



## **NEWS RELEASE 5 November 2014**

***For immediate Issue***

### **Statement in response to comments made in the Assembly 4/11/2014**

The Public Prosecution Service takes all of its decisions independently and without fear or favour.

It does not consider issues such as membership of a particular political party or any other political sensitivities in its decision-making process. It is also rigorous in ensuring that there can be no potential for bias in its processes, this includes ensuring that where there may be the possibility of a conflict of interest, this is declared by relevant staff and they recuse themselves from participation in such cases or decision-making processes. No less would be expected from any member of the criminal justice system or holder of public office.

At times, particularly where there is public concern in relation to the handling of a case and it is considered that there is a need to maintain public confidence in the PPS and the wider criminal justice system, the PPS may set up an independent Review to consider aspects of the prosecution.

The current Director of Public Prosecutions has established two such Reviews during his time in office. These independent processes are specifically designed to ensure that the public can have confidence in the work of the PPS and the criminal justice system.

Both of these Reviews are due for publication in the Spring of 2015.

The PPS is committed to acting openly and transparently and to providing a high quality prosecutorial service for everyone in Northern Ireland.

ENDS

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