

Statistical Report No. 2

DOMESTIC INCIDENTS AND CRIMES

1st April 2005 - 31st March 2006

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Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

2. Domestic Incidents and Crimes

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2. Domestic Incidents and Crimes

Summary

During 2004/05 the Police Service of Northern Ireland established a baseline measure of incidents and crimes with a domestic motivation and this measure has been continued during 2005/06.

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.

Breach of Non-Molestation Orders

The offence of breach of a non-molestation order has been recorded as a notifiable offence under the Home Office Counting Rules since 1st April 2005, making the number of offences recorded, cleared and the clearance rate available from this date. Prior to this date the number of breaches of these orders was available, but not the number cleared or the clearance rate.

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

	2004/05	2005/06	change
Total number of incidents	20,959	23,059	+10.0%
Total number of crimes			
including breach of orders	9,656	10,768	+11.5%
excluding breach of orders	8,508	9,353	+9.9%
% clearance rate			
including breach of orders	not available	77.5	not available
excluding breach of orders	72.9	78.4	+5.5%pts

- Between 2004/05 and 2005/06 the number of domestic incidents increased by 2,100 (+10.0%).
- There were 10,768 domestic crimes recorded in 2005/06, an increase of 11.5% (+1,112) on 2004/05 when breach of non-molestation order offences are included for both years.
- During 2005/06 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 7,206 such offences, representing 66.9% of the total. Of the remaining offences, criminal damage accounted for 15.3% and breach of non-molestation orders represented 13.1% of the total.
- The overall clearance rate for crimes with a domestic motivation in 2005/06 was 77.5%.

Table 2.2: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by District Command Unit 2005/06

	Total number of incidents	Total offences recorded ¹	Total offences cleared ¹	% clearance rate ¹
Antrim	706	291	217	74.6
Ards	843	425	304	71.5
East Belfast	1,336	513	374	72.9
North Belfast	2,157	863	581	67.3
South Belfast	999	481	359	74.6
West Belfast	1,113	564	443	78.5
Carrickfergus	480	223	186	83.4
Castlereagh	432	171	134	78.4
Larne	313	142	118	83.1
Lisburn	1,551	781	631	80.8
Newtownabbey	973	538	368	68.4
North Down	919	395	352	89.1
Urban Region	11,822	5,387	4,067	75.5
Armagh	482	254	234	92.1
Ballymena	584	361	296	82.0
Ballymoney	272	150	119	79.3
Banbridge	431	211	179	84.8
Coleraine	1,072	423	353	83.5
Cookstown	503	219	155	70.8
Craigavon	1,403	646	474	73.4
Down	670	350	257	73.4
Dungannon & South Tyrone	406	187	151	80.7
Fermanagh	609	307	266	86.6
Foyle	1,691	698	535	76.6
Limavady	460	253	212	83.8
Magherafelt	345	181	156	86.2
Moyle	128	69	58	84.1
Newry & Mourne	960	559	459	82.1
Omagh	723	272	169	62.1
Strabane	498	241	210	87.1
Rural Region	11,237	5,381	4,283	79.6
Grand Total	23,059	10,768	8,350	77.5

¹ The figures provided above for the number of offences, clearances and clearance rates where there is a domestic motivation do not include assault on police. However they do include breaches of non-molestation orders which are counted as offences in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules from 1st April 2005.

Table 2.3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence 2005/06

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence ¹												
		Murder	Manslaughter	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	291	0	0	0	16	1	155	9	3	0	1	37	63	6
Ards	425	0	0	1	17	11	259	10	6	6	1	59	28	27
East Belfast	513	1	0	0	25	6	282	9	1	2	2	82	79	24
North Belfast	863	1	0	2	42	25	526	8	6	5	4	136	82	26
South Belfast	481	0	0	1	16	1	289	25	3	3	4	49	60	30
West Belfast	564	0	0	1	30	3	329	9	0	1	2	90	82	17
Carrickfergus	223	0	0	1	9	4	158	7	0	0	0	22	13	9
Castlereagh	171	1	0	0	9	0	105	4	0	0	0	28	20	4
Larne	142	0	0	0	4	1	86	4	0	0	1	18	23	5
Lisburn	781	0	0	4	66	11	420	48	4	2	1	117	69	39
Newtownabbey	538	0	0	1	21	4	297	40	4	0	1	90	57	23
North Down	395	0	0	0	24	2	236	11	0	1	0	59	43	19
Urban Region	5,387	3	0	11	279	69	3,142	184	27	20	17	787	619	229
Armagh	254	0	0	1	5	5	117	18	2	0	0	34	52	20
Ballymena	361	0	0	1	32	5	205	5	0	0	1	47	46	19
Ballymoney	150	0	0	0	2	0	90	9	0	0	1	17	22	9
Banbridge	211	0	0	0	6	3	111	9	0	2	0	41	28	11
Coleraine	423	0	0	0	19	2	226	41	0	2	0	64	52	17
Cookstown	219	0	0	0	7	4	108	11	0	0	0	46	26	17
Craigavon	646	0	0	0	13	6	370	20	3	6	1	110	64	53
Down	350	0	0	0	11	3	204	7	1	0	0	51	58	15
Dungannon & South Tyrone	187	0	0	0	3	1	97	12	0	0	0	23	42	9
Fermanagh	307	2	0	0	21	3	165	11	1	3	0	49	42	10
Foyle	698	1	0	0	31	10	355	18	1	3	0	125	126	28
Limavady	253	0	0	0	6	5	148	9	1	1	2	40	31	10
Magherafelt	181	0	0	0	2	1	106	12	0	0	1	21	33	5
Moyle	69	0	0	0	1	1	43	1	0	0	0	14	6	3
Newry & Mourne	559	0	0	1	31	7	279	19	3	1	0	94	96	28
Omagh	272	0	0	0	8	2	142	13	0	0	0	50	47	10
Strabane	241	0	0	1	9	5	143	12	0	1	4	33	25	8
Rural Region	5,381	3	0	4	207	63	2,909	227	12	19	10	859	796	272
Grand Total	10,768	6	0	15	486	132	6,051	411	39	39	27	1,646	1,415	501

¹ The domestic offence figures provided above do not include assault on police. However they do include breaches of non-molestation orders which are counted as offences in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules from 1st April 2005.

Table 2.4: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by District Command Unit 2004/05 and 2005/06

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded ¹				Total offences cleared ¹		% clearance rate ¹		
	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	change in % pts ²
Antrim	628	706	+78	+12.4	235	228	-7	-3.0	172	168	73.2	73.7	+0.5
Ards	728	843	+115	+15.8	345	397	+52	+15.1	229	292	66.4	73.6	+7.2
East Belfast	1,246	1,336	+90	+7.2	397	434	+37	+9.3	323	319	81.4	73.5	-7.9
North Belfast	1,843	2,157	+314	+17.0	630	781	+151	+24.0	398	534	63.2	68.4	+5.2
South Belfast	853	999	+146	+17.1	325	421	+96	+29.5	226	320	69.5	76.0	+6.5
West Belfast	1,086	1,113	+27	+2.5	522	482	-40	-7.7	379	379	72.6	78.6	+6.0
Carrickfergus	364	480	+116	+31.9	152	210	+58	+38.2	122	178	80.3	84.8	+4.5
Castlereagh	617	432	-185	-30.0	187	151	-36	-19.3	163	122	87.2	80.8	-6.4
Larne	293	313	+20	+6.8	111	119	+8	+7.2	87	101	78.4	84.9	+6.5
Lisburn	1,782	1,551	-231	-13.0	819	712	-107	-13.1	589	584	71.9	82.0	+10.1
Newtownabbey	863	973	+110	+12.7	395	481	+86	+21.8	287	337	72.7	70.1	-2.6
North Down	774	919	+145	+18.7	294	352	+58	+19.7	226	314	76.9	89.2	+12.3
Urban Region	11,077	11,822	+745	+6.7	4,412	4,768	+356	+8.1	3,201	3,648	72.6	76.5	+4.0
Armagh	353	482	+129	+36.5	166	202	+36	+21.7	126	184	75.9	91.1	+15.2
Ballymena	580	584	+4	+0.7	311	315	+4	+1.3	257	265	82.6	84.1	+1.5
Ballymoney	255	272	+17	+6.7	122	128	+6	+4.9	93	107	76.2	83.6	+7.4
Banbridge	346	431	+85	+24.6	200	183	-17	-8.5	159	165	79.5	90.2	+10.7
Coleraine	824	1,072	+248	+30.1	309	371	+62	+20.1	225	311	72.8	83.8	+11.0
Cookstown	446	503	+57	+12.8	196	193	-3	-1.5	153	137	78.1	71.0	-7.1
Craigavon	1,233	1,403	+170	+13.8	556	582	+26	+4.7	354	427	63.7	73.4	+9.7
Down	363	670	+307	+84.6	147	292	+145	+98.6	90	203	61.2	69.5	+8.3
Dungannon & South Tyrone	323	406	+83	+25.7	122	145	+23	+18.9	103	118	84.4	81.4	-3.0
Fermanagh	518	609	+91	+17.6	151	265	+114	+75.5	123	234	81.5	88.3	+6.8
Foyle	1,921	1,691	-230	-12.0	651	572	-79	-12.1	434	451	66.7	78.8	+12.2
Limavady	392	460	+68	+17.3	204	222	+18	+8.8	143	185	70.1	83.3	+13.2
Magherafelt	448	345	-103	-23.0	99	148	+49	+49.5	83	128	83.8	86.5	+2.6
Moyle	102	128	+26	+25.5	52	63	+11	+21.2	33	56	63.5	88.9	+25.4
Newry & Mourne	617	960	+343	+55.6	268	463	+195	+72.8	208	380	77.6	82.1	+4.5
Omagh	666	723	+57	+8.6	219	225	+6	+2.7	152	146	69.4	64.9	-4.5
Strabane	495	498	+3	+0.6	323	216	-107	-33.1	264	189	81.7	87.5	+5.8
Rural Region	9,882	11,237	+1,355	+13.7	4,096	4,585	+489	+11.9	3,000	3,686	73.2	80.4	+7.2
Grand Total	20,959	23,059	+2,100	+10.0	8,508	9,353	+845	+9.9	6,201	7,334	72.9	78.4	+5.5

¹ The domestic offence, clearance and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police or breach of non-molestation orders. Although breaches of non-molestation orders have been counted as offences in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules from 1st April 2005, a complete set of figures for 2004/05 (ie offences, clearances and clearance rates) is not available and therefore comparisons between the two time periods are not feasible. However assault on police and breaches of non-molestation orders are included in the incident figures.

² While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 2.5: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District Command Unit 2004/05 and 2005/06

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown		Total Offences ¹	
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06
Antrim	164	163	52	43	13	16	6	6	235	228
Ards	235	257	87	111	21	25	2	4	345	397
East Belfast	272	294	98	107	22	22	5	11	397	434
North Belfast	462	576	113	134	38	39	17	32	630	781
South Belfast	229	288	78	104	11	19	7	10	325	421
West Belfast	401	351	91	96	18	22	12	13	522	482
Carrickfergus	115	144	28	52	9	10	0	4	152	210
Castlereagh	131	111	43	31	11	6	2	3	187	151
Larne	80	72	21	32	8	13	2	2	111	119
Lisburn	556	487	197	177	48	32	18	16	819	712
Newtownabbey	273	321	94	132	23	20	5	8	395	481
North Down	210	242	64	81	16	26	4	3	294	352
Urban Region	3,128	3,306	966	1,100	238	250	80	112	4,412	4,768
Armagh	115	139	44	48	6	10	1	5	166	202
Ballymena	230	226	62	52	17	31	2	6	311	315
Ballymoney	84	88	28	30	9	10	1	0	122	128
Banbridge	127	116	57	53	10	8	6	6	200	183
Coleraine	228	246	54	87	21	29	6	9	309	371
Cookstown	118	133	56	39	21	17	1	4	196	193
Craigavon	375	368	129	145	30	46	22	23	556	582
Down	98	217	32	52	12	14	5	9	147	292
Dungannon & South Tyrone	88	106	29	30	4	5	1	4	122	145
Fermanagh	104	186	31	58	12	18	4	3	151	265
Foyle	469	419	126	112	44	28	12	13	651	572
Limavady	146	146	43	56	13	15	2	5	204	222
Magherafelt	71	93	22	43	5	9	1	3	99	148
Moyle	37	52	12	10	2	0	1	1	52	63
Newry & Mourne	199	322	50	106	11	19	8	16	268	463
Omagh	157	156	48	50	11	14	3	5	219	225
Strabane	231	144	62	51	22	16	8	5	323	216
Rural Region	2,877	3,157	885	1,022	250	289	84	117	4,096	4,585
Grand Total	6,005	6,463	1,851	2,122	488	539	164	229	8,508	9,353

¹ The domestic offence figures shown above do not include assault on police or breach of non-molestation orders. Although breaches of non-molestation orders are counted as offences in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules from 1st April 2005, a complete set of figures for 2004/05 (ie offences, clearances and clearance rates) is not available and therefore comparisons between the two time periods are not feasible.

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.

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.

Offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' are those where the police take 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.

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.