



PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE
POLICY AND INFORMATION SECTION
BELFAST CHAMBERS
93 CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST
BT1 3JR
Tel. (028) 9054 2444



14 November 2018

Dear 

I refer to your email dated 31 October 2018 in which you asked for the statistics on who has been reported, prosecuted or criminalised for having had, attempted to have, or forced someone else to have, an abortion in Northern Ireland.

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 for the following;

"The statistics on who has been reported, prosecuted or criminalised for having had, attempted to have, or forced someone else to have, an abortion in Northern Ireland".

In response please see Table 1a below detailing files received between 1 January 2010 and 7 November 2018 in respect of offences related to abortion in Northern Ireland.

Table 1b details prosecutorial decisions issued by the PPS between 1 January 2010 and 7 November 2018 in respect of the requested offences and Table 1c details prosecution decisions made for offences other than those related to abortion for the same period.

Table 2a and Table 2b details the overall outcomes in the Magistrates' Courts and Crown Courts respectively for defendants dealt with under the requested offences on files received between 1 January 2010 and 7th November 2018.

A list of all of the offences considered is also provided in Table 3.

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 FOI Section

Table 1a Files Received with a complaint of requested offences* between 1st January 2010 and 7th November 2018

Based on First Papers Received Date

Calendar Year-File received	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
2010	3	5
2011	4	5
2012	2	2
2013	2	2
2014	2	2
2015	4	5
2017	4	8
Total	21	29

*For a list of offences considered in the request please see Table 3.

Table 1b Decisions Issued on Files Received with a complaint of requested offences* between 1st January 2010 and 7th November 2018

Based on Most Serious Decision Issued

Calendar Year-File received	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No prosecution
2010	*	0	0	-
2011	*	0	0	3
2012	*	0	0	-
2013	*	0	0	-
2014	*	0	0	-
2015	*	0	0	-
2017	*	0	-	7
Total	6	0	-	18

*For a list of offences considered in the request please see Table 3.

Table 1c Prosecution decisions issued for other offences

Based on Most Serious Decision Issued

Calendar Year-File received	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion
2010	*	*	0
2011	*	*	0
2012	*	*	0
2013	*	*	0
2014	*	*	0
2015	*	*	0
2017	*	*	0
Total	-	-	0

*For a list of offences considered in the request please see Table 3.

Table 2a Defendants Disposed of in the Magistrate's Court in relation to requested offences* on Files Received between 1st January 2010 and 7th November 2018

Calendar Year-File received	OTHER ¹
2015	2
Total	2

*For a list of offences considered in the request please see Table 3.

¹. 'Other' may pertain to an outcome of 'withdrawn', 'withdrawn due to diversionary route' or 'defendant deceased'.

Table 2b Defendants Disposal of in the Crown Court in relation to requested offences* on Files Received between 1st January 2010 and 7th November 2018

Calendar Year-File received	Found Guilty of at Least One Offence	Found Guilty of all Offences	Total
2012	1	0	1
2015	0	1	1
Total	1	1	2

Outcomes prior to 1st April 2012 have not been quality assured by PPS and are therefore not included.

*For a list of offences considered in the request please see Table 3.

Table 3 Offences considered.

Complaint Offence Description	Complaint Offence Legislation
PROCURING OWN ABORTION	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
ATTEMPT TO ADMINISTER DRUGS TO PROCURE ABORTION	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
PROCURING FOR ANOTHER AN ABORTION BY ADMINISTERING A POISON	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
USING INSTRUMENT TO PROCURE ABORTION	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
SUPPLYING SUBSTANCE ETC. TO PROCURE ABORTION	Section 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
PROCURING OWN ABORTION USING A POISON	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
PROCURING OWN ABORTION USING AN INSTRUMENT	Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
ATTEMPT TO SUPPLY OR PROCURE POISON WITH INTENT TO PROCURE AN ABORTION	Article 3(1) of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and section 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
SUPPLY OR PROCURE POISON WITH INTENT TO PROCURE ABORTION	Section 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861
SUPPLY OR PROCURE INSTRUMENT W/I TO PROCURE ABORTION	Section 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861