

FOI 66/25-26

13 June 2025

We refer to your email dated 28 May 2025 in which you requested information in relation to driving offences. Further clarification was sought by PPS and provided by you on 30 May 2025. 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:

“I would be grateful to receive statistics as to from the year cited 2013 to date:

- A. The number of prosecutions in respect of causing death by dangerous driving, the number of convictions for causing death by dangerous driving, the number of convictions for lesser offences where death by dangerous driving has been prosecuted*
- B. Several offences on Bol – the number of prosecutions in respect of the offences at B*
- C. The number of severance / misjoinder applications in Crown Court cases*

When asked to refine your request and you advised on 30 May 2025 of the following:

“For each year from 2013 to 2024 please provide detail of:

1. *The number of prosecutions in respect of causing death by dangerous driving.*
2. *The number of convictions for causing death by dangerous driving.*
3. *The number of convictions for lesser offences where death by dangerous driving has been prosecuted.*
4. *The number of prosecutions in respect of the multiple offences which include dangerous driving causing death, causing death whilst unlicensed, causing death whilst uninsured driving with excess alcohol, driving without insurance, fraud by false representation.*
5. *The number of severance / misjoinder applications in Crown Court cases.*

In response to question 1, please see **Table 1** below which provides the number of prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) for the period 2013 to 2024.

Table 1: Prosecution decisions issued (No. of suspects) for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) 2013 to 2024

Based on the most serious decision issued date

Year	Prosecution Decisions (No. of Suspects)
2013	7
2014	-
2015	10
2016	8
2017	7
2018	13
2019	7
2020	6
2021	4
2022	8
2023	8
2024	5
Total	83

"-" refers to a count of less than 3 suspects that has been suppressed in order to prevent disclosure

In response to questions 2 and 3, please see **Tables 2 and 3** below which provide the numbers of convictions in the Crown and Magistrates' Courts for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) and lesser offences where death by dangerous driving was prosecuted for the period 2013 to 2024.

Table 2: Defendants convicted in the Crown Court for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving* (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) and lesser offences where death by dangerous driving has been prosecuted 2013 to 2024

Based on indictable disposal date

Year	Convicted of at Least One offence
2013	8
2014	6
2015	4
2016	6
2017	9
2018	6
2019	15
2020	2
2021	7
2022	7
2023	5
2024	10
Total	85

**Of these convictions, 39 defendants were found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving, whilst a further 46 were found guilty of another offence but not of causing death by dangerous driving.*

Table 3: Defendants convicted in the Magistrates' Court for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving* (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) and lesser offences where death by dangerous driving has been prosecuted 2013 to 2024

Based on summary disposal date

Year	Convicted of at Least One Offence
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	0
2017	1
2018	0
2019	1
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
Total	2

**Of these convictions, 1 defendant was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving, whilst a further 1 was found guilty of another offence but not of causing death by dangerous driving.*

In response to question 4, please see **Table 4** below which provides the number of prosecutions / diversions issued for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving (Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) and other selected

offences for the period 2013 to 2024. A list of the other offences included in this analysis can be found at **Annex A**.

Table 4: Prosecution and diversionary decisions issued for the offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving and other offences 2013 to 2024

Based on most serious decision issued date

Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion
2013	209	6,099	261
2014	178	5,455	205
2015	180	5,104	177
2016	169	5,857	184
2017	162	6,416	197
2018	152	6,424	166
2019	169	5,784	132
2020	66	5,591	133
2021	60	5,073	138
2022	83	4,805	137
2023	115	5,066	145
2024	116	4,674	158
Total	1,659	66,348	2,033

In response to question 5, please be advised that the PPS do not maintain a record of this information, 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. We respectfully suggest you direct your request to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) who may be able to assist.

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

Annex A: Offences included in Table 4

Offence Description	Offence Legislation
CAUSING DEATH BY DANGEROUS DRIVING	Article 9 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
FRAUD BY FALSE REPRESENTATION	Section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006
USING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT INSURANCE	Article 90(4) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
CAUSING DEATH BY DRIVING CARELESSLY WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL	Article 14(1)(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
CAUSING DEATH OR GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY DRIVING: UNINSURED DRIVER	Article 12B(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
CAUSING DEATH OR GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY BY DRIVING: UNLICENSED DRIVER	Article 12B(a) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995