



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

Our reference: 675/22-23

7 December 2022

I refer to your e-mail dated 15 November 2022 in which you asked for information relating to the PPS Statistical Bulletin for 2021/22. 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:

“Of the 13,921 decisions for no prosecution, the vast majority (97%) did not pass the evidential test. The remaining 3% did not pass the public interest test.”

<https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/sites/ppsnifiles/publications/Statistical%20Bulletin%202021-22.pdf>

1. *I would like the figure of 13,921 broken down by the 12 categories of offence revealed in Figure 2.*

Figure 3 concerns files submitted by bodies other than the police.

2. *Please provide the number of decisions for no prosecution you took in the case of (i) the DVA and (ii) the Police Ombudsman”.*

In response to your first question, please see Table 1 below which provides the number of PPS decisions issued for no prosecution by primary offence classification for the 2021/22 financial year. These data are categorised by Department of Justice Standardised Recorded Crime Groups which are in turn based on the primary offence (generally the most serious offence) for each file received by the PPS. Where files include multiple suspects, each suspect on that file will be categorised according to the same overall primary offence.

Table 1: No Prosecution Decisions Issued by the PPS by Recorded Crime Group (Primary Offence) 2021/22

DOJ Standardised Recorded Crime Groups (Primary Offence)	No of Persons (Decisions Issued)
Burglary	327
Criminal Damage & Arson	1,428
Drugs Offences	419
Fraud	190
Other miscellaneous and unclassified offences	731
Motoring Offences	644
Possession of Weapons	247
Public order	255
Robbery	68
Sexual Offences	960
Theft	802
Violence against the person	7,848
All "No Prosecution" decisions issued	13,919

Note: Based on Most Serious Decision Issued Date and DOJ Standardised Recorded Crime Groups (Primary Offence).

In response to your second question, please find the figures below relating to the numbers of no prosecution decisions issued in 2021/22 where the file source was either the Driver and Vehicle Agency (Enforcement Section) or the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

Table 2: No Prosecution Decisions Issued for Files Submitted by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (Enforcement Section) and Police Ombudsman 2021/22

File Source	Number of Persons (Decisions Issued)
Driver and Vehicle Agency (Enforcement Section)	5
Police Ombudsman	137

Note: Based on Most Serious Decision Issued Date

Finally, please note that the figures in Tables 1 and 2 were produced from the 'live' PPS Case Management System (CMS) in November 2022. As a result, the total

number of decisions may differ very slightly from those published in the Statistical Bulletin in June 2022.

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 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