



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

PSNI Annual Statistical Report

Report No. 2

DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS & CRIMES

1ST APRIL 2008 – 31ST MARCH 2009

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Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on incidents and crimes with a domestic abuse motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident/crime. The correct application of a domestic abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch.

2. Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes

Summary

Definitions

Incidents

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) by one family member against another or adults who are or have been intimate partners, regardless of gender, and whether a crime has occurred or not, will be recorded as domestic abuse.

Recorded Crimes

- Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A full explanation of how recorded crime figures are produced is provided on the last page of this document.
- A crime will be recorded as domestic abuse where it meets the definition provided above. Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Domestic abuse crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

Table 2.1: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Crimes and Clearances Summary 2007/08 and 2008/09

	2007/08	2008/09	change
Total number of incidents	23,076	23,591	+515
Total number of crimes	9,283	9,211	-72
Total number of crimes cleared	3,146	3,486	+340
Clearance rate (%)¹	33.9	37.8	+4.0% pts

¹ While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Incidents

- Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 the number of domestic abuse incidents increased by 515 (+2.2%).

Recorded Crimes

- There were 9,211 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2008/09, which is a decrease of 72 (-0.8%) on 2007/08.
- During 2008/09 the majority of all crimes with a domestic abuse motivation fell within the category of violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery). There were 6,473 such offences, representing 70.3% of the total. Of the remaining offences, breach of orders accounted for 11.7% and criminal damage represented 13.8% of the total.

Clearance Rates

- The overall clearance rate for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2008/09 was 37.8%, 4.0 percentage points higher than in 2007/08.

Table 2.2: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearances by District¹ 2007/08 and 2008/09

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded ²				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts ³
A District	3,625	3,415	-210	-5.8	1,352	1,205	-147	-10.9	488	497	36.1	41.2	+5.2
B District	2,344	2,136	-208	-8.9	859	834	-25	-2.9	247	257	28.8	30.8	+2.1
C District	2,879	2,679	-200	-6.9	1,111	1,029	-82	-7.4	396	349	35.6	33.9	-1.7
D District	3,650	3,816	+166	+4.5	1,505	1,389	-116	-7.7	597	614	39.7	44.2	+4.5
E District	3,082	3,527	+445	+14.4	1,360	1,429	+69	+5.1	379	477	27.9	33.4	+5.5
F District	2,042	2,018	-24	-1.2	846	781	-65	-7.7	314	318	37.1	40.7	+3.6
G District	3,100	3,608	+508	+16.4	1,237	1,417	+180	+14.6	346	545	28.0	38.5	+10.5
H District	2,354	2,392	+38	+1.6	1,013	1,127	+114	+11.3	379	429	37.4	38.1	+0.7
Grand Total	23,076	23,591	+515	+2.2	9,283	9,211	-72	-0.8	3,146	3,486	33.9	37.8	+4.0

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The domestic abuse offences recorded, cleared and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

³ While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 2.3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by District¹ 2008/09

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence ²												
		Murder	Manslaughter	Attempted Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	Wounding / GBH (incl with intent)	AOABH / common assault	Intimidation / harassment	Rape (incl attempts)	All sexual assaults / sexual activity ³	Other Violent Crime	All criminal damage	Breach of orders	All other notifiable offences
A District	1,205	0	0	4	117	31	655	32	7	10	5	158	136	50
B District	834	1	1	2	55	19	506	28	3	7	5	93	83	31
C District	1,029	0	0	5	72	24	571	29	8	7	12	142	126	33
D District	1,389	2	0	3	92	43	743	75	7	9	9	196	163	47
E District	1,429	0	0	3	109	23	748	60	2	11	5	200	190	78
F District	781	1	0	0	50	9	404	61	15	12	4	120	73	32
G District	1,417	1	0	0	77	35	710	88	13	29	6	211	173	74
H District	1,127	2	0	6	80	16	594	65	13	8	14	154	130	45
Grand Total	9,211	7	1	23	652	200	4,931	438	68	93	60	1,274	1,074	390

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The domestic abuse offence figures provided above do not include assault on police. Offences of causing / allowing death of vulnerable person and infanticide are not shown separately in the above table as there were no offences recorded during 2008/09.

³ New sexual offence legislation was introduced to Northern Ireland on 2nd February 2009. The sexual offence categories have now been revised to enable comparability of the new offences with those recorded under the previous legislation. The categories of rape and attempted rape remain unaffected.

Table 2.4: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District¹ 2007/08 and 2008/09

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown ²		Total Offences ³	
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
A District	863	760	237	215	59	87	193	143	1,352	1,205
B District	533	506	189	168	37	65	100	95	859	834
C District	619	584	228	211	92	103	172	131	1,111	1,029
D District	926	849	281	264	70	103	228	173	1,505	1,389
E District	818	798	264	327	66	97	212	207	1,360	1,429
F District	519	433	148	168	84	93	95	87	846	781
G District	713	814	246	271	103	142	175	190	1,237	1,417
H District	630	692	180	210	51	84	152	141	1,013	1,127
Grand Total	5,621	5,436	1,773	1,834	562	774	1,327	1,167	9,283	9,211

¹ A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

² The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

³ The domestic abuse offence figures shown above do not include assault on police.

Table 2.5: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearances by Area 2007/08 and 2008/09

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded ¹				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts ²
Antrim	688	622	-66	-9.6	303	245	-58	-19.1	127	121	41.9	49.4	+7.5
Ards	858	788	-70	-8.2	361	283	-78	-21.6	96	91	26.6	32.2	+5.6
East Belfast	1,376	1,269	-107	-7.8	436	453	+17	+3.9	151	152	34.6	33.6	-1.1
North Belfast	2,198	2,053	-145	-6.6	839	791	-48	-5.7	312	339	37.2	42.9	+5.7
South Belfast	968	867	-101	-10.4	423	381	-42	-9.9	96	105	22.7	27.6	+4.9
West Belfast	1,427	1,362	-65	-4.6	513	414	-99	-19.3	176	158	34.3	38.2	+3.9
Carrickfergus	460	511	+51	+11.1	238	193	-45	-18.9	108	97	45.4	50.3	+4.9
Castlereagh	485	496	+11	+2.3	126	172	+46	+36.5	80	59	63.5	34.3	-29.2
Down	674	686	+12	+1.8	246	267	+21	+8.5	127	107	51.6	40.1	-11.6
Lisburn	1,539	1,735	+196	+12.7	603	539	-64	-10.6	225	245	37.3	45.5	+8.1
Newtownabbey	963	948	-15	-1.6	361	412	+51	+14.1	137	151	38.0	36.7	-1.3
North Down	862	709	-153	-17.7	378	307	-71	-18.8	93	92	24.6	30.0	+5.4
Urban Region	12,498	12,046	-452	-3.6	4,827	4,457	-370	-7.7	1,728	1,717	35.8	38.5	+2.7
Armagh	535	574	+39	+7.3	192	198	+6	+3.1	57	70	29.7	35.4	+5.7
Ballymena	601	718	+117	+19.5	331	378	+47	+14.2	109	144	32.9	38.1	+5.2
Ballymoney	286	322	+36	+12.6	103	130	+27	+26.2	37	35	35.9	26.9	-9.0
Banbridge	432	395	-37	-8.6	203	158	-45	-22.2	60	59	29.6	37.3	+7.8
Coleraine	998	905	-93	-9.3	346	396	+50	+14.5	136	147	39.3	37.1	-2.2
Cookstown	367	411	+44	+12.0	157	143	-14	-8.9	69	51	43.9	35.7	-8.3
Craigavon	1,283	1,433	+150	+11.7	589	611	+22	+3.7	153	179	26.0	29.3	+3.3
Dungannon & South Tyrone	355	357	+2	+0.6	148	154	+6	+4.1	44	56	29.7	36.4	+6.6
Fermanagh	592	531	-61	-10.3	293	243	-50	-17.1	122	95	41.6	39.1	-2.5
Foyle	1,742	2,115	+373	+21.4	689	823	+134	+19.4	159	280	23.1	34.0	+10.9
Larne	330	301	-29	-8.8	179	162	-17	-9.5	80	88	44.7	54.3	+9.6
Limavady	551	544	-7	-1.3	229	266	+37	+16.2	74	116	32.3	43.6	+11.3
Magherafelt	323	279	-44	-13.6	163	106	-57	-35.0	46	57	28.2	53.8	+25.6
Moyle	139	146	+7	+5.0	54	61	+7	+13.0	17	15	31.5	24.6	-6.9
Newry & Mourne	832	1,125	+293	+35.2	376	462	+86	+22.9	109	169	29.0	36.6	+7.6
Omagh	728	719	-9	-1.2	248	241	-7	-2.8	79	116	31.9	48.1	+16.3
Strabane	484	670	+186	+38.4	156	222	+66	+42.3	67	92	42.9	41.4	-1.5
Rural Region	10,578	11,545	+967	+9.1	4,456	4,754	+298	+6.7	1,418	1,769	31.8	37.2	+5.4
Grand Total	23,076	23,591	+515	+2.2	9,283	9,211	-72	-0.8	3,146	3,486	33.9	37.8	+4.0

¹ The domestic abuse offences recorded, cleared and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

² While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 2.6: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence and by Area 2008/09

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence ¹												
		Murder	Manslaughter	Attempted Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	Wounding / GBH (incl with intent)	AOABH / common assault	Intimidation / harassment	Rape (incl attempts)	All sexual assaults/ sexual activity ²	Other Violent Crime	All criminal damage	Breach of orders	All other notifiable offences
Antrim	245	0	0	1	10	13	144	9	1	0	1	28	31	7
Ards	283	0	0	0	22	8	146	3	4	5	3	42	36	14
East Belfast	453	1	0	2	29	14	262	10	1	5	2	52	58	17
North Belfast	791	0	0	1	79	22	462	18	5	9	5	95	63	32
South Belfast	381	0	1	0	26	5	244	18	2	2	3	41	25	14
West Belfast	414	0	0	3	38	9	193	14	2	1	0	63	73	18
Carrickfergus	193	0	0	0	11	1	112	8	1	1	1	35	17	6
Castlereagh	172	0	0	3	14	4	95	4	2	1	1	22	19	7
Down	267	0	0	1	22	6	132	20	1	1	8	40	29	7
Lisburn	539	1	0	0	38	20	250	40	3	6	3	83	74	21
Newtownabbey	412	1	0	2	33	9	237	18	2	2	4	50	41	13
North Down	307	0	0	1	14	6	198	2	1	0	0	38	42	5
Urban Region	4,457	3	1	14	336	117	2,475	164	25	33	31	589	508	161
Armagh	198	0	0	0	13	4	105	3	0	5	1	28	22	17
Ballymena	378	0	0	1	28	3	202	22	5	5	4	61	36	11
Ballymoney	130	0	0	0	11	2	73	7	0	1	0	18	16	2
Banbridge	158	0	0	0	13	1	79	3	1	0	0	30	24	7
Coleraine	396	2	0	4	23	9	197	23	5	0	6	53	52	22
Cookstown	143	0	0	0	4	0	93	4	2	4	0	17	11	8
Craigavon	611	0	0	0	35	8	329	28	1	4	3	96	79	28
Dungannon & South Tyrone	154	0	0	0	23	1	72	14	1	1	0	26	12	4
Fermanagh	243	0	0	0	9	5	120	20	7	4	2	37	32	7
Foyle	823	1	0	0	44	22	387	64	3	14	4	127	116	41
Larne	162	0	0	0	8	1	89	10	2	1	3	18	23	7
Limavady	266	0	0	0	12	4	148	12	4	6	1	39	30	10
Magherafelt	106	0	0	0	9	3	59	3	3	2	0	16	7	4
Moyle	61	0	0	1	10	1	33	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Newry & Mourne	462	0	0	3	48	10	235	26	0	2	1	46	65	26
Omagh	241	1	0	0	14	3	119	23	5	3	2	40	18	13
Strabane	222	0	0	0	12	6	116	9	3	7	1	29	20	19
Rural Region	4,754	4	0	9	316	83	2,456	274	43	60	29	685	566	229
Grand Total	9,211	7	1	23	652	200	4,931	438	68	93	60	1,274	1,074	390

¹ The domestic abuse offence figures provided above do not include assault on police. Offences of causing / allowing death of vulnerable person and infanticide are not shown separately in the above table as there were no offences recorded during 2008/09.

² New sexual offence legislation was introduced to Northern Ireland on 2nd February 2009. The sexual offence categories have now been revised to enable comparability of the new offences with those recorded under the previous legislation. The categories of rape and attempted rape remain unaffected.

Table 2.7: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims by Area 2007/08 and 2008/09

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown ¹		Total Offences ²	
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
Antrim	165	148	58	48	14	17	66	32	303	245
Ards	184	144	86	65	47	37	44	37	361	283
East Belfast	262	273	98	81	22	38	54	61	436	453
North Belfast	546	512	156	145	35	66	102	68	839	791
South Belfast	271	233	91	87	15	27	46	34	423	381
West Belfast	317	248	81	70	24	21	91	75	513	414
Carrickfergus	165	132	44	30	7	12	22	19	238	193
Castlereagh	72	102	21	34	7	15	26	21	126	172
Down	130	157	43	51	14	30	59	29	246	267
Lisburn	368	305	105	115	34	40	96	79	603	539
Newtownabbey	228	264	74	71	15	34	44	43	361	412
North Down	233	181	78	61	24	21	43	44	378	307
Urban Region	2,941	2,699	935	858	258	358	693	542	4,827	4,457
Armagh	123	109	42	43	9	22	18	24	192	198
Ballymena	212	242	58	77	20	19	41	40	331	378
Ballymoney	60	71	25	35	2	7	16	17	103	130
Banbridge	110	93	46	28	10	12	37	25	203	158
Coleraine	204	238	67	62	21	39	54	57	346	396
Cookstown	89	79	32	31	15	18	21	15	157	143
Craigavon	360	340	107	146	24	40	98	85	589	611
Dungannon & South Tyrone	108	100	14	27	8	14	18	13	148	154
Fermanagh	174	126	51	45	29	36	39	36	293	243
Foyle	407	471	133	160	50	67	99	125	689	823
Larne	122	100	21	23	7	15	29	24	179	162
Limavady	126	143	53	63	22	27	28	33	229	266
Magherafelt	92	77	32	10	17	11	22	8	163	106
Moyle	32	41	9	13	1	4	12	3	54	61
Newry & Mourne	225	256	69	110	23	23	59	73	376	462
Omagh	148	128	51	65	32	25	17	23	248	241
Strabane	88	123	28	38	14	37	26	24	156	222
Rural Region	2,680	2,737	838	976	304	416	634	625	4,456	4,754
Grand Total	5,621	5,436	1,773	1,834	562	774	1,327	1,167	9,283	9,211

¹ The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

² The domestic abuse offence figures shown above do not include assault on police.

Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

Indictable offences are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;

Triable-either-way offences are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;

Summary offences are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

Clearances

Clearances (or detections as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'cleared or detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one clearance (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'cleared'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'cleared'.

The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction clearance can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2007

