

[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

FOI 667/17-18
1 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 30 June 2018 in which you asked a number of questions regarding prosecutions for wasting police time, perverting the course of justice and perjury.

This 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 can you provide me with the following information for the time period 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017 for Northern Ireland. If the offence has a different name to those used in England and Wales, please provide details for the equivalent classification.

1. The number of successful prosecutions for each of these crimes:

Wasting Police Time

Pervverting the Course of Justice

Perjury

2. Details of the original offences that were being prosecuted, for which the defendant is alleged to have committed one of the above offences."

In response to question 1, please note that 'successful prosecutions' has been defined to mean convictions at court. Table 1 below provides the number of defendants convicted in the Crown and Magistrates' Courts in Northern

Ireland for the selected offences from 1st January - 31st December 2017. A list of all of the offences considered is also provided.

In respect of question 2, I can advise that while this information may be held as part of the incident details in each case, it is not held in a form which can readily be extracted from the PPS Case Management System – i.e. without carrying out a manual search of all cases. This would easily exceed the cost limit as defined in Section 12 of the Act which makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, for the PPS as a Government Department the limit is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request under the Freedom of Information Act you have the right to request a review in accordance with our review procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of this response 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

Table 1:
Defendants Convicted in the Crown / Magistrates' Courts for Selected
Offences 1st January - 31st December 2017

Crown Court	No. of Defendants Convicted
Perverting the Course of Justice	12
Magistrates' Court	
Wasteful Employment of Police Time – False Report of Commission of Offence	2
Wasting Police Time by False Report Concerning Offence	20
Wasting Police Time by False Report of Person's Safety	6

Offences Considered

Complaint Offence Description	Complaint Offence Legislation
PERJURY BY WITNESS	Article 3 of the Perjury (Northern Ireland) Order 1979
PERVERTING THE COURSE OF JUSTICE	Common Law
WASTEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF POLICE TIME - FALSE REPORT OF COMMISSION OF OFFENCE	Section 5(3) of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967
AIDING AND ABETTING WASTING POLICE TIME BY FALSE REPORT CONCERNING OFFENCE	Section 5(3) of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967
WASTING POLICE TIME BY FALSE REPORT CONCERNING OFFENCE	Section 5(3) of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967
WASTING POLICE TIME BY FALSE REPORT OF PERSONS SAFETY	Section 5(3) of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967
WASTING POLICE TIME BY FALSE REPORT OF HAVING INFORMATION	Section 5(3) of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

