



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 131/25-26

7 August 2025

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 8 July 2025 in which you asked for information in respect of [REDACTED] case. 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 2000 please provide the following information:

(1) the total cost of the case of [REDACTED] NICC 19 to include (but not exclusively) (a) committal proceedings; (b) all pre-trial proceedings; (c) committal Judicial Review proceedings; (d) non-jury certificate proceedings; (e) trial

(2) a copy of notes of all in person briefings provided to the media on 3 and 4 July 2025 in respect of [REDACTED] et al.

(3) the total cost of travel and subsistence paid to [REDACTED] in respect of the case of [REDACTED] et al

(4) a copy of all communications and or electronic or written records seeking replacement counsel (due to the unavailability of [REDACTED]) in respect of the scheduled trial date in March 2025 (please note, the identity of the replacement counsel sought may be redacted, that is not of relevance. What is

required is material to evidence that such efforts to find replacement counsel were made)

(5) a copy of the standard PPS rates of payment for NI based counsel and PPS rates of payment for GB based counsel"

In response we can advise the following;

(Q1) the total cost of the case of [REDACTED] NICC 19 to include (but not exclusively) (a) committal proceedings; (b) all pre-trial proceedings; (c) committal Judicial Review proceedings; (d) non-jury certificate proceedings; (e) trial

In the absence of detailed records of time spent on individual cases it is not possible to produce precise costs for a particular case, or even average costs for a particular type of case. This is because the amount of time required to take individual decisions as to prosecution (and for related administrative tasks) will vary depending upon a range of factors including the complexity of the case, the extent of the case papers and any other work in hand. As the PPS does not charge clients for work done there is no business need for such detailed records to be maintained.

Some costs are identifiable however, including, for example, the fees paid to prosecuting counsel and expenses paid to witnesses. I can advise that Counsel costs paid to date total £102,015.24 including VAT of which £32,109.60 was in respect of Counsel fees relating to Judicial Review Proceedings. In addition, £1,847.90 has been paid to date to in respect of witness costs. Please note that some claims for expenses and Counsel fees are yet to be processed.

Therefore, total PPS costs to date are £103,863.14.

(Q2) a copy of notes of all in person briefings provided to the media on 3 and 4 July 2025 in respect of [REDACTED] et al.

Please see attached **Annex A**, a copy of notes of the in person briefing held on 3rd July 2025. There were no in person briefings held on 4th July 2025.

(Q3) the total cost of travel and subsistence paid to [REDACTED] in respect of the case of [REDACTED] et al

No travel and subsistence costs have been paid directly to [REDACTED] however costs totalling £6,658.65 for travel and accommodation have been paid by PPS on his behalf in respect of this case.

(Q4) a copy of all communications and or electronic or written records seeking replacement counsel (due to the unavailability of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in respect of the scheduled trial date in March 2025 (please note, the identity of the replacement counsel sought may be redacted, that is not of relevance. What is

required is material to evidence that such efforts to find replacement counsel were made)

Please see attached **Annex B**, copies of communications made, seeking replacement Counsel.

(5) a copy of the standard PPS rates of payment for NI based counsel and PPS rates of payment for GB based counsel.

Details of the Prosecution Fees Scheme can be found [here](#) . Please note, there is no separate scheme for GB based Counsel.

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

Annex B.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]
Date: 07 March 2025 12:38:59

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns please report for investigation.

Hi [REDACTED]

I am so sorry but have [REDACTED] due to start on [REDACTED] which is scheduled to last for 4 weeks. If anything changes I will let you know.

Apologies

[REDACTED]
King's Counsel

On 7 Mar 2025, at 12:16, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

This non-jury trial is listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The defendants are prosecuted for conspiracy to commit an offence of MIPO in relation to [REDACTED] evidence in the NAMA inquiry in September 2015. [REDACTED] are currently instructed and are unavailable for the trial date. [REDACTED] estimates that it will run through to Easter – I realise this is unlikely, but would you be available for this case?

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 (OFFICIAL)
Date: 06 March 2025 16:07:16

CAUTION - This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Thanks [REDACTED]

I have the R v [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] starting on [REDACTED] followed by
R v [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] so I am not available.

[REDACTED]

On 6 Mar 2025, at 17:03, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

This is a non-jury trial listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The defendants are prosecuted for conspiracy to commit an offence of MIPO in relation to [REDACTED] evidence in the NAMA inquiry in September 2015. [REDACTED] are currently instructed and are unavailable for the trial date. [REDACTED] estimates that it will run through to Easter - I realise this is unlikely, but would you be available for this case?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

www.ppsni.gov.uk

<image003.jpg>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]
Date: 07 March 2025 12:05:05

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

I'm afraid I don't have capacity at the minute to take a trial on in March.
Sorry not to be able to help out.

[REDACTED]

King's Counsel



[REDACTED]

Web: www.barcni.com
[View my Profile](#)

The Bar Library
91 Chichester Street, Belfast
BT1 3JQ, Northern Ireland
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9024 1523

On 7 Mar 2025, at 09:08, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

This is a non-jury trial listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The defendants are prosecuted for conspiracy to commit an offence of MIPO in relation to [REDACTED] evidence in the NAMA inquiry in September 2015. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are currently instructed and are unavailable for the trial date. [REDACTED] estimates that it will run through to Easter – I realise this is unlikely, but would you be available for this case?

Thanks



Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

www.ppsni.gov.uk

<Image003.jpg>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 (OFFICIAL)
Date: 06 March 2025 17:01:06

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

Thanks - I have two central cases listed around that time.

R v [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I think [REDACTED] will come out of the list and the other has struggled to get on also but I think it would be too big a risk taking on the [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

King's Counsel



[REDACTED]

Web: www.baronni.com
[View my Profile](#)

The Bar Library
91 Clchester Street, Belfast
BT1 3JQ, Northern Ireland
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9024 1523

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2025 16:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 (OFFICIAL)

[REDACTED]

Further to my message, this is a non-jury trial listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The



1990

Independent
Fair
Effective

Thu 6 Mar

I don't suppose you would be free
for a trial against [REDACTED]
starting 24th march in Belfast? Not
sure how long it is estimated to last
- waiting to hear from [REDACTED]

13:25 ✓✓



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 096603 - review 10th March (OFFICIAL)
Date: 07 March 2015 12:46:00

[REDACTED]

For the purposes of Monday's review, please note that I have made efforts to secure alternative counsel for the current trial date with no success.

The following SC have been approached however are all currently unavailable due to on-going trials:

[REDACTED] KC
[REDACTED] KC
[REDACTED] KC
[REDACTED] KC

Any problems, let me know.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

[REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Bellast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

www.ppsni.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: R v [REDACTED] (OFFICIAL)
Date: 07 March 2025 16:59:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

No problem [REDACTED]

I had restricted my net to our most experienced Senior Counsel instructed by Central (who would also be DVed – although that is not necessarily an issue in this case). Another option would have been [REDACTED] KC [REDACTED]. I will speak to [REDACTED] with respect to other counsel.

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]
Date: 10 March 2025 09:57:00

Thanks [REDACTED] - I will contact you next week if needed.

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 07 March 2025 18:37
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Hi [REDACTED]

At the moment I'm not. I am in [REDACTED] that is meant to start on [REDACTED] this may not get on because I am also due to start [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] which will run for 4 weeks in front of the same Judge. There is a possibility however neither get on. If so I would be free but won't know until next week.

I'm not sure that really helps you much?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Junior Counsel

[REDACTED]
Web: www.baroini.com

The Bar Library
91 Chichester Street, Belfast
BT1 3JQ, Northern Ireland
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9024 1523

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 07 March 2025 17:26

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]

This non-jury trial is listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The defendants are prosecuted for conspiracy to commit an offence of MIPO in relation to [REDACTED] evidence in the NAMA inquiry in September 2015. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] are currently instructed and are unavailable for the trial date.

[REDACTED] estimates that it will run through to Easter – I realise this is unlikely, but would you be available for this case if we are required to instruct a new counsel team?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

www.ppsni.gov.uk

<image003.jpg>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Our client: [REDACTED] PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]
Date: 10 March 2025 10:44:00

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2025 10:14
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Our client: [REDACTED] PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]
Trial date vacated. Will be in May. I will make myself available.
Speak later.
Best,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 10 Mar 2025, at 09:05, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]
In addition to the 5 Senior Counsel who are unable to take this case, I have also contacted 2 Junior Counsel who are also unavailable.

[REDACTED] has given a preliminary indication that [REDACTED] can take this case however [REDACTED] is currently away until the [REDACTED] March and unable to give [REDACTED] availability until [REDACTED] returns.

I hope this helps.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 March 2025 17:49
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Our client [REDACTED] PPS v [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]
PPS Ref: 896603 [OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]

I have spoken to [REDACTED] - he does not consider that there are any other Senior Counsel beyond the 5 which I have previously listed with the appropriate experience to prosecute this case. I have contacted junior counsel and so far, no one is available - I will keep on this.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 (OFFICIAL)
Date: 07 March 2025 17:35:00

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 March 2025 17:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PPS v [REDACTED] PPS Ref: 896603 (OFFICIAL)

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

To be honest, I would probably find this difficult given that I have [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] trial starting in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] which has been estimated at 3
weeks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Email: [REDACTED]
Secure mail: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

The Bar Library
91 Chichester Street Belfast
BT1 3JQ, Northern Ireland

On 7 Mar 2025, at 17:07, [REDACTED]

wrote:

[REDACTED]

This non-jury trial is listed in Belfast on the 24 March. The defendants are prosecuted for conspiracy to commit an offence of MIPO in relation to [REDACTED] evidence in the NAMA inquiry in September 2015. [REDACTED] are currently instructed and are unavailable for the trial date. [REDACTED] estimates that it will run through to Easter - I realise this is unlikely, but would you be available for this case if we are required to instruct a new counsel team?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Senior Public Prosecutor
Central Casework

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

www.ppsni.gov.uk

<image003.jpg>