



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
Block 5
Knockview Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SL

Email: foi@justice-ni.gov.uk

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REFERENCE: FOI\25\32

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 11 MARCH 2025

Dear Madam

Thank you for your request for information dated 11 March. Part response to that request has already been provided by the Chief Executive of the Legal Services Agency NI. In response to remaining queries, please see below.

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.

2. In the statement the Minister stated: "That individual and the others involved in the seventeen cases identified as critical and that we hoped might benefit from the derogation continue to be of risk of significant harm and of not receiving the justice they deserve. That simply cannot continue in the longer term, and I know, as will you, that we will now need to consider alternative models for delivery of services currently provided by the criminal Bar." (a) In light of the fact that, in advance of the Statement, it can be confirmed that these cases are all being progressed and engagement is taking place with the Judiciary, what information and analysis is the Minister referring to as giving rise to a risk that significant harm will arise in these specific cases and a risk of those involved not receiving the justice they deserve? What information

suggests that these cases are being further delayed as a result of the current action being taken by the CBA?

The seventeen cases referenced in the Ministerial statement as involving particularly vulnerable parties at risk of significant harm were assessed by practitioners in PPS and Victim Support in direct contact with the individuals and were therefore subject to the request for a derogation.

3. Can the Department provide the data on how many cases have been affected by the refusal (from November 2024) to accept new Category A briefs and retrial briefs and (from January 2025) to accept new Category D multi-complainant Category D sexual offence case briefs?

The requested information is not held by the Department.

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 can be found at:
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

DoJ Records & Information Manager