



PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE
POLICY AND INFORMATION SECTION
BELFAST CHAMBERS
93 CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST
BT1 3JR
Tel. (028) 9054 2444

Our Ref: FOI 453/18-19

27 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 31 May 2018 in which you asked for information in respect of the service of summonses by the PPS to people outside the United Kingdom.

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 for the following:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet breakdown of all conviction summonses' served by the PPS to people outside the UK between 2012 and 2017 (or the longest time period possible to comply with cost and time exemptions).

Please provide the following column headings for each conviction:

- *Date conviction summons was issued;*
- *Date of court appearance;*
- *Country of residence of individual summons was issued to;*
- *Gender of individual;*
- *Age or age band of individual;*
- *Reason summons was issued e.g. description of the offence;*
- *Was the conviction confirmed by the court or thrown out (yes or no);*
- *Was the summons accompanied by a proof of service (yes or no).*

In response to your request, please see the attached spreadsheet setting out data on summonses issued to persons outside the UK. Please note that this is based on suspects' current address as recorded on the PPS Case

Management System, and that this may have changed since the summons was issued.

The information is spread across eight Excel worksheets as follows:

1. Total summonses issued.
2. Summonses issued by year of issue.
3. Summonses issued by year of court appearance (i.e. as recorded on the summons).
4. Summonses issued by country (i.e. outside the UK).
5. Summonses issued by gender of defendant.
6. Summonses issued by age of defendant.
7. Summonses issued by offence.
8. Summonses issued by outcome.

All statistics cover the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes, which are set out in the various worksheets.

In respect of proof of service an 'Acknowledgment by Defendant of Receiving Summons and related Papers by Post' is issued with all postal summonses. A 'Notification of Guilty Plea and Statement of Mitigating Circumstances' is issued in all circumstances where the type of offence permits a guilty plea by post.

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 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 Section