

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland with a Racist, Homophobic or Sectarian Motivation: Quarterly Update to 30 September 2011

Published 24 November 2011



# Incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation: Quarterly update to 30 September 2011

Published 24 November 2011

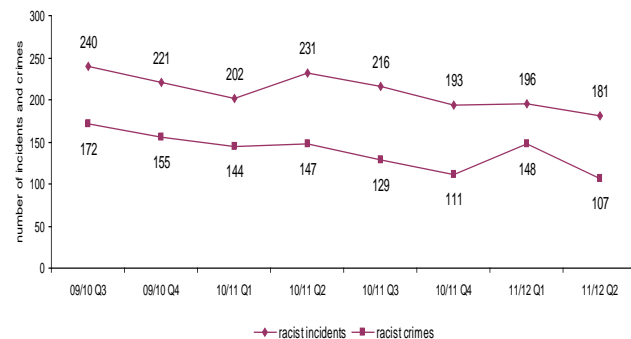
This quarterly bulletin presents the most recent statistics relating to incidents and crimes with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation recorded by the police to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Figures were compiled on 21 November 2011, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. Figures dating back to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised 2011/12 data are published in May 2012. The provisional figures in this bulletin supersede those published in the previous quarterly update for 2011/12. Data on faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivated incidents and crimes will be published once a year in the annual bulletin.

## MAIN POINTS

### Incidents and crimes with racist motivation

- Racist incidents have shown a general downward trend over the last two years from a level of 240 in Q3 2009/10 to a level of 181 in Q2 2011/12, a fall of 59 (-24.6%). The latest figure is 15 lower than for the previous quarter and is the lowest figure recorded in the last two years.
- Racist crimes showed a downward trend from 172 in Q3 2009/10 to 111 in Q4 2010/11. While Q1 2011/12 increased to a level of 148, Q2 2011/12 fell again to 107 crimes, a level similar to the figure for Q4 2010/11. The latest quarter shows a decrease on the previous quarter of 41 (27.7%) and is the lowest figure recorded in the last two years.
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a racist motivation for the latest 12 months is 16.0%, compared with 14.9% for the previous 12 months.

**Figure 1 Racist incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to Sept 2011**



### Incidents and crimes with homophobic motivation

- Over the last two years homophobic incidents rose from a low of 28 in Q3 2009/10 to reach a peak of 64 in Q1 2010/11 before falling each quarter to a level of 45 recorded in Q4 2010/11. Since then the figures have risen each quarter, to 52 in Q1 2011/12 and again to 57 in Q2 2011/12.
- Homophobic crimes show a similar trend to the incidents. While Q1 2011/12 showed a decrease of 4 when compared with Q4 2010/11, Q2 2011/12 is 5 crimes higher than the previous quarter, increasing from 29 to 34.
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a homophobic motivation for the latest 12 months is 16.4%, compared with 23.5% for the previous 12 months.

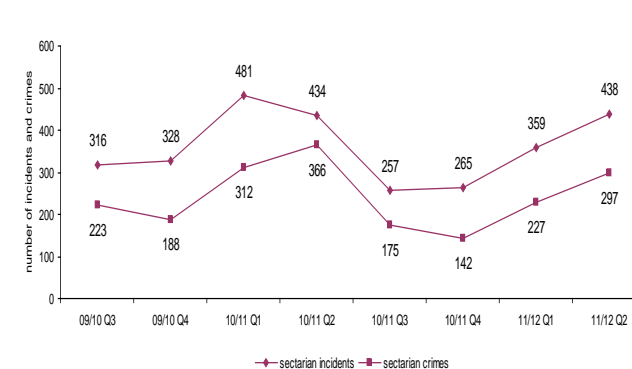
**Figure 2 Homophobic incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to Sept 2011**



### Incidents and crimes with sectarian motivation

- During the last two years sectarian incidents were at their highest during Q1 2010/11 (481 incidents), and reached levels of 434 and 438 in Q2 of 2010/11 and 2011/12 respectively. The number of incidents reached their lowest level of 257 in Q3 10/11 and have since increased to their latest level of 438.
- Sectarian crimes have shown a very similar trend to incidents, albeit at a lower level. The peak was 366 crimes recorded in Q2 2010/11 with the lowest level recorded in Q4 2010/11 (142 crimes). The latest figure shows an increase of 79 on the previous quarter.
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation for the latest 12 months is 22.5% compared with 25.0% for the previous 12 months.

**Figure 3 Sectarian incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to Sept 2011**



**Table 1: Incidents with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation recorded in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year**

	Numbers					
	Racist incidents		Homophobic incidents		Sectarian incidents	
	12 months to Sept 2010	12 months to Sept 2011	12 months to Sept 2010	12 months to Sept 2011	12 months to Sept 2010	12 months to Sept 2011
Incidents	894	786	192	202	1,559	1,319

**Table 2: Crimes and sanction detection rates with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation in the year to September 2011, compared with the previous year**

	Numbers and percentages											
	Racist motivated crimes				Homophobic motivated crimes				Sectarian motivated crimes			
	12 months to Sept 2010		12 months to Sept 2011		12 months to Sept 2010		12 months to Sept 2011		12 months to Sept 2010		12 months to Sept 2011	
	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate
Violence Against the Person Offences	255	23.5	238	26.9	65	29.2	88	20.5	539	30.4	373	29.5
Property Crime	351	8.3	247	5.7	38	10.5	31	3.2	464	9.9	418	12.0
All Other Crime	12	25.0	10	10.0	12	33.3	9	22.2	86	72.1	50	58.0
<b>Total Recorded Crime</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>22.5</b>

**Table 3: Attacks on symbolic premises in the 12 months to September 2011 compared with the previous year**

Attacks on symbolic premises are recorded where a crime has a sectarian motivation, where the premises is the intended target of the attack, and where the premises are one of the following; a church or chapel, a GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, an Orange Hall or Apprentice Boys Hall, or a school. These figures are a subset of sectarian motivated crimes.

Type of symbolic premises	Numbers	
	12 months to Sept 2010	12 months to Sept 2011
Church or Chapel	16	20
GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall	7	10
Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall	56	39
School	4	*

<sup>1</sup> Cell suppression has been applied to ensure that the identity of individuals/organisations or any private information relating to them is not revealed.

## NOTES

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs).

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

### Time periods covered

The figures in this bulletin are presented on a financial year basis and, in this context:

- Quarter 1 refers to the months April, May and June
- Quarter 2 refers to the months July, August and September
- Quarter 3 refers to the months October, November and December
- Quarter 4 refers to the months January, February and March

### Data accuracy

Figures within the current year to date are provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2012. While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but quarterly audits and data quality checks are conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

### Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of racist, homophobic and sectarian incidents and crimes recorded by the police in the 12 months to September 2011. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: [http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly\\_hate\\_motivations\\_update\\_apr-sep\\_11\\_12.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly_hate_motivations_update_apr-sep_11_12.xls). This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on incidents, crimes, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection rates (%). Each of these data measures is available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
- for a range of crime types; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current rolling 12 months, previous and current financial years to the end of the latest quarter and each of the last 8 quarters).

The pivot table allows the user to manipulate the data, select the data they are most interested in and carry out calculations on the data. The data records displayed in the pivot table are also available in this spreadsheet.

### Further information

Annual figures on hate motivated incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2010/11 are available in the publication Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2010/11, available at:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/hate\\_motivated\\_incidents\\_and\\_crimes\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2004-05\\_to\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/hate_motivated_incidents_and_crimes_in_northern_ireland_2004-05_to_2010-11.pdf)

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics, including those with a hate motivation, are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics. The [hate motivation definitions](#) upon which these statistics are based are also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site: [http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime and Incident Statistician please:

Email: [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk);

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998