



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinnstrie O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

**Department of Justice**  
**Records & Information Team**  
Information Services Division  
Block 5  
Knockview Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SL

Telephone 028 90378617  
Email: [foi@justice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@justice-ni.gov.uk)

26 April 2023

**REFERENCE: FOI\23\28**

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 29 March 2023 and detailed below.

1. To detail how many recommendations of the Gillen Review Report have (i) been delivered; (ii) commenced but not yet been completed; and (iii) not yet been commenced by the Department for Justice.
2. The number of applications made under Section 28 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Act 2021 seeking to apply the Domestic Abuse Waiver since commencement.
3. The number of applications made under Section 28 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Act 2021 seeking to apply the Domestic Abuse Waiver, that have been granted since commencement.

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 in scope of your request, and you have the right to have that recorded information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

1. At the date of writing (06.04.23), 225 of the 253 recommendations (89% of the total) are either completed or underway. This figure is broken down as follows:
  - 106 Gillen Review recommendations (42% of the total) are fully completed;



- 59 (23%) are partially completed. This means that temporary provision (for example, a pathway project to test a delivery model) is in place and actively delivering outcomes, but that further work will be required to establish longer-term mainstream service provision;
- Scoping and/or preparation work has also commenced against a further 60 recommendations (24% of the total);
- Work has yet to commence against 28 of the recommendations (11% of the total). In almost all of these, work to implement the recommendations has been delayed due to the need for legislation that we were unable to take forward in the previous mandate.

Examples of progress against implementation of the review includes:

- the establishment of a new Sexual Offence Legal Adviser (SOLA) Service, which has now provided legal advice, free of charge, to over 1,000 complainants of serious sexual offences;
- the provision of remote evidence facilities in Belfast and Craigavon that enable vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence in a less stressful environment and away from the courthouse where there is no chance they will encounter the defendant;
- ongoing delivery of a voluntary “Under 13 Protocol” that is expediting cases involving the youngest victims of sexual crime; and
- the introduction of new measures to reduce delay, develop and deliver trauma-informed training for justice professionals and to improve Disclosure and ABE procedures.

2. There have been **67 applications submitted** under Section 28 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Act 2021 seeking to apply the Domestic Abuse Waiver since commencement (up to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023).

3. Since commencement, **14 applications have been correctly granted** under Section 28 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Act 2021 seeking to apply the Domestic Abuse Waiver (up to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023). The remaining applications were not granted under the waiver due to: applicants not being the “*respondent in the proceedings*” (as required by the legislation); applicants being in receipt of a passport benefit and therefore not requiring the



waiver; or failure to produce evidence to satisfy the Director, in line with legislation. Further detail is provided in the table below.

**Table 1 : Applications submitted under Section 28 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings (NI) Act 2021 seeking to apply the Domestic Abuse Waiver since commencement (up to 13th April 2023)**

Waiver correctly granted	14
Waiver not invoked - applicant is not the respondent in the proceedings	26
Waiver not invoked - applicant is in receipt of passport benefit or otherwise financially eligible without need for waiver	20
Waiver not invoked - failure to provide required evidence	7
<b>Total applications</b>	<b>67</b>

**Source: Legal Services Agency NI**

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)



Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager**

