

[REDACTED]

FOI 126/24-25

5 July 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 18 June 2024 in which you requested information on domestic abuse crimes. 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. Would you be able to let me know how many domestic abuse crime files were sent to PPS broken down by year for the last three years?*
- 2. Could you also provide the male to female statistics?*
- 3. Could you let me know how many of these domestic abuse crimes had no prosecution recommended?*
- 4. Finally, would you be able to do a simple search of the numbers of these no prosecution recommended crimes were male and which were female?*

In response to question 1, please see Table 1 below which provides the number of files received with a PSNI domestic abuse 'flag' between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024.

Table 1: Files / Suspects Received with a PSNI Domestic Abuse Flag*

Financial year	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
2021/22	8,732	9,654
2022/23	10,013	11,089
2023/24	9,572	10,600
Total	28,317	31,343

* Based on first papers received date.

In response to question 2, please see Table 2 below which details the suspect and victim gender in PSNI domestic abuse flagged files received between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024.

Table 2: Files Received with a PSNI Domestic Abuse Flag – Suspect and Victim Gender*

Gender	No. of Suspects	No. of Victims
Male	23,916	10,732
Female	7,389	24,487
Other/Unknown	38	126
Total	31,343	35,345

* Based on first papers received date.

Note: Figures reflect the number of victims on files containing at least one suspect with a PSNI domestic abuse flag; where a file contains multiple suspects, it is possible that not all victims will have been the victim of domestic abuse.

In response to question 3, please see Table 3 below which provides the number of prosecutorial decisions issued by the PPS (including decisions for no prosecution) between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024 in respect of suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag.

Table 3: Prosecutorial Decisions Issued in Respect of Suspects in Cases with a PSNI Domestic Abuse Flag*

Financial Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
2021/22	108	3,094	272	5,535	9,009
2022/23	181	3,459	297	7,229	11,166
2023/24	203	3,451	277	6,376	10,307
Total	492	10,004	846	19,140	30,482

* Based on date the 'most serious' decision issued. **Note:** Decisions may relate to files received in earlier years.

In response to question 4, please see Table 4 below which provides the gender of suspects where a decision for no prosecution was issued between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024 in respect of cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag.

Table 4: Decisions Issued for No Prosecution in Respect of Suspects in Cases with a Domestic Abuse Flag – Suspect Gender*

Gender	No. of Suspects
Male	13,549
Female	5,566
Other/Unknown	25
Total	19,140

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. 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**