

18 October 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\124

Dear Madam,

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

Under Freedom of Information legislation please state how many criminal records have been found to have had entries removed or missing (as opposed to quashed on appeal or expunged) in each of the last five calendar years?

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 Department of Justice manages the Causeway system, which is a data sharing messaging service. It provides an integrated system to support information sharing between the five main Criminal Justice Organisations (CJO) line of business case management systems (Police Service of NI, Public Prosecution Service, NI Courts and Tribunals Service, NI Prison Service and Forensic Science NI). Causeway generates the NI Criminal History Database and provides the NI Criminal Record Viewer (CRV). Data held within the Criminal History database is populated as a result of activities undertaken by the CJO's through a direct interface.

No new or independent activities are undertaken within the Causeway system. Any change to criminal history information would be undertaken within the source CJO system and interfaced to Causeway as an updated record.

Consequently, in relation to the information you have requested, please be advised that the Department does not hold any recorded information in scope of your request.

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 him 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

Freedom of Information Manager