

[REDACTED]

FOI 153/24-25

2 August 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 8 July 2024 in which you requested information on domestic abuse 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. *“Please could you provide us with the number of files sent from the PSNI with a domestic abuse flag detailing each year from 2021-2024 which were recommended by PSNI as no prosecution - no further action recommended (if there is a different term, please use that and forgive my ignorance)?*
2. *Could you detail the gender of the suspect in those cases sent from the PSNI with a domestic abuse flag broken down to show data from each year from 2021-2024, which were recommended by PSNI as no prosecution recommended - no further action recommended (if there is a different term, please use that and forgive my ignorance)?*

3. Can you detail, broken down to show data from each year from 2021 - 2024, to provide the number of suspects and victims by gender for all files received from the PSNI with a domestic abuse flag.
4. Can you detail the prosecutorial decisions issued by gender broken down to show data from each year from 2021-2024, in respect of suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag?
5. Can you detail the suspect gender and victim gender of cases marked in decisions issued for no prosecution by PPS each year, showing data for each year from 2021 to 2024 in cases received from PSNI marked with a domestic abuse flag?
6. Can you detail the number of indictable and summary prosecutorial decisions issued in relation to cases sent from PSNI with a domestic abuse flag with female suspects, broken down by year from 2021 to 2024?"

In response to question 1, please see Table 1 below which provides the number of files received with a PSNI domestic abuse 'flag' and a PSNI recommendation for no prosecution 2021/22 - 2023/24.

**Table 1: Files received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag and a PSNI recommendation for no prosecution 2021/22 – 2023/24\***

Financial Year	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
2021/22	4,333	4,884
2022/23	5,111	5,795
2023/24	4,691	5,276
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,135</b>	<b>15,955</b>

\* Based on first papers received date

In response to question 2, please see Table 2 below which provides the suspect gender in files received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag and a PSNI recommendation for no prosecution 2021/22 – 2023/24.

**Table 2: Suspect gender in files received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag and a PSNI recommendation for no prosecution 2021/22 – 2023/24\***

Financial Year	Suspect Gender		
	Female	Male	Other/Unknown
2021/22	1,466	3,416	2
2022/23	1,816	3,974	5
2023/24	1,595	3,663	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,877</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>25</b>

\*Based on first papers received date

In response to question 3, please see Table 3 below which provides the suspect and victim gender in files received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24.

**Table 3: Suspect and victim gender in files received with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24\***

Files Received	Suspect Gender	Victim Gender**
Male	23,916	10,732
Female	7,389	24,487
Other/Unknown	38	126
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,343</b>	<b>35,345</b>

\* Based on first papers received date

\*\* Figures reflect the number of victims on files containing at least one suspect with a PSNI domestic abuse flag; where files contain multiple suspects it is possible that not all victims will have been the victim of a suspect / offence flagged as domestic abuse.

In response to question 4, please see Tables 4(a) – 4 (c) below which detail the number of decisions issued by suspect gender in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24.

**Table 4(a): Decisions issued in 2021/22\***

Suspect Gender	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
Female	9	366	96	1,595	<b>2,066</b>
Male	97	2,727	176	3,937	<b>6,937</b>
Other/Unknown	2	1	0	3	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>5,535</b>	<b>9,009</b>

**Table 4(b): Decisions issued in 2022/23\***

Suspect Gender	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
Female	21	430	95	2,142	<b>2,688</b>
Male	160	3,027	201	5,081	<b>8,469</b>
Other/Unknown	0	2	1	6	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>7,229</b>	<b>11,166</b>

**Table 4(c): Decisions issued in 2023/24\***

Suspect Gender	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
Female	14	444	109	1,829	<b>2,396</b>
Male	189	3,007	165	4,531	<b>7,892</b>
Other/Unknown	0	0	3	16	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>6,376</b>	<b>10,307</b>

\* Based on most serious decision issued date

In response to question 5, please see Table 5 below which provides the gender of suspects where a decision for no prosecution was issued in respect of cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24. *Please note that we are unable to provide a breakdown of victim gender in respect of no prosecution decisions. Due to current technical limitations on our Case Management System, victims (and their gender) are not directly linked to specific suspects / offences / decisions.*

**Table 5: Decisions issued for no prosecution in respect of suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag – suspect gender 2021/22 – 2023/24\***

Financial Year	Suspect Gender			Total
	Female	Male	Other/Unknown	
2021/22	1,595	3,937	3	5,535
2022/23	2,142	5,081	6	7,229
2023/24	1,829	4,531	16	6,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>13,549</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19,140</b>

\* Based on most serious decision issued date.

In response to question 6, please see Table 6 below which provides the number of decisions issued in respect of female suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24.

**Table 6: Decisions issued for female suspects in cases with a PSNI domestic abuse flag 2021/22 – 2023/24\***

Financial Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Total
2021/22	9	366	375
2022/23	21	430	451
2023/24	14	444	458
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,284</b>

\* Based on most serious decision issued date

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**