



**News Release  
14 February 2013**

## **PPS PUBLISHES QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN**

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its [Quarterly Statistical Bulletin](#), the third in a series of new statistical publications. It provides information for the first nine months of the 2012-13 financial year (i.e. 1 April to 31 December 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 nine months of the financial year:

- The PPS received 38,287 files during the first three quarters of the financial year. This was a decrease of 3.8% on the corresponding period of 2011-12 (39,779). In particular, the number of indictable files received fell by 14.1%.
- Of the total files received, 1,082 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Department for Social Development (43%) and the Driver and Vehicle Agency (36%).
- 47,501 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; just over seven tenths (72%) of persons were issued with a decision for prosecution (28,784) or for diversion from the courts (5,485). This was the same as the equivalent period in 2011-12 (72%).
- There were 1,698 decisions for prosecution on indictment (i.e. for prosecution of offences in the Crown Court), an increase of 14.4% on the first three quarters of 2011-12. There was also a rise in summary prosecution decisions (1.1%) and diversionary decisions (4.0%) over the same period.

- Of the 13,232 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 215 days, summary prosecution decisions in 30 days, youth conferences in 22 days, restorative cautions in 19 days and informed warnings in 14 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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