



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Statistical Report No. 2

DOMESTIC INCIDENTS & CRIMES

1ST APRIL 2007 – 31ST MARCH 2008

Central Statistics Branch, Operational Support Department

Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT6 9LD

Web: www.psnl.police.uk

Tel: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135 Fax: 028 9092 2998 Email: statistics@psnl.police.uk

2. Domestic Incidents and Crimes

Summary

Table 2.1	Domestic Motivation - Incidents, Crimes and Clearance Rates Summary
Table 2.2	Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by District 2006/07 and 2007/08
Table 2.3	Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by District 2007/08
Table 2.4	Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District 2006/07 and 2007/08
Table 2.5	Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by Area 2006/07 and 2007/08
Table 2.6	Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by Area 2007/08
Table 2.7	Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by Area 2006/07 and 2007/08

Police Recording of Crime – Definitions

Map of PSNI Policing Districts as of 1st April 2007

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on incidents and crimes with a domestic motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident/crime. The correct application of a domestic motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch.

2. Domestic Incidents and Crimes

Summary

Definitions

Incidents

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) by one family member against another or adults who are or have been intimate partners, regardless of gender, and whether a crime has occurred or not, will be recorded as domestic.

Recorded Crimes

- Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A full explanation of how recorded crime figures are produced is provided on the last page of this document.
- A crime will be recorded as domestic where it meets the definition provided above. Not all domestic incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Domestic crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

Table 2.1: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Crimes and Clearance Rates Summary

	2006/07	2007/08	change
Total number of incidents	23,456	23,076	-380
Total number of crimes	10,115	9,283	-832
Sanction clearance rate (%)¹	31.1	33.9	+2.8% pts
Non sanction clearance rate (%)¹	14.7	0.0	-14.7% pts
Overall clearance rate (%)¹	45.8	33.9	-11.9% pts

¹ The Clearance Rates paragraph below provides an explanation of the change in the non sanction and overall clearance rates when comparing 2007/08 with 2006/07.

Incidents

- Between 2006/07 and 2007/08 the number of domestic incidents decreased by 380 (-1.6%).

Recorded Crimes

- There were 9,283 crimes with a domestic motivation recorded in 2007/08, a decrease of 832 (-8.2%) on 2006/07.
- During 2007/08 more than two thirds of all crimes with domestic motivation fell within the category of violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery). There were 6,389 such offences, representing 68.8% of the total. Of the remaining offences, criminal damage accounted for 14.9% and breach of orders represented 12.8% of the total.

Clearance Rates

The Home Office significantly restricted the clearance types available to the police from 1st April 2007 which meant that virtually all clearances resulting in 'no further police action' (i.e. non sanction clearances) could no longer be claimed as a valid clearance. These clearance types accounted for 14.7 percentage points of the PSNI clearance rate for crimes with a domestic motivation in 2006/07 but only accounted for less than 0.1 of a percentage point in 2007/08 following this latest restriction. This means that the PSNI overall clearance rate and its sanction clearance rate are now virtually one and the same. This same change also applied to all police services in England and Wales from 1st April 2007.

- The overall clearance rate for crimes with a domestic motivation in 2007/08 was 33.9%, 11.9 percentage points lower than in 2006/07. The sanction clearance rate increased by 2.8 percentage points from 31.1% to 33.9%. There were only 2 non sanction clearances for crimes with a domestic motivation during 2007/08.

Table 2.2: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by District¹ 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded ²				Sanction clearance rate (%) ³		Non sanction clearance rate (%) ³		Overall clearance rate (%) ³	
	2006/07	2007/08	change	% change	2006/07	2007/08	change	% change	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
A District	3,300	3,625	+325	+9.8	1,248	1,352	+104	+8.3	34.8	36.1	9.1	0.0	43.9	36.1
B District	2,399	2,344	-55	-2.3	922	859	-63	-6.8	32.3	28.6	17.8	0.1	50.1	28.8
C District	3,164	2,879	-285	-9.0	1,393	1,111	-282	-20.2	26.1	35.6	13.4	0.0	39.5	35.6
D District	3,774	3,650	-124	-3.3	1,923	1,505	-418	-21.7	31.4	39.7	20.1	0.0	51.5	39.7
E District	3,317	3,082	-235	-7.1	1,509	1,360	-149	-9.9	29.7	27.8	13.7	0.1	43.4	27.9
F District	2,208	2,042	-166	-7.5	820	846	+26	+3.2	33.2	37.1	13.3	0.0	46.5	37.1
G District	2,946	3,100	+154	+5.2	1,148	1,237	+89	+7.8	30.4	28.0	15.7	0.0	46.1	28.0
H District	2,348	2,354	+6	+0.3	1,152	1,013	-139	-12.1	32.5	37.4	12.3	0.0	44.8	37.4
Grand Total	23,456	23,076	-380	-1.6	10,115	9,283	-832	-8.2	31.1	33.9	14.7	0.0	45.8	33.9

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The domestic offence and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

³ The Domestic Incidents and Crimes Summary page provides an explanation of the change in the non sanction and overall clearance rates when comparing 2007/08 with 2006/07.

Table 2.3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by District¹ 2007/08

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence ²												
		Murder	Causing / Allowing death of vulnerable person	Attempted Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	Wounding / GBH (incl with intent)	AOABH / common assault	Intimidation / harassment	Rape (incl attempts)	All indecent assaults	Other Violent Crime	All criminal damage	Breach of orders	All other notifiable offences
A District	1,352	0	0	1	115	33	737	28	0	3	3	232	148	52
B District	859	0	0	1	39	9	532	32	4	4	3	117	84	34
C District	1,111	2	0	2	57	8	622	30	9	15	4	156	160	46
D District	1,505	0	0	4	107	23	773	107	4	9	7	214	214	43
E District	1,360	1	1	6	83	28	712	58	7	5	2	213	192	52
F District	846	7	0	2	74	11	447	49	5	5	2	125	88	31
G District	1,237	1	0	2	90	23	678	52	6	9	3	174	159	40
H District	1,013	0	0	3	73	14	557	36	5	2	3	148	141	31
Grand Total	9,283	11	1	21	638	149	5,058	392	40	52	27	1,379	1,186	329

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The domestic offence figures provided above do not include assault on police. Offences of manslaughter and infanticide are not shown separately in the above table as there were no offences recorded during 2007/08.

Table 2.4: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District¹ 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown ²		Total Offences ³	
	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
A District	795	863	231	237	65	59	157	193	1,248	1,352
B District	578	533	211	189	42	37	91	100	922	859
C District	835	619	322	228	71	92	165	172	1,393	1,111
D District	1,200	926	379	281	97	70	247	228	1,923	1,505
E District	889	818	313	264	76	66	231	212	1,509	1,360
F District	502	519	174	148	67	84	77	95	820	846
G District	690	713	224	246	77	103	157	175	1,148	1,237
H District	729	630	203	180	77	51	143	152	1,152	1,013
Grand Total	6,218	5,621	2,057	1,773	572	562	1,268	1,327	10,115	9,283

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

³ The domestic offence figures shown above do not include assault on police.

Table 2.5: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by Area 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded ¹				Sanction clearance rate (%) ²		Non sanction clearance rate (%) ²		Overall clearance rate (%) ²	
	2006/07	2007/08	change	% change	2006/07	2007/08	change	% change	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
Antrim	595	688	+93	+15.6	367	303	-64	-17.4	37.6	41.9	15.8	0.0	53.4	41.9
Ards	1,012	858	-154	-15.2	456	361	-95	-20.8	21.3	26.6	18.4	0.0	39.7	26.6
East Belfast	1,513	1,376	-137	-9.1	492	436	-56	-11.4	36.4	34.4	22.0	0.2	58.3	34.6
North Belfast	2,231	2,198	-33	-1.5	932	839	-93	-10.0	32.3	37.2	9.7	0.0	42.0	37.2
South Belfast	886	968	+82	+9.3	430	423	-7	-1.6	27.7	22.7	13.0	0.0	40.7	22.7
West Belfast	1,069	1,427	+358	+33.5	316	513	+197	+62.3	42.1	34.3	7.6	0.0	49.7	34.3
Carrickfergus	419	460	+41	+9.8	201	238	+37	+18.4	30.8	45.4	28.4	0.0	59.2	45.4
Castlereagh	493	485	-8	-1.6	189	126	-63	-33.3	32.8	63.5	5.3	0.0	38.1	63.5
Down	792	674	-118	-14.9	353	246	-107	-30.3	26.6	51.6	9.9	0.0	36.5	51.6
Lisburn	1,819	1,539	-280	-15.4	841	603	-238	-28.3	30.3	37.3	22.4	0.0	52.7	37.3
Newtownabbey	941	963	+22	+2.3	514	361	-153	-29.8	28.8	38.0	16.3	0.0	45.1	38.0
North Down	867	862	-5	-0.6	395	378	-17	-4.3	27.8	24.6	14.7	0.0	42.5	24.6
Urban Region	12,637	12,498	-139	-1.1	5,486	4,827	-659	-12.0	31.0	35.8	15.5	0.0	46.5	35.8
Armagh	497	535	+38	+7.6	223	192	-31	-13.9	40.8	29.7	12.6	0.0	53.4	29.7
Ballymena	516	601	+85	+16.5	358	331	-27	-7.5	27.9	32.9	10.6	0.0	38.5	32.9
Ballymoney	232	286	+54	+23.3	100	103	+3	+3.0	34.0	35.9	10.0	0.0	44.0	35.9
Banbridge	406	432	+26	+6.4	205	203	-2	-1.0	34.6	29.6	13.7	0.0	48.3	29.6
Coleraine	1,183	998	-185	-15.6	472	346	-126	-26.7	33.9	39.3	7.8	0.0	41.7	39.3
Cookstown	386	367	-19	-4.9	155	157	+2	+1.3	27.1	43.9	28.4	0.0	55.5	43.9
Craigavon	1,460	1,283	-177	-12.1	632	589	-43	-6.8	28.3	26.0	13.3	0.0	41.6	26.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	476	355	-121	-25.4	170	148	-22	-12.9	42.9	29.7	15.9	0.0	58.8	29.7
Fermanagh	557	592	+35	+6.3	234	293	+59	+25.2	27.4	41.6	8.5	0.0	35.9	41.6
Foyle	1,561	1,742	+181	+11.6	551	689	+138	+25.0	26.5	23.1	14.7	0.0	41.2	23.1
Larne	272	330	+58	+21.3	155	179	+24	+15.5	38.1	44.7	31.0	0.0	69.0	44.7
Limavady	564	551	-13	-2.3	221	229	+8	+3.6	24.9	32.3	15.4	0.0	40.3	32.3
Magherafelt	342	323	-19	-5.6	163	163	0	0.0	31.9	28.2	24.5	0.0	56.4	28.2
Moyle	145	139	-6	-4.1	67	54	-13	-19.4	31.3	31.5	13.4	0.0	44.8	31.5
Newry & Mourne	954	832	-122	-12.8	449	376	-73	-16.3	23.8	28.7	14.9	0.3	38.8	29.0
Omagh	789	728	-61	-7.7	261	248	-13	-5.0	35.6	31.9	6.9	0.0	42.5	31.9
Strabane	479	484	+5	+1.0	213	156	-57	-26.8	45.1	42.9	11.7	0.0	56.8	42.9
Rural Region	10,819	10,578	-241	-2.2	4,629	4,456	-173	-3.7	31.2	31.8	13.8	0.0	45.0	31.8
Grand Total	23,456	23,076	-380	-1.6	10,115	9,283	-832	-8.2	31.1	33.9	14.7	0.0	45.8	33.9

¹ The domestic offence and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

² The Domestic Incidents and Crimes Summary page provides an explanation of the change in the non sanction and overall clearance rates when comparing 2007/08 with 2006/07.

Table 2.6: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by Area 2007/08

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence ¹												
		Murder	Causing / Allowing death of vulnerable person	Attempted Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	Wounding / GBH (incl with intent)	AOABH / common assault	Intimidation / harassment	Rape (incl attempts)	All indecent assaults	Other Violent Crime	All criminal damage	Breach of orders	All other notifiable offences
Antrim	303	0	0	0	28	6	140	24	0	1	0	36	63	5
Ards	361	0	0	0	15	3	204	4	7	12	2	46	39	29
East Belfast	436	0	0	1	17	8	271	8	2	1	2	62	42	22
North Belfast	839	0	0	0	74	24	469	23	0	1	1	136	80	31
South Belfast	423	0	0	0	22	1	261	24	2	3	1	55	42	12
West Belfast	513	0	0	1	41	9	268	5	0	2	2	96	68	21
Carrickfergus	238	0	0	0	11	5	137	20	1	3	0	34	20	7
Castlereagh	126	1	0	1	8	0	59	5	1	1	0	27	22	1
Down	246	1	0	0	15	4	129	8	0	0	0	30	57	2
Lisburn	603	0	0	1	38	7	304	46	2	5	2	83	93	22
Newtownabbey	361	0	0	3	30	5	192	17	1	0	5	61	38	9
North Down	378	0	0	1	19	1	230	13	1	2	2	53	42	14
Urban Region	4,827	2	0	8	318	73	2,664	197	17	31	17	719	606	175
Armagh	192	0	0	4	25	6	98	1	4	2	0	29	15	8
Ballymena	331	0	0	0	37	7	188	6	0	0	1	47	40	5
Ballymoney	103	0	0	0	3	1	58	3	2	0	0	18	15	3
Banbridge	203	0	0	0	14	4	103	9	2	0	0	31	34	6
Coleraine	346	0	0	1	24	5	176	20	1	1	1	53	47	17
Cookstown	157	0	0	0	18	2	84	11	0	1	0	21	18	2
Craigavon	589	0	0	0	10	15	306	31	0	2	1	106	91	27
Dungannon & South Tyrone	148	0	0	1	5	0	90	10	0	1	0	19	15	7
Fermanagh	293	1	0	1	31	7	142	9	2	2	2	44	39	13
Foyle	689	0	0	0	49	13	360	44	3	5	2	97	94	22
Larne	179	0	0	2	7	1	104	6	1	1	1	23	28	5
Limavady	229	1	0	2	13	6	133	2	1	2	0	37	26	6
Magherafelt	163	0	0	0	13	0	97	6	0	0	0	19	21	7
Moyle	54	0	0	0	2	0	31	1	1	0	0	7	11	1
Newry & Mourne	376	1	1	2	34	3	205	17	1	1	1	47	52	11
Omagh	248	6	0	0	20	2	131	19	3	1	0	41	16	9
Strabane	156	0	0	0	15	4	88	0	2	2	1	21	18	5
Rural Region	4,456	9	1	13	320	76	2,394	195	23	21	10	660	580	154
Grand Total	9,283	11	1	21	638	149	5,058	392	40	52	27	1,379	1,186	329

¹ The domestic offence figures provided above do not include assault on police. Offences of manslaughter and infanticide are not shown separately in the above table as there were no offences recorded during 2007/08.

Table 2.7: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by Area 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown ¹		Total Offences ²	
	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
Antrim	230	165	53	58	10	14	74	66	367	303
Ards	259	184	124	86	27	47	46	44	456	361
East Belfast	313	262	106	98	27	22	46	54	492	436
North Belfast	605	546	172	156	48	35	107	102	932	839
South Belfast	265	271	105	91	15	15	45	46	430	423
West Belfast	190	317	59	81	17	24	50	91	316	513
Carrickfergus	131	165	48	44	4	7	18	22	201	238
Castlereagh	127	72	31	21	10	7	21	26	189	126
Down	206	130	77	43	17	14	53	59	353	246
Lisburn	531	368	168	105	52	34	90	96	841	603
Newtownabbey	308	228	110	74	31	15	65	44	514	361
North Down	243	233	90	78	17	24	45	43	395	378
Urban Region	3,408	2,941	1,143	935	275	258	660	693	5,486	4,827
Armagh	128	123	52	42	10	9	33	18	223	192
Ballymena	254	212	39	58	23	20	42	41	358	331
Ballymoney	60	60	20	25	9	2	11	16	100	103
Banbridge	116	110	42	46	6	10	41	37	205	203
Coleraine	285	204	95	67	31	21	61	54	472	346
Cookstown	89	89	42	32	10	15	14	21	155	157
Craigavon	369	360	126	107	34	24	103	98	632	589
Dungannon & South Tyrone	108	108	38	14	12	8	12	18	170	148
Fermanagh	142	174	42	51	23	29	27	39	234	293
Foyle	339	407	96	133	36	50	80	99	551	689
Larne	94	122	32	21	12	7	17	29	155	179
Limavady	127	126	54	53	16	22	24	28	221	229
Magherafelt	103	92	26	32	7	17	27	22	163	163
Moyle	36	32	17	9	2	1	12	12	67	54
Newry & Mourne	276	225	93	69	26	23	54	59	449	376
Omagh	163	148	52	51	22	32	24	17	261	248
Strabane	121	88	48	28	18	14	26	26	213	156
Rural Region	2,810	2,680	914	838	297	304	608	634	4,629	4,456
Grand Total	6,218	5,621	2,057	1,773	572	562	1,268	1,327	10,115	9,283

¹ The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

² The domestic offence figures shown above do not include assault on police.

Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

- **Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;
- **Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;
- **Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

Clearances

Clearances (or detections as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'cleared or detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one clearance. Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and go free, this also counts as one clearance. In this respect clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while clearance data counts crimes.

In April 2006 PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed). This change was introduced in order to bring these clearance types more closely into line with police services in England and Wales where they have been applying the Crown Prosecution Service evidential test since 2002. In Northern Ireland the equivalent standard only became relevant to PSNI clearances with the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in June 2005. Sanction clearances remained unaffected by this change.

The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning or restorative caution.

Up to 1st April 2007, offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' were those where the police took no further action for the following reasons:

- Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
- Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
- Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
- Police or PPS decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;
- Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

The Home Office significantly restricted the clearance types available to the police from 1st April 2007 which meant that virtually all clearances resulting in 'no further police action' (i.e. non sanction clearances) could no longer be claimed as a valid clearance. These clearance types accounted for 14.7 percentage points of the PSNI clearance rate for crimes with a domestic motivation in 2006/07 but only accounted for less than 0.1 of a percentage point in 2007/08 following this latest restriction. This means that the PSNI overall clearance rate and its sanction clearance rate are now virtually one and the same. This same change also applied to all police services in England and Wales from 1st April 2007.

Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

