



Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 1399/21-22

29 November 2021

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in which you asked for information regarding breaches of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. 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. The number of files received by PPS in relation to an alleged breach of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.
2. How many decisions have been taken in relation to these files and please outline the number of decisions to prosecute and to not prosecute.
3. Where there has been a court outcome in relation to these files, can you please provide details?

In response, please be advised Tables 1-3 below outline the number of files received and decisions issued in relation to breaches of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 – *up to 23 November 2021*. Table 4 details the Magistrates' Court outcomes in these cases. Please note that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 came into force on 16 April 2021.

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**Table 1: Files Received**

Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
12	13

**Table 2: Decisions Issued (Relating to Required Offences)**

Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No prosecution	Total
6	-	3	#

"-" represents a number less than 3 that has been suppressed to avoid disclosure.

"#" represents a number of  $\geq 3$  which has been suppressed to avoid disclosing small numbers elsewhere.

**Table 3: Prosecution Decisions Issued for other Offences**

Summary Prosecution	Diversion	Total
0	0	0

**Table 4: Magistrates' Court Outcomes (Relating to Required Offences)**

Plea of guilty on all charges	Plea of not guilty on at least one charge - found guilty of at least one charge	Plea of not guilty - acquitted on all charges	Total
0	2	0	2

Note: There are 4 suspects awaiting an outcome.

A list of the offences considered in this response can be found at **Annex A**.

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**

## Annex A: List of Offences Considered in the Analysis

Legislation	Complaint offence descriptions
Regulation of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Contravention of a requirement under Regulation 4, 6, 8, 19, 20 or 21 the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
	Contravention of a requirement under Regulation 10 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
	Contravention of a requirement under paragraph 4 or 14(a) of Schedule 7 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021