

[REDACTED]

FOI 528/24-25

3 April 2025

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 5 March 2025 in which you requested information in relation to unduly lenient cases. 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:

*“Under the Freedom of Information Act could you confirm how many “unduly lenient” cases have the PPS appealed since October 2014 and how many were successful”?*

In response, and in respect of your email dated 18 March 2025 in which you provided further clarification in respect of your request, please be advised that from October 2014 to date, of the 57 defendants referred by PPS to the Court of Appeal for unduly lenient sentences, 35 have resulted in an increase in sentence. One of the 35 cases with an increased sentence involved an offence of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving.

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**