



**News Release
19 June 2014**

PPS PUBLISHES QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its Quarterly Statistical Bulletin. It provides information for the full 2013/14 financial year (i.e. 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014) and includes comparisons with 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 financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 47,339 files. This was a decrease of 4.6% on 2012/13 (49,628).
- All recorded crime offence groups, with the exception of theft, have shown a reduction in the number of files received compared to 2012/13.
- Of the total files received, 1,500 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Driver and Vehicle Agency (39%) or the Department for Social Development (38%).
- 57,326 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; almost three-quarters (73%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (35,816) or for diversion from the courts (6,136). This was consistent with 2012/13 (72%).
- There was a decrease of 4.4% in the number of decisions to prosecute. This comprised of an 8.1% decrease in indictable prosecution decisions issued and a decline of 4.2% in summary prosecution decisions. The numbers of diversionary and no prosecution decisions fell by 12.7% and 11.9%, respectively.

- Of the 15,374 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 155 days, summary prosecution decisions in 20 days, informed warnings in 17 days, restorative cautions in 14 days and youth conferences in 18 days. Average days to issue included time taken by the police to respond to decision information requests and for case preparation.
- 2,488 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. This was an increase of 12.6% on 2012/13 (2,209). The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 84.5%.
- A total of 33,834 defendants were dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, a decrease of 8.3% on 2012/13 (36,907). The conviction rate in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts was 80.2%.

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 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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