



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 517/22-23

23 September 2022

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 5 September 2022 in which you asked for information in relation to sex offenders who fail to comply with the notification requirement. 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. *“In each of the past three financial years, please provide the number of offences committed by sex offenders of failure to comply with the notification requirement. Please break down these data by Police Service of Northern Ireland policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.*
2. *In each of the past three financial years, please provide the number of individual sex offenders who were alleged to have failed to comply with the notification requirement e.g. if an individual has been charged with multiple similar offences, this number will be lower than the answer to question one. Please break down these data by Police Service of Northern Ireland policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.*

3. *In each of the past three financial years, please provide the number of prosecutions commenced against sex offenders for failure to comply with the notification requirement. Please break down these data by Police Service of Northern Ireland policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.*

4. *Please provide these data in an .xlsx/.xls/.csv file format so I am capable to re-use them as per Section 11 of Fol.”*

Please see tables below.

- Table 1 provides the numbers of offences and suspects on files received by the PPS for the financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22. Please note that it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the data by PSNI Policing District.

- Table 2 provides the number of prosecution decisions issued by PPS for these offences over the same period. Again, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the data by PSNI Policing District.

- Table 3 provides a list of offences included in the analysis.

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

Table 1: Numbers of Offences and Suspects for Relevant Offences for Files Received 2019/20 – 2021/22

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Offences	Suspects	Offences	Suspects	Offences	Suspects
Total	108	99	111	104	103	95

Table 2: Number of Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences Based on Files Received 2019/20 – 2021/22

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Total	85	89	79

Table 3: Offences Included in the Analysis

Offence Description	Legislation
FAILING TO COMPLY WITH NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS RE: CHANGES	SECTION 91(1) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
BREACH OF SEXUAL OFFENCES PREVENTION ORDER (FAILURE TO NOTIFY INTENTION TO BE ABSENT FROM REGISTERED ADDRESS)	SECTION 91 (1)(A) SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
FAILURE TO NOTIFY A CHANGE IN PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES	SECTION 84(1)(CA), CONTRARY TO SECTION 91(1)(A) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO MAKE AN ANNUAL RE-NOTIFICATION	ARTICLE 91(1)(A) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO NOTIFY POLICE IN TIME OF CHANGE OF NAME	ARTICLE 91(1)(A) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO NOTIFY POLICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS IN TIME	SECTION 91(1) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO NOTIFY POLICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS IN TIME	SECTION 91(1)(A) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO NOTIFY POLICE OF INTENTION TO TRAVEL	SECTION 91(1)(A) SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003
SEX OFFENDER FAILING TO NOTIFY POLICE OF INTENTION TO TRAVEL WITHIN THE UK	SECTION 91(1)(A) OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003