



**Public  
Prosecution  
Service**

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 521/21-22

15/07/2021

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in which you asked for information regarding legacy cases and grouping of defendants. 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:

“Can you tell us the number of unique defendants, by grouping. By the number of unique defendants, we are seeking to clarify that a case may have more than one defendant, as well as the possibility that someone may be tried in more than one case. The objective of our request is to learn the number of suspects, by grouping, so we can make an analysis of the PPS consideration of legacy cases, by groupings of individuals. For example, the information that you provided in your previous document in regards to the number of military suspects helped us analyse that grouping of cases”.

In response to your question please see below:

Republican Suspects

There are 23 cases involving republican suspects; 18 of which with 1 suspect, 4 cases with 2 suspects and 1 case with 6 suspects. Two suspects are associated with 2 of these cases.

### Loyalist Suspects

There are 8 cases involving loyalist suspects; 4 of which with 1 suspect, 2 cases with 2 suspects, 1 case with 7 suspects and 1 case with 9 suspects. One suspect is associated with 3 of these cases and a further 2 persons appear in two cases.

### Military/Police Suspects

There are 14 cases involving military/police suspects; 8 of which with 1 suspect, 3 cases with 2 suspects, 2 cases with 5 suspects and 1 case with 18 suspects. There are no suspects associated with more than one case.

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](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,

**Information Management Team**  
**Public Prosecution Service**