

[REDACTED]

FOI 1002/21-22

20/09/2021

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 31st August 2021 in which you asked for information regarding the number of cautions issued for harassment. 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:

“How many people have been provided with cautions within the last year or so for violent harassment / non-violent harassment?”

In response, please be advised that no cautions were issued during the last financial year (1/4/20 to 31/3/21) for the offence of ‘Causing another to fear violence’ under Article 6 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

However, a total of 22 cautions were issued for other harassment offences during this period. It should be noted that of these offences, one involved a very minor element of violence.

A list of all the offences considered is provided below:

Offence Description	Offence Legislation
Harassment	Article 4(1) of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Harassment	Articles 3 and 4 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.
Unlawful harassment of an occupier of rented property	Article 54(1) of the Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978
Causing another to fear violence	Article 6 of the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

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 Information Management Team