

## Records & Information Team

**10 November 2022**

**REFERENCE: FOI/22/53**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 11 October 2022 and detailed below.

*Hi,*

*We would like to request the following information under Freedom of Information:*

- (1) Total funding supplied by the Department of Justice to organisations supporting female victims of domestic abuse for the financial year April 2021 to March 2022. (Eg Womens Aid local locations, or Womens Aid Federation).*
  
- (2) Total funding supplied by the Department of Justice to organisations supporting male victims of domestic abuse for the financial year April 2021 to March 2022. (Eg Mens Action Network, Mens Alliance or Mens Advisory project).*

*If you could please respond via email, in spreadsheet format specifying the organisation and amount of funding granted.*



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 in scope of your request, and you have the right to have that recorded information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

The Department of Justice's (DoJ) Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) provides funding to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime in community settings for the benefit of victims, communities and the environment. ARCS funding is not specifically targeted at preventing domestic abuse but some projects that are funded in the Interim ARCS Scheme did have a domestic violence focus. The funding provided during the 2021-22 financial year is outlined in the attached spreadsheet as requested.

The DoJ provides funding to independent organisations who in turn fund bodies that support victims of domestic abuse. The DoJ is not in a position to provide a breakdown of this funding. The following narrative outlines the role the Department takes in this process.

Victim Support NI is the main voluntary organisation supporting all victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence. £2,090,619 in funding was provided by DoJ during 2021-22 for the services they provide. This included £187k of grant funding for the adult Sexual Offences Legal Advisor (SOLA) scheme. It is not possible to disaggregate the gender figures nor can we break down the level of support that is provided in relation to domestic abuse.

DoJ is responsible for the contract management of the procured Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline and the ASSIST NI Advocacy Service. Both of these contracts are commercial in confidence and therefore an annual breakdown cannot be provided. DoJ also part fund the Respect Helpline to the value of £6k per annum. All three services are open to all genders.



Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are funded jointly by the DoJ and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. PCSPs are independent statutory bodies established by the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in each of the eleven Council areas.

Each PCSP is made up of elected, independent and statutory members who agree on the appropriate allocation of funding towards programmes that prioritise local community safety concerns within their area.

PCSPs have prioritised domestic abuse for a number of years and in 2021-22 PCSP action plans included a range of programmes and initiatives to help make communities safer and tackle various types of crime including domestic abuse.

In 2021-22 PCSPs provided approximately £160,662 from their Departmental funding allocation to local organisations addressing domestic abuse, some of whom provide support for male and female domestic abuse victims. Further detail of PCSP allocated funding to local organisations can be obtained by contacting the local PCSP Managers who are based in the local Council.

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 him 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)

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager**

