

Police Service of Northern Ireland

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

(Providing figures for 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016)

Published 12 May 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 for the financial year 2015/16 which runs from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

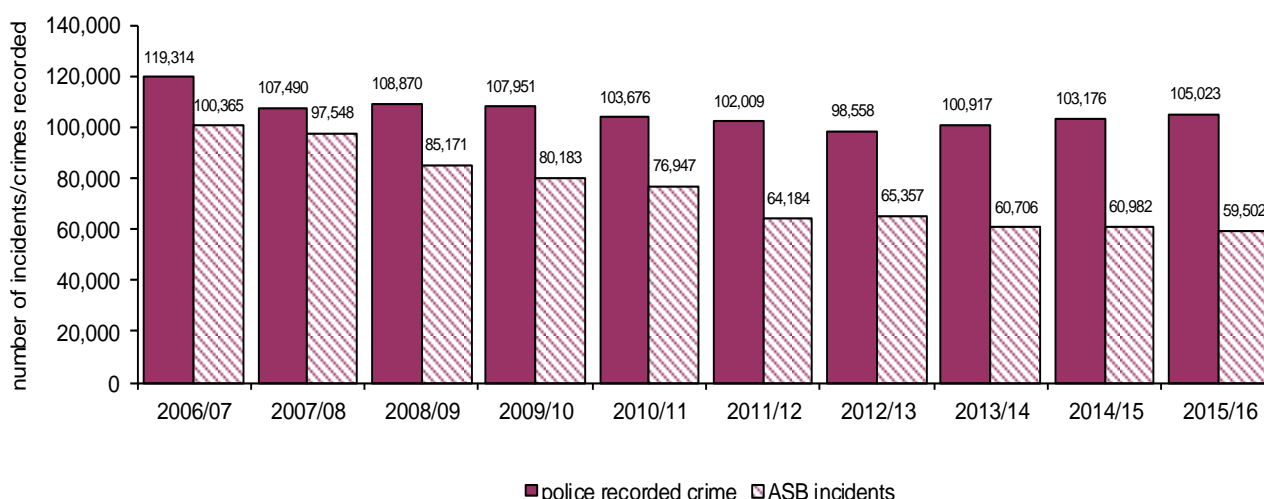
Change to policing boundaries as a result of implementing the Review of Public Administration: As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the 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). The level of 59,502 recorded during 2015/16 is the lowest in the series, being 2.4 per cent lower than 2014/15 and less than three fifths of the level recorded in 2006/07.
- The number of anti-social behaviour incidents fell year on year between 2006/07 and 2011/12, although 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. While the number of incidents rose by 276 (0.5 per cent) between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the level recorded during 2015/16 (59,502) is 2.4 per cent (1,480 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 financial years since 2012/13, with the figure for 2015/16 (105,023) being 1,847 higher than the 2014/15 level of 103,176.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents fell at a faster rate than recorded crime between 2006/07 and 2012/13. Since 2012/13 anti-social behaviour incidents have generally continued to fall whilst recorded crime has risen.

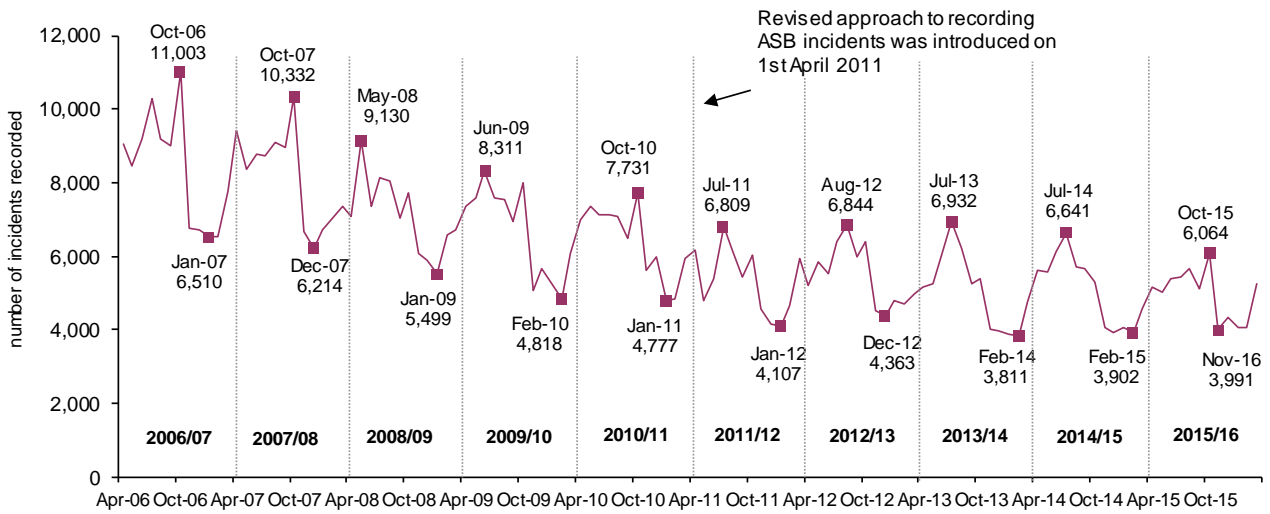
Figure 1 Police recorded crime (excluding fraud) and anti-social behaviour incidents since 2006/07



- 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 highest and lowest monthly levels occurring within each financial year are identified in the chart. 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. In 2015/16 levels peaked in October, as seen in earlier years of the data series (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2010/11). Since 2006/07 the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour incidents have been recorded in the months of December, January and February; in 2015/16 the lowest level was recorded in November.

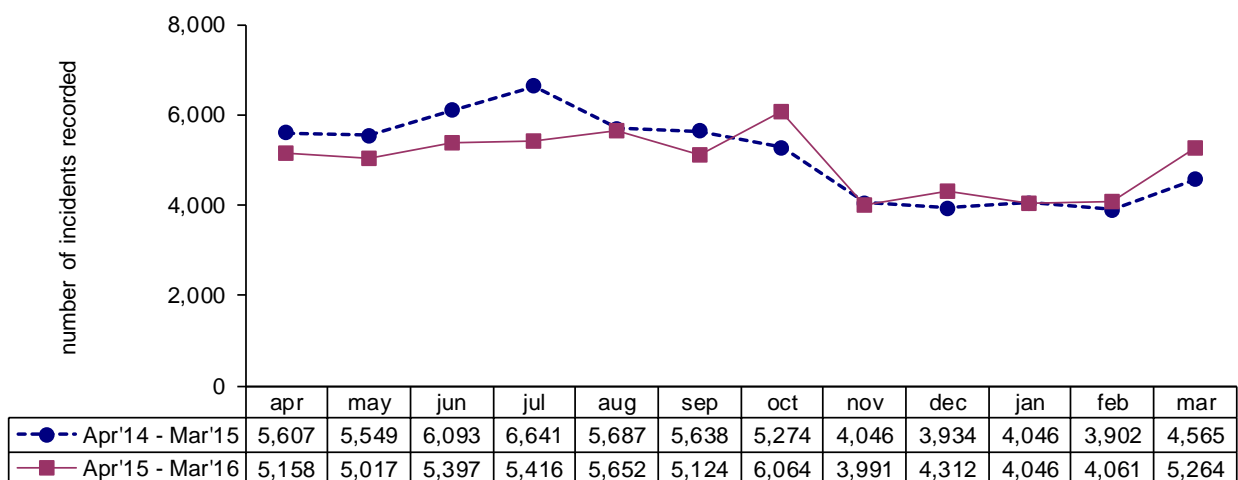
Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to March 2016 (with highest and lowest monthly levels identified for each year)



COMPARISON OF 2014/15 WITH 2015/16

- There were 59,502 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2015/16, representing a fall of 2.4 per cent (1,480 incidents) on 2014/15 when 60,982 incidents were recorded.
- The trends in anti-social behaviour during 2015/16 have largely mirrored those seen during 2014/15 but at a lower level for seven of the latest twelve months, while four months showed higher levels. January 2016 showed exactly the same level as the previous January. When compared with the same months in the previous financial year the largest increases were seen during March (15.3 per cent or 699 incidents) and October (15.0 per cent or 790 incidents), while July 2016 was 1,225 incidents (18.4 per cent) lower than July 2015.

Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2014 to March 2016



COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT: 2014/15 AND 2015/16

- Nine of the eleven policing districts are showing lower levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15, ranging from a fall of 7 incidents in Belfast City to a fall of 397 incidents in Mid Ulster. Lisburn & Castlereagh City and Mid & East Antrim have experienced increases of 89 and 59 incidents respectively when comparing this same time period.
- Within Belfast City district East and North (the local policing teams based in Strandtown and Tennent Street) showed falls in anti-social behaviour of 236 and 79 respectively. Increases were seen in South and West (the Lisburn Road and Woodbourne local policing teams) of 150 and 158 incidents respectively.

Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2014/15 compared with 2015/16 by policing district

Policing district ¹	Numbers and percentages			
	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents			
	2014/15	2015/16	change	% change
Belfast City: of which	18,267	18,260	-7	0.0
<i>East</i> ²	3,505	3,269	-236	-6.7
<i>North</i> ²	5,094	5,015	-79	-1.6
<i>South</i> ²	5,897	6,047	150	2.5
<i>West</i> ²	3,771	3,929	158	4.2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	3,430	3,519	89	2.6
Ards & North Down	5,462	5,316	-146	-2.7
Newry, Mourne & Down	4,560	4,478	-82	-1.8
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	5,789	5,614	-175	-3.0
Mid Ulster	3,303	2,906	-397	-12.0
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,841	2,578	-263	-9.3
Derry City & Strabane	5,077	4,748	-329	-6.5
Causeway Coast & Glens	3,994	3,797	-197	-4.9
Mid & East Antrim	3,783	3,842	59	1.6
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,476	4,444	-32	-0.7
Northern Ireland	60,982	59,502	-1,480	-2.4

¹ 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. The figures in this table are presented on the basis of these new boundaries.

² Belfast City district has four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West).

COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT: LONGER TERM TRENDS 2008/09 TO 2015/16

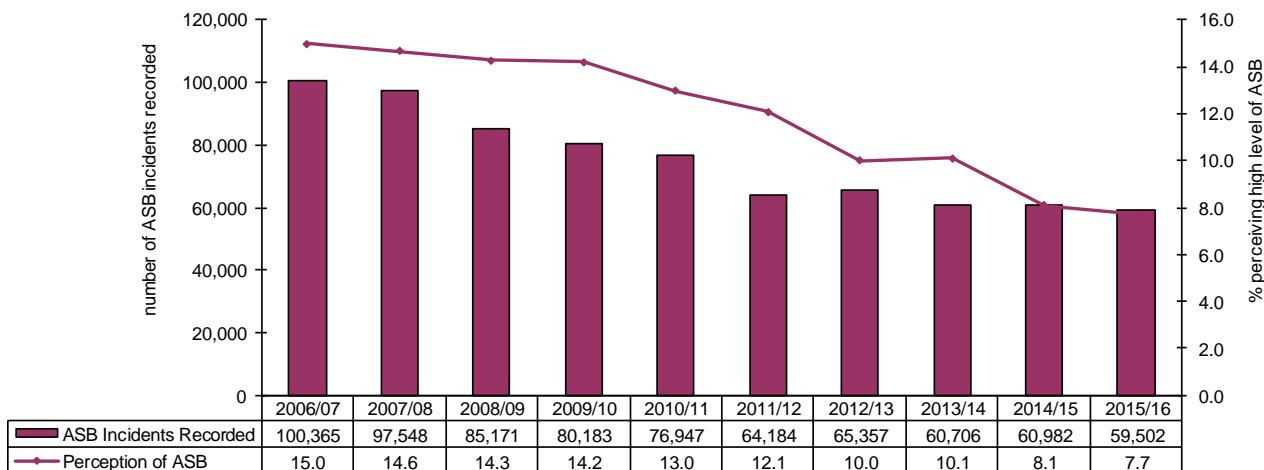
A complete set of figures for the financial years 2008/09 to 2015/16 is available in the accompanying [excel financial year pivot table](#).

- Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Derry City & Strabane and Causeway Coast & Glens have shown falls in anti-social behaviour incidents since 2008/09, with their lowest levels being recorded in 2015/16.
- Newry, Mourne & Down, Mid & East Antrim and Antrim & Newtownabbey recorded their lowest level of anti-social behaviour in 2013/14. Levels within Newry, Mourne & Down and Antrim & Newtownabbey have fluctuated over the last five financial years. In Mid & East Antrim levels fell each year between 2008/09 and 2013/14 before increasing in each of the last two financial years.
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City and Ards & North Down both experienced their lowest levels of anti-social behaviour in 2012/13. While levels in Ards & North Down then increased in 2013/14 and 2014/15, they fell again in 2015/16. In Lisburn & Castlereagh City levels have increased in each of the last three financial years.
- Levels of anti-social behaviour in Belfast City and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon were at their lowest in 2011/12. Levels have tended to fluctuate since then. Within Belfast City, East and North (the local policing teams based in Strandtown and Tennent Street) have fallen in each financial year since 2013/14 to record their lowest levels in 2015/16. The remaining two areas are showing trends similar to Belfast City as a whole.

COMPARISON WITH PERCEPTIONS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND CRIME SURVEY

- Respondents to the Northern Ireland Crime Survey are asked to rate how much of a problem different types of anti-social behaviour are in their area. The latest available figures covering the period October 2014 to September 2015 show that, at 7.7 per cent, the proportion of respondents who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviour in their area is at its lowest level since 2003/04 (the first year in which the figures were collated), when it stood at 18.1 per cent. Further information on these findings is available from the [Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Anti-Social Behaviour: Quarterly Update to September 2015](#) on the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland Internet site.

Figure 4 Trends in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police and perceptions of anti-social behaviour identified through the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 2006/07 to latest available¹



¹ The latest available figure for the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police is 2015/16 (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016), while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period October 2014 to September 2015.

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 2015/16 financial year. 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 each of the last 24 months Apr'14 to Mar'16.

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/>

Figures are available for a range of additional geographic areas through the [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System \(NINIS\)](#). These figures are updated on an annual basis.

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