

## **PROTECTION FROM STALKING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

### **PUBLICATION OF PERSONNEL TRAINED IN STALKING OFFENCES**

It is a requirement of the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 that the Department of Justice publishes a statement detailing the level of participation of 'relevant personnel' of the 'listed authorities' that took part in initial and annual or other top-up training in relation to cases under this Act.

The Act specifies that the 'listed authorities' for this purpose are the Chief Constable, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Department of Justice. The 'relevant personnel' are personnel of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, personnel of the Public Prosecution Service, staff within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, and staff within any additional agency of the Department that has functions in relation to cases under the Act and that the Department selects in connection with this provision.

The 'relevant personnel' that participated in training are within the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals staff did not require specific training on the new offences and orders on the basis these were being processed in the same way as existing offences and orders.

The first statement was published on 16 January 2024 and can be viewed [here](#).

This second statement covers the period 17 January 2024 to 16 January 2026.

**Information on relevant personnel who participated in initial, annual or other top-up training in relation to cases under the Protection from Stalking Act**

**Public Prosecution Service**

The Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland has provided the following information on training:

- Extensive guidance is available in the form of training videos which covers key issues such as the stalking and threatening or abusive behaviour offences and related criminal justice procedures, as well as more general information on stalking behaviours, typologies and risk indicators.
- These materials, which were developed with external support, are used to provide refresher training where needed, and all new prosecutors are also required to view the videos. This is supported by detailed written guidance for prosecutors on topics including the Protection from Stalking Act, the use of Stalking Protection Orders, the protection of complainants from cross-examination etc.
- The PPS launched its new Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Stalking on 28 January 2025, following a public consultation. All staff members were provided with a copy of the policy statement and an outline of the key points within the document. The

document can be accessed here:

<https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/files/ppsni/2025->

## **Police Service of Northern Ireland**

The PSNI has provided the following information on training.

PSNI has delivered a comprehensive programme of training since the commencement of the Protection from Stalking Act (NI) 2022, including:

- Mandatory online learning completed by over 4,500 officers and staff.
- Supervisor webinars focusing on case studies and application of the legislation.
- An SPO specific interactive process map module to support operational decision making.
- District level training delivered across all 11 policing districts to over 1,300 officers.
- Integration of stalking and SPO learning into student officer training at the PSNI College.
- Inclusion of stalking and SPOs within DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence) risk checklist and S DASH (specifically for stalking and harassment) risk checklist training

delivered to frontline and Public Protection officers. These checklists are used by police to identify and assess risk.

- Specialist officers have engaged with national stalking focused conferences to ensure PSNI learning aligns with emerging best practice.
- This year PSNI will launch enhanced guidance alongside National Stalking Awareness activity. This is designed to support consistent decision making across local policing, domestic abuse teams, and Public Protection Branch.
- Ongoing engagement with officers enables PSNI to respond dynamically to learning needs and ensure that training remains aligned with emerging risks and victim safeguarding priorities.

**Department of Justice**  
**April 2026**