

[REDACTED]

FOI 21/25-26

14 May 2025

[REDACTED]

We refer to your email dated 14 April 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:

“Please provide the policy and/or direction issued which forbids PPS staff/representatives from disclosing the identity of Directing Officers on request in open court, and further please set out the rationale for this”.

In response, please be advised that PPS do not have a *published* policy or direction which prevents staff from disclosing the identity of Directing Officers in open Court. However, a policy covering this issue is under development.

I can also confirm that it is current PPS practice to withhold staff names other than those at Grade 5 or above (i.e. Senior Civil Service roles or equivalent). This is in line with ICO guidance.

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