



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 115/23-24

14 August 2023

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 31/05/2023 in which you asked for information in relation to covid deaths. We subsequently wrote to you on 9th June 2023 seeking clarification on your request, you provided same on 27th July 2023. 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:

“How many deaths said to be by COVID between 31/1/2020 - 31/1/2023 in Northern Ireland are now being treated in anyway, as suspicious, by The Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland”.

You clarified your request by confirming the following:

“Clarification is as follows:

I mean deaths reported or discovered by The Northern Irish Crown during the period given that were given a certification of death stating COVID, by the NHS or any other organisation, but are now being investigated by the crown as possibly occurring by homicide or criminal negligence.”

Independent, fair and effective

In response, please be advised the PPS does not hold this information. Therefore, in terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that under Section 1(1) (a) of the Act the PPS does not hold the requested information.

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