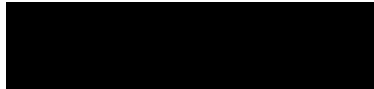




Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

22 October 2020



FOI 885-20/21



I refer to your email dated 25 September 2020 in which you asked the PPS for information in respect of unserved summonses.

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. Firstly, 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 for the following:

*“Can I get the current number of unserved summonses please?”*

As at 10 October 2020 there were 1,833 summary prosecution decisions pending issue of a summons to the Magistrates’ Courts (i.e. the issue of a *first* summons to each of the defendants).<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> This figure is based on suspects with a summary decision on file where a task of “issue decision documentation” has not been completed.

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 clearly 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,

**PPS FOI Team**