



**Public
Prosecution
Service**

**Policy and Information Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR**

[REDACTED]

FOI 112/21-22

18th May 2021

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 20th April 2021 in which you asked for information regarding the criminal prosecutions of Postmasters in Post/Crown Offices between January 1999 and December 2019. 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:

1. "Did the PPSNI prosecute any postmasters or officials working in Post Offices, or Crown Offices, in Northern Ireland between January 1999 and December 2019?;
2. If so, how many people were prosecuted?
3. Did any of the prosecutions lead to convictions, and the number of convictions (if applicable)?

Please note that we are only asking for numbers at this stage and are not seeing disclosure of personal data".

In response to question 1, I can confirm the PPS did prosecute postmasters or officials working in Post Offices in Northern Ireland between January 1999 and December 2019.

In response to question 2, I can advise 23 Post Office employees were prosecuted.

In response to question 3, I can advise out of the 23 prosecutions, 19 resulted in convictions however in 5 of these cases information on the outcome is not held by the PPS.

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