

[REDACTED]

FOI 87/25-26

30 June 2025

[REDACTED]

We refer to your email dated 6th June 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:

1. *“Number of files received by the PPS related to a) homophobic hate crimes b) transphobic hate crimes annually for the period 2020-2024 as well as January to May 2025*
2. *Number of those files which met the test for prosecution and the number of those cases that resulted in a guilty verdict”.*

In response, please be advised that the answer to both questions for the period 2020-2024 can be found [here](#).

Please note we cannot provide data for the period from January 2025 to May 2025, as this information will be included in our Hate Crime Bulletin which is due for release in September. Therefore, in terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the exemption in Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) applies to some of the information you have requested.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test. Details of the exemption are outlined 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. 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

Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication

Considerations in favour of disclosure:

- To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the PPS;
- The public has a right to know the information; and
- There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding.

Considerations in favour of maintaining the exemption:

- The information is intended for publication at an appropriate date in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics;
- The timetable for publication allows for the review and validation of the figures/information and to release ahead of schedule may compromise the accuracy and completeness of the data and supporting information;
- The information once approved will be available to the public in full through the PPS website; and
- To release the information prior to publication may result in duplication of effort and impact on departmental resources.

On balance, the PPS does not consider that it would be in the public interest to disclose the information requested ahead of schedule.