



**News Release
10 September 2014**

PPS PUBLISHES NEW STATISTICAL BULLETIN ON HATE CRIME

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) today published a Statistical Bulletin on cases involving hate crime. 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 is set out in two parts, reflecting the two distinct definitions applied in cases involving hate crime, as recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the PPS. In Part One key statistics are presented in relation to cases involving hate crime submitted to the PPS by the PSNI, while in Part Two key statistics are presented in relation to cases considered by a Prosecutor to have involved hate crime which was 'aggravated by hostility'.

Part One: Cases Involving Hate Crime Submitted by the PSNI – Key Findings

During the financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 572 files from the PSNI involving hate crime. This was an increase of 17 on 2012/13 (555).
- Over two-fifths (44%) of files received related to sectarian crimes. This compared with 54% during 2012/13.
- The majority of files received involving hate crime fell into two categories, 'violence against the person' (48%) or 'public order' (27%).
- Prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS in respect of 835 persons in cases involving hate crime. This was an increase of 15% on the total issued during 2012/13 (723).
- The evidential Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; of the 835 persons for whom decisions were issued, over three-fifths (63%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (459) or for diversion from the courts (63). This was lower than in 2012/13 (70%).
- A total of 103 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 86.4%, an increase on 2012/13 (80.6%).
- Of the 395 defendants dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, 67.8% were convicted. This compared with a conviction rate of 63.4% in 2012/13.

Part Two: Cases Considered by a PPS Prosecutor to have Involved Hate Crime which was 'Aggravated by Hostility' – Key Findings

During the financial year:

- Prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS in respect of 566 persons in cases considered by a prosecutor to have involved hate crime which was 'aggravated by hostility'. This was similar to the total issued during 2012/13 (569).
- The evidential Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; of the 566 persons for whom decisions were issued, three-quarters (75%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (405) or for diversion from the courts (19). This was lower than in 2012/13 (82%).
- A total of 102 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 94.1%, an increase on 2012/13 (88.0%).
- Of the 336 defendants dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, 63.7% were convicted. This compared with a conviction rate of 69.1% in 2012/13.

Notes to Editors

This summary should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes and definitions provided (see pages 3 - 4 and 21 - 24 of the 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 have been finalised.

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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