

[REDACTED]  
FOI 340/24-251 November 2024  
[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 11 October 2024 in which you requested information in relation to non-fatal strangulation. 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 am seeking any statistics you hold on convictions for the crime of Non-Fatal Strangulation, the number of convictions and the sentence the judges are giving to the convicted person please?”*

In response, please be advised that as of 14 October, there had been 8 convictions in the Crown Court and 92 convictions in the Magistrates’ and Youth Courts in cases involving the new offence of non-fatal strangulation or asphyxiation – which came into effect on 26 June 2023.

Please see **Table 1** below which details the overall court outcomes per defendant.

In relation to sentencing data, please note that this is a matter for the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS).

**Table 1: No. of Convictions in Cases involving an Offence of Non-Fatal Strangulation or Asphyxiation - s28 of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (NI) 2022**

No. of Defendants	Overall Outcome*
<u>Crown Court</u>	
8	CONVICTED OF AT LEAST ONE OFFENCE
<u>Magistrates' / Youth Court</u>	
10	PLEA OF GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES
82	PLEA OF NOT GUILTY ON AT LEAST ONE CHARGE - FOUND GUILTY ON AT LEAST ONE CHARGE

\* It should be noted that in cases involving a mixed outcome (i.e. where the defendant was found guilty on some counts but not on others), the conviction may not relate specifically to an offence of non-fatal strangulation.

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**