



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PSNI Annual Statistical Report

Report No. 4

DRUG SEIZURES & ARRESTS

1st APRIL 2009 – 31st MARCH 2010

Central Statistics Branch, Operational Support Department

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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 Organised Crime Branch and are also cross-referenced against other internal records of drug seizures.

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Total Seizures

- A total of 3,319 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2009/10, an increase of 3.8% on 2008/09. As in previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.

Class A Seizures

- There were 793 seizure incidents of Class A drugs in 2009/10.
- Cocaine accounted for the greatest number of Class A seizure incidents. The amount of cocaine powder seized increased from 24.2 kg in 2008/09 to 27.5 kg in 2009/10.
- Although the number of seizure incidents of ecstasy tablets was lower in 2009/10 (204) compared with 2008/09 (353), the quantity of ecstasy tablets seized increased from 34,404 tablets in 2008/09 to 54,434 in 2009/10.
- The amount of opiate powder seized increased substantially from 130.7 grams in 2008/09 to 8,623.4 grams in 2009/10. This was mainly due to a major seizure of heroin powder in Foyle in July 2009.

Class B¹ Seizures

- There were 2,630 seizure incidents of class B¹ drugs in 2009/10.
- Seizure incidents of amphetamine powder increased (from 95 in 2008/09 to 129 in 2009/10) as did the amount of amphetamine powder seized (from 5.5 kg in 2008/09 to 95.0 kg in 2009/10).

Cannabis Seizures

- There were 2,523 seizure incidents of cannabis in 2009/10. However, the quantity of cannabis resin, herbal cannabis and cannabis plants seized was lower in 2009/10 than in 2008/09.
- Herbal cannabis accounted for the greatest number of cannabis seizure incidents. The number of seizure incidents of herbal cannabis increased by 59.9% from 897 in 2008/09 to 1,434 seizure incidents in 2009/10.
- The number of cannabis plants seized decreased from 30,904 plants in 2008/09 to 5,484 plants in 2009/10.

Arrests

- The number of persons arrested for drug related offences increased by 11.7% from 2,014 in 2008/09 to 2,250 in 2009/10.

¹ Cannabis was reclassified on the 26th January 2009 from Class C to Class B. The Class B total includes those cannabis seizures after reclassification.

Table 4.1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2007/08-2009/10

Drugs Seized	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine: Powder (gms)	405	17,882.6	345	24,151.7	474	27,485.2
Wraps	33	97	47	149	52	110
'Crack' (gms)	0	0.0	1	6.9	0	0.0
Ecstasy: Tablets	436	244,720	353	34,404	204	54,434
Powder (gms)	19	79.74	18	111.10	7	162.71
Capsules	0	0	0	0	1	40
Crystal (gms)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
LSD: Doses	4	4	6	148	6	261
Microdots	2	182	4	21	2	385
Opiates: Powder (gms)	38	106.5	46	130.7	55	8,623.4
Tablets	2	24	5	187	1	8
Ampoules	1	1	1	4	0	0
Mls	14	142.6	14	158.6	17	219.8
Wraps	13	50	25	42	31	131
All Class A²	854	-	789	-	793	-
Class B¹						
Amphetamine: Powder (kgs)	132	12.7	95	5.5	129	95.0
Wraps	7	15	9	11	12	30
Tablets	7	267	8	327	24	5,821
Barbiturates: Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Class B¹	145	-	525¹	-	2,630¹	-
Cannabis						
Cannabis: Resin (kgs)	1,480	78.2	1,630	743.1	1,118	127.4
Herbal (kgs)	811	70.1	897	248.8	1,434	215.9
Plants	115	4,006	173	30,904	158	5,484
Oil (gms)	1	2.0	0	0.0	2	22.0
Joints	178	269	196	286	218	300
All Cannabis²	2,219	-	2,484	-	2,523	-
Total Seizure Incidents^{2,3}		2,968	3,198	3,198	3,319	3,319
Street Value' of Drugs Seized		£5,545,480	£23,367,356	£23,367,356	£9,055,735	£9,055,735
Persons Arrested		1,896	2,014	2,014	2,250	2,250

¹ Cannabis was reclassified on the 26th January 2009 from Class C to Class B. The Class B total includes those cannabis seizures after reclassification.

² As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

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

Table 4.2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District¹ 2008/09 – 2009/10

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
A District	459	454	-5	-1.1%	234	220	-14	-6.0%
B District	421	531	110	26.1%	279	313	34	12.2%
C District	249	347	98	39.4%	135	144	9	6.7%
D District	463	423	-40	-8.6%	286	358	72	25.2%
E District	550	464	-86	-15.6%	238	278	40	16.8%
F District	374	354	-20	-5.3%	239	210	-29	-12.1%
G District	303	312	9	3.0%	235	311	76	32.3%
H District	379	434	55	14.5%	368	416	48	13.0%
Total	3198	3319	121	3.8%	2014	2250	236	11.7%

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 2008/09 – 2009/10

	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
Antrim	138	118	-20	-14.5%	96	123	27	28.1%
Ards	44	61	17	38.6%	15	32	17	113.3%
East Belfast	137	157	20	14.6%	87	82	-5	-5.7%
North Belfast	322	303	-19	-5.9%	150	131	-19	-12.7%
South Belfast	284	374	90	31.7%	192	231	39	20.3%
West Belfast	137	151	14	10.2%	84	89	5	6.0%
Carrickfergus	57	28	-29	-50.9%	10	13	3	30.0%
Castlereagh	49	69	20	40.8%	32	21	-11	-34.4%
Down	81	118	37	45.7%	47	52	5	10.6%
Lisburn	197	180	-17	-8.6%	135	168	33	24.4%
Newtownabbey	71	97	26	36.6%	45	54	9	20.0%
North Down	75	99	24	32.0%	41	39	-2	-4.9%
Urban Region	1592	1755	163	10.2%	934	1035	101	10.8%

Armagh	58	54	-4	-6.9%	60	34	-26	-43.3%
Ballymena	127	163	36	28.3%	107	140	33	30.8%
Ballymoney	24	14	-10	-41.7%	20	11	-9	-45.0%
Banbridge	46	49	3	6.5%	24	29	5	20.8%
Coleraine	186	201	15	8.1%	204	222	18	8.8%
Cookstown	89	100	11	12.4%	49	53	4	8.2%
Craigavon	321	210	-111	-34.6%	90	110	20	22.2%
Dungannon & South Tyrone	95	83	-12	-12.6%	85	49	-36	-42.4%
Fermanagh	61	73	12	19.7%	42	65	23	54.8%
Foyle	145	148	3	2.1%	113	163	50	44.2%
Larne	36	32	-4	-11.1%	31	25	-6	-19.4%
Limavady	96	103	7	7.3%	83	108	25	30.1%
Magherafelt	43	39	-4	-9.3%	32	23	-9	-28.1%
Moyle	6	24	18	300.0%	6	18	12	200.0%
Newry & Mourne	125	151	26	20.8%	64	105	41	64.1%
Omagh	129	98	-31	-24.0%	63	43	-20	-31.7%
Strabane	19	22	3	15.8%	7	17	10	142.9%
Rural Region	1606	1564	-42	-2.6%	1080	1215	135	12.5%

Total	3198	3319	121	3.8%	2014	2250	236	11.7%
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PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007



Based Upon Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland Data © 2007