



Public
Prosecution
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 97/23-24

[REDACTED]

13 June 2023

I refer to your email dated 22nd May 2023 in which you asked for information in relation to the outcomes of stalking cases since the commencement of the new legislation on 26th April 2022. 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:

"I have spoken with the press office, and they have advised that I put in another FOI requesting outcomes for stalking cases since the new legislation came into effect".

In response, please see **Table 1** below which provides the court outcomes recorded between 26/04/22 - 21/05/23 in cases involving offences under the Protection from Stalking Act (NI) 2022. Please be advised we are unable to provide penalties or sentences given in relation to these cases. You may wish to contact the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (NICTS), who are best placed to assist.

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

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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
PPS

Table 1

Overall Outcome (Summary)	No. of Defendants
PLEA OF NOT GUILTY ON AT LEAST ONE CHARGE - FOUND GUILTY ON AT LEAST ONE CHARGE*	18
PLEA OF GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES	1
PLEA NOT GUILTY - ACQUITTED ON ALL CHARGES	6
OTHER**	3

* Please note that in these cases with a 'mixed' outcome where the suspect was found guilty of some but not all charges, there can be instances where the suspect was found guilty of another offence on the same file which was not one of the stalking offences.

** 'Other' Includes defendant deceased, withdrawal – all charges, bound over for not having shown cause, bound over where charge withdrawn, withdrawn due to diversionary route.

Please note that the relevant offences are as follows:

Decision Offence Code Description	Decision Offence Legislation
STALKING	Section 1 of the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
THREATENING AND ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR	Section 2 of the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

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