

FOI 495/24-25

21 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 11 February 2025 in which you requested information in relation to Non-Molestation and Restraining Orders. 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:

- *“For the current data to be updated to 2024*
- *For the data to be broken down by down by calendar year to allow for an year on year comparative analysis*
- *Is it possible to get data on decisions not to prosecute broken down by reasons for decision not to prosecute (evidential test / public interest test)?*
- *Your stats team had previously said it isn’t possible to break down data by court area. Is there a way to break data down by police district, or would that need to come from PSNI?*
- *PSNI had suggested that it would be useful to compare the NMO data against data on granting of Restraining Orders, in case a dip in NMOs in a given year/area was counterbalanced by a rise in issuing of ROs. Would PPS hold data on that, or would that be something to request from NICTS?”*

In response, please see attached spreadsheet which provides data on Non-Molestation Orders (NMOs), occupancy breaches and Restraining Orders for the period 01/01/19 to 31/12/24.

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**