

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 30 September 2017

Published 30 November 2017



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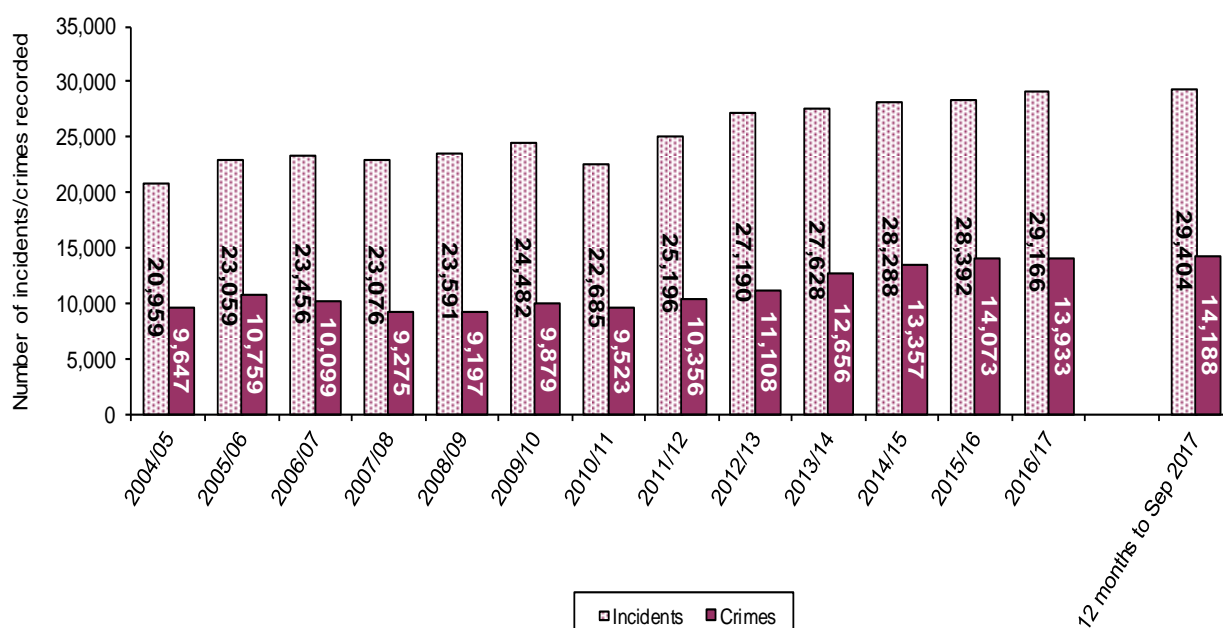
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This quarterly bulletin presents the most recent statistics relating to domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police to 30 September 2017. Figures were compiled on 23 November 2017, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. Figures dating back to 1 April 2017 are provisional and will be subject to change until the finalised 2017/18 data are published in May 2018.

OVERALL TRENDS IN DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS AND CRIMES

- Domestic abuse incidents have increased year on year since 2004/05, with the exception of two decreases recorded, a 1.6 per cent decrease in 2007/08 and a 7.3 per cent decrease in 2010/11. The figure of 29,404 incidents for the latest twelve months (October 2016 to September 2017) is continuing this increase and represents the highest level recorded since 2004/05.
- Domestic abuse crimes tended to fluctuate between 2004/05 and 2009/10 before increasing year on year between 2010/11 and 2015/16. A small decrease (1.0 per cent) was recorded in 2016/17. Levels have since increased in the most recent twelve month period to 14,188 crimes - the highest level recorded since 2004/05.

Figure 1 Trends in domestic abuse incidents and crimes



COMPARISON OF LATEST 12 MONTHS WITH PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

- In the twelve months to 30 September 2017 there were 29,404 incidents recorded where there was a domestic abuse motivation. Of these 29,404 incidents there were 16,810 which did not contain a crime (ie non-notifiable offences or incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 12,594 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 14,188 recorded crimes in total).

Figure 2 Domestic abuse incidents and crimes



Table 1 Total number of domestic abuse incidents with and without crimes in the year to 30 September 2017 compared with the previous year

Domestic abuse Incidents	numbers		
	Oct'15 to Sep'16	Oct'16 to Sep'17	change
Incidents not containing any crime	16,257	16,810	553
Incidents with one or more crimes recorded	12,523	12,594	71
Total number of incidents	28,780	29,404	624

Table 2 Domestic abuse crimes in the year to 30 September 2017 compared with the previous year

Domestic abuse Crimes	numbers		
	Oct'15 to Sep'16	Oct'16 to Sep'17	change
Domestic abuse crimes recorded	14,107	14,188	81

- Domestic abuse incidents recorded in the latest 12 months have largely mirrored the levels recorded in the previous 12 months but at a higher level for eight of the twelve months. At 29,404, the figure for the latest 12 months to September 2017 is 624 incidents higher than the previous 12 months figure of 28,780. The largest monthly increases were seen when comparing the months of April and July (197 and 242 incidents higher than the same months in the previous year). The largest decrease occurred in May (113 incidents lower in 2017 than in 2016).
- There were 14,188 domestic abuse crimes recorded in the latest 12 months to September 2017, an increase of 81 crimes on the previous 12 month period. Seven out of the latest twelve months have shown increases compared with the previous twelve months, with the largest increase seen in July 2017 (186 crimes higher than July 2016).
- The domestic abuse crime outcomes rate for the latest 12 months is 27.6%, 2.4 percentage points lower than the rate for the previous 12 months (30.0%).

Figure 3 Domestic abuse incidents each month October 2015 to September 2017

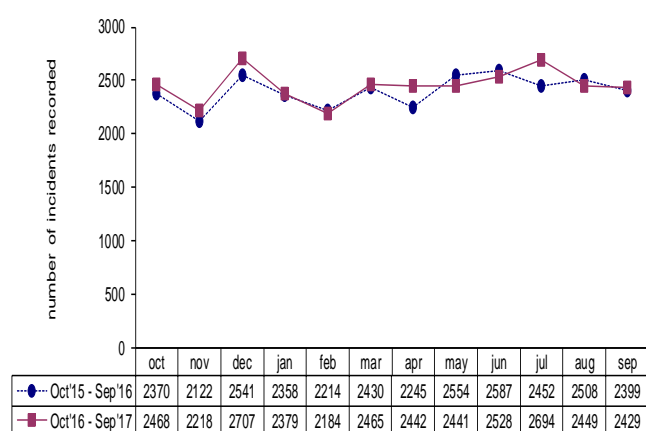


Figure 4 Domestic abuse crimes each month October 2015 to September 2017

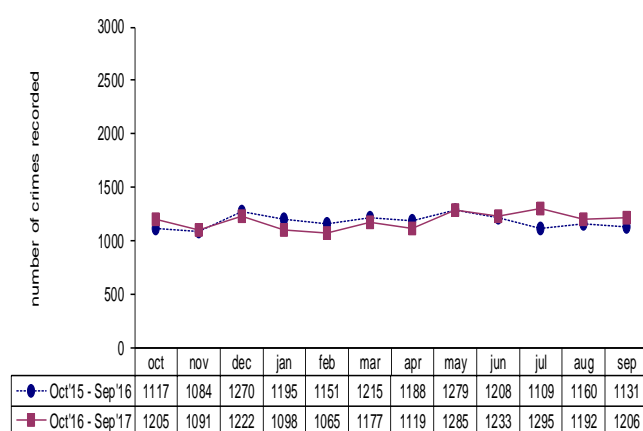


Table 3 Domestic abuse crimes and crime outcomes rates recorded in the year to 30 September 2017 compared with the previous year

Crime Type	Numbers and percentages					
	Crimes Recorded			Crime Outcomes Rate (%)		
	12 months to Sep 2016	12 months to Sep 2017	% change between years	12 months to Sep 2016	12 months to Sep 2017	% point change
Violence against the person offences	10,048	10,147	1.0	25.6	24.0	-1.6
<i>Violence with injury (including homicide)</i>	3,994	4,032	1.0	31.7	30.7	-1.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	6,054	6,115	1.0	21.5	19.6	-1.9
Theft (including burglary) and criminal damage	2,404	2,392	-0.5	40.1	36.9	-3.2
Breach of non-molestation order	847	731	-13.7	62.3	58.4	-3.9
All other offences	808	918	13.6	21.5	18.5	-3.0
Total crimes (domestic abuse motivation)	14,107	14,188	0.6	30.0	27.6	-2.4

NOTES

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs).

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

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 and cyber crime previously recorded by PSNI, with the result that these fraud and cyber offences are no longer recorded by PSNI. As such, any reference to police recorded crime figures in this bulletin will exclude crimes recorded by Action Fraud. Further details are available in the latest police recorded crime monthly update, available on the [PSNI website](#).

Time periods covered

The figures in this bulletin are presented on a financial year basis and, in this context:

- Quarter 1 refers to the months April, May and June
- Quarter 2 refers to the months July, August and September
- Quarter 3 refers to the months October, November and December
- Quarter 4 refers to the months January, February and March

Data accuracy

Figures within the current year to date are provisional and will be subject to change until finalised figures for the full financial year are published in May 2018. While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, the identification of a domestic abuse motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a domestic abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police in the 12 months to September 2017. 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 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 the same spreadsheet files. The pivot tables provide a range of data including domestic abuse incidents, domestic abuse crimes and crime outcomes where there is a domestic abuse motivation (both numbers and rates). Each of these data measures is available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
- for a range of crime types; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current rolling 12 months, previous and current financial years to the end of the latest quarter and each of the last 8 quarters).

Further information

Annual figures on domestic abuse incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2015/16 are available in the publication [Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2015/16](#). An updated publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2016/17 will be pre-announced in due course

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics, including those with a domestic abuse motivation, are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics including an explanation of the crime outcome rate. The [definition of domestic abuse](#) upon which these statistics are based is also available in this user guide and on the PSNI website.

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

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime and 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