

[REDACTED]

FOI 486/24-25

11 February 2025

[REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 10 February 2025 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:

“How many cases have been brought to the PPS which related to assaults on PSNI staff/officers?”

Can you clarify how many of these cases have resulted in prosecutions?”

In response, please see the tables below:

- **Table 1** provides the numbers of files received with a complaint of ‘Assault on Police’ under section 66(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 for the period from 1 April 2010 to 9 February 2025.
- **Table 2** details the prosecutorial decisions issued by the PPS for this offence by type for the period from 1 April 2010 to 9 February 2025.

Please note the following:

- The figures provided **only** reflect those cases involving the section 66 offence. There may be other cases (for example, those involving more serious assaults under section 18 or section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act) which have been submitted to the PPS by police – however it is not possible to identify such cases from the PPS’s Case Management System.
- The data in respect of files received and prosecutorial decisions issued reflect activity for the specified period. For example, a decision issued in 2010/11 may relate to a file received in a previous financial year.
- The figures for 2024/25 reflect the financial year to date, i.e. 1 April 2024 to 9 February 2025.

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

Table 1:
Files Received with a Complaint of Assault on Police, 1 April 2010 to 9 February 2025

Financial Year	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects
2010/11	2,342	2,520
2011/12	2,332	2,458
2012/13	2,179	2,305
2013/14	1,931	2,034
2014/15	1,782	1,862
2015/16	1,783	1,842
2016/17	1,662	1,706
2017/18	1,601	1,644
2018/19	1,620	1,682
2019/20	1,656	1,699
2020/21	1,648	1,697
2021/22	1,833	1,900
2022/23	1,786	1,835
2023/24	1,810	1,856
2024/25	1,376	1,407
Total	27,341	28,447

Table 2:
Prosecutorial Decisions Issued (No. of Suspects) in Respect of Cases Involving Assault on Police, 1 April 2010 to 9 February 2025

Financial Year	Indictable Prosecution	Summary Prosecution	Diversion	No Prosecution	Total
2010/11	58	1,994	190	66	2,308
2011/12	54	2,049	169	46	2,318
2012/13	58	1,971	160	47	2,236
2013/14	48	1,751	123	36	1,958
2014/15	46	1,531	117	43	1,737
2015/16	54	1,573	169	35	1,831
2016/17	33	1,416	126	38	1,613
2017/18	31	1,393	113	54	1,591
2018/19	39	1,429	123	35	1,626
2019/20	37	1,451	127	32	1,647
2020/21	52	1,387	102	39	1,580
2021/22	51	1,540	128	53	1,772
2022/23	61	1,539	109	62	1,771
2023/24	49	1,573	81	55	1,758
2024/25	47	1,255	75	45	1,422
Total	718	23,852	1,912	686	27,168