

[REDACTED]  
FOI 33/25-2627 May 2025  
[REDACTED]

We refer to your email dated 24 April 2025 in which you requested information. 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:

We require all information, statistics kept and pertinent materials (e.g. tables; graphs; records; reports etc.) concerning:

1. the amount of prosecutions that have been brought under **Articles 55 to 57, 59, 132 of the** Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 since your records began (i) at all; and/or (ii) against any individual or organisation who have sold lottery and/or ballot tickets and/or 'bingo' tickets (or held such a 'lottery');

2. information and statistics kept where the cases brought before the Court under this legislation (i.e. especially the above named Articles) which have resulted in (i) convictions; (ii) acquittals; (iii) a disposal which fell short of conviction (e.g. a caution; bind over; or an informed warning);

3. information on whether such statistics are kept by the NI Court Service and/or are accessible;

In response to question 1, please see Table 1 below which details the number of prosecution and diversionary decisions issued in respect of Articles 55 to 57, 59 and 132 of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusement (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 since 2010.

**Table 1: Prosecutorial Decisions Issued since 1 January 2010**

	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion
<b>Number of suspects</b>	12	19	#

*Based on most serious decision issued date.*

"#" refers to a number  $\geq 3$  which has been suppressed to prevent disclosure

Of the 31 prosecution decisions issued, 9 related to 'lottery-related' offences.

In respect of question 2, please see Tables 2 and 3 below containing information on cases dealt with in the Crown and Magistrates' Courts under this legislation by type of outcome.

**Table 2: Crown Court Outcomes since 1 January 2010**

	Convicted of at least one offence	Acquitted	Other	Total
<b>No. of Defendants</b>	5	3	0	8

*Based on indictable disposal date.*

**Table 3: Magistrates' Court Outcomes since 1 January 2010**

	Convicted of at least one offence	Acquitted	Other	Total
<b>No. of Defendants</b>	8	3	7	18

*Based on summary disposal date.*

In response to question 3, I would refer you to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service who may be able to assist.

Offences considered in the analysis can be found at **Annex A**.

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**

## Annex A: Offences Considered in the Analysis

Decision Offence Code Description	Decision Offence Legislation
ORGANISING OR MANAGING PROHIBITED GAMING	Article 59(1) of the Betting Gaming Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
AIDING AND ABETTING POSSESSING TICKETS OR CHANCES IN A LOTTERY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE OR DISTRIBUTION *	Article 132(1)(b) of the Betting Gaming Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
POSSESSING TICKETS OR CHANCES IN A LOTTERY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE OR DISTRIBUTION *	Article 132(1)(b) of the Betting Gaming Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
UNLAWFULLY PRINTING LOTTERY TICKETS *	Article 132(1)(a) of the Betting Gaming Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
SELLING TICKETS OR CHANCES IN UNLAWFUL LOTTERY *	Article 132(1)(b) of the Betting Gaming Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
ALLOWING PREMISES TO BE USED FOR PROHIBITED GAMING	Article 59(3)(a) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
ORGANISING OR MANAGING PROHIBITED GAMING	Article 59(1) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
Conducting or Managing a Lottery *	Article 132(1)(e) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985
Using or Permitting Use of Premises for a Purpose Connected with the Promotion or Conduct of a Lottery *	Article 132(1)(g) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries, and Amusements (NI) Order 1985
Making, printing, advertising or publishing tickets for use in a lottery *	Article 132(1)(a) of The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
Selling, distributing or advertising lottery tickets *	Article 132(1)(b) of The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

\* Indicates an offence considered to be 'lottery-related'.