



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PSNI Annual Statistical Report

Report No. 4

DRUG SEIZURES & ARRESTS

1st APRIL 2008 – 31st MARCH 2009

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4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

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Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on the drug seizures are collated by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch and are based on paper returns that are completed by police officers when they make a drug seizure. The statistics are checked for completeness with local Districts and with the PSNI Drug Squad and are also cross-referenced against other internal records of drug seizures.

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Total Seizures

- A total of 3,198 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2008/09, an increase of 7.7% on 2007/08. As in previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.

Class A Seizures

- The number of seizures involving Class A drugs decreased by 7.6% from 854 seizure incidents in 2007/08 to 789 in 2008/09.
- Cocaine accounted for the greatest number of Class A seizure incidents. The amount of cocaine powder seized increased from 17.9 kg in 2007/08 to 24.2 kg in 2008/09 despite a decrease in the number of cocaine powder seizures (405 in 2007/08 compared with 345 in 2008/09).
- The number of ecstasy tablets seized decreased substantially from 244,720 tablets in 2007/08 to 34,404 in 2008/09.

Class B Seizures

- There were 525 class B seizure incidents in 2008/09 compared to 145 seizure incidents in 2007/08. However, the 2008/09 total includes those seizures of cannabis after the 26th January 2009, when the drug was reclassified from a Class C to a Class B.
- There were fewer seizures of amphetamine powder (95 in 2008/09 compared with 132 in 2007/08) and the amount of amphetamine powder seized decreased from 12.7 kg in 2007/08 to 5.5 kg in 2008/09.

Cannabis Seizures

- Seizures of cannabis increased by 11.9%, from 2,219 in 2007/08 to 2,484 in 2008/09.
- There has been a dramatic increase in the number of cannabis plants seized this year (from 4,006 cannabis plants seized in 2007/08 compared with 30,904 plants in 2008/09). Seizures of cannabis plants alone accounted for over £15 million of the street value of drugs seized this year.
- Seizures of cannabis resin increased by 10.1% from 1,480 seizures in 2007/08 to 1,630 in 2008/09. The amount of cannabis resin seized also increased substantially (from 78.2 kg in 2007/08 compared with 743.1 kg in 2008/09).
- There was also an increase in the amount of herbal cannabis seized (from 70.1 kg in 2007/08 to 248.8 kg in 2008/09).

Arrests

- The number of persons arrested for drug related offences increased by 6.2% from 1,896 in 2007/08 to 2,014 in 2008/09.

Table 4.1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2006/07-2008/09

Drugs Seized	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine: Powder (gms)	278	36,139.7	405	17,882.6	345	24,151.7
Wraps	15	42	33	97	47	149
'Crack' (gms)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.9
Ecstasy: Tablets	411	118,708	436	244,720	353	34,404
Powder (gms)	19	519.8	19	79.74	18	111.10
Capsules	2	10	0	0	0	0
Crystal (gms)	4	1,579.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
LSD: Doses	2	7	4	4	6	148
Microdots	5	120	2	182	4	21
Opiates: Powder (gms)	43	592.4	38	106.5	46	130.7
Tablets	1	1	2	24	5	187
Ampoules	0	0	1	1	1	4
Mls	8	159.1	14	142.6	14	158.6
Wraps	11	24	13	50	25	42
All Class A¹	713	-	854	-	789	-
Class B						
Amphetamine: Powder (kgs)	188	18.0	132	12.7	95	5.5
Wraps	8	98	7	15	9	11
Tablets	14	143	7	267	8	327
Barbiturates: Tablets	1	11	0	0	0	0
All Class B¹	205	-	145	-	525²	-
Cannabis						
Cannabis: Resin (kgs)	1,438	3,683.5	1,480	78.2	1,630	743.1
Herbal (kgs)	486	26.6	811	70.1	897	248.8
Plants	105	1,448	115	4,006	173	30,904
Oil (gms)	2	12.0	1	2.0	0	0.0
Joints	155	221	178	269	196	286
All Cannabis¹	1,911	-	2,219	-	2,484	-
Total Seizure Incidents^{1 3}	2,590		2,968		3,198	
Street Value' of Drugs Seized	£22,512,384		£5,545,480		£23,367,356	
Persons Arrested	1,726		1,896		2,014	

¹ As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

² Cannabis was reclassified on the 26th January 2009 from Class C to Class B. The Class B total includes those cannabis seizures after reclassification.

³ Total seizure incidents include drugs not presented in this table such as benzodiazepines (diazepam, temazepam and nitrazepam), ketamine and steroids.

Table 4.2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District¹ 2007/08 – 2008/09

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2007/08	2008/09	Change	% Change	2007/08	2008/09	Change	% Change
A District	330	459	129	39.1%	189	234	45	23.8%
B District	407	421	14	3.4%	250	279	29	11.6%
C District	310	249	-61	-19.7%	169	135	-34	-20.1%
D District	399	463	64	16.0%	246	286	40	16.3%
E District	438	550	112	25.6%	222	238	16	7.2%
F District	396	374	-22	-5.6%	231	239	8	3.5%
G District	278	303	25	9.0%	241	235	-6	-2.5%
H District	410	379	-31	-7.6%	348	368	20	5.7%
Total	2968	3198	230	7.7%	1896	2014	118	6.2%

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

Table 4.3: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by Area 2007/08 – 2008/09

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2007/08	2008/09	Change	% Change	2007/08	2008/09	Change	% Change
Antrim	101	138	37	36.6%	85	96	11	12.9%
Ards	39	44	5	12.8%	23	15	-8	-34.8%
East Belfast	136	137	1	0.7%	92	87	-5	-5.4%
North Belfast	239	322	83	34.7%	133	150	17	12.8%
South Belfast	271	284	13	4.8%	158	192	34	21.5%
West Belfast	91	137	46	50.5%	56	84	28	50.0%
Carrickfergus	63	57	-6	-9.5%	24	10	-14	-58.3%
Castlereagh	52	49	-3	-5.8%	35	32	-3	-8.6%
Down	129	81	-48	-37.2%	67	47	-20	-29.9%
Lisburn	152	197	45	29.6%	99	135	36	36.4%
Newtownabbey	83	71	-12	-14.5%	38	45	7	18.4%
North Down	90	75	-15	-16.7%	44	41	-3	-6.8%
Urban Region	1446	1592	146	10.1%	854	934	80	9.4%

Armagh	70	58	-12	-17.1%	71	60	-11	-15.5%
Ballymena	132	127	-5	-3.8%	122	107	-15	-12.3%
Ballymoney	22	24	2	9.1%	14	20	6	42.9%
Banbridge	60	46	-14	-23.3%	33	24	-9	-27.3%
Coleraine	192	186	-6	-3.1%	192	204	12	6.3%
Cookstown	72	89	17	23.6%	34	49	15	44.1%
Craigavon	207	321	114	55.1%	54	90	36	66.7%
Dungannon & South Tyrone	100	95	-5	-5.0%	70	85	15	21.4%
Fermanagh	59	61	2	3.4%	37	42	5	13.5%
Foyle	117	145	28	23.9%	120	113	-7	-5.8%
Larne	45	36	-9	-20.0%	8	31	23	287.5%
Limavady	115	96	-19	-16.5%	95	83	-12	-12.6%
Magherafelt	30	43	13	43.3%	9	32	23	255.6%
Moyle	19	6	-13	-68.4%	12	6	-6	-50.0%
Newry & Mourne	101	125	24	23.8%	64	64	0	0.0%
Omagh	165	129	-36	-21.8%	90	63	-27	-30.0%
Strabane	16	19	3	18.8%	17	7	-10	-58.8%
Rural Region	1522	1606	84	5.5%	1042	1080	38	3.6%

Total	2968	3198	230	7.7%	1896	2014	118	6.2%
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PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

