



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 540/22-23

14 October 2022

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 19 September 2022 in which you asked for information in relation to driving offences. 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:

"I would like you to provide me with the number of driving offences considered for prosecution in Northern Ireland over the past 5 years, decision to prosecute, and not to prosecute due to evidential test not being met and public interest test not being met. I would like this information for the following offences:

1. *Dangerous driving*
2. *Careless or inconsiderate driving*
3. *Fleeing the scene of an accident (injury)*
4. *Fleeing the scene of an accident (damage only)*
5. *Driving under the influence*
6. *Driving while unfit through alcohol/drugs*
7. *In charge while unfit*
8. *Failure to provide a specimen".*

In response, see tables at **Annex A** below:

- Tables 1 and 2 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Dangerous Driving between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 3 and 4 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Careless or Inconsiderate Driving between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 5 and 6 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Fleeing the Scene of an Accident (Injury) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 7 and 8 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Fleeing the Scene of an Accident (Damage Only) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 9 and 10 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Driving under the Influence between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 11 and 12 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Driving While Unfit Through Drink or Drugs between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 13 and 14 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of In Charge When Unfit Through Drink or Drugs between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.
- Tables 15 and 16 provide the numbers of prosecution and no prosecution decisions issued for the offence of Failure to Provide a Specimen between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2022.

These tables should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. The list of relevant offences considered in the analysis is detailed in the tables.

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. Please detail 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

Annex A

Table 1: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on first papers received date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	706	167	873
2018/19	613	151	764
2019/20	514	161	675
2020/21	624	131	755
2021/22	590	126	716
Total	3,047	736	3,783

Table 2: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on first papers received date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	#	-
2018/19	145	6
2019/20	158	3
2020/21	#	#
2021/22	122	4
Total	718	18

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

*Relevant Offences

Description	Legislation
DANGEROUS DRIVING	Article 10 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

Table 3: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on first papers received date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	2,042	668	2,710
2018/19	1,844	587	2,431
2019/20	1,730	506	2,236
2020/21	1,373	420	1,793
2021/22	1,352	402	1,754
Total	8,341	2,583	10,924

Table 4: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on first papers received date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	632	36
2018/19	552	35
2019/20	487	19
2020/21	412	8
2021/22	385	17
Total	2,468	115

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
DRIVING WITHOUT DUE CARE AND ATTENTION	Article 12 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
DRIVING WITHOUT REASONABLE CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS	Article 12 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Table 5: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	100	64	164
2018/19	75	57	132
2019/20	65	62	127
2020/21	67	35	102
2021/22	81	40	121
Total	388	258	646

Table 6: Number of No Prosecution decisions issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	64	0
2018/19	#	-
2019/20	#	-
2020/21	35	0
2021/22	#	-
Total	254	4

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
FAILING TO REMAIN WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING INJURY	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
FAILING TO STOP WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING INJURY	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
FAILING TO REPORT WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING DAMAGE AND INJURY	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

Table 7: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	598	167	765
2018/19	543	170	713
2019/20	567	192	759
2020/21	535	157	692
2021/22	502	120	622
Total	2,745	806	3,551

Table 8: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	#	#
2018/19	160	10
2019/20	185	7
2020/21	#	-
2021/22	114	6
Total	777	29

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

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***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
FAILING TO REMAIN WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING DAMAGE	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
FAILING TO STOP WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING DAMAGE	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
FAILING TO REPORT WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING DAMAGE	Article 175 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

Table 9: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	1,498	58	1,556
2018/19	1,450	68	1,518
2019/20	1,521	67	1,588
2020/21	1,319	45	1,364
2021/22	1,395	38	1,433
Total	7,183	276	7,459

Table 10: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	58	0
2018/19	#	-
2019/20	#	-
2020/21	#	-
2021/22	#	-
Total	271	5

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH	Article 16(1)(a) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD	Article 16(1)(a) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
DRIVING WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE	Article 16(1)(a) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Table 11: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	600	62	662
2018/19	618	44	662
2019/20	564	79	643
2020/21	616	63	679
2021/22	655	36	691
Total	3,053	284	3,337

Table 12: Number of No Prosecution decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	62	0
2018/19	#	#
2019/20	73	6
2020/21	#	-
2021/22	36	0
Total	273	11

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
DRIVING WHEN UNFIT THROUGH DRINK OR DRUGS	Article 15(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

Table 13: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	285	22	307
2018/19	255	18	273
2019/20	300	23	323
2020/21	287	19	306
2021/22	275	20	295
Total	1,402	102	1,504

Table 14: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	#	-
2018/19	#	-
2019/20	#	-
2020/21	19	0
2021/22	20	0
Total	98	4

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
IN CHARGE WHEN UNFIT THROUGH DRINK OR DRUGS	Article 15(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BREATH	Article 16(1)(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
IN CHARGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN BLOOD	Article 16(1)(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
IN CHARGE WITH EXCESS ALCOHOL IN URINE	Article 16(1)(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Table 15: Number of Prosecutorial Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total Decisions
2017/18	312	10	322
2018/19	299	9	308
2019/20	334	22	356
2020/21	340	8	348
2021/22	327	13	340
Total	1,612	62	1,674

Table 16: Number of No Prosecution Decisions Issued by PPS for Relevant Offences* for Files Received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Based on First Papers Received Date

Year	Did not pass evidential test	Did not pass public interest test
2017/18	10	0
2018/19	9	0
2019/20	#	-
2020/21	#	-
2021/22	13	0
Total	59	3

"-" = Numbers suppressed to avoid disclosure of categories containing fewer than three suspects

"#" = Numbers 3 or greater suppressed in order to prevent disclosure of smaller numbers elsewhere.

***Relevant Offences**

Description	Legislation
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN WHEN DRIVING UNFIT	Article 18(7) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
FAILING TO PROVIDE SPECIMEN OF BREATH FOR PRELIMINARY TEST	Article 17(6) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995