

[REDACTED]

FOI 165/24-25

19 August 2024

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 23 July 2024 in which you requested information. 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:

“Under Freedom of Information legislation please provide:

- 1. A copy of the PPS equivalent of a Victim's Right To Review a decision not to prosecute an individual(s)*
- 2. The PPS definition of a Victim in these circumstances”.*

In response to question 1, please be aware that information about the PPS's review process is available on the [PPS website](#) ('Requesting a Review') which details how any victim of a crime reported to us by the police or other statutory authority can apply for a review of a decision by the PPS not to prosecute. Relevant information is also set out in the [PPS Code for Prosecutors](#) (see paragraphs 4.63 – 4.69).

In response to question 2, for the purposes of a review the following definition is applied by the PPS:

“A victim is defined as someone who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss directly caused by a criminal offence. This includes family members of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence, and who have suffered harm as a result of that person’s death.”

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