



Public  
Prosecution  
Service

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

[REDACTED]

Our reference: FOI 133 24/25 &  
FOI 151 24-25

10 July 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your e-mails dated 25 June 2024 and 4 July 2024 in which you asked for information relating to the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and dealt with in one response for your convenience.

### **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 asked the following:

“I would like to request figures for January - March 2024 and April-June 2024 for the numbers of the below offences in which a prosecution commenced:

- Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 Section 13 Abstracting of Electricity”.

In response, I can advise that:

- Five decisions to prosecute (summarily or on indictment) were issued between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2024.
- Three decisions to prosecute (summarily or on indictment) were issued between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2024.

Given the small numbers involved, and the need to prevent the potential disclosure of personal information, it is not possible to provide a more detailed breakdown.

**Independent, fair and effective**

The offences considered in the analysis were as follows:

| Decision Offence Code Description              | Decision Offence Legislation                        |
|--|---|
| DISHONESTLY USING ELECTRICITY                  | Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 |
| DISHONESTLY CAUSING ELECTRICITY TO BE DIVERTED | Section 13 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 |

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**