

06 June 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\67

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 27 May 2024 and detailed below.

'1. How many cases of immigration Deception have resulted in prosecution in Northern Ireland?

2. How many driving licences have been taken from fathers who do not pay child maintenance in Northern Ireland?

3. How many cases of tax evasion have resulted in prosecution in Northern Ireland?

4. How many people have been deported from Northern Ireland for taking part in a sham marriage, immigration deception, character, no direct contact order, tax evasion?

I would be grateful to receive details for year 2021, 2022 & 2023'

The Department is able to provide the following information in relation to the questions you have posed as question 1 and question 3. For the purposes of this request, tax evasion offences has been taken as those cases prosecuted by the Public Prosecution Service on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs.

Prosecutions and convictions at courts for cases involving immigration deception offences, 2021 – 2023

Year	Prosecutions	Convictions
2021	57	50
2022	48	39
2023	64	56

Note:

1. Figures relate to initial disposals at court. Appeals are not included.
2. Figures relate to the numbers of cases prosecuted. There may have been more than one offence prosecuted as part of these individual cases.
3. Figures relate to cases where at least one of the offences prosecuted was as described. Offences included fall under the Immigration Act 1971, the Identity Cards Act 2006, the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 and the Identity Documents Act 2010.
4. Figures relate to cases prosecuted at courts by Public Prosecution Service on behalf of police and other Governmental bodies.
5. Figures for 2023 are provisional.

Prosecutions and Convictions at courts for cases prosecuted by Public Prosecution Service on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, 2021 – 2023

Year	Prosecutions	Convictions
2021	20	15
2022	21	18
2023	17	10

Note:

1. Figures relate to initial disposals at court. Appeals are not included.
2. Figures relate to the numbers of cases prosecuted. There may have been more than one offence prosecuted as part of these individual cases.
3. Figures relate to all prosecutions brought on behalf of HMRC and may include offences where the ancillary result is tax evasion but the main offence may not be strictly defined as such, for instance – not paying minimum wage.
4. Figures for 2023 are provisional.

'In relation to question 2, the Department does not hold any recorded information. Matters relating to the payment of child maintenance fall within the remit of the Child Maintenance Service which is part of the Department for Communities whose contact details are as follows:

Department for Communities

Causeway Exchange

1-7 Bedford Street

Belfast

County Antrim

BT2 7EG

Email: foi@communities-ni.gov.uk

In relation to question 4, the Department does not hold any recorded information. Matters relating to the deportation of individuals within the United Kingdom fall within the remit of the Immigration Enforcement which is part of the Home Office whose contact details are as follows:

Direct Communications Unit

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

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

