

[REDACTED]

FOI 691/23-24

18 April 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in which you requested information regarding the number of cases received by the PPS. 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 had asked the following:

*“Under FOI, please supply the following annual figures:*

- 1. The number of cases which you accept from PSNI per year*
- 2. The number of cases which go to trial (noting that mine did not)*
- 3. The number of harassment cases thrown out by the PPS at the behest of PSNI*
- 4. The process in which the PPS Barrister make their decisions when they breach the Human Rights legislation”.*

In response to questions 1 & 2, I can advise that the information you have requested is available by other means, section 21 of the FOI Act refers. This information is published on the PPS website and can be found [here](#).

In response to question 3, please be advised that the PPS are independent of the PSNI and take prosecutorial decisions based on the evidential and public interest tests. There is no information held on ‘*harassment cases thrown out by the PPS at the behest of PSNI*’.

However the PPS holds and can provide you with information on the number of no prosecution decisions issued in cases involving the offence of harassment. Please see table below which details this information for the period from 2018/19 to 2022/23.

Financial Year	No Prosecution Decisions (No. of Suspects)
2018/19	577
2019/20	500
2020/21	420
2021/22	590
2022/23	885
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,972</b>

In response to question 4, I can advise that the PPS takes decisions in accordance with the Code for Prosecutors. Therefore, in terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that under Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, the PPS does not hold the requested information.

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](mailto: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**