



Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

[REDACTED]

FOI 101/24-25

28 June 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in which you asked for information regarding the details of the Deputy Directors of Public Prosecution Service and the Directors of Public Prosecution Service from 1972 to present. 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. *Please provide the full names and length of service, i.e. date they were appointed and the dated they resigned, for each individual holding the statutory office 'DEPUTY-DIRECTOR-OF-PUBLIC-PROSECUTIONS-FOR-NORTHERN-IRELAND' beginning with Bernard McCloskey a solicitor appointed in April 1972 and clarify if each individual 'DEPUTY-DIRECTOR-OF-PUBLIC-PROSECUTIONS-FOR-NORTHERN-IRELAND' was/is a barrister-at-law or a solicitor for the years 1972 to 2024:*

2. *Please confirm or deny that Bernard McCloskey a solicitor and appointed as 'DEPUTY-DIRECTOR-OF-PUBLIC-PROSECUTIONS-FOR-NORTHERN-IRELAND' in 1972 is a family relation, i.e. such as father and son, of the senior member of the judiciary in Northern Ireland, Lord Justice Bernard McCloskey KC, a member of the PRIVY-COUNCIL:*

**Independent, fair and effective**

3. Please provide the full names and length of service, i.e. date they were appointed and the dated they resigned, for each individual holding the statutory office 'DIRECTOR-OF-PUBLIC-PROSECUTIONS-FOR-NORTHERN-IRELAND' beginning with Charles Barry Shaw QC a barrister-at-law appointed 10 April 1972 and clarify if each individual 'DIRECTOR-OF-PUBLIC-PROSECUTIONS-FOR-NORTHERN-IRELAND' was/is a barrister-at-law or a solicitor for the years 1972 to 2024:

1. The following were permanent appointments to the role of Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland:

- Bernard Mc Closkey from 10 April 1972.
- George McLoughlin from 1 October 1982.
- Alasdair Fraser from 1 January 1988.
- Daniel Magill from 10 April 1989.
- Roy Junkin from 12 March 1998.
- James Scholes 1 September 2008.
- Pamela Atchison from 2 April 2012.
- Michael Agnew from 9 April 2018 to present.

In respect of the length of service and resignation dates I can advise that PPS does not hold this information. You may wish to contact NICSHR who may be able to assist.

Messrs McLoughlin, Fraser, Magill, Junkin, Scholes and Agnew were/are barristers at law. Ms Atchison is a solicitor. Information in respect of Mr McCloskey is not held.

2. Please be advised that the PPS do not hold this information. Therefore, in terms of the Freedom of Information Act I can confirm that under Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we do not hold the information you have requested.

3. The following were permanent appointments to the role of Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland:

- Sir Barry Shaw from 10 April 1972
- Sir Alasdair Fraser from 10 April 1989
- Barra McGrory from 7 November 2011
- Stephen Herron from 2 January 2018 to present.

In respect of the length of service and resignation dates I can advise that PPS does not hold this information. You may wish to contact NICSHR who may be able to assist.

Messrs Shaw, Fraser and McGrory were/are barristers at law. Mr Herron is a solicitor.

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 clearly 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,

PPS Information Management Team