



Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

[REDACTED]

Our reference: 328/23-24

2 October 2023

[REDACTED]

I refer to your e-mail dated 5 September 2023 in which you asked for information regarding the Deputy Director of the PPS. 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:

*“Under Fol legislation, I would request the following:*

- *what Civil Service grade is a Deputy Director in the PPS NI?*
- *Are they mainstream Civil Service or Senior Civil Service?*
- *As a result of the above, what codes are they subject to?*
- *Under the PPS Equality Scheme, what training should they have completed to ensure they understand the Northern Ireland Act in relation to Section 75 protected characteristics?*
- *Can you confirm that all Deputy Directors have completed this training as laid out in your Equality Scheme? And in keeping with refresher training as required?*
- *When was the last time the Deputy Directors were trained as per your commitment in your Equality Scheme?”*

**Independent, fair and effective**

In response please see below:

1. What Civil Service grade is a Deputy Director in the PPS NI?

The Deputy Director has the same powers as the Director of Public Prosecutions ('DPP') but must exercise these, subject to the DPP's direction and control. Both posts are public appointments made by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland. Further information can be found [here](#).

In terms of its complement of legal staff, I can also advise that the PPS has one Senior Assistant Director post (Senior Civil Service Grade 3) and six Assistant Director posts (SCS Grade 5).

2. Are they mainstream Civil Service or Senior Civil Service?

As indicated above, the post of Deputy Director is subject to public appointment. Senior Assistant / Assistant Director posts in the PPS are Senior Civil Service roles.

3. As a result of the above, what codes are they subject to?

This PPS's Code of Ethics, which is incorporated into the [Code for Prosecutors](#), lays down the standards of conduct and practice for prosecutors working for, or on behalf of, the PPS.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Code of Ethics sets out the framework within which all Northern Ireland Civil Servants work and the values which they are expected to uphold, in accordance with procedures laid down in the NICS Pay and Conditions of Service. Public Prosecutors, as members of the NICS, are obliged to act in accordance with the NICS Code of Ethics.

4. Under the PPS Equality Scheme, what training should they have completed to ensure they understand the Northern Ireland Act in relation to Section 75 protected characteristics?

The Deputy Director and all staff within the PPS are subject to mandatory training on Section 75, and related equality and diversity matters, every 2 years.

5. Can you confirm that all Deputy Directors have completed this training as laid out in your Equality Scheme? And in keeping with refresher training as required?

Yes.

6. When was the last time the Deputy Directors were trained as per your commitment in your Equality Scheme?

The Deputy Director completed training in December 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](mailto: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**