

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 January 2016

Published 25 February 2016

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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, relating to incidents recorded by the police to 31 January 2016. Figures were compiled on 24 February 2016, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

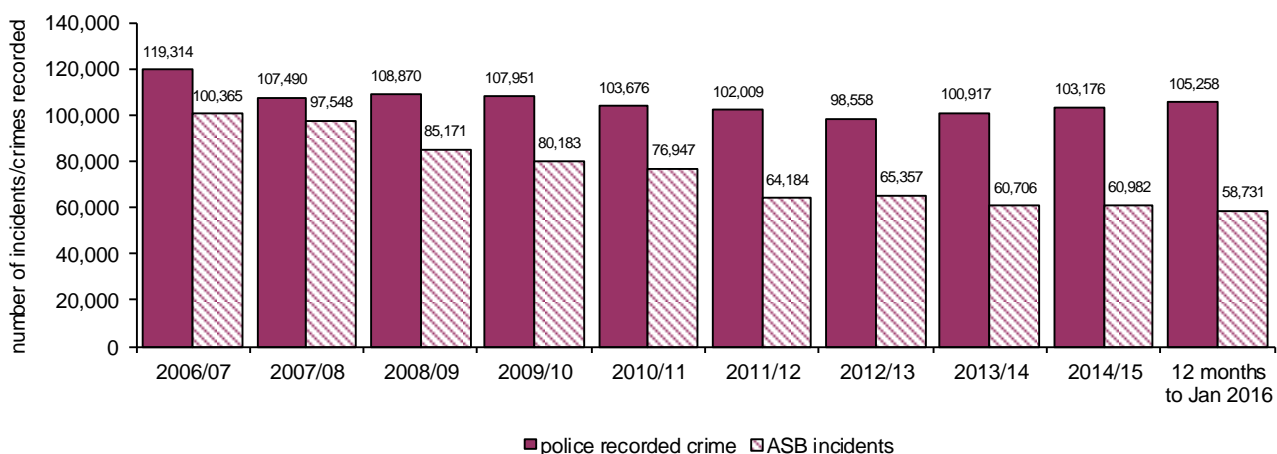
Change to policing boundaries as a result of implementing the Review of Public Administration: As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. While previously published figures were based on a best approximation to the new boundaries, figures in this bulletin are based on the fully implemented boundaries.

Please note: From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI, with the result that fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI. As such, any reference to police recorded crime figures in this bulletin will exclude fraud offences. Further details are available in the latest police recorded crime monthly update, available on the [PSNI internet site](#).

OVERALL TRENDS IN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS

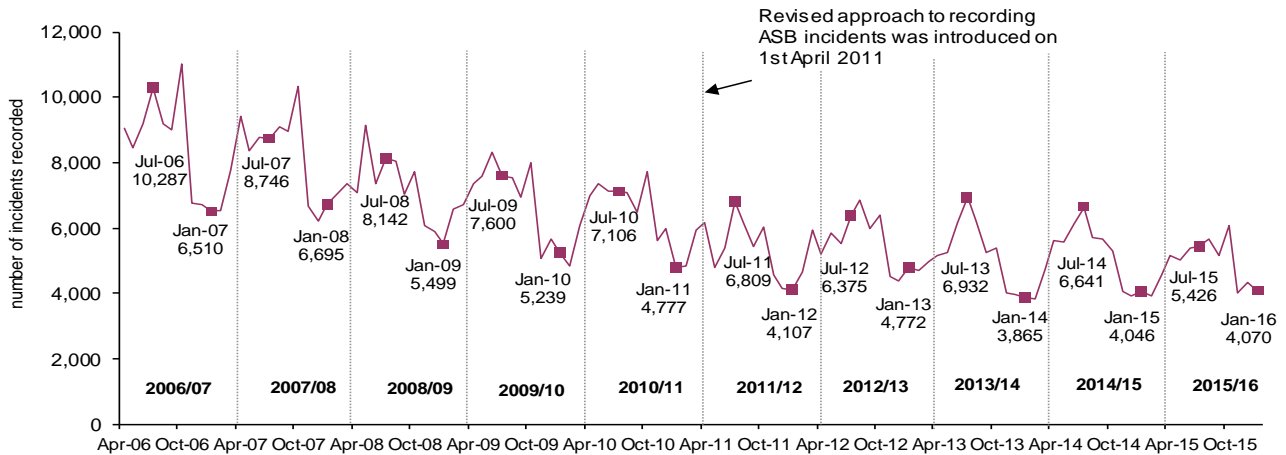
- There has been a general downwards trend in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded since the data series began in 2006/07 (as seen in Figure 1), with the figure for latest twelve months to January 2016 showing the lowest level in the series.
- While the number of anti-social behaviour incidents fell year on year between 2006/07 and 2011/12, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13 before levels fell again by 7.1 per cent in 2013/14. The number of incidents rose by 276 (0.5 per cent) between 2013/14 and 2014/15; however the level recorded during the latest twelve months to January 2016 (58,731) is 3.7 per cent (2,251 incidents) lower than the level recorded during 2014/15 (60,982).
- Figure 1 shows that police recorded crime (excluding fraud) decreased each year between 2006/07 and 2012/13, with the exception of 2008/09. Levels have increased in each of the last two financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15. The figure for the latest 12 months (105,258) is continuing this increase, being 2,082 higher than the 2014/15 level of 103,176.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have fallen at a faster rate than recorded crime since 2006/07.

Figure 1 Police recorded crime (excluding fraud) and anti-social behaviour incidents since 2006/07



- Figure 2 shows the monthly fluctuations in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded during each financial year, although these are becoming less marked over time. The figures for the months of January and July are identified in the chart for each financial year. A complete set of figures for each month dating back to April 2006 is available in the accompanying [excel summary tables](#).
- Based on the data series available from April 2006, anti-social behaviour incidents tend to show higher levels in July, August and October. There is then a sharp fall in anti-social behaviour incidents between October and November followed by a period of lower levels of anti-social behaviour between November and February/March.
- Between 2011/12 and 2014/15 the number of anti-social behaviour incidents peaked in July or August. Since 2006/07 the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour incidents have been recorded in the months of December, January and February. The level recorded in January 2016 is 4,070; this is 24 incidents higher than January 2015.

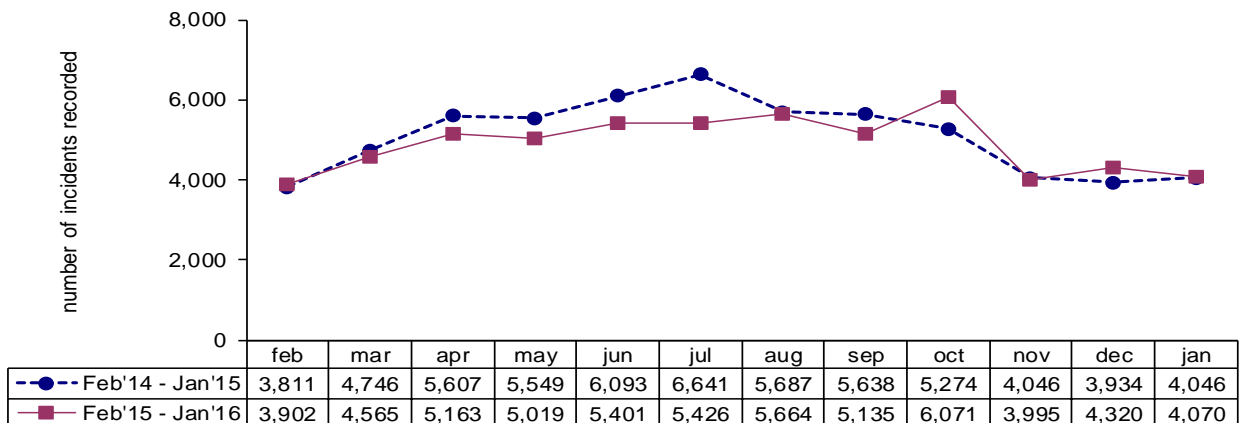
Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to January 2016



COMPARISON OF LATEST 12 MONTHS WITH PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

- There were 58,731 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in the twelve months to 31 January 2016, representing a fall of 3.8 per cent (2,341 incidents) on the twelve months to 31 January 2015 when 61,072 incidents were recorded.
- The trends in anti-social behaviour for the latest twelve month period have largely mirrored those seen in the previous twelve months, but at a lower level for eight of the latest twelve months. October and December were exceptions where levels were markedly higher than the same months the previous year. The latest figure of 4,070 incidents recorded in January 2016 is marginally higher than January 2015 (higher by 24 incidents) but 250 incidents lower than the previous month (December 2015). Since the start of the data series in 2006/07 levels in January have tended to be lower than December with 2008, 2013 and 2015 being the only years when levels were higher.
- Two of the eleven policing districts are showing higher levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing the latest twelve months to 31 January 2016 with the previous 12 month period: Mid & East Antrim (+39), and Lisburn & Castlereagh City (+35). The remaining policing districts have experienced lower levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing this same time period, ranging from a fall of 62 incidents in Antrim & Newtownabbey to a fall of 422 incidents in Derry City & Strabane.
- While anti-social behaviour has fallen in the latest twelve months when compared with the previous twelve months, levels have tended to increase across all policing districts since early in 2015 (with the exception of Fermanagh & Omagh where a relatively flat trend can be seen from April 2015 onwards). This mirrors a similar upwards trend (albeit at a higher level) observed during the first seven months of 2014. During 2015 the upward trend continued into August 2015, before fluctuating monthly between September 2015 and January 2016. All but four districts have shown a fall in levels of anti-social behaviour between December 2015 and January 2016 (the four districts that have shown increases are Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid Ulster and Derry City & Strabane). Whilst there has been a degree of fluctuation in levels of anti-social behaviour recorded in recent months, overall all districts are showing a relatively flat trend over the last two years.

Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month February 2014 to January 2016



NOTES

Anti-social behaviour incident data are output from a command and control system which is used to respond to calls for service from members of the public by prioritising the call and tasking the appropriate police response. Each incident is closed off using codes and definitions set out in the National Standard for Incident Recording, designed to provide a common approach to be followed by police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in classifying the broad range of calls for service received. These figures should be interpreted as 'calls for service' rather than as figures which reflect the true level of victimisation. As these figures only relate to those anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police (and may exclude those incidents reported to other agencies, such as local councils), they only provide an indication of the true extent of reported anti-social behaviour.

Data on anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police have been compiled since the NSIR was introduced in April 2006. Between April 2006 and March 2011, ASB incidents were split into fourteen different incident types, and these categories were used as the basis on which ASB incident levels were reported.

Following Home Office national guidance introduced on 1st April 2011 on how police forces record ASB incidents, the existing approach was changed to focus more on the needs of the caller or risk to the caller rather than the previous approach which centred on categorising the type of ASB incident. As a result the number of ASB incident types has been reduced from fourteen to three. The focus is now on how the ASB incident being reported impacts on the caller, with emphasis placed on identifying the vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk.

While the national guidance and incident types for recording anti-social behaviour changed from 1st April 2011, the overall levels before and after this change appear to be sufficiently comparable for a time series of figures recorded under both the previous and the current guidance to be produced. However it should be noted that the figures prior to 1st April 2011 presented in this bulletin and in the accompanying excel spreadsheet exclude the incident type 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services', which was one of the fourteen incident types in use between 2006/07 and 2010/11. Incidents of this nature were removed from the Anti-Social Behaviour category and placed in the Public Safety and Welfare category from the start of April 2011. This incident type was removed from figures prior to 1st April 2011 to maintain data comparability.

Data Accuracy

As anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system whose primary function is to prioritise and respond to calls for service from members of the public, the data will always be subject to change. Incidents of anti-social behaviour are not individually checked for compliance with the National Standard for Incident Recording by the PSNI's Statistics Branch. However Statistics Branch conduct audits of anti-social behaviour incidents as required. Common types of errors in the application of incident closure codes identified through the audit process are fed back to relevant staff.

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police for the 12 months to January 2016. Accompanying this bulletin are additional data in the form of [excel summary tables](#) and [excel pivot table data](#). The data is also available in open data format.

The pivot table provides statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current rolling 12 months, previous and current financial years to date and each of the last 24 months).

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

Information on perceptions of anti-social behaviour is available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey and can be accessed through the Department of Justice Internet Site: <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>

Provisional management information drawn from police anti-social behaviour figures, published at street level each month, is available through the [police crime mapping website](#). The figures on the crime mapping website will differ from those provided in this bulletin as they have been extracted from the police administrative system on different dates, and also require a grid reference in order to be mapped.

For further information about the anti-social behaviour statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime & Incident Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

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

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998