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From: **Wilson, Julie (DOJ)** <Julie.Wilson@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 5:52 PM

Subject: RE: UM data analysis

To: [REDACTED] S.40

Hi Lucy –

Thanks for contacting me with this.

I've passed your email to Amanda Patterson – her team is responsible for the review of section 15 and as I understand it, they are in the process of procuring independent researchers to carry out that review.

Amanda has indicated that she'll get in touch with you directly about your data – I hope this is helpful.

Best regards

Julie

From: Lucy Smith [REDACTED] S.40

Sent: 10 April 2018 15:06

To: Wilson, Julie (DOJ)

Subject: UM data analysis

Hi Julie,

I hope you are well. I am doing ok.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for reaching out following Laura's death. It meant a lot.

As you know, I run UglyMugs.ie, an online sex worker safety scheme. Since 2009, sex workers have reported about 2,000 incidents that happened in NI. So we hold about 2,000 reports. About 1,200 of these would be what we term "low warning" reports, and would not generally represent criminal offences. About 600 would be what we term "medium level", most of which probably could be criminal offences. Then there are about 200 of what we term "high level", most of which would probably also be criminal offences. Generally anything involving violence against the person gets tagged "high level" warning, whereas just verbal abuse or threats would be "medium level".

The first year after the new law came in, I took a brief look at UM NI stats myself, and my feeling was that there wasn't strong indication in a significant increase in crime against sex workers. Taking a brief look at UM stats now, with nearly 3 years of data since the law came in, I think perhaps I am now looking at a serious increase in crime against sex workers having taken place. I'm not very confident in my own analysis of this though. I feel, firstly I'm lacking the appropriate academic etc qualifications to carry out an analysis like this, and secondly I'm probably too close to the whole situation to be a good person to look at this unemotionally etc.

I've been getting a lot of press requests for stats on crime against sex workers in NI lately and I do and always have published or given out some basic stats, but I'm reluctant to get into too much detail on this with media etc, because I really feel like a proper independent academic analysis of UM stats is needed. BBC Spotlight are particularly interested in doing a programme on this subject. I levelled with the BBC recently that I just don't feel ready to do this right now, I'm concerned that a proper independent academic analysis of UM stats is needed. The BBC came back to that with an offer that they would facilitate this. But that really isn't acceptable I think. The BBC is a media organisation, this UM data is sensitive confidential data, the BBC is not the appropriate organisation to facilitate an academic analysis of this data.

So, what I am getting to, is I was wondering if there was any possibility that the DoJ would commission an independent academic analysis of UM data? I think this would be a small, low cost thing to do. I can tell you that all the UM data is already in a computerised easy to study format. I would also be prepared to send the data to the DoJ now, so the DoJ could look at it, as perhaps you have analysts, so long as we could agree it is confidential data that must not be released under FOI etc.

Please accept my apologies if this is a totally inappropriate request to make. I don't come from the world of understanding how Gov funding etc works. I come from the world of just working hard, and if I want anything done, I do it myself, is my almost universal policy. So I don't understand if it is wildly out of the question that the DoJ would commission a UM data analysis. Therefore I just thought I'd ask.

At the moment I just feel a bit of pressure of media etc looking to me to talk on crime against sex workers since the new law, not much pressure yet. But I don't know what the future will hold. I know the legislation included a 3 year review of the law, and I don't know if there will come a time where I'm under more pressure to talk on this, and I'm not feeling that confident about it. One of the good things about NI is that we, both UglyMugs.ie and SWAI, have been able to talk to both the DoJ and the PSNI constructively. So I thought I'd drop you a line on this, for if you can consider it, or refer it to someone else in the DoJ if appropriate.

Many thanks

Lucy

P.S. I realise of course this is a complex request so I am not expecting any immediate response. I just thought it would be good to reach out to you over this now, before June, as maybe come June it will be a more pressing concern for me.

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