

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2018

(Providing figures for 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)

Published 17 May 2018

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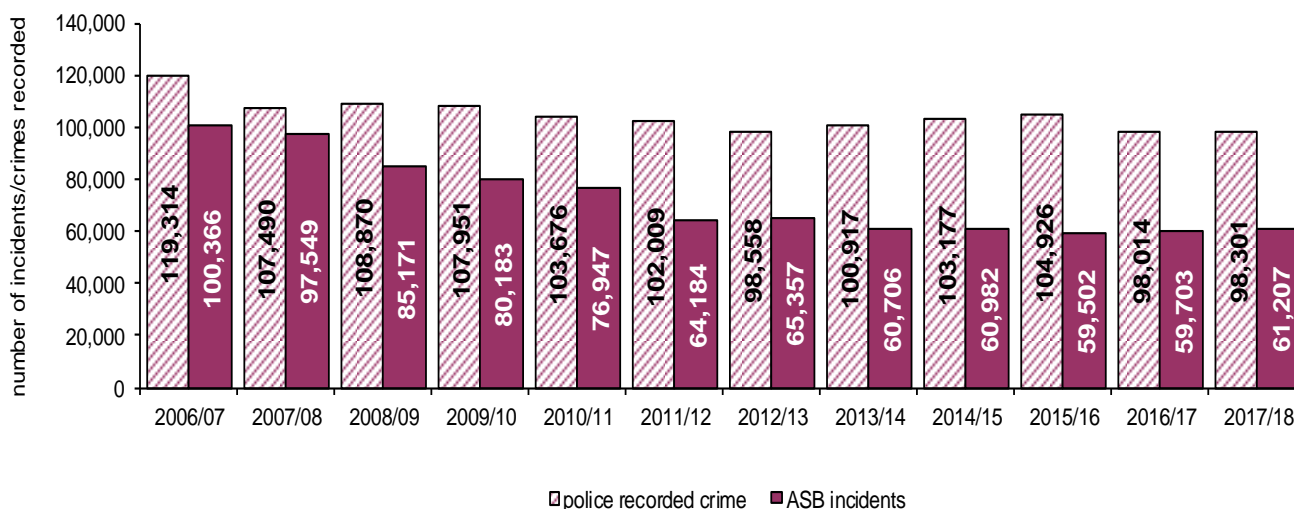
This bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police for the financial year 2017/18. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

The next update will be published on 28th June 2018.

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). However, the 2017/18 figure of 61,207 continues the increase in the level of anti-social behaviour incidents that was seen during 2016/17 and is the highest level seen over the last five years.
- The level of incidents recorded during 2017/18 (61,207) is an increase of 2.5 per cent when compared with the 2016/17 level of 59,703 and represents around three fifths of the level recorded at the start of the data series in 2006/07.
- To provide additional context, Figure 1 shows that police recorded crime (excluding crimes reported to Action Fraud) generally decreased each year between 2006/07 and 2012/13 followed by a rise over the next three financial years. Levels then fell in 2016/17 to the lowest recorded since 1998/99. The figure for 2017/18 (98,301) is 287 crimes higher than the level of 98,014 recorded in 2016/17.

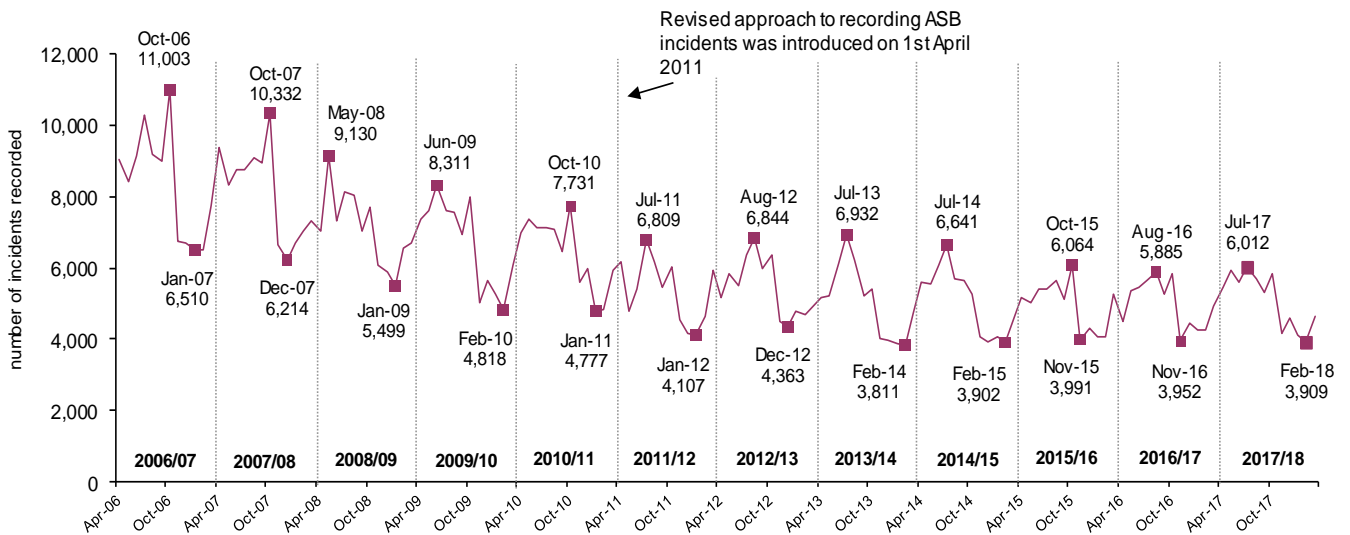
Figure 1 Police recorded crime (excluding fraud) and anti-social behaviour incidents since 2006/07



MONTHLY TRENDS

- Figure 2 shows the monthly fluctuations in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded during each financial year. 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, the number of anti-social behaviour incidents generally tends to peak 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.

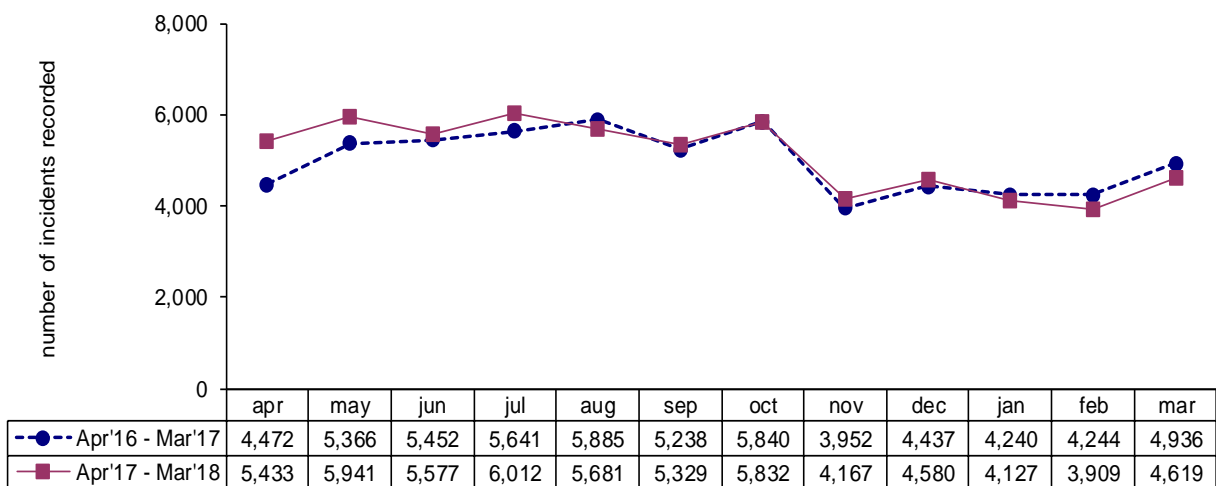
Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to March 2018 (with highest and lowest monthly levels identified for each year)



COMPARISON OF 2016/17 WITH 2017/18

- There were 61,207 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2017/18, representing an increase of 2.5 per cent (1,504 incidents) on 2016/17 when 59,703 incidents were recorded.
- The trends in anti-social behaviour during 2017/18 have largely mirrored those seen during 2016/17 but at a higher level for seven of the latest twelve months. When compared with the same months in the previous financial year the largest increase was seen during April (21.5 per cent or 961 incidents), while the largest decrease occurred in February (7.9 per cent or 335 incidents).

Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2016 to March 2018



COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT: 2016/17 AND 2017/18

- Seven of the eleven policing districts have shown higher levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing 2017/18 with 2016/17, ranging from an increase of 56 incidents in Antrim & Newtownabbey to an increase of 888 incidents in Belfast City. Of the four policing districts that have shown a decrease this ranges from a fall of 96 in Causeway Coast & Glens to a fall of 322 in Mid & East Antrim.
- The four local policing teams within Belfast City policing district each showed increased levels of anti-social behaviour.

Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2016/17 compared with 2017/18 by policing district

Policing district	Numbers and percentages			
	2016/17	2017/18	change	% change
Belfast City: of which	17,858	18,746	888	5.0
<i>East</i> ¹	3,342	3,468	126	3.8
<i>North</i> ¹	4,861	4,960	99	2.0
<i>South</i> ¹	6,132	6,728	596	9.7
<i>West</i> ¹	3,523	3,590	67	1.9
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	3,307	3,171	-136	-4.1
Ards & North Down	5,145	4,987	-158	-3.1
Newry, Mourne & Down	4,823	5,087	264	5.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	6,108	6,382	274	4.5
Mid Ulster	2,877	3,163	286	9.9
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,540	2,720	180	7.1
Derry City & Strabane	4,766	5,034	268	5.6
Causeway Coast & Glens	4,041	3,945	-96	-2.4
Mid & East Antrim	4,179	3,857	-322	-7.7
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,059	4,115	56	1.4
Northern Ireland	59,703	61,207	1,504	2.5

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 2017/18

A complete set of figures for the financial years 2008/09 to 2017/18 is available in the accompanying [excel financial year pivot table](#) and the bullet points below reflect the trends in anti-social behaviour seen since 2008/09.

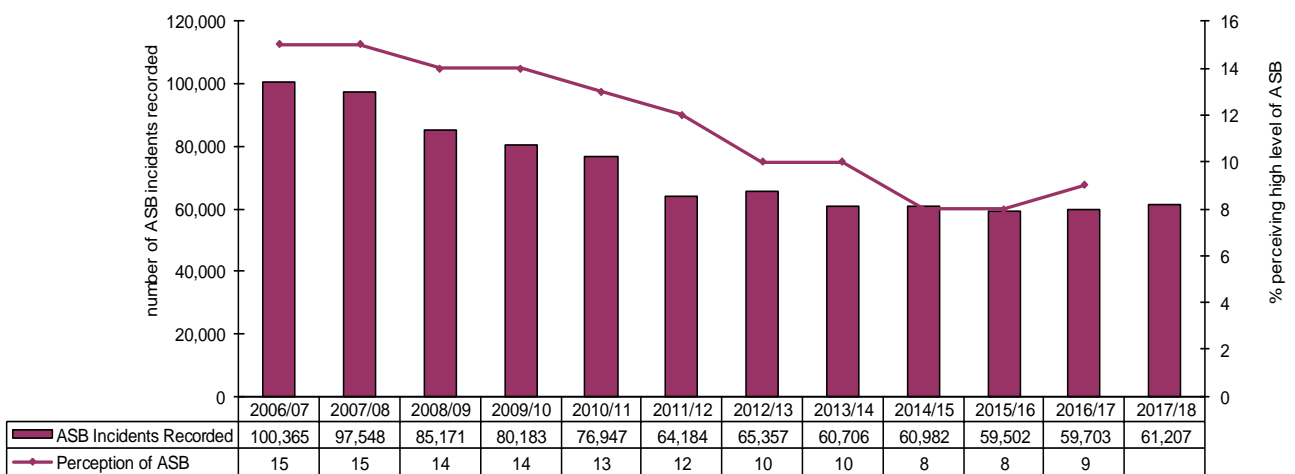
- Belfast City accounts for around 30 per cent of all anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland. The level recorded in 2017/18 is the highest seen in the last four years and is around three quarters of that recorded in 2008/09.
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City has seen falling levels over the last three years, with 2017/18 being the third lowest level recorded since 2008/09.
- Levels in Ards & North Down have fallen over the last four years to the lowest recorded since 2008/09.
- Newry, Mourne & Down has seen increases over the last three years to reach the fourth highest level recorded since 2008/09.
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon has also seen increases over the last three years, to reach the third highest level recorded since 2008/09.
- Levels in Mid Ulster fell each year to 2016/17 before showing an increase in 2017/18.

- Fermanagh & Omagh showed a general downwards direction to the lowest level recorded in 2016/17 before showing an increase in 2017/18.
- Derry City & Strabane showed generally falling levels to 2015/16 before increasing in each of the last two years.
- Causeway Coast & Glens has shown an overall decreasing trend with 2017/18 being the second lowest level recorded.
- Levels in Mid & East Antrim fell each year to 2013/14. While this was followed by annual increases to 2016/17 the level fell again in 2017/18.
- Antrim & Newtownabbey reached its lowest level in 2016/17, with 2017/18 recording the second lowest level.

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 2016 to March 2017 show that, at nine per cent, the proportion of respondents who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviour in their area is at its second 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 2016/17 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 2017/18, while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period 2016/17.

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 2017/18 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'16 to Mar'18.

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