



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

Our reference: 39/23-24

9 May 2023

[REDACTED]

I refer to your e-mail dated 19th April 2023 in which you asked for information relating to the number of prosecution decisions and no prosecution decisions for specified crime groups for 2022/23. 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:

“My request is similar to one I previously made for statistical information relating to 2021/22:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/decisions_for_no_prosecution_in#incominq-2185039

I seek information for 2022/23.

- 1. Please provide the number of no prosecution decisions issued by the PPS by Recorded Crime Group (Primary Offence) 2022/23 (Table 1 of your previous response).*
- 2. Please provide the number of prosecution decisions issued by the PPS by Recorded Crime Group (Primary Offence) 2022/23.*

3. *Please provide the number of no prosecution decisions issued for files submitted by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (Enforcement Section) and Police Ombudsman 2022/23 (Table 2 of your previous response).*
4. *Please provide the number of prosecution decisions issued for files submitted by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (Enforcement Section) and Police Ombudsman 2022/23”.*

In response, please be advised that the information requested for 2022/23 cannot currently be provided as it relates directly to and will form part of an upcoming Official Statistics Bulletin which is due for publication in late June 2023. Therefore, in terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the exemption in Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) applies to the information you have requested.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test. Details of the exemption are outlined at **Annex A**.

You may wish to resubmit your request following publication of the 2022/23 data.

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

