



**Public
Prosecution
Service**

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 851/21-22

17/08/2021

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 11th August 2021 in which you asked for information in relation to Hare Coursing prosecutions under section 38 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. 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:

“Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I request;

- (a) the number of prosecutions mounted and
- (b) the number of convictions as a result

Under s38 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in each year since its commencement”.

In response I can advise that over the period 2011-2020, there have been 2 prosecutions under s38 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, neither of which resulted in any convictions.

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,

Information Management Team
Public Prosecution Service