

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



FOI 265/23-24 14 August 2023

I refer to your email dated 1 August 2023 in which you asked a question 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 does the Public Prosecutions Services of Northern Ireland uphold the Human Rights (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 in the case of British citizens being ordered out of Northern Ireland".

In response, I can advise that under the terms of the Freedom Of Information Act 2000, a person is entitled to request information which is defined as "recorded information" and does not include requests for answers or opinions. Therefore your request cannot be dealt with under the terms of the Freedom Of Information Act 2000.

By way of general background, I would refer you to the <u>PPS Code for Prosecutors</u> which provides information on the role of the PPS. It also sets out the way in which prosecutors take decisions and the standards to which they are expected to adhere, including relevant human rights obligations.

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