



**News Release  
15 November 2012**

## **PPS PUBLISHES QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN**

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its [Quarterly Statistical Bulletin](#), the second in a series of new statistical publications. It provides information for the first half of the 2012-13 financial year (1 April to 30 September 2012) and includes comparisons for the equivalent period in 2011-12.

The bulletin presents key statistics on the activity of the PPS, including caseloads and prosecutorial decisions. It also contains detailed notes which provide an explanation of the relevant PPS processes and procedures.

### **Key findings**

During the first half of the 2012-13 financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 25,938 files. This was a decrease of 3.3% on the corresponding period of 2011-12 (26,823). In particular, the number of indictable files received fell by 15.9%.
- Of the total files received, 811 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Department for Social Development (41%) and the Driver and Vehicle Agency (38%).
- 31,336 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; almost three-quarters (73%) of persons were issued with a decision for prosecution (19,198) or for diversion from the courts (3,654). This was marginally higher than the equivalent period in 2011-12 (72%).
- There were 1,091 decisions for prosecution on indictment (i.e. for prosecution of offences in the Crown Court), an increase of 11.6% on the first half of 2011-12. There was also a rise in summary prosecution decisions (1.6%) and diversionary decisions (3.7%) over the same period.

- Of the 8,484 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. Indictable prosecution decisions were issued in an average of 228 days, summary prosecution decisions in 29 days, youth conferences in 21 days, restorative cautions in 20 days and informed warnings in 15 days. Average days to issue included time taken by the police to respond to decision information requests and for case preparation.

### ***Notes to Editors***

This summary should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes provided (see pages 15 -17 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 are provisional and may be subject to change.

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

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