



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

[REDACTED]

Our reference: 1842/21-22

21 February 2022

[REDACTED]

I refer to your e-mail dated 8 February 2022 in which you asked for information relating to the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. 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 asked the following:

"I would like to request figures for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 for the numbers of the below offences in which a prosecution commenced - Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 Section 13 Abstracting of Electricity".

In response, please see table below which provides data in respect of prosecutorial decisions issued between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021 for offences under section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969.

	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
2018	13	34	6	22	75
2019	12	44	3	17	76
2020	8	18	-	9	#
2021	19	10	0	-	#
Total	52	106	#	#	219

'-' indicates numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects/defendants. '#' indicates numbers of 3 or greater suppressed to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

Data are based on date most serious decision issued.

Offences considered under the specified legislation

Decision Offence Code Description	Decision Offence Legislation
DISHONESTLY USING ELECTRICITY	Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969
DISHONESTLY CAUSING ELECTRICITY TO BE DIVERTED	Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969

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