

FOI 254/25-26

20 November 2025

We refer to your email dated 28th October 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:

"I am writing about the costs of the so-called Soldier F prosecution, involving a former paratrooper.

I am making an FOI request.

Please state the total cost of this prosecution to the date this request is answered. Please provide the overall cost and a breakdown including (but not limited to) lawyer/barrister fees, court costs, all other legal costs. Please also include the first, aborted prosecution."

In response, I can advise that 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 (which include the first prosecution) total £362,552.44, of which £116,914.34 was in respect of Counsel fees relating to Judicial Review. In addition, £771.00 has been paid to date in respect of witness costs.

Please note that some claims for Counsel fees are yet to be processed.

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