



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 472/22-23

19 August 2022

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 10th August 2022 in which you asked for information regarding prosecutions in relation to Covid regulation breaches. 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:

“Confirmation as to how many prosecutions have issued in respect of breach of covid regulations and what petty session district have they been issued in (if any?)”

In response, please see tables below, the list of offences considered can be found at **Annex A**.

Decisions issued for Coronavirus Offences between 01/04/2020 and 09/08/2022

Based on Most Serious Decision issued Date

Year	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
2020	49	11	12	72
2021	473	92	149	714
2022	135	9	85	229
Total	657	112	246	1,015

Independent, fair and effective

Number of Summary Prosecutions by Court Venue

Court Venue Name	Number of Suspects
Antrim Courthouse	8
Armagh Courthouse	23
Ballymena Courthouse	20
Banbridge Court residing at Newry Courthouse	6
Coleraine Courthouse	9
Craigavon Courthouse	31
Downpatrick Courthouse	11
Dungannon Courthouse	32
Enniskillen Courthouse	44
Laganside Courthouse	243
Limavady Courthouse	11
Lisburn Courthouse	67
Londonderry Courthouse	76
Magherafelt Courthouse	19
Newry Courthouse	27
Newtownards Courthouse	18
Omagh Courthouse	13
Royal Courts of Justice	5
Strabane Courthouse	16
	43* see below
Total	722

**This figure represents the number of suspects who have not yet been assigned a court venue.*

However, please be advised the decision to prosecute is taken by PPS Prosecutors in accordance with Code for Prosecutors and is not taken at Court. Therefore, the data provided is for the Court venue assigned to the suspect, rather than where the decision to prosecute was taken. Suspects can appear at multiple courts and in such instances will be counted on more than one occasion in our statistics. For this reason, the total in this list differs from the total for summary prosecutions (657) given in the table above.

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

Independent, fair and effective

Annex A

Complaint Offence Description	Complaint Offence Legislation
Failure to comply with any direction, reasonable instruction, requirement or restriction given to or imposed on you, by a public health officer	Schedule 21 Part 5 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, contrary to paragraph 88(1)(a) of said Act
Failure to comply with duty as an individual who has responsibility for a child	Schedule 21 Part 5 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, contrary to paragraph 88(1)(b) of said Act
Absconded or attempted to abscond from a place specified in a direction to you by a public health officer	Schedule 21 Part 5 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, contrary to paragraph 88(1)(c) of said Act
Knowingly provided false information or misleading information in response to a requirement to, in connection with any power under the Act	Schedule 21 Part 5 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, contrary to paragraph 88(1)(d) of said Act
Obstruction of a person in the exercise or attempted exercise of a power as conferred by the Act	Schedule 21 Part 5 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, contrary to paragraph 88(1)(e) of the said Act
Enforcement of Part 1A Orders	Schedule 18 paragraph 25O(1) of the Coronavirus Act 2020
Wilful obstruction of anyone acting in the execution of a Part 1A order	Schedule 18 paragraph 25O(1)(b) of the Coronavirus Act 2020
Obstruction of an officer acting in the due execution of a warrant or right to enter any premises	Schedule 18 section 25T of the Coronavirus Act 2020
Aiding and Abetting Contravention of a Requirement under Health Protection Regulations 3,4,6 or 7	Regulation 8(1)(a) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020
Contravention of a requirement under regulation 3, 4, 6 or 7	Regulation 8(1)(a) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020
Contravention of Regulation 5	Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020

Independent, fair and effective

Contravention of requirement in Regulation 5	Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI)2020
Obstruction of any person carrying out a function under the Regulations	Regulation 8(2) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020
Contravention of a direction or failure to comply with a reasonable instruction or a prohibition notice given under Regulation 7	Regulation 8(3) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020
Failing to comply with a direction to suspend port operations	Schedule 20(6)(1) of The Coronavirus Act 2020
Failing without reasonable excuse to comply with a prohibition/requirement to close buildings or to impose restrictions on persons entering or remaining on them	Schedule 22 paragraph 44(1) of The Coronavirus Act 2020
As officer of a Body Corporate failing, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a prohibition, requirement or restriction imposed by a direction under Schedule 22 of The Coronavirus Act 2020	Schedule 22 paragraph 45(1) of The Coronavirus Act 2020
Contravention of a requirement under Regulation 3 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020	6(1)(a) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Contravention of a requirement under Regulation 4 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020	Regulation 6 (1)(b) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Contravention of a requirement imposed under Regulation 5 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020	6(1)(c) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Obstruction of any person carrying out a function under the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020	6(2) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

Independent, fair and effective

Intentionally or recklessly provided false or misleading information in response to a requirement in connection with any power under the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulation	Regulation 6(3) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Requirement to wear a face mask covering on public transport	Regulation 6B of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Failure to wear a face covering whilst entering or remaining within a relevant place, without reasonable excuse	Regulation 7(1) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (NI) 2020
Encouraging or assisting in the contravention of Health protection regulations (Coronavirus, Restrictions)	Regulation 8(1)(a) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2020 and section 44 of the Serious Crime Act 2007
Aiding and Abetting a contravention of a requirement under regulation 4, 5, 6 or Schedule 2	Regulation 8(1) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Contravention of a requirement under regulation 4, 5, 6 or Schedule 2	Regulation 8(1) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Contravention of restriction of movement during emergency period (OFFENCES ON OR AFTER 07/01/21)	Regulation 8(1)of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Obstructing a person carrying out a function under the Regulations	Regulation 8(2) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Failure to comply with a prohibition	Regulation 8(3) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Face Coverings	Regulation 7(1) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Face coverings - obstruction	Regulation 7(2) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Face Coverings - contravene direction	Regulation 7(3) of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
Aiding and abetting Contravention of a requirement under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 22(1) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Independent, fair and effective

(To take effect from 9th April 2021) Contravention of a requirement under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 22(1) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
(To take effect from 9th April 2021) Obstructing a person carrying out a function under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 22(2) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
(To take effect from 9th April 2021) Contravention of a direction or reasonable instruction or failure to comply with an improvement notice or a prohibition notice given by a relevant officer under th	Regulation 22(3) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) 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	Regulation 23(1) of 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	Regulation 23(1)(d) 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	Regulation 23(1)(e) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
Obstructing a person carrying out a function under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 23(3) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
Providing false information under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 23(4) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Independent, fair and effective

Operator contravening Regulation 17(3) or 18(3) of The Health Protection (International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 23(5) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
Contravention of a requirement under Schedule 7 (other than paragraphs 4, 13 or 14(a)) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021	Regulation 23(1)(f) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Independent, fair and effective