



**News Release
27 August 2015**

PPS PUBLISHES QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its Quarterly Statistical Bulletin outlining the work carried out by the service in the first three months of the 2015/16 financial year (i.e. 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015) and includes comparisons with 2014/15.

The bulletin presents key statistics on the activity of the PPS, including caseloads and prosecutorial decisions and also includes data on the outcomes of prosecutions at court. The bulletin reveals the PPS have maintained a conviction rate of 84% in the Crown Court, and 79% in the Magistrates and Youth Courts for the first quarter of 2015-16.

Key findings

During the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 10,880 files. This was a decrease of 3.0% on the corresponding quarter of 2014/15 (11,215).
- Six offence classifications, 'fraud and forgery', 'theft', 'violence against the person', 'sexual offences', 'drug offences' and 'criminal damage' have shown an increase in the number of files received compared with the equivalent period in 2014/15.
- Of the total files received, 288 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Driver and Vehicle Agency (32%) or the Department for Social Development (42%).
- 12,587 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; more than seven-tenths (72%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (7,826) or for diversion from the courts (1,200). This was the same as the corresponding period of 2014/15 (72%).
- There was a decrease of 3.5% in the number of decisions to prosecute. This comprised of a 4.7% increase in indictable prosecution decisions and a decline of 4.0% in summary prosecution decisions. The numbers of diversionary decisions fell by 11.6% while no prosecution decisions fell by 1.9%.

- Of the 3,561 decisions for no prosecution, the vast majority (95%) did not pass the evidential test. The remaining 5% did not pass the public interest test.
- The average number of calendar days required for issue of a decision varied by type. The most serious indictable prosecution decisions were issued in an average of 153 days. Summary prosecution decisions were issued in 24 days, restorative cautions in 25 days, informed warnings in 10 days and youth conferences in 22 days. Average days to issue included time taken by the police to respond to decision information requests and for case preparation.
- 459 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. This was a decrease of 151 defendants on the equivalent period in 2014/15 (610). The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 84.3%.
- A total of 7,788 defendants were dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, a decrease of 3.6% on 2014/15 (8,081). The conviction rate in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts was 79.2%.

Notes to Editors

This summary should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes provided (see pages 18 - 20 of the Statistical Bulletin).

These are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. Statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency are seconded to the PPS and are responsible for ensuring that the statistics produced comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. All statistics for the current financial year have now been finalised.

The bulletin may be viewed or downloaded at www.ppsni.gov.uk. Any member of the public may comment on the report by contacting PPS as follows:

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