I am writing to you in relation to your letter concerning the Home Office Select Committee inquiry into prostitution and your request for further statistical information. Some of the data requested is not recorded by the police however I am able to provide the below information.

1. The number of investigations, arrests and convictions arising from the Ugly Mugs and similar schemes

In relation to the number of investigations, arrests and convictions arising from the Ugly Mugs and similar schemes it is unfortunately difficult for National Ugly Mugs (NUM) or the police to provide any accurate statistics in this respect owing to how data is recorded. There is often no way of searching records that would accurately identify a sex worker and they may not disclose this fact to police when reporting a crime. However, we know that the work of NUM has led to the conviction of at least 40 offenders of whom the police would not have otherwise had knowledge. The statistics are individuals who would not ordinarily report to police but did so with the support of this charity, often after an enquiry was made by police in relation to anonymous intelligence.

There have been 1,980 incidents reported to NUM since 2012, which equates to approximately 60 to 70 per month. 25% of which were formally reported to police in the first instance. Approximately 18% related to reports of rape and 30% to sexual violence. However, information on arrests and convictions would only be held at a local level by police and projects. Further to this, the data is not collected by the Home Office or the British Crime Survey so it is therefore unlikely that local police forces would be able to identify cases specifically relating to sex workers.

2. The number of convictions arising from the provisions in the Police and Crime Act 2009 relating to coercion to engage in sex.

With regards to the number of convictions arising from the provisions in the Police and Crime Act 2009 relating to coercion to engage in sex I can report that the Crown Prosecution Service have indicated that there have been no prosecutions for the Section 53A offence in the last 12 months; therefore there have been no such convictions.

3. The impact of the 2015 Act on the number of sex workers who are aged under 18.

In relation to the impact of the 2015 Act on the number of sex workers who are aged under 18, there is no known significant impact in this respect owing to no persons known to have been prosecuted under the Act.

4 The number of people prosecuted for trafficking for purposes of sex in the last 10 years.

Finally, in relation to the number of people prosecuted for trafficking for purposes of sex in the last 10 years I can report that there have been 11 offences charged under the Modern Slavery Act. These involve 3 cases: 2 of the cases relate to instances of slavery and servitude (and total 9 offences) and there are a further 2 offences of trafficking. As yet it has not been possible to ascertain if these trafficking cases involved a sex worker.

I hope that this information is what you required and is of use.

Assistant Chief Constable Nikki Holland
National Police Chiefs’ Council Lead for Prostitution and Sex Work