



Public
Prosecution
Service

Policy and Information Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

[REDACTED]

Our reference: 569/23-24

7 February 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your e-mail dated 10th January 2024 in which you asked for information relating to the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act creates rights of access for any person making a request for information to a public authority. The rights of access are twofold. First, to be informed by the public authority if it holds information of the description specified in the request, and if that is the case, secondly, to be provided with that information. These rights are subject to important limitations, which are designed to achieve a proper balance between the right to know and considerations of law and policy in the broader public interest.

You asked the following:

“I would like to request figures for 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the numbers of the below offences in which a prosecution commenced.

- *Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 Section 13 Abstracting of Electricity.”*

In response, please be advised the figures for 2021, 2022 and 2023 can be found in the table below, which also provides data in respect of prosecutorial decisions and no prosecution decisions issued for offences under the Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. The specific offences considered in the analysis are also included.

Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion*	No Prosecution	Total
2021	19	10	#	-	31
2022	12	13	#	#	31
2023	14	13	#	#	39
Total	45	36	3	17	101

* For example, a caution or informed warning.

“-“ refers to a count less than 3.

“#” refers to a number which has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.

Offences considered under the specified legislation

Decision Offence Code Description	Decision Offence Legislation
DISHONESTLY USING ELECTRICITY	Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969
DISHONESTLY CAUSING ELECTRICITY TO BE DIVERTED	Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review in accordance with our review procedure. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of this response and you can do so by writing to the Head of Policy and Information, Public Prosecution Service, Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, BELFAST, BT1 3JR or alternatively by sending an e-mail to info@ppsni.gov.uk. You should state the grounds on which you are requesting the review.

Alternatively, you may wish to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Information Management Team
Public Prosecution Service