

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

FOI 468/24-25 20 February 2025

Dear

I refer to your email dated 29 January 2025 in which you requested information in relation to the offences of 'upskirting', 'downblousing' and 'cyber-flashing'. 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. The number of people found guilty of 'upskirting', 'downblousing' and 'cyber-flashing', which are defined as specific offences in the Justice, Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims Act 2022, from the 1st of November of 2024 up to and including the month of January 2025. If possible, could you provide this by monthly breakdown.
- 2. The number of people sentenced for 'upskirting', 'downblousing' and 'cyber-flashing', which are defined as specific offences in the Justice, Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims Act 2022, from the 1st of November of 2024 up to and including the month of January 2025. If possible, could you provide this by monthly breakdown. Also, if you could provide details about the sentences handed out and what form they took".

Over the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, no defendants were convicted for the offences outlined above (i.e. voyeurism - additional offences (genitals and buttocks); voyeurism - additional offences (breasts); or sending an unwanted sexual image), as defined by Articles 71A, 71B and 72A of the Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008.

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 <a href="mailto:info@ppsni.gov.uk">info@ppsni.gov.uk</a>. 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