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22nd December 2017

Our Ref: FOI2017/01466

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2017/01466**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 28th November. I note you seek access to the following information:

**In July this year the Justice Secretary indicated that sex for rent arrangements are illegal under existing sexual offences legislation. He said that sections 52 and 54 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 meant that sex for rent arrangements are illegal because "an offence is committed when a person offers accommodation in return for sex, as they are inciting/causing another person to have sex with them in return for 'payment'."**

**In light of the above please could you provide the following information in relation to the last 5 years (i.e. from January 1st 2013 up until the date of this request):**

- 1. Have you ever carried out any investigations where a "sex for rent" arrangement was a component part of the investigation?**
- 2. Have you ever arrested any individual for advertising and/or entering into a "sex for rent" arrangement?**
- 3. Have you ever charged any individual for advertising and/or entering into a "sex for rent" arrangement?**
- 4. Have there been any successful prosecutions (i.e. found guilty) of any individual for advertising and/or entering into a "sex for rent" arrangement?**
- 5. In relation to 1-4 above, have you ever communicated with the website Craigslist as part of your enquiries? If so, please provide copies of those communications. If you cannot provide a copy of the communications, please provide summaries.**
- 6. In relation to 1-4 above, please provide details of the offence that was being investigated. Please provide summaries of the investigation in each case.**
- 7. Please let me know the total number of charges that you have brought pursuant to s52 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (regardless of whether they related to "sex for rent" arrangements).**
- 8. In relation to question 7 above, please let me know how many (if any) of those cases related, in any way, to an individual advertising and/or entering into a "sex for rent" arrangement?**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

**Response** – Searches within the Constabulary failed to locate any records / documents relevant to your request. Accordingly I have determined that the information to which you seek is not held by Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson

## Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.