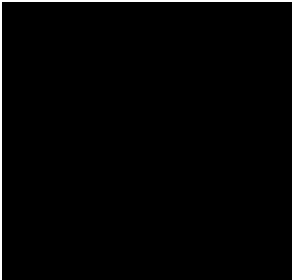




Policy and Information Unit
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

12 October 2020



FOI 751 -20/21



I refer to your email dated 11 September 2020 in which you asked for 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 for the following and in response please see below;

1 How long does the complaint-evidence stay on PPS computer system?

Any complaints or evidence shared with PPS from PSNI that is provided in digital format is held on the PPS computer system indefinitely.

2 If complaint and evidence is moved to another backing system or archives how long will remain on archives system?

PPS does not move complaints or evidence to back up. PPS takes a copy to back up. As per question 1 evidence and complaints remain on the core system indefinitely.

3 If Information is only held for a couple of years how can you track re-offenders and their history?

See the response to question one.

4 Who is the overall data manager for the PPS?

The PPS Data Protection Officer is Mr Seth Speirs and the SIRO is Mr Ian Hearst. This information is available on the PPS website www.ppsni.gov.uk.

5 Who is the director of the PPS/head honcho/overall person in charge?

The PPS is headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, Stephen Herron.

6 Who is the PPSNI director direct boss above him/her?

The Director is appointed by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

The Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 provides for the Director and Attorney General for Northern Ireland to consult with each other as required on any matter for which the Attorney General is accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

At present a number of prosecutorial matters are reserved to Parliament at Westminster. Duties in respect of these matters are performed by the Advocate General for Northern Ireland, who is the Attorney General for England and Wales.

7 Practices policies procedures legislation law on the removal of Director Prosecution Service Northern Ireland

Relevant procedures are set out at section 43(2) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002.

8 Complaint procedures for Complaining against the director public prosecution service Northern Ireland

Complaints concerning the conduct of the Director should be addressed to the Attorney General for Northern Ireland. All other complaints concerning PPS officials should be submitted in line with the PPS complaints policy which is available at www.ppsni.gov.uk.

9 Procedures for Removal of prosecutors/investigators

Failure by Public Prosecutors to adhere to the Northern Ireland Civil Service Code of Ethics or to the PPS Code of Ethics (as set out in the Code for Prosecutors) may result in disciplinary proceedings, potentially leading to suspension or dismissal.

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