



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinnstríe O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

**Department of Justice**  
**Records & Information Team**  
Information Services Division  
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29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**REFERENCE: FOI\21\15**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your requests for information dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and detailed below.

*(1) I am requesting information on the number of people for whom there has been a conclusive determination that they are a victim of trafficking in human beings (through the National Referral Mechanism) the Department of Justice has provided additional assistance and support to under the discretionary powers to do so within section 18(9) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. I request the total number of people provided this support per year for each calendar year 2016-2021.*

*(2) I am requesting information on the number of people who have been, or were about to be, referred to the competent authority through the National Referral Mechanism (for determination as to whether there were reasonable grounds to believe that they were a victim of trafficking in human beings) for whom the Department of Justice has provided support prior to reasonable grounds decision under sections 19(2) and (3) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. I request the total number of people provided this support per year for each calendar year 2016-2021.*

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.



The information you have requested is provided below:

- (1) The Department does not have the data requested for calendar years. The numbers for available financial years are as follows:

2016 – 17	3
2017 – 18	6
2018 – 19	7
2019 – 20	7
2020 – 21	1

- (2) The numbers for the financial years are as follows:

2016 – 17	20
2017 -18	27
2018 – 19	31
2019 – 20	81
2020 – 21	363
2021 – 22	477

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF



The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**

