



**News Release
13 February 2014**

PPS PUBLISHES QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its Quarterly Statistical Bulletin. It provides information for the first nine months of the 2013/14 financial year (1 April to 31 December 2013) and includes comparisons for the equivalent period in 2012/13.

The bulletin presents key statistics on the activity of the PPS, including caseloads and prosecutorial decisions. It also includes data on the outcomes of prosecutions at court.

Key findings

During the first nine months of the financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 35,661 files. This was a decrease of 6.9% on the corresponding period of 2012/13 (38,287).
- All recorded crime offence groups have shown a reduction in the number of files received compared with the corresponding nine months of 2012/13.
- Of the total files received, 1,186 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Department for Social Development (41%) or the Driver and Vehicle Agency (37%).
- 42,976 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; almost three-quarters (74%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (26,897) or for diversion from the courts (4,687). This was consistent with the equivalent period in 2012/13 (72%).
- There was a decrease of 6.6% in the number of decisions to prosecute. This comprised of a 6.6% decrease in summary prosecution decisions issued and a decline of 5.4% in indictable prosecution decisions. The numbers of diversionary and no prosecution decisions fell by 14.5% and 13.9%, respectively.

- Of the 11,392 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 160 days, summary prosecution decisions in 21 days, informed warnings in 17 days, restorative cautions in 15 days and youth conferences in 16 days. Average days to issue included time taken by the police to respond to decision information requests and for case preparation.
- 1,765 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. This was an increase of 19.3% on the equivalent period in 2012/13 (1,480). The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 84.4%.
- A total of 25,074 defendants were dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, a decrease of 10.9% on 2012/13 (28,146). The conviction rate in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts was 79.9%.

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 are provisional and may be subject to change.

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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