

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1140



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

### **1. Could you give me the figures for how many cases of human trafficking were identified by police in 2014, and in the months of 2015 so far?**

Human Trafficking is a priority for Police Scotland and as such a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit was created in 2013. Since then there has been an increase in awareness raising and intelligence throughout Scotland. This has allowed a better understanding of the scale of the problem and brings a high level of expertise and robust investigation in identifying those who traffick people.

Police Scotland has reported the following number of cases to the Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Office (COPFS). These cases are sometimes for multiple accused and individuals may have been charged with other offences in addition to human trafficking offences. Please note: these figures provided relate specifically to those investigations that have resulted in a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

2014 – 13 reports sent to the Procurator Fiscal

2015 – 3 reports sent to the Procurator Fiscal

### **2. How many involved adults, how many children, and what was the gender breakdown?**

Each case involves a number of persons referred to as complainers. They are not necessarily victims as defined within the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) definition and many of them don't want to, or don't require to, enter the NRM for care, support or assistance. It should also be noted that children in trafficking cases are recorded as any person under 18 years of age.

Adult – 27

Child - 4

Male – 10

Female - 21

### **3. Could you divide the number into those suspected types of trafficking**

- labour**
- sexual exploitation**
- domestic servitude**
- organ harvesting**
- other**

Exploitation Type	Female	Male	Total
Adult – Domestic Servitude	0	0	0
Adult – Labour Exploitation	1	6	7
Adult – Sexual Exploitation	15	1	16
Adult – Other	1	3	4
Child – Domestic Servitude	1	0	1
Child – Labour Exploitation	1	0	1
Child – Sexual Exploitation	2	0	2
Child – Other	0	0	0
Total	21	10	31

#### 4. Could you give a breakdown of which country the victims originated from?

Country of Origin
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Spain
Brazil
UK
Philippines
Ghana
Vietnam
Lithuania
Namibia
Portugal
Dominican Republic

#### 5. How many people were detained on suspicion of trafficking in 2014, and 2015 so far? How many charges were brought?

Below is the breakdown of the type of charges raised in each of the cases that have been submitted by Police Scotland to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for consideration.

It should be noted that there may be instances where persons have been charged with multiple offences within one report, however, for recording purposes, each charge has been separated as follows;

##### Section 22, Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 – trafficking for prostitution

2014 – 5 reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and 9 people were reported.  
2015 – 2 reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and 4 people were reported.

##### Section 4, Asylum and Immigration (treatment of claimants etc.) Act 2004 – trafficking for exploitation

2014 – 8 reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and 15 People were reported  
2015 – 1 report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and 1 person was reported

Section 47, Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 – Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour

2014 – 1 report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and 2 people were reported.

Further information relating to potential victims of trafficking can be found at;

[www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications)

This relates specifically to those that have entered the National Referral Mechanism and the figures are collated by the National Crime Agency's (NCA) - United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre.

The NCA have compiled a report that shows the number of persons that have been referred by different organisations in Scotland and is also available online.

Every person who is referred in Scotland is interviewed by an officer of Police Scotland to ascertain the locus of any exploitation and crime that has occurred. Statements that are noted are forwarded to the appropriate Police area for further and continued investigation. Following that investigation, if there is sufficient evidence, a report is submitted to the COPFS for consideration of progressing through the criminal justice system.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01224 305745 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance, and within 40 working days of receiving this response, to request a review of the decision. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; FOI Central Processing Unit, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH - [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. Contact details are; Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS - [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky Leiper  
Information Management