

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2015

(Providing figures for 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015)

Published 12 May 2015

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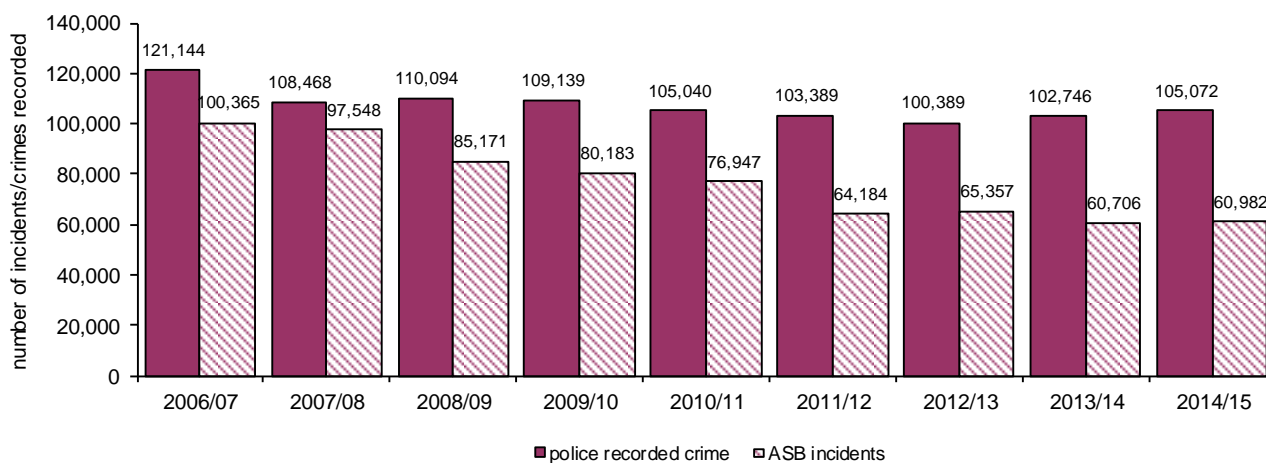
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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, relating to incidents recorded by the police for the financial year 2014/15 which runs from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change.

OVERALL TRENDS IN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS

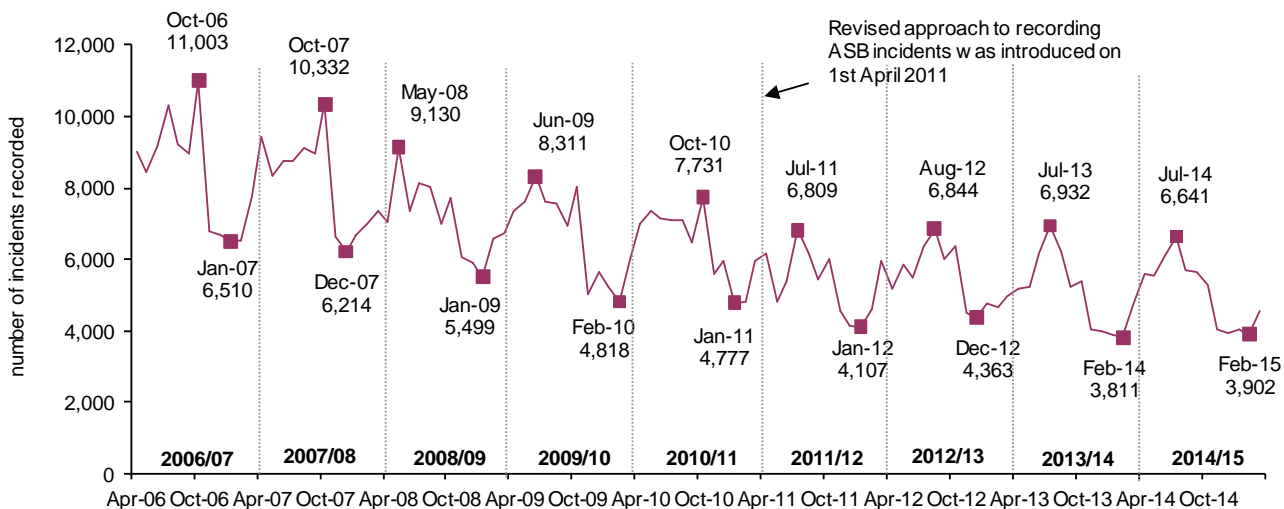
- There has been a general downwards trend in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded since the data series began in 2006/07 (as seen in Figure 1).
- While the number of anti-social behaviour incidents fell year on year between 2006/07 and 2011/12, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13 before levels fell again by 7.1 per cent in 2013/14. The number of incidents then rose by 0.5 per cent from 60,706 recorded in 2013/14 to 60,982 recorded in 2014/15; the level seen in 2014/15 is the second lowest since the data series started in 2006/07.
- Figure 1 shows that police recorded crime decreased each year since 2006/07, with the exceptions of 2008/09, 2013/14 and 2014/15 when increases were recorded. The figure for 2014/15 (105,072) continues the increase seen in 2013/14, being 2,326 crimes higher than the 102,746 recorded during 2013/14.
- 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 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 [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 have peaked in July or August. In the previous years between 2006/07 and 2010/11 it was more common for anti-social behaviour incidents to peak in October. Since 2006/07 the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour have been seen in the months of December, January and February.

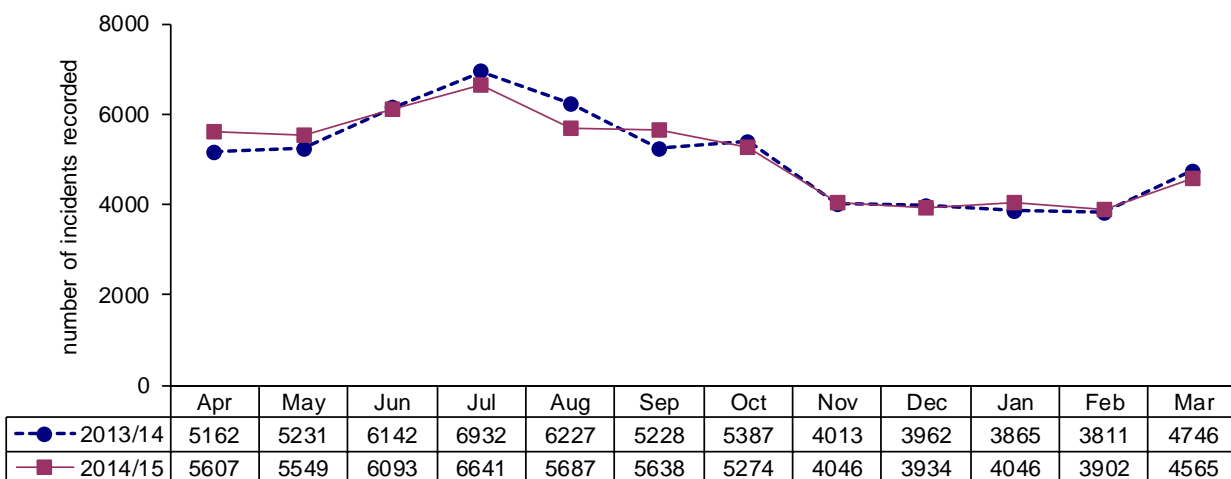
Figure 2 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2006 to March 2015 (with highest and lowest monthly levels identified for each year)



COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2014/15

- There were 60,982 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in 2014/15, representing an increase of 0.5 per cent (276 incidents) on 2013/14 when 60,706 incidents were recorded.
- The trends in anti-social behaviour during 2014/15 largely mirrored those seen during 2013/14, but at a higher level for six of the twelve months. The largest increases were seen during April (8.6 per cent), May (6.1 per cent) and September (7.8 per cent), while the largest fall was seen in August with a decrease of 8.7 per cent.

Figure 3 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2013 to March 2015



COMPARISON BY POLICING DISTRICT AND POLICING AREA: 2013/14 AND 2014/15

- While there was an overall increase in the level of anti-social behaviour between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the majority of policing districts showed lower levels during 2014/15. Policing districts A, B, F, G and H showed falls in the level of anti-social behaviour ranging from -7.0 per cent in A District to -2.2 per cent in H District. Policing districts C, D and E experienced higher levels of anti-social behaviour when comparing these same time periods, with increases of 7.6 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively.
- At policing area level, increases in anti-social behaviour were seen in 16 areas with the increases ranging from 0.8 per cent in Cookstown to 16.2 per cent in Castlereagh. Falls in the level of anti-social behaviour were experienced in 13 areas, from a fall of 15.3 per cent in Moyle to one of 0.3 per cent in Banbridge.

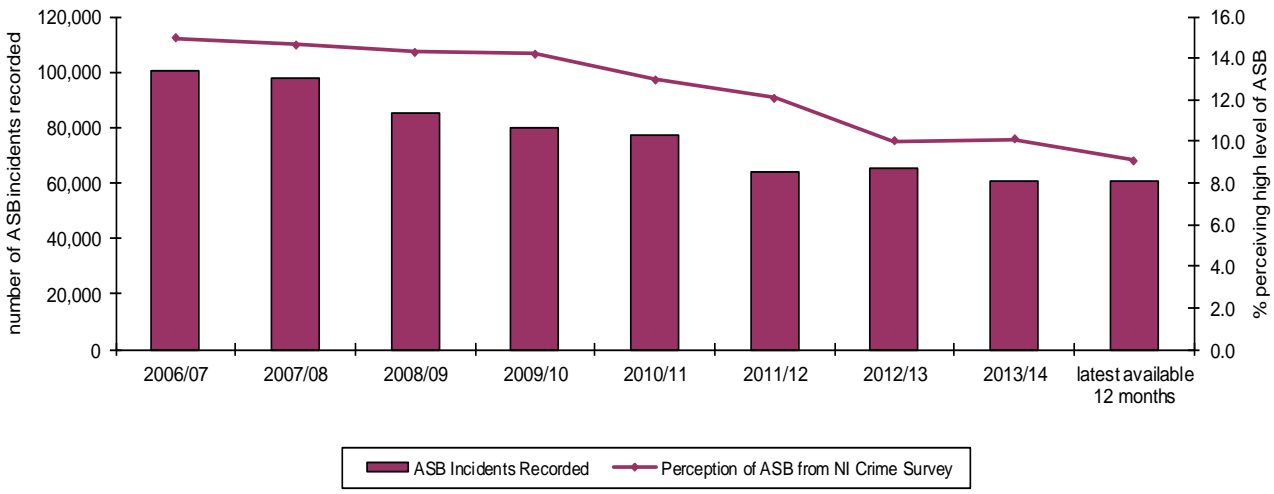
Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents 2013/14 compared with 2014/15 by policing district and policing area

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages			
	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents			
	2013/14	2014/15	change	% change
A District	7,859	7,305	-554	-7.0
North Belfast	4,814	4,482	-332	-6.9
West Belfast	3,045	2,823	-222	-7.3
B District	9,674	9,353	-321	-3.3
East Belfast	3,164	2,900	-264	-8.3
South Belfast	6,510	6,453	-57	-0.9
C District	8,550	9,197	647	7.6
Ards	2,381	2,504	123	5.2
Castlereagh	1,333	1,549	216	16.2
Down	2,116	2,196	80	3.8
North Down	2,720	2,948	228	8.4
D District	8,594	9,151	557	6.5
Antrim	1,684	1,701	17	1.0
Carrickfergus	1,058	1,181	123	11.6
Lisburn	3,373	3,498	125	3.7
Newtownabbey	2,479	2,771	292	11.8
E District	7,595	8,142	547	7.2
Armagh	1,254	1,369	115	9.2
Banbridge	1,284	1,280	-4	-0.3
Craigavon	2,862	3,146	284	9.9
Newry & Mourne	2,195	2,347	152	6.9
F District	5,561	5,259	-302	-5.4
Cookstown	975	983	8	0.8
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1,568	1,432	-136	-8.7
Fermanagh	1,735	1,577	-158	-9.1
Omagh	1,283	1,267	-16	-1.2
G District	7,102	6,933	-169	-2.4
Foyle	4,571	4,281	-290	-6.3
Limavady	903	959	56	6.2
Magherafelt	823	897	74	9.0
Strabane	805	796	-9	-1.1
H District	5,771	5,642	-129	-2.2
Ballymena	1,753	1,767	14	0.8
Ballymoney	654	583	-71	-10.9
Coleraine	2,252	2,167	-85	-3.8
Larne	773	838	65	8.4
Moyle	339	287	-52	-15.3
Service	60,706	60,982	276	0.5

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 2014 show that, at 9.1 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 2014](#) 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 available¹



¹ The latest available figure for the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police is 2014/15, while the latest available figure from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey refers to the period January 2014 to December 2014.

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 2014/15 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 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

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, Fax: 028 9092 2998