcomes in respect of these defendants in the Crown Court were as follows:

Crown Court Outcomes between 1 January 2015 and 11 December 2018

Calendar Year - Date Disposed of at Crown Court	Mixed Outcome (Convicted of at least one offence)	Pleaded Not Guilty All, Found Not Guilty All
2018	4	2

It should be noted that:

- 2 (of the 8) defendants directed for prosecution have not yet been disposed of at court.
- As of December 2018, a decision is pending for a further 3 persons.

In respect of the categories of work in which the persons trafficked were involved, I can advise that of the 5 cases, 4 related to sexual services and 1 to the food processing sector.

Please note that the following information cannot be provided:

- Dates requested (i.e. year of decision): This is due to the small numbers involved and the risk of disclosure of individual identities.
- Sentencing data: Whilst this information is shared with PPS by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS), it is not possible to extract this information from the PPS Case Management System in a form that can be reported accurately. You may wish to contact NICTS directly.

3) *General prosecution and conviction figures for human trafficking from 2010 to the enacting of the law, with the only detail requested being whether it was in relation to sex work or not.*

Response

Between 2010 and 2018 12 persons were prosecuted on indictment (relating to 8 cases) for human trafficking offences (i.e. prior to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims Act (Northern Ireland) 2015). A list of the offences considered is detailed at **Annex B**.

The outcomes at court were as follows:

Crown Court Outcomes between 1st January 2010 and 11th December 2018

Calendar Year - Date Disposed of at Crown Court	Pleaded Guilty All, Found Guilty All	Mixed Outcome (Convicted of at least one offence)	Pleaded Not Guilty All, Found Not Guilty All
2012	1	2	0
2013	0	0	0
2014	0	2	0
2015	0	0	0
2016	2	2	0
2017	0	0	1
2018	0	0	0

It should be noted that 2 (of the 12) defendants have not yet been disposed of at court.

In respect of the categories of work in which the persons trafficked were involved, I can advise that of the 8 cases, 6 related to sexual services and 2 related to the restaurant / food processing / agricultural / general labour sectors.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our review procedure. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of this response and you can do so by writing to the Head of Policy and Information, Public Prosecution Service, Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, BELFAST, BT1 3JR or alternatively by sending an e-mail to info@ppsni.gov.uk. You should state clearly the grounds on which you are requesting the review.

Alternatively, you may wish to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,



PPS FOI Section

Annex A

Offences Considered - Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 between 1st January 2015 and 11th December 2018

Complaint Offence Description	Complaint Offence Legislation
HOLDING A PERSON IN SLAVERY OR SERVITUDE	Section 1(1)(a) and (6) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
REQUIRING A PERSON TO PERFORM FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR	Section 1(1)(b) and (6) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
ARRANGING OR FACILITATING TRAVEL OF ANOTHER WITH A VIEW TO EXPLOITATION	Section 2 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
COMMITTING AN OFFENCE WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A SLAVERY OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING OFFENCE	Section 4(1) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
FORCING ANOTHER PERSON TO ENTER INTO MARRIAGE	Section 16(1) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	Section 2(1) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015
COMMITTING AN OFFENCE OF KIDNAPPING OR FALSE IMPRISONMENT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A SLAVERY OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING OFFENCE	Section 4(1) and (3) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

Annex B

Offences Considered (Prior to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims Act (Northern Ireland) 2015)

TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE UK FOR PURPOSES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (BY ANOTHER)	Section 58(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
TRAFFICKING OUT OF THE UK FOR THE PURPOSES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Section 59(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
TRAFFICKING INTO THE UK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Section 57(1)(a) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
TRAFFICKING INTO THE UK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (FACILITATING ANOTHER)	Section 57(1)(b) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
TRAFFICKING OUTSIDE OF THE UK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Section 58A(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE UK FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Section 58(1)(a) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
CONSPIRACY TO TRAFFICK WITHIN THE UK FOR EXPLOITATION	Article 9(1) of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and section 4(2) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of claimants, etc.) Act 2004
TRAFFICKING PEOPLE WITHIN UK FOR EXPLOITATION	Section 4(2) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004
TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE INTO UK FOR EXPLOITATION	Section 4(1) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004