

PBNI disclosure Log – response to Request
Request reference: 023.47.13
Date of Request: 9 Oct 2013
Date of Response: 31 October 2013

Request

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. The total number of probation staff in Northern Ireland in 2012 (broken down by probation staff, FTE and administrative staff, FTE).
2. The total number of people subject to a probation order in 2012.

Response

Further to your request of 9 October 2013, and our subsequent correspondence regarding what has previously been disclosed in this regard (FOI request references 023.36.12 and 023.50.12), please see below the response to your request in respect of 2012.

As agreed previously, the figures in respect of staffing are provided in financial years, as per PBNI's published Annual Report and Accounts, and the number of people subject to statutory supervision is provided in calendar years:

Q1 The total number of probation staff in Northern Ireland in 2012/13 (broken down by Probation staff, FTE and administrative staff, FTE)

Probation Staff	290
Administrative Staff	113

I am also providing you with the levels of staffing for the year 2010/11 as I see that this was not captured in your previous requests and our respective responses which covered 2009/10 and 2011/12 only. The figures for 2010/11 are as follows:

Probation Staff	292
Administrative Staff	120

Please note, the figures above in respect of 2010/11 and 2012/13 include Senior Management, temporary/agency staff and inward secondments, but exclude outward secondments.

Q2. The total number of people subject to supervision in 2012

The total number of people subject to statutory supervision by PBNI in 2012 was 7,443.

The information presented for this year was drawn from the PBNI's case management system (PIMS). This information excludes those subject to warrant.^{1,2}

I have been advised by my colleague who is currently responsible for compiling these statutory supervision figures, that due to a computational error, the figure of 6,871 previously provided for 2011 (reference FOI 023.50.12) should have read 7,090. I apologise for the error.

In case there is any confusion, I want to clarify that these figures and those provided previously relate to the number of people subject to all types of statutory order, supervised by PBNI at any time during the calendar year to which they refer. The figures include those subject to pre and post release supervision.

¹ Information presented is based on all people subject to statutory supervision by Probation Board for Northern Ireland (in community or prison) at any point throughout the year.

² For data retrieved from PBNI's case management system although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the data is subject to inaccuracies inherent in any administrative data recording system. While the figures have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

I am clarifying this as my colleague has observed from Figure 17 of the Justice Policy Review that these figures are set alongside England and Wales figures which are on a point-in-time (end of year) basis and which do not include pre and post release supervision. He has suggested that it might be helpful to consider, as more directly comparable, the following figures which are available from 2007 onwards:

Number of People subject to a Community Sentence³ under supervision at end of year: 2007 to 2012

31/12/2007	31/12/2008	31/12/2009	31/12/2010	31/12/2011	31/12/2012
2,112	2,193	2,412	2,531	2,833	2,626

³ Sentences included: Probation Order, Community Service Order, Combination Order, Community Responsibility Order and Supervision and Treatment Order.