

FOI: 489/24-25

6 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 12 February 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:

“REF: Four Provisional IRA members – Kevin Barry O’Donnell, 21, Sean O’Farrell, 23, Peter Clancy, 19, and Daniel Vincent, 20 – were shot dead by the soldiers after they had carried out a gun attack on Coalisland RUC station in 1992.

QUESTIONS

Please supply a list of all prosecutions for all four men including charges and outcome of each charge, plus sentences.

I understand O’Farrell had been arrested a number of times, but not sure he was ever charged, O’Donnell had been arrested in London with two loaded Kalashnikov rifles, O’Donnell and O’Farrell were also arrested at a GAA club after police found guns and a rocket launcher in an associate’s car. Please confirm details”.

In respect of your request for “a list of all prosecutions for all four men including charges and outcome of each charge” in response I can advise information held by PPS indicates that Kevin Barry O’Donnell and Sean O’Farrell were charged with offences of possession of firearms and ammunition on 25th April 1991, however the

evidential test was not met and a no prosecution decision was issued in May 1991 and the charges were withdrawn thereafter.

There is also information held that Sean O'Farrell was charged in June 1990 and prosecuted for the offences of riot, possessing and throwing petrol bombs, however, was acquitted of the charges at Court in December 1990.

In respect of Peter Clancy and Daniel Vincent, the PPS holds no information/records regarding prosecutions of these individuals.

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