



PPB Secretariat
Public Protection Branch,
Police Service of Northern Ireland
280 Antrim Road,
Belfast, BT15 5AA

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

Good afternoon,

The Head of PSNI Public Protection Branch is now Detective Chief Superintendent Zoe McKee.

This information requested isn't generally in our remit, I have asked for information from our Public Prosecution service and analysts, but I will be unable to get this before Thursday 20th November.

I have answered the questions below and will await further information.

Q: What impact have the changes in the laws governing the sale and purchase of sexual services in your country had on:

Levels of prostitution or the sale of sexual services as they have been observed or recorded by police, statutory and other service providers

- Limited impact noted. Northern Ireland does not have a significant on street sexual services market. The majority is off street, which limits the investigative tactics that can be utilised. From a C1 perspective there are no proactive operations targeting the buying of sexual services as we prioritise investigations on the basis of highest risk and highest harm which will be cases involving MSHT.

The use of violence towards those active in the sex industry, particularly women and girls, either observed or recorded by police, statutory and other service providers –

- Unable to offer any comment on this question.

The number of offences and successful prosecutions of those purchasing sexual services

- I have requested information from our Public Prosecution Service (PPS) awaiting response.

Have there been challenges for the police, prosecution bodies or the courts in implementing and administration the new laws? If so, can you provide further detail.

- As mentioned previously the sex work market in Northern Ireland is largely off street, which limits tactical/investigative actions that can be deployed in investigations. The evidential standard for prosecution is high and it would be unusual to have co-operation from the sex worker therefore prosecutions are largely dependent on the admissions of the suspect.

Please see information below from our stats branch regarding the prostitution queries:

There have been 112 arrests¹ which have subsequently resulted in 26 charges² for the offence of Paying for Sexual Services from the introduction of the legislation in June 2015 to 31st March 2025.

¹ Arrested and processed through police custody

² Arrested and processed through police custody and subsequently charged

Kind Regards

Rachael Poskitt
D/Constable