



**News Release
12 February 2015**

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 2014/15 financial year (i.e. 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014) and includes comparisons with 2013/14.

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 three quarters of the 2014/15 financial year:

- The PPS received a total of 33,956 files. This was a decrease of 4.8% on the corresponding period of 2013/14 (35,661).
- All offence classifications, with the exception of 'possession of weapons', 'robbery', 'violence against the person', 'sexual offences' and 'criminal damage' have shown a reduction in the number of files received compared with the equivalent period in 2013/14.
- Of the total files received, 883 were submitted by government departments and agencies, the majority of which were from the Driver and Vehicle Agency (38%) or the Department for Social Development (29%).
- 39,110 prosecutorial decisions were issued by the PPS. The Test for Prosecution was met in the majority of cases; more than seven-tenths (71%) were issued with a decision for prosecution (24,144) or for diversion from the courts (3,766).
- There was a decrease of 10.2% in the number of decisions to prosecute. This comprised of a 10.0% decrease in indictable prosecution decisions and a decline of 10.3% in summary prosecution decisions. The numbers of diversionary and no prosecution decisions fell by 19.7% and 1.7% respectively.

- Of the 11,200 decisions for no prosecution, the vast majority (96%) did not pass the evidential test. The remaining 4% 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 158 days, summary prosecution decisions in 21 days, restorative cautions in 16 days, informed warnings in 15 days and youth conferences in 17 days. Average days to issue included time taken by the police to respond to decision information requests and for case preparation.
- 1,394 defendants were dealt with in the Crown Court. This was a decrease of 21.0% on the equivalent period in 2013/14 (1,765). The conviction rate in the Crown Court was 84.4%.
- A total of 22,722 defendants were dealt with in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts, a decrease of 9.4% on 2013/14 (25,074). The conviction rate in the Magistrates' and Youth Courts was 80.0%.

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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