

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2017

(Providing figures for 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017)

Published 17 May 2017



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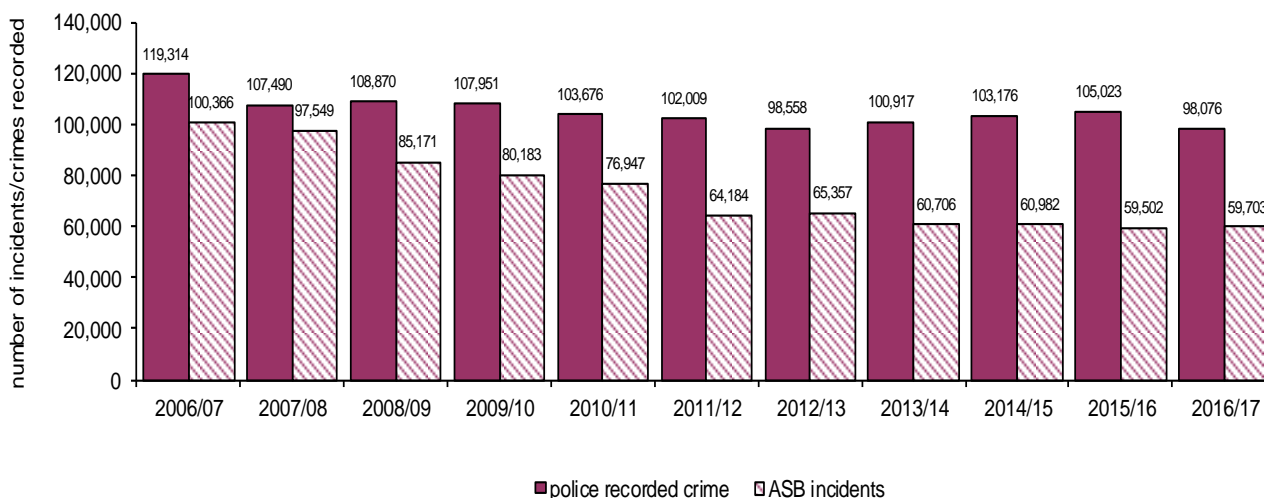
This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, relating to incidents recorded by the police for the financial year 2016/17 which runs from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

The next monthly update covering the latest 12 months to 30 April 2017 will be published on 7th June 2017.

OVERALL TRENDS IN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS

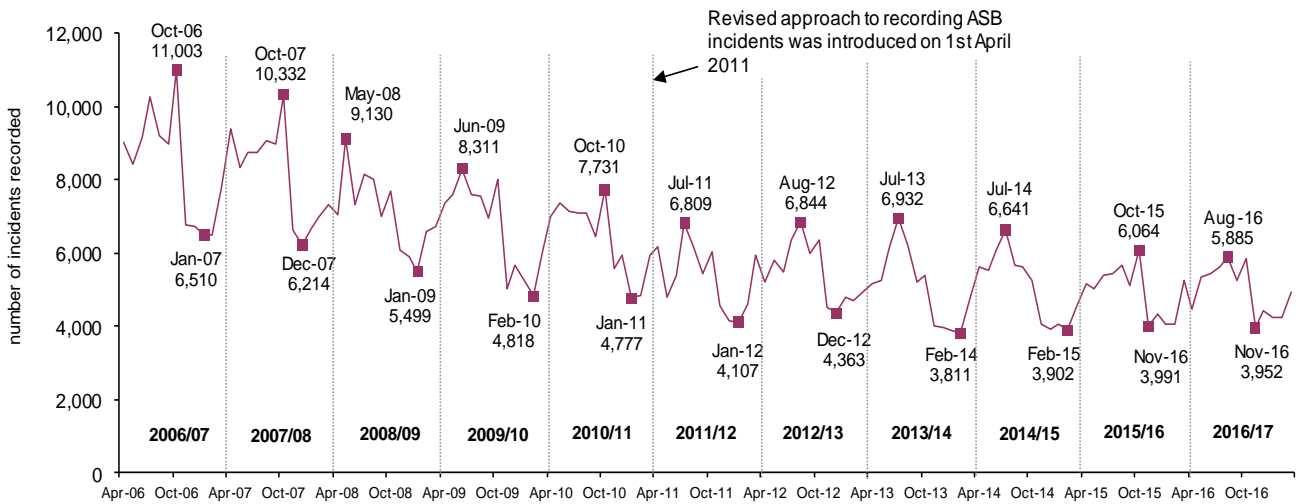
- There has been a general downwards trend in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded since the data series began in 2006/07 (as seen in Figure 1). There were 59,703 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2016/17, representing around three fifths of the level recorded in 2006/07 (100,366). It is the second lowest level in the series, 201 incidents higher than the lowest level of 59,502 recorded in 2015/16.
- The number of anti-social behaviour incidents has fallen year on year since 2006/07 with three exceptions; a 1.8 per cent increase between 2011/12 and 2012/13, a 0.5 per cent increase between 2013/14 and 2014/15 and a 0.3 per cent increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- Figure 1 shows that police recorded crime (excluding fraud) decreased each year between 2006/07 and 2012/13, with the exception of 2008/09. An increase in each of the three financial years 2013/14 to 2015/16 has been followed by a fall to 98,076 in 2016/17, the lowest level seen in the police recorded crime data series which started in 1998/99.

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; during 2016/17 the highest level recorded was in August 2016. In 2015/16 levels peaked in October; in 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2010/11 the highest levels were also recorded in the month of October. Since 2006/07 the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour incidents have been recorded in the months from November through to February.

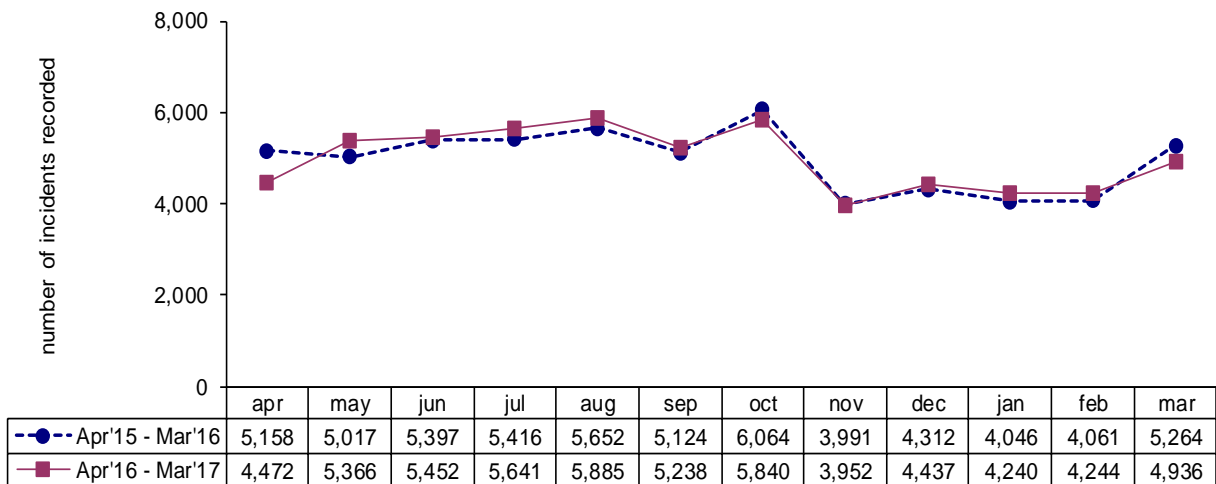
Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to March 2017 (with highest and lowest monthly levels identified for each year)



COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2016/17

- There were 59,703 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2016/17, representing an increase of 0.3 per cent (201 incidents) on 2015/16 when 59,502 incidents were recorded.
- The trends in anti-social behaviour during 2016/17 have largely mirrored those seen during 2015/16 but at a higher level for eight of the latest twelve months, while four months showed lower levels. When compared with the same months in the previous financial year the largest increase was seen during May (7.0 per cent or 349 incidents), while the largest decrease occurred in April (13.3 per cent or 686 incidents).

Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2015 to March 2017



COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT: 2015/16 AND 2016/17

- Six of the eleven policing districts are showing lower levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing 2016/17 with 2015/16, ranging from a fall of 29 incidents in Mid Ulster to a fall of 402 incidents in Belfast City. Of the five policing districts that are showing an increase this ranges from an increase of 18 in Derry City & Strabane to an increase of 494 in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.
- Within Belfast City policing district West and North (the local policing teams based in Woodbourne and Tennent Street) showed falls in anti-social behaviour of 406 and 154 respectively. Increases were seen in South and East (the Lisburn Road and Strandtown local policing teams) of 85 and 73 incidents respectively.

Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2015/16 compared with 2016/17 by policing district

Policing district	Numbers and percentages			
	2015/16	2016/17	change	% change
Belfast City: of which	18,260	17,858	-402	-2.2
<i>East</i> ¹	3,269	3,342	73	2.2
<i>North</i> ¹	5,015	4,861	-154	-3.1
<i>South</i> ¹	6,047	6,132	85	1.4
<i>West</i> ¹	3,929	3,523	-406	-10.3
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	3,519	3,307	-212	-6
Ards & North Down	5,316	5,145	-171	-3.2
Newry, Mourne & Down	4,478	4,823	345	7.7
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	5,614	6,108	494	8.8
Mid Ulster	2,906	2,877	-29	-1
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,578	2,540	-38	-1.5
Derry City & Strabane	4,748	4,766	18	0.4
Causeway Coast & Glens	3,797	4,041	244	6.4
Mid & East Antrim	3,842	4,179	337	8.8
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,444	4,059	-385	-8.7
Northern Ireland	59,502	59,703	201	0.3

¹ 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 2016/17

A complete set of figures for the financial years 2008/09 to 2016/17 is available in the accompanying [excel financial year pivot table](#).

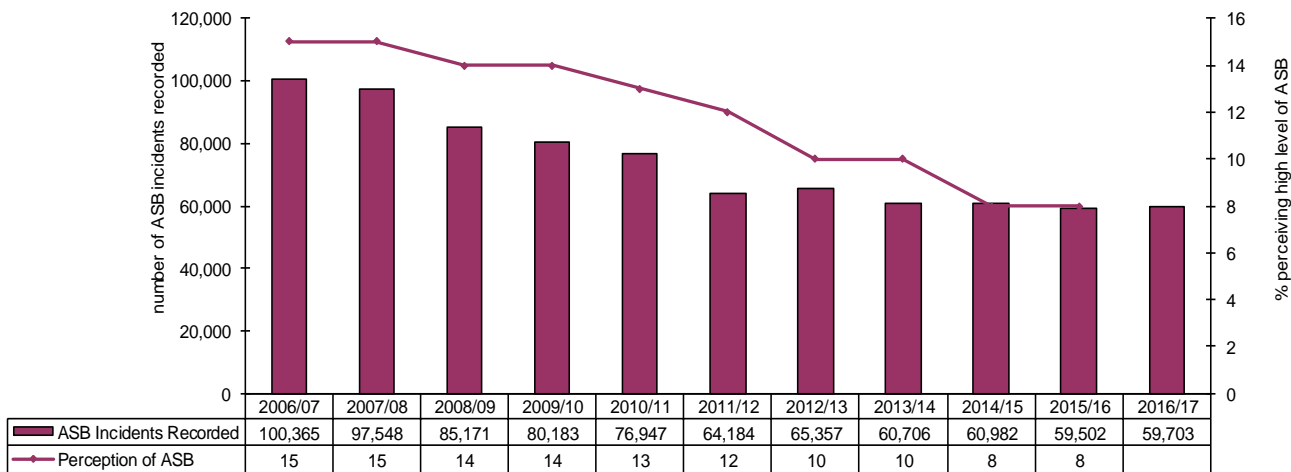
- Levels of anti-social behaviour in Belfast City have shown an overall downwards trend since 2008/09, with 2016/17 being the lowest level recorded. Within Belfast City, the four local policing teams do not all show the same picture. Levels in North, West and East (the local policing teams based in Tennent Street, Woodbourne and Strandtown) have generally fallen each year, with 2016/17 being the lowest level recorded in North and West and the second lowest in East. South (the local policing team based in Lisburn Road) recorded its highest level in 2010/11 followed by its lowest level in 2011/12; levels have generally fluctuated since then, with 2016/17 being the fourth highest level recorded since 2008/09.
- Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Derry City & Strabane and Causeway Coast & Glens have shown falls in anti-social behaviour incidents in most years since 2008/09. The level recorded in 2016/17 was the lowest since 2008/09 in Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh, the second lowest in Derry City & Strabane and the third lowest in Causeway Coast & Glens.
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City and Ards & North Down both showed falls each year between 2008/09 (highest level recorded) and 2012/13 (lowest level recorded). While levels have risen since 2012/13, the number of incidents in 2016/17 in Lisburn & Castlereagh City is the third lowest recorded while in Ards & North Down it is the fourth lowest.

- Levels in Mid & East Antrim and Antrim & Newtownabbey generally fell each year between 2008/09 and 2013/14. The number of incidents has increased in each year since 2013/14 in Mid & East Antrim, while levels have fluctuated in Antrim & Newtownabbey with 2016/17 being the lowest recorded since 2008/09.
- Newry, Mourne & Down and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon showed falls in each year between 2008/09 and 2011/12. Levels have generally increased since then, with 2016/17 representing the fourth highest level recorded in both policing districts.

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 April 2015 to March 2016 show that, at eight 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 per cent. Further information on these findings is available from the [Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#) on the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland website.

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 2016/17 (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period 2015/16 (1 April 2015 to 31 March 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.

As part of the **Review of Public Administration** which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015.

From 1st April 2015 **Action Fraud** became responsible 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 exclude fraud offences. Further details are available in the latest police recorded crime monthly update, available on the [PSNI website](#).

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 2016/17 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 document 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'15 to Mar'17.

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 website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/doj-statistics-and-research>.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI website: <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