



**News Release
27 September 2012**

PPS PUBLISHES NEW QUARTERLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published its [Quarterly Statistical Bulletin](#), the first in a series of new statistical publications. It provides information for the first quarter of the 2012-13 financial year (1 April to 30 June 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 quarter of the 2012-13 financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 13,461 files. This was broadly in line with the corresponding quarter of 2011-12 (13,556).
- Of the total files received, 411 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Driver and Vehicle Agency (42%) and the Department for Social Development (37%).
- 15,720 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 (9,722) or for diversion from the courts (1,819). This was marginally higher than the equivalent period in 2011-12 (72%).
- There were 595 decisions for prosecution on indictment (i.e. for prosecution of offences in the Crown Court), an increase of 18.5% on the first quarter of 2011-12. There was also a rise in summary prosecution decisions (1.6%) over the same period. Diversionary decisions fell by 0.9%.
- Of the 4,179 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 236 days, summary prosecution decisions in 26 days, youth conferences in 21 days, restorative cautions in 18 days and informed warnings in 10 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. Any member of the public may comment on the report by contacting PPS as follows:

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