

## **PROTECTION FROM STALKING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

### **PUBLICATION OF NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TRAINED IN STALKING OFFENCES**

It is a requirement of the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 that the Department of Justice publishes a statement detailing the number of 'relevant personnel' of the 'listed authorities' that participated in initial and annual or other top-up training in relation to cases under this Act.

The Act specifies that the 'listed authorities' for this purpose are the Chief Constable, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Department of Justice. The 'relevant personnel' are personnel of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, personnel of the Public Prosecution Service, staff within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, and staff within any additional agency of the Department that has functions in relation to cases under the Act and that the Department selects in connection with this provision.

The Act also provides that training should be provided as the authority considers appropriate for the purpose of the effective discharge by those personnel of their respective responsibilities.

The 'relevant personnel' that participated in training are within the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland. It was confirmed that Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals staff did not require specific training on the new offences and orders on the basis these were being processed in the same way as

existing offences and orders. However, the new offences were highlighted in bulletins issued to court operations staff and they were provided with written guidance on the new orders.

The first statement must be published by the Department detailing training completed within 18 months from the date of Royal Assent.

### **Detail of training**

<b>Relevant personnel</b>	<b>Number of personnel who participated in initial training</b>
Police Service of Northern Ireland	4,544 police officers and staff
Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland	135 prosecutors

**Department of Justice**  
**16 January 2024**