

[REDACTED]

FOI 180/24-25

15 August 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your correspondence dated 29 July 2024 in which you requested information on domestic abuse and stalking offences. 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:

1. *“Domestic abuse cases, number of files that have come through to the PPS since 2022 and then the breakdown of the number of prosecutions relating to those files.*
2. *Number of files that have come through to the PPS in relation to the Stalking Offence and the breakdown of the number of prosecutions relating to those files.*
3. *Is there anyway of breaking down the number of repeat cases in relation to domestic abuse in relation to the relationship between perpetrator and victim?*
4. *Is there any way of giving us data on the relationship between perpetrator and victim and if it is an intimate partner?”*

In response to question 1, please see Tables 1 and 2 below which provide the numbers of files / suspects received and decisions issued in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag for the period between 1 January 2022 and 28 July 2024.

**Table 1: Files/suspects received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag\***

Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
24,745	27,362

\* Based on first papers received date.

**Table 2: Prosecutorial decisions issued in respect of suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag\***

Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
350	8,223	706	16,180	25,459

\* Based on most serious decision issued.

In response to question 2, please see Tables 3 and 4 below which provide the numbers of files received and decisions issued in cases involving an offence of stalking (section 1 of the Protection from Stalking Act NI 2022). This covers the period from the introduction of the legislation on 27 April 2022 to 28 July 2024.

**Table 3: Files/Suspects received involving an offence of stalking\***

Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
389	392

\* Based on first papers received date.

**Table 4: Prosecutorial decisions issued in respect of suspects in cases involving an offence of stalking\***

Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	No Prosecution	Total
7	154	97	258

\* Based most serious decision issued.

In response to questions 3 and 4, please be advised that at present we are unable to produce the information requested from our Case Management System. This is due to the fact that it is not possible to link individual victims to specific suspects / offences.

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**