

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2012 (Providing figures for 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012)

Published 10 May 2012



Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police for the financial year 2011/12, which runs from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012. Figures were compiled on 30th April 2012, 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. The figures in this bulletin supersede those previously published.

The figures prior to 1st April 2011 presented in this report exclude the incident type 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services', which, until this date, was counted as anti-social behaviour. Following a change in national guidance issued in April 2011 these incidents are no longer counted within anti-social behaviour. They have been removed from figures prior to 1st April 2011 to maintain data comparability.

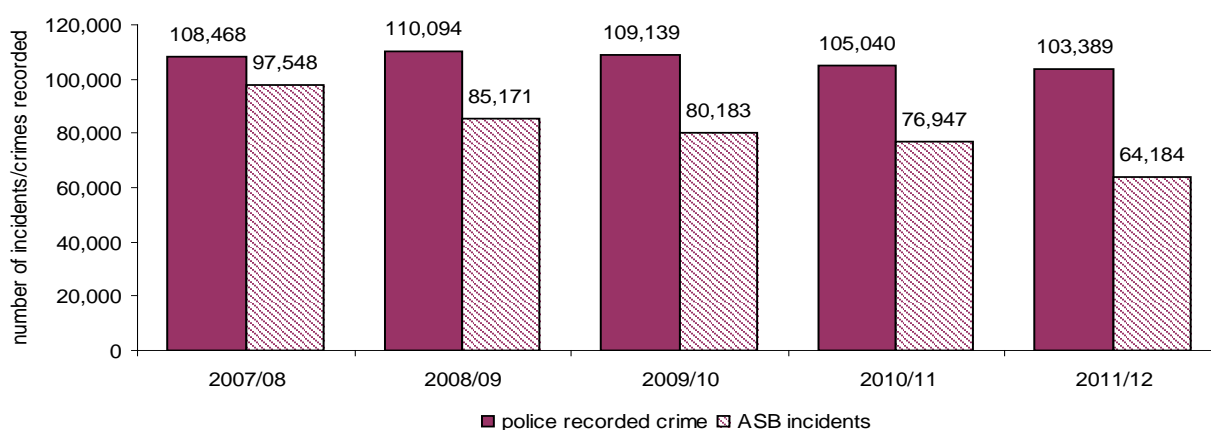
A complete data series dating back to 2006/07 (the year that compilation of anti-social behaviour incidents was introduced), by policing district and policing area is available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. This data series excludes the incident type 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services' as described above.

Please note: Anti-social behaviour figures for the sub categories of personal, nuisance and environmental will not be made available for 2011/12.

MAIN POINTS

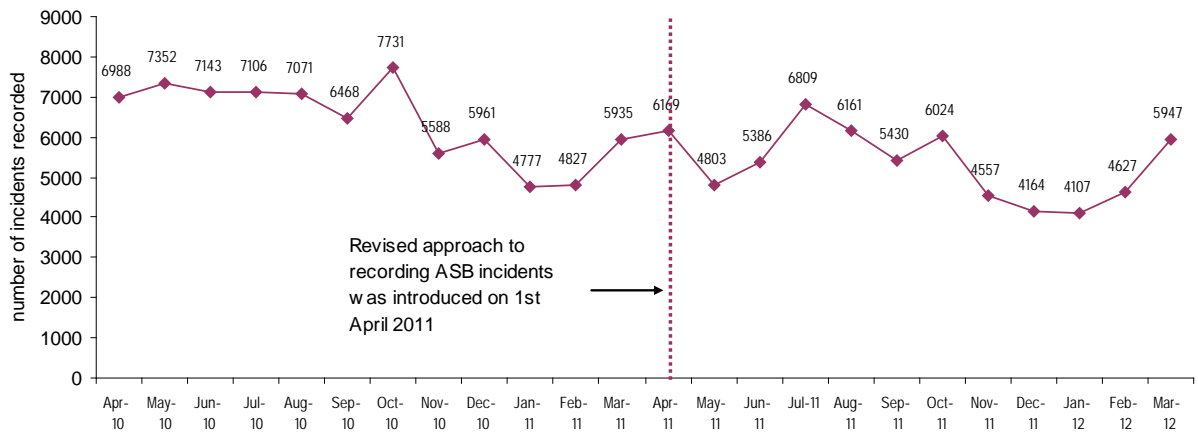
- The last five years have seen a downward trend in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded (as seen in Figure 1). At a level of 64,184, the number of incidents recorded in 2011/12 is 34.2 per cent lower than the total recorded in 2007/08 (97,548), and is the lowest level recorded.
- Similar decreases have been experienced across all policing districts and areas over the last five years, ranging from a fall of 55.2 per cent in Armagh policing area (from 2,466 recorded in 2007/08 to 1,106 in 2011/12) to a fall of 19.6 per cent in South Belfast policing area (from 7,514 recorded in 2007/08 to 6,041 in 2011/12). The full set of figures is available in the financial year pivot table in the [accompanying excel spreadsheet](#).

Figure 1 Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents since 2007/08



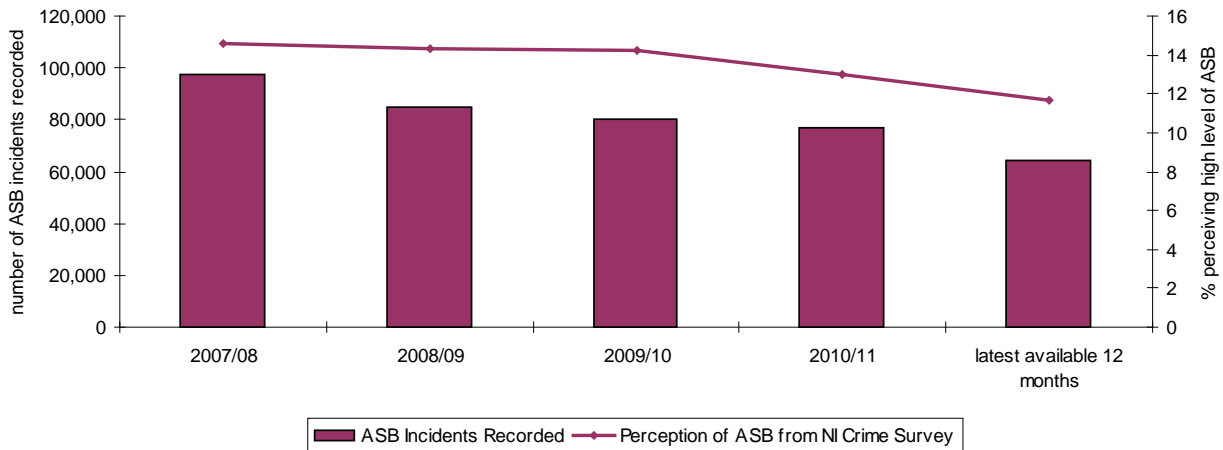
- Anti-social behaviour incidents fell by 16.6 per cent in 2011/12 when compared with 2010/11. Figure 2 shows the trend in anti-social behaviour incidents over the last two financial years.
- While there was a general downwards trend from April 2010 to March 2011, there was a peak in October 2010 (the highest monthly level recorded since April 2010) and the number of incidents also rose between January and March. Each month in 2011/12 was lower than the comparable month in 2010/11, most notably in May (4,803 in May 2011 compared with 7,352 in May 2010) and December (4,164 in December 2011 compared with 5,961 in December 2010). However March 2012 was higher than March 2011 by 12 incidents.

Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2010 to March 2012



- As shown in Table 1, decreases occurred in all policing districts and areas when comparing 2011/12 with 2010/11. These ranged from a fall of 27.9 per cent in Carrickfergus policing area to a fall of 1.3 per cent in Ards policing area.
- 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 2011 show that, at 11.7 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 December 2011](#) on the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland Internet site.

Figure 3 Trends in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police perceptions of anti-social behaviour identified through the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 2007/08 to latest available¹



¹ The latest available figure for the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police is 2011/12, while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period January 2011 to December 2011.

Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 by policing district and policing area

Policing district/area	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents			
	2010/11 ¹	2011/12	change	% change
North Belfast	5,923	4,815	-1,108	-18.7
West Belfast	3,545	3,106	-439	-12.4
A District	9,468	7,921	-1,547	-16.3
East Belfast	3,837	2,963	-874	-22.8
South Belfast	7,300	6,041	-1,259	-17.2
B District	11,137	9,004	-2,133	-19.2
Ards	2,426	2,394	-32	-1.3
Castlereagh	1,904	1,529	-375	-19.7
Down	2,433	1,997	-436	-17.9
North Down	2,843	2,741	-102	-3.6
C District	9,606	8,661	-945	-9.8
Antrim	2,207	1,696	-511	-23.2
Carrickfergus	1,642	1,184	-458	-27.9
Lisburn	4,593	3,703	-890	-19.4
Newtownabbey	3,885	2,805	-1,080	-27.8
D District	12,327	9,388	-2,939	-23.8
Armagh	1,320	1,106	-214	-16.2
Banbridge	1,645	1,376	-269	-16.4
Craigavon	3,333	2,824	-509	-15.3
Newry & Mourne	3,060	2,387	-673	-22.0
E District	9,358	7,693	-1,665	-17.8
Cookstown	1,380	1,149	-231	-16.7
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1,652	1,590	-62	-3.8
Fermanagh	1,910	1,830	-80	-4.2
Omagh	1,508	1,309	-199	-13.2
F District	6,450	5,878	-572	-8.9
Foyle	5,820	4,852	-968	-16.6
Limavady	1,518	1,201	-317	-20.9
Magherafelt	1,427	1,091	-336	-23.5
Strabane	1,452	1,075	-377	-26.0
G District	10,217	8,219	-1,998	-19.6
Ballymena	2,669	2,396	-273	-10.2
Ballymoney	737	723	-14	-1.9
Coleraine	3,151	2,814	-337	-10.7
Larne	1,161	1,030	-131	-11.3
Moyle	546	434	-112	-20.5
H District	8,264	7,397	-867	-10.5
No Area Assigned	120	23	-97	-80.8
Service	76,947	64,184	-12,763	-16.6

¹ The figures for 2010/11 exclude the incident type 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services' to allow comparability with 2011/12.

NOTES

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) 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 (NSIR), 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 ASB 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 ASB 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 ASB 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 ASB incidents which, for the current financial year, commenced in September 2011. 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 financial year 2011/12. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: http://www.psnipolice.uk/monthly_asb_update_apr-mar_11_12.xls. This spreadsheet provides an excel version of the figures provided in Table 1 in this bulletin. In addition there are two pivot tables providing ASB incidents available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area; and
- for each financial year since ASB incident figures were first compiled, 2006/07 to 2011/12 (with figures for Hoax Calls to Emergency Services removed from figures prior to April 2011 in order to provide a comparable data series)
- for each of the last 24 months April 2010 to March 2012

The pivot tables allow 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 tables 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.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

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

Email: statistics@psnipolice.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or
Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998