



Department of
Justice
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnystrie O tha Laa
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
Records & Information Team
Information Services Division
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Email: foi@justice-ni.gov.uk

4 November 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\122

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 08/10/2024 and detailed below.

*With regard to the **HIPA** scheme, what information is recorded regarding (a) applications to the scheme, (b) decisions on those applications, and (c) actions taken in response to those decisions (eg repairs, security features installed; advice given etc)? Please supply an overview of the number of applications received, decisions made and responses in the years 2022/23, 2023/24 and to date in 2024/25, for (a) South Belfast; (b) Belfast as a whole; and (c) Northern Ireland as a whole.*

*With regard to the **Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS)**, we have noted [HCASN! OBA report 23](#) on the website you sent, thank you. It says (p. 4) that in 2022/23 “7% of cases progressed to the Public Prosecution Service”. To clarify – does that figure mean that 7% of cases resulted in prosecutions? If not, what percentage of cases did result in prosecutions? What were the corresponding figures for 2023/24?*

*With regard to the **HELPinHAND** app – how long has it been running? What outreach steps have been taken to disseminate information about the app and encourage uptake? What impact has it had on incident reporting levels and on prosecution levels?*

Additional request for information dated 22/10/2024 and detailed below.

Please provide the annual budget and expenditure totals for 2022/23, 2023/24 and expected for 2024/25 for the following:

Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA)

Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS)

HELPinHAND

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

The information you have requested is provided below:

HIPA

What information is recorded regarding:

(a) applications to the scheme,

Applications are completed by PSNI Crime Prevention Officer when attending a hate incident. The information recorded includes the victim's details, the landlord/owner details (if different), the type of property (i.e. Housing Executive / Housing Association / Privately Owned / Privately Rented), the incident Command & Control No., the hate crime type, whether the incident has been referred to NIFRS, recommendations for work. Applications are signed off by the tenant / owner, the attending Crime Prevention Officer and approved by a Chief Inspector.

DOJ only holds details of applications that have been referred to the HIPA Steering Group for decisions on applications over £1500 or that fall outside the normal scope of the scheme.

(b) decisions on those applications,

If the total of the measures for one property are estimated or anticipated to cost more than £1500, or the recommendations fall outside the normal scope of the scheme (irregular measures), they must be approved by the Steering Group. This requirement does not apply to NIHE properties.

DOJ only holds details of applications that have been referred to the HIPA Steering Group for decisions on applications over £1500 or that fall outside the normal scope of the scheme.

(c) actions taken in response to those decisions (eg repairs, security features installed; advice given etc)?

DOJ only holds details of applications that have been referred to the HIPA Steering Group for decisions on applications over £1500 or that fall outside the normal scope of the scheme.

Should a review be necessary to consider irregular measures and/or costs over £1500, DoJ, as Secretariat, will convene the HIPA Steering Group (DoJ, PSNI, DfC, NIHE) to review the application.

The Steering Group will consider the case to determine if the suggestions are appropriate and fall within the parameters of the Scheme.

On receipt of the Steering Group's decision, the CPO will advise the tenant/owner of the decision. Where the decision is not approved the CPO will consider alternative support as applicable outside of this scheme.

The decision of the Steering Group is both binding and final and exhausts the reconsideration process for the complainant.

Please supply an overview of the number of applications received, decisions made and responses in the years 2022/23, 2023/24 and to date in 2024/25, for

DOJ only holds information on payments made in relation to private residences and applications that have been referred to the HIPA Steering Group.

2022/23

- (a) South Belfast; 1
- (b) Belfast as a whole; 3
- (c) Northern Ireland as a whole. 8

2023/24

- (a) South Belfast; 1
- (b) Belfast as a whole; 1
- (c) Northern Ireland as a whole. 7

2024/25

- (a) South Belfast; 0
- (b) Belfast as a whole; 0
- (c) Northern Ireland as a whole. 5

Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS)

We have noted [HCASNI OBA report 23](#) on the website you sent, thank you. It says (p. 4) that in 2022/23 “7% of cases progressed to the Public Prosecution Service”.

To clarify – does that figure mean that 7% of cases resulted in prosecutions? If not, what percentage of cases did result in prosecutions?

No. HCAS have advised that 7% is the number of cases passed to the PPS by PSNI for consideration. This does not mean that the case was approved for prosecution. HCAS relies on the individual requiring their service throughout the full court process until conviction, which is not always the case.

34 cases were passed to PPS last year out of 1013, which is 3.4% of all referrals to HCAS.

What were the corresponding figures for 2023/24?

3% of cases progressed to PPS according the HCAS end of year report (<https://hcasni.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2024/10/hcasni-impact-report-2024.pdf>)

HELPinHAND app

How long has it been running?

HELPinHAND app was launched in February 2024.

What outreach steps have been taken to disseminate information about the app and encourage uptake?

The Department of Justice does not hold this information.

What impact has it had on incident reporting levels and on prosecution levels?

The Department of Justice does not hold this information.

Additional FOI request received 22/10/24

Please provide the annual budget and expenditure totals for 2022/23, 2023/24 and expected for 2024/25 for the following:

- **Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA)**
- **Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS)**
- **HELPinHAND**

DOJ Budget and Expenditure on HIPA, HCAS and HELPinHAND App (through the Asset Recovery Community Scheme)						
	22/23		23/24		24/25	
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
HIPA	£4000	£1698	£4000	£1002	£4000	£2537*
HCAS	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
HELPinHAND	£7,000	£7,000	£10,000	£10,000	£0	£0

*expenditure as of 31/10/24

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Records & Information Manager