

20 February 2025

**REFERENCE: FOI\25\22**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 13th February 2025, as detailed below.

‘provide as much information as possible to comply with FOI legislation cost and time exemptions.

Question 1: How many people with full driving licences registered in Northern Ireland were convicted and disqualified from driving in the calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024?

Question 1b: Can you provide a breakdown of the gender and age group of these drivers for each of the years listed above?

Question 1c: Can you provide a breakdown in time brackets of how long they were disqualified for e.g. 1 year, 2 years etc.

Question 2: How many people with full driving licences registered in Northern Ireland have been disqualified for at least one year due to driving under the influence of a) alcohol and b) drugs in the calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Question 2b: Can you provide a breakdown of the gender and age group of these drivers for each of the years listed above?

Question 2c: Can you provide a breakdown in time brackets of how long they were disqualified for e.g. 1 year, 2 years etc.

Question 3: How many people convicted and disqualified for driving in each of the years listed above had a previous conviction of being disqualified from driving.

Question 3b: How many people convicted and disqualified for driving in each of the years listed above had a previous conviction of being disqualified from driving because a) alcohol b) drugs.'

Information as requested under part 1 of your enquiry, in relation to all persons disqualified from driving following a conviction, has been provided in the following tables. Information has been provided for the years 2019 – 2023, the most recent period for which information is available. However, Departmental convictions datasets do not hold information on the type of driving licence, if any, held by a defendant, nor where a licence may have been registered. Figures provided below may, therefore, include cases where a defendant did not hold the specific driving licence outlined in your query.

**Cases where a Driving Disqualification imposed following conviction, by gender of defendant, 2019 – 2023**

| Year | Male  | Female | Total |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 2019 | 5,073 | 1,074  | 6,147 |
| 2020 | 3,771 | 778    | 4,549 |
| 2021 | 5,647 | 1,024  | 6,671 |
| 2022 | 5,814 | 1,193  | 7,007 |
| 2023 | 5,494 | 1,199  | 6,693 |

**Cases where a Driving Disqualification imposed following conviction, by age band of defendant, 2019 – 2023**

| Age band      | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Under 18      | 59    | 40    | 49    | 62    | 56    |
| 18 - 24       | 1,251 | 938   | 1,420 | 1,353 | 1,349 |
| 25 - 29       | 1,109 | 760   | 1,171 | 1,040 | 988   |
| 30 - 39       | 1,800 | 1,332 | 2,120 | 2,178 | 2,114 |
| 40 - 49       | 1,044 | 770   | 1,093 | 1,297 | 1,204 |
| 50 - 59       | 596   | 455   | 538   | 685   | 644   |
| 60 and over   | 277   | 243   | 271   | 380   | 329   |
| Age not known | 11    | 11    | 9     | 12    | 9     |
| Total         | 6,147 | 4,549 | 6,671 | 7,007 | 6,693 |

**Cases where a Driving Disqualifications imposed following conviction, by length of disqualification, 2019 - 2023**

| <b>Length of disqualification</b> | <b>2019</b>  | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2021</b>  | <b>2022</b>  | <b>2023</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Up to 12 months                   | 4,368        | 3,187        | 4,845        | 5,240        | 5,024        |
| > 12 months to 2 years            | 1,099        | 791          | 1,052        | 1,080        | 1,051        |
| > 2 years to 5 years              | 617          | 516          | 710          | 625          | 573          |
| > 5 years to 10 years             | 42           | 43           | 56           | 47           | 35           |
| Over 10 years                     | 7            | 4            | *            | 6            | -            |
| Period not specified              | 14           | 8            | #            | 9            | 10           |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>6,147</b> | <b>4,549</b> | <b>6,671</b> | <b>7,007</b> | <b>6,693</b> |

Note:

1. Figures relate to initial disposals at courts. Appeals are not included.
2. Figures relate to cases where there was a driving disqualification imposed for at least one offence, whether or not it was the main penalty imposed.
3. In some cases, a disposal of 'disqualified until test passed' was imposed, so it was not possible to quantify the length of time relating to the disqualification. These have been included under the figures for 'Period not specified'.
4. Figures relate to cases dealt with at Crown Court and at magistrates' courts.
5. Age is at date case was dealt with.
6. Some cases where gender was recorded as 'other' or 'not known' have been included with the figures for males.

\* means a figure of less than 3 has been suppressed under rules of disclosure.

# means a figure of 3 or more has been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere.

Information as requested under part 2 of your enquiry, in relation to all persons disqualified from driving for at least one year following a conviction for a drink or drug driving offence, has been provided in the following tables. Information has been provided for the years 2019 – 2023, the most recent period for which information is available.

Departmental datasets do not hold information on the type of substance taken in relation to drink/drug driving offences. It is, therefore not possible to provide separate figures for driving under the influence of a) alcohol and b) drugs; instead a single figure has been provided in response to part 2 of your enquiry.

**Cases with a Driving Disqualification of one year or more imposed following conviction for drink/drug driving offence by gender of defendant, 2019 – 2023**

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| 2019 | 936  | 216    | 1,152 |
| 2020 | 744  | 167    | 911   |
| 2021 | 928  | 158    | 1,086 |
| 2022 | 901  | 197    | 1,098 |
| 2023 | 875  | 200    | 1,075 |

**Cases with a Driving Disqualification of one year or more imposed following conviction for drink/drug driving offence by age band of defendant, 2019 - 2023**

| Age Band      | 2019  | 2020 | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Under 18      | -     | -    | #     | *     | *     |
| 18 - 24       | 106   | 88   | 107   | 102   | 97    |
| 25 - 29       | 183   | 130  | 160   | 127   | 128   |
| 30 - 39       | 375   | 296  | 386   | 365   | 373   |
| 40 - 49       | 247   | 210  | 227   | 259   | 257   |
| 50 - 59       | 167   | 129  | 141   | 167   | 150   |
| 60 and over   | 74    | 58   | 60    | #     | #     |
| Age not known | -     | -    | *     | *     | -     |
| Total         | 1,152 | 911  | 1,086 | 1,098 | 1,075 |

**Driving Disqualifications over one year imposed following conviction for drink/drug driving offence by length of disqualification, 2019 - 2023**

| Length of disqualification | 2019  | 2020 | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|----------------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| > 12 months to 2 years     | 710   | 538  | 610   | 659   | 684   |
| > 2 years to 5 years       | 405   | 348  | 448   | 407   | 377   |
| > 5 years to 10 years      | 33    | 22   | 25    | #     | 14    |
| Over 10 years              | 4     | *    | *     | *     | -     |
| Period not specified       | -     | *    | *     | *     | -     |
| Total                      | 1,152 | 911  | 1,086 | 1,098 | 1,075 |

Note:

1. Figures relate to initial disposals at courts. Appeals are not included.
2. Figures relate to cases where there was a driving disqualification of more than 12 months imposed for at least one drink or drug driving offence, whether or not it was the main penalty imposed.
3. In some cases, a disposal of 'disqualified until test passed' was imposed, so it was not possible to quantify the length of time relating to the disqualification. These have been included under the figures for 'Period not specified'.

4. Figures relate to cases dealt with at Crown Court and at magistrates' courts.

5. Age is at date case was dealt with.

\* means a figure of less than 3 has been suppressed under rules of disclosure.

# means a figure of 3 or more has been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere.

In part 3 of your query, you asked for information on those who had been disqualified for driving in the years 2020 – 2024, who had had a driving disqualification handed down to them as a result of a previous conviction. However, it is not possible to provide this from convictions datasets held by the Department. Historical convictions datasets held by DoJ only contain the main disposal imposed against an offence in relation to a specific conviction and driving disqualifications are often recorded as a secondary disposal for counting purposes, so it would not be possible to derive an accurate count of all cases where there was a conviction in 2020 to 2024, where defendants had had a driving disqualification as a result of a previous conviction.

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](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager**