

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2014 (Providing figures for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014)

**Published 8 May 2014**

# Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2014

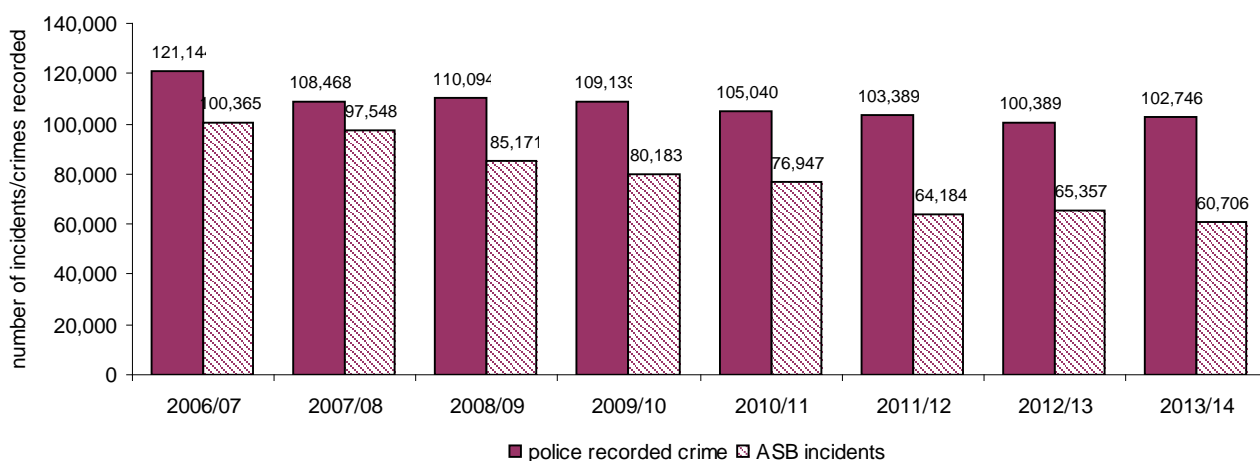
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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, relating to incidents recorded by the police for the financial year 2013/14 which runs from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

## OVERALL TRENDS IN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS

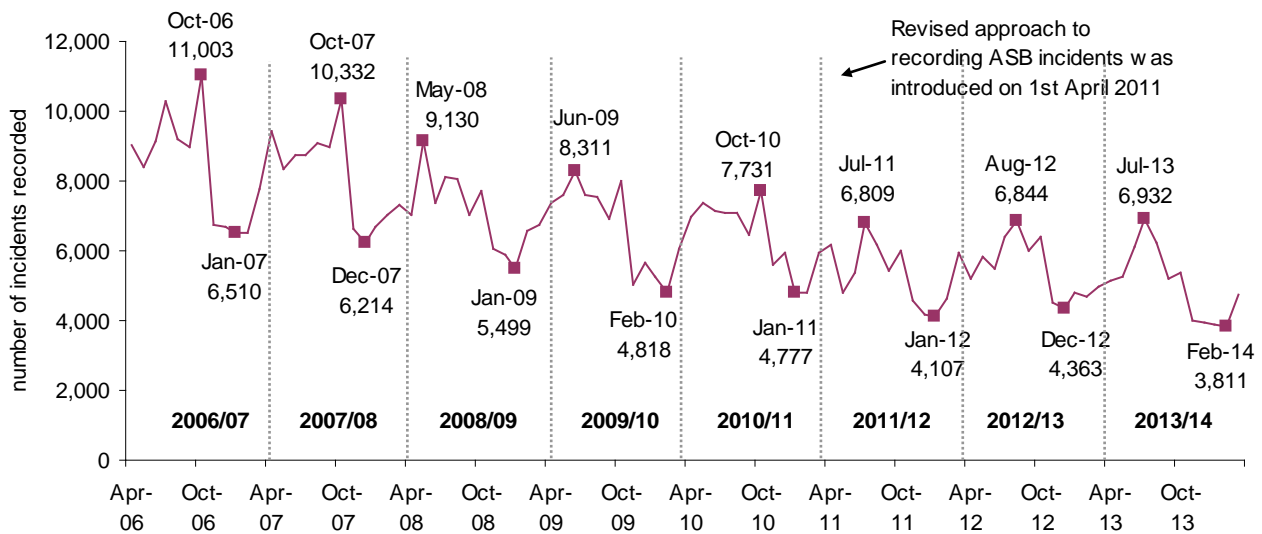
- There has been a general downwards trend in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded since the data series began in 2006/07 (as seen in Figure 1). While the number of anti-social behaviour incidents fell year on year between 2006/07 and 2011/12, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, the number of incidents recorded has fallen again in 2013/14 with 60,706 incidents recorded, 4,651 incidents lower than the 2012/13 figure of 65,357.
- Figure 1 shows that police recorded crime has decreased each year since 2006/07 with two exceptions; 2008/09 showed an increase of 1,626 when compared with 2007/08 and the level recorded in 2013/14 is higher than 2012/13 by 2,357.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have fallen at a faster rate than recorded crime since 2006/07.

**Figure 1 Police recorded crime 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 for 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 spreadsheet](#).
- Based on the data series available from April 2006, anti-social behaviour incidents tend to show higher levels between March/April 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.
- In the last three years the number of anti-social behaviour incidents has peaked in July or August, whereas in previous years (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2010/11) the peak was in October.

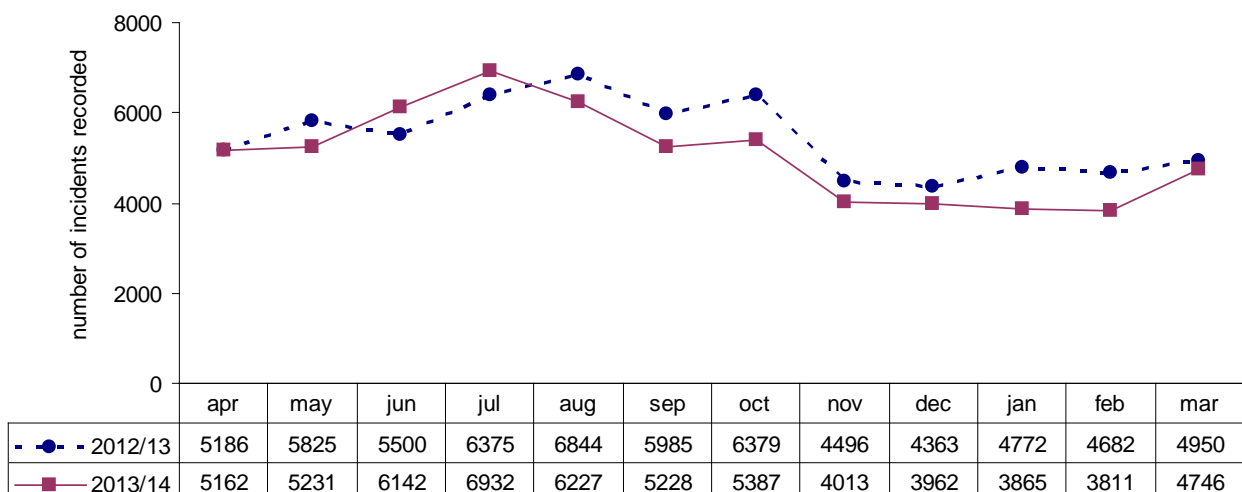
**Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to March 2014 (with highest and lowest monthly levels identified for each year)**



**COMPARISON OF 2012/13 WITH 2013/14**

- There were 60,706 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2013/14, representing a decrease of 7.1 per cent (4,651 incidents) on 2012/13 when 65,357 incidents were recorded.
- Figure 3 shows that trends in anti-social behaviour for 2013/14 have largely mirrored those seen in the comparable month of 2012/13, but at a lower level for ten out of the twelve months. The levels recorded in each month between November 2013 and February 2014 are the lowest recorded since the data series began in April 2006. However, the figure for the latest month, March 2014 (4,746 incidents) shows an increase of 935 incidents on the February figure (3,811), although it is still 204 incidents lower than the March 2013 figure of 4,950.

**Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2012 to March 2014**



## COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT AND POLICING AREA – 2012/13 and 2013/14

- As shown in Table 1, all policing districts are showing lower levels of anti-social behaviour in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13, with the exception of B and C Districts where incidents are higher (2.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively) The remaining districts have shown decreases ranging from -1.9 per cent in A District to -20.7 per cent in H District.
- At policing area level the change between 2012/13 and 2013/14 has ranged from a fall of 29.0 per cent in Strabane to a rise of 7.9% in Ards.

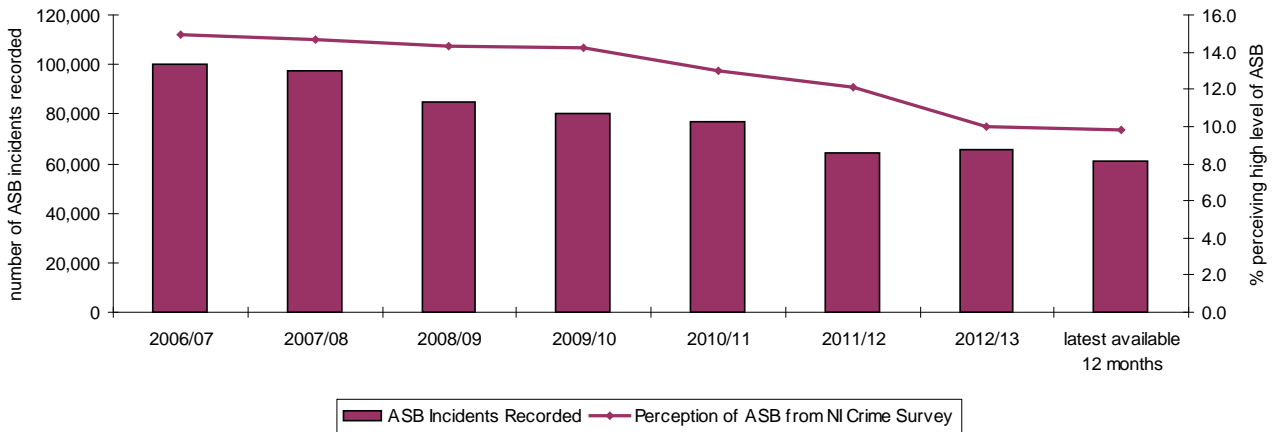
**Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2012/13 compared with 2013/14 by policing district and policing area**

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages			
	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents			
	2012/13	2013/14	change	% change
North Belfast	4,854	4,814	-40	-0.8
West Belfast	3,157	3,045	-112	-3.5
<b>A District</b>	<b>8,011</b>	<b>7,859</b>	<b>-152</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
East Belfast	2,978	3,164	186	6.2
South Belfast	6,477	6,510	33	0.5
<b>B District</b>	<b>9,455</b>	<b>9,674</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Ards	2,206	2,381	175	7.9
Castlereagh	1,483	1,333	-150	-10.1
Down	1,993	2,116	123	6.2
North Down	2,824	2,720	-104	-3.7
<b>C District</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Antrim	1,791	1,684	-107	-6.0
Carrickfergus	1,078	1,058	-20	-1.9
Lisburn	3,417	3,373	-44	-1.3
Newtownabbey	2,923	2,479	-444	-15.2
<b>D District</b>	<b>9,209</b>	<b>8,594</b>	<b>-615</b>	<b>-6.7</b>
Armagh	1,178	1,254	76	6.5
Banbridge	1,365	1,284	-81	-5.9
Craigavon	3,066	2,862	-204	-6.7
Newry & Mourne	2,393	2,195	-198	-8.3
<b>E District</b>	<b>8,002</b>	<b>7,595</b>	<b>-407</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
Cookstown	1,045	975	-70	-6.7
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1,802	1,568	-234	-13.0
Fermanagh	1,978	1,735	-243	-12.3
Omagh	1,382	1,283	-99	-7.2
<b>F District</b>	<b>6,207</b>	<b>5,561</b>	<b>-646</b>	<b>-10.4</b>
Foyle	5,462	4,571	-891	-16.3
Limavady	1,179	903	-276	-23.4
Magherafelt	915	823	-92	-10.1
Strabane	1,134	805	-329	-29.0
<b>G District</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>7,102</b>	<b>-1,588</b>	<b>-18.3</b>
Ballymena	2,137	1,753	-384	-18.0
Ballymoney	731	654	-77	-10.5
Coleraine	3,117	2,252	-865	-27.8
Larne	851	773	-78	-9.2
Moyle	441	339	-102	-23.1
<b>H District</b>	<b>7,277</b>	<b>5,771</b>	<b>-1,506</b>	<b>-20.7</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>65,357</b>	<b>60,706</b>	<b>-4,651</b>	<b>-7.1</b>

## 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 January to December 2013 show that, at 9.8 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 December 2013](#) on the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland Internet site.

**Figure 4 Trends in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police perceptions of anti-social behaviour identified through the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 2006/07 to latest available<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> The latest available figure for the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police is 2013/14, while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period January 2013 to December 2013.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2013/14 financial year. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: [http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly\\_asb\\_update\\_apr-mar\\_13\\_14.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/monthly_asb_update_apr-mar_13_14.xls). This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area; 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: [http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)

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](mailto: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