

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

The PSNI's Statistical Report 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010

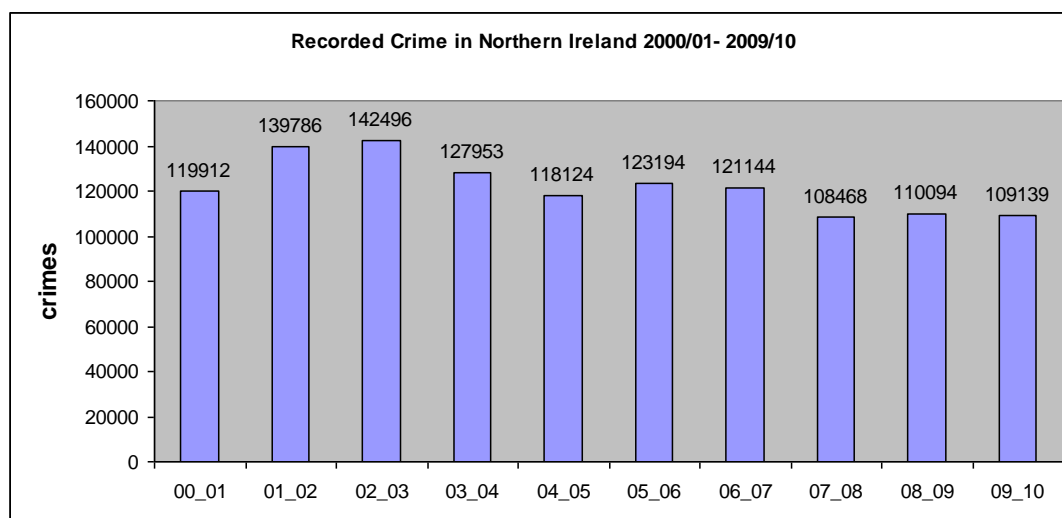
The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) today (Tuesday 11th May 2010) published its Statistical Report covering the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. This National Statistics publication includes details on the following areas for that period;

- Recorded crime & detections (National Statistics)
- Domestic abuse incidents & crimes
- Hate incidents and crimes
- Drug seizures and arrests
- Statistics relating to the security situation (National Statistics)
- Reported Injury Road Traffic Collisions (National Statistics)

Key Findings

1. Recorded Crime & Detections

- There were 109,139 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 2009/10 compared with 110,094 in 2008/09, a decrease of 955 (-0.9%). Four of the 8 policing Districts experienced an increase in crime (ranging from +0.5% to +2.2%) whereas the remaining 4 Districts had a decrease (ranging from -0.4% to -5.2%).
- Over the last ten years the highest level of crime was in 2002/03 when 142,496 offences were recorded. However, in recent years (2007/08 onwards) crime levels have remained relatively constant. The level of crime recorded in 2009/10 was 23.4% lower than the peak recorded in 2002/03 and was the second lowest level since 2000/01 (the lowest being in 2007/08 with 108,468 offences).



- Crime decreased in three of the nine main offence categories (robbery, fraud & forgery and criminal damage) and increased in the remaining 6 offence categories (offences against the person, sexual offences, burglary, theft, offences against the state and other notifiable offences).
- Robberies fell by 7 offences (-0.5%), fraud & forgery fell by 237 (-6.6%) and criminal damage offences fell by -1,971 (-6.9%).
- Offences against the person increased by 412 (+1.4%), sexual offences increased by 1 offence (+0.1%), burglaries were up by 110 (+0.9%), thefts by 364 (+1.4%), offences against the state increased by 83 (+5.9%) and other notifiable offences increased by 290 (+5.5%).

- Violent crime (i.e. offences against the person, sexual offences and robberies) increased by 406 offences (+1.2%) compared with the previous year.
- The overall detection (clearance) rate increased by 2.8 percentage points from 23.0% in 2008/09 to 25.8% in 2009/10.
- During 2009/10, crime detection rates increased in seven of the nine main offence classes and decreased in the remaining two compared with the previous year. Across the 9 offence classes the highest detection rates were recorded for Other notifiable offences (80.4%) followed by Offences against the state (48.9%), Offences against the person (35.4%) and sexual offences (24.7%). Fraud & forgery offences had a detection rate of 23.6%, for theft offences it was 23.1%, robbery offences 18.6%, criminal damage offences 12.3% and for burglary offences it was 11.5%.

2. Incidents¹ & Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

- There were 24,482 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the PSNI in 2009/10, an increase of 891 (+3.8%) on the 23,591 incidents recorded in 2008/09.
- The number of crimes recorded as having a domestic abuse motivation increased by 692 (+7.5%) from 9,211 in 2008/09 to 9,903 in 2009/10. The associated detection rate rose by 5.5 percentage points from 37.8% in 2008/09 to 43.3% in 2009/10.

3. Incidents¹ & Crimes with a Hate Motivation

- In 2009/10 the PSNI recorded 1,840 sectarian incidents, 1,038 racist incidents, 175 homophobic incidents, 58 disability incidents, 23 faith/religion incidents and 14 transphobic incidents. Compared with the previous year sectarian incidents increased by 245 (+15.4%), racist incidents by 48 (+4.8%), disability incidents by 14 (+31.8%) and transphobic incidents by 4 (+40.0%). Conversely, faith/religion incidents were down by 23 (-50.0%) and homophobic incidents were down 4 (-2.2%).
- Compared with 2008/09, the number of crimes with a hate motivation in 2009/10 increased in three of the six hate crime types. Sectarian crimes were up by 247 offences (+24.3%), disability motivated crimes were up by 13 (+46.4%) and transphobic crimes increased by 2 (+100%). There were decreases in the remaining 3 hate crime types with racist crimes down by 59 (-7.7%), homophobic crimes down by 22 (-16.4%) and faith/religion crimes were down by 20 (-57.1%).
- The detection rate was highest for homophobic crimes (18.8%), followed by that for sectarian crimes (16.9%), racist crimes (16.2%), disability crimes (14.6%) and faith religion crimes (6.7%). No transphobic crimes were detected during 2009/10.

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

- There were 3,319 drug seizure incidents recorded in 2009/10, an increase of 3.8% on the previous year.
- Within Class A drug seizures, cocaine accounted for the most seizure incidents and the quantities of cocaine powder seized increased from 24.2 kg in 2008/09 to 27.5kg in 2009/10. The amount of ecstasy tablets seized also increased from 34,404 tablets in 2008/09 to 54,434 tablets in 2009/10.
- Cannabis was the drug most commonly seized in 2009/10. However, the quantity of cannabis resin, herbal cannabis and cannabis plants seized was lower than in 2008/09.

¹ The PSNI records and reports incidents and crimes that are perceived to have a domestic or hate motivation. Incidents relate to specified reports (see Notes for Editors at the end of this Press Release) regardless of whether an offence occurred. Crimes are a subset of these and relate to those where a notifiable offence occurred during the incident. Note: more than one crime may result from a given incident so occasionally more crimes are recorded than incidents for any given motivation.

- There were 2,250 people arrested for drug related offences in 2009/10, an increase of 11.7% on the 2,014 arrested in the previous year.

5. Statistics Relating to the Security Situation

- There were two security related deaths recorded during 2009/10, three fewer than in the previous year.
- Shooting incidents increased by 25 from 54 in 2008/09 to 79 in 2009/10. The number of bombing incidents also increased from 46 in 2008/09 to 50 in 2009/10.
- There were 46 casualties resulting from paramilitary style **shootings** in 2009/10, an increase of 26 on the previous year. Loyalists were responsible for 1 of these shootings whilst Republicans were responsible for the other 45.
- The number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style **assaults** increased from 41 in 2008/09 to 81 in 2009/10. Loyalists were responsible for 69 of these (85.2%) with Republicans deemed responsible for the remaining 12 casualties (14.8%).
- The numbers of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act decreased from 174 in 2008/09 to 169 in 2009/10. The number of persons subsequently charged following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act fell from 40 in 2008/09 to 36 in 2009/10.

6. Reported Injury Road Traffic Collisions & Casualties

- During 2009/10 there were 6,187 injury road traffic collisions which resulted in 101 deaths, 995 people seriously injured and 8,579 people slightly injured. The total number of injury road traffic collisions increased by 38 (+0.6%) compared with the previous year and the total number of persons injured increased by 204 (+2.2%).
- There were 8 fewer persons killed or seriously injured on the roads (KSI casualties) in 2009/10 with 5 fewer deaths and 3 fewer persons seriously injured compared with the previous year.
- While the overall level of injury collisions and resultant casualties have remained relatively static over the last few years, the numbers resulting in death or serious injury have decreased each year whereas those resulting in slight injuries have increased.
- Compared with the start of the last decade, there were 62 (-38.0%) fewer fatalities and 806 (-44.8%) fewer serious injury casualties in 2009/10 than in 2000/01

Reported injury road traffic collision statistics for the 2009 calendar year are also contained within the appendix of the financial year report. A more detailed 2009 calendar year report will be published later this year.

Notes for Editors

The PSNI reports it's performance on a financial year basis and this is the 7th Statistical Report that has been issued, the first relating to 2003/04. Prior to this the PSNI's statistics were published in the Chief Constable's Annual Report.

The PSNI's statistics on recorded crime & detections (clearances), injury road traffic collisions and the security situation are all National Statistics. The remaining statistics on incidents and crimes with a domestic or hate motivation and on drug seizures are not National Statistics.

Recorded Crime

PSNI records its crimes and detections in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules and adopted the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 at the same time as all police services in England & Wales.

Detections

Detections (or clearances) 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 detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected'.

The following methods of detection 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.

In addition, for the most serious offence types (indictable only) a non sanction detection can be claimed if ;

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution, or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

'Indictable only' offences are the most serious types of offences and are those which must be tried in the Crown Court. Instances of these non sanction detections are rare and they are few in number each year.

Definition of a Domestic abuse Incident

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

Definition of Hate Incidents

Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate (ACPO definition)

The various sections of the PSNI's Statistical Report for 2009/10 are available in PDF format from the PSNI web-site (www.psni.police.uk) or from the Central Statistics Unit, PSNI Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD (Telephone: 0845 600 8000 Ext. 24135; Email: statistics@psni.police.uk).

Press queries about this publication should be directed to the PSNI Media and PR Dept. tel. 0845 600 8000 ext.21084 or ext. 21085