



Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 455/23-24

30 November 2023

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 2 November 2023 in which you asked for information in relation to cases of disclosing private sexual imagery. 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:

*Under Freedom of Information legislation please provide the number of cases of disclosing private sexual imagery (revenge porn) to be prosecuted per calendar year since the introduction of this law, indicating how many of same were directed on indictment.*

In response, please see Table 1 below which provides details of prosecutorial decisions issued in respect of “disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress”.

Table 2 details the description of the offence considered in the analysis.

**Table 1 - Decisions to Prosecute Issued (Relating to Required Offence) between 01 January 2016 and 31 October 2023.**

Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution
2016		-
2017	-	10
2018	-	#
2019	3	13
2020	5	20
2021	-	11
2022	4	13
2023	-	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>78</b>

"#" refers to a number  $\geq 3$  which has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere

"-" refers to a count less than 3.

**Table 2 Offence Description.**

Complaint Offence Description
Disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress.

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**