



**Policy and Information Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR**

FOI 3004-18/19

Via email: [REDACTED]

4 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 7 January 2019 in which you asked for data about the number of investigation files/reports submitted to the Public Prosecution Service by the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act creates rights of access for any person making a request for information to a public authority. The rights of access are twofold. First, to be informed by the public authority if it holds information of the description specified in the request, and if that is the case, secondly, to be provided with that information. These rights are subject to important limitations, which are designed to achieve a proper balance between the right to know and considerations of law and policy in the broader public interest.

You had asked for the following:

- 1. Number of files (investigations into post 2000 police action) received from OPONI in each financial year from 01/02 through to 17/18*
- 2. Number of files resulting in prosecutions or other sanction being directed and the number of officers/ex-officers involved by financial year 01/02 through to 17/18*
- 3. Number of successful prosecutions by financial year 01/02 through to 17/18*
- 4. Number of legacy files (investigations into pre 2000 police action) received from OPONI in each financial year from 01/02 through to 17/18*
- 5. Number of files resulting in prosecutions or other sanction being directed, and the number of officer/ex-officers involved by financial year 01/02 through to 17/18*

6. *Number of successful prosecutions by financial year 01/02 through to 17/18*

The data sought refers to numbers of investigation files/reports submitted by the Office of the Police Ombudsman for NI (OPONI) to the PPS.

In response please see Tables 1-4 below detailing files received, decisions issued and outcomes (Crown and Magistrates' Courts) for incidents post 2000. Tables 5-7 detail the equivalent information for incidents pre 2000.

Please note that whilst we can identify incidents pre-2000 and post 2000, statistics in respect of files, decisions and court outcomes can only be provided from 1 January 2010.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our review procedure. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of this response and you can do so by writing to the Head of Policy and Information, Public Prosecution Service, Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, BELFAST, BT1 3JR or alternatively by sending an e-mail to info@ppsni.gov.uk. You should state clearly the grounds on which you are requesting the review.

Alternatively, you may wish to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,



PPS FOI Section

Table 1: Files Received from OPONI between 1/04/10 and 31/3/18 (for incidents post 2000)* as at 14th January 2019

(Based on First Papers Received Date)

Financial Year - Files Received	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
10/11	301	614
11/12	252	549
12/13	247	447
13/14	253	450
14/15	202	369
15/16	149	268
16/17	134	228
17/18	105	198
Total	1,643	3,123

* Incident date is based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 2: Decisions Issued on Files Received from the Police Ombudsman between 01/04/2010 and 31/03/2018 (for incidents post 2000)* as at 14th January 2019

(Based on Most Serious Decision Issued Date / Number of Suspects)

Financial Year - Files Received	Indictable Prosecution (Crown)	Summary Prosecution (Magistrates')	Diversion (e.g. Caution)	No prosecution	Total
10/11	6	-	0	606	#
11/12	3	-	-	544	#
12/13	-	5	-	439	#
13/14	-	5	-	440	#
14/15	5	7	0	357	369
15/16	5	-	-	260	268
16/17	4	7	-	215	#
17/18	0	3	0	190	193
Total	26	32	6	3,051	3,115

'-' represents a count of less than 3 that cannot be provided in order to prevent disclosure.

'#' refers to a number greater than 3 suppressed to prevent the disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.

Note: There are 8 decisions pending.

* Incident date is based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 3: Crown Court Outcomes in Respect of Indictable Prosecution Decisions (for Files Received from the Police Ombudsman between 1/4/10 and 31/3/18 - incidents post 2000)* as at 14th January 2019

(No. of Defendants)

Financial Year - Files Received	Plea of Guilty on All Charges	Plea of Not Guilty on at Least One Charge - Found Guilty on at Least One Charge	Plea of Not Guilty - Acquitted on all Charges	Outcome Pending	Total
10/11	1	3	2	0	6
11/12	2	0	1	0	3
12/13	1	0	0	0	1
13/14	0	0	1	1	2
14/15	0	0	5	0	5
15/16	0	1	4	0	5
16/17	0	0	4	0	4
17/18	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	17	1	26

* Incident date is based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 4: Magistrates' Court Outcomes in Respect of Summary Prosecution Decisions (for Files Received from the Police Ombudsman between 1/4/10 and 31/3/18 - incidents post 2000)* as at 14th January 2019.

(No. of Defendants)

Financial Year - Files Received	Plea of Guilty on All Charges	Plea of Not Guilty on at Least One Charge - Found Guilty on at Least One Charge	Plea of Not Guilty - Acquitted on all Charges	Other	Outcome Pending	Total
10/11	0	0	2	0	0	2
11/12	0	0	1	0	0	1
12/13	2	2	1	0	0	5
13/14	1	0	3	1	0	5
14/15	1	1	1	4	0	7
15/16	0	0	2	0	0	2
16/17	0	1	5	1	0	7
17/18	0	1	0	0	2	3
Total	4	5	15	6	0	32

* Incident - based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 5: Files Received from OPONI between 1/4/10 and 31/3/18 (for incidents pre 2000)* as at 14th January 2019

(Based on First Papers Received Date)

Financial Year - Files Received	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
10/11	1	1
11/12	2	3
12/13	1	11
14/15	1	16
16/17	2	2
Total	7	33

* Incident date is based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 6: Decisions Issued on Files Received from the Police Ombudsman between 1/4/10 & 31/3/18 (for incidents pre 2000)* as at 14th January 2019

(Based on Most Serious Decision Issued Date / Number of Suspects)

Financial Year - Files Received	Indictable Prosecution	No Prosecution
10/11	0	-
11/12	0	-
12/13	-	#
14/15	0	16
16/17	0	0
Total	-	27

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* Incident date is based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.

Table 7: Crown Court Outcomes in Respect of Prosecution Decisions (for Files Received from the Police Ombudsman between 01/04/2010 & 31/03/2018 - incidents pre 2000)* as of 14th January 2019

(No. of Defendants)

Financial Year - Files Received	Plea of Not Guilty - Acquitted on all Charges
10/11	0
11/12	0
12/13	-
14/15	0
16/17	0
Total	-

'-' represents a count of less than 3 that cannot be provided in order to prevent disclosure

* Incident - based on the earliest date of the incident recorded on CMS.