



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

**Statistical Report No. 2**

# DOMESTIC INCIDENTS & CRIMES

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## 2. Domestic 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.

##### 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 where it meets the definition provided above. Not all domestic incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Domestic crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

**Table 2.1: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Crimes and Clearance Rates Summary**

	2005/06	2006/07	change
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	23,059	23,456	+397
<b>Total number of crimes</b>	10,768	10,115	-653
<b>Sanction clearance rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	24.1	31.1	+7.0% pts
<b>Non sanction clearance rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	53.5	14.7	-38.8% pts
<b>Overall clearance rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	77.5	45.8	-31.7% pts

<sup>1</sup> The Clearance Rates paragraph below provides a full explanation of the change in the non sanction and overall clearance rates when comparing 2006/07 with 2005/06.

##### Incidents

- Between 2005/06 and 2006/07 the number of domestic incidents increased by 397 (+1.7%).

##### Recorded Crimes

- There were 10,115 domestic crimes recorded in 2006/07, a decrease of 653 (-6.1%) on 2005/06.
- During 2006/07 more than two thirds of all crimes with domestic motivation fell within the category of violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery). There were 7,080 such offences, representing 70% of the total. Of the remaining offences, criminal damage accounted for 15.2% and breach of non-molestation orders represented 10.1% of the total.

##### Clearance Rates

In April 2006 PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed). This change was introduced in order to bring these clearance types more closely into line with police services in England and Wales where they have been applying the Crown Prosecution Service evidential test since 2002. In Northern Ireland the equivalent standard only became relevant to PSNI clearances with the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in June 2005. While this has had the effect of reducing the overall clearance rate, sanction clearances (those where a formal sanction is taken against an offender by means of charge, summons, caution or where the offence is taken into consideration at court) remain unaffected.

- The overall clearance rate for crimes with a domestic motivation in 2006/07 was 45.8%, 31.7 percentage points lower than in 2005/06. The sanction clearance rate increased by 7.0 percentage points from 24.1% to 31.1%. The non sanction clearance rate fell from 53.5% to 14.7% (-38.8 percentage points).

**Table 2.2: Domestic Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Clearance Rates by District Command Unit 2005/06 and 2006/07**

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded <sup>1</sup>				Sanction clearance rate (%) <sup>2</sup>		Non sanction clearance rate (%) <sup>2</sup>		Overall clearance rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	
	2005/06	2006/07	change	% change	2005/06	2006/07	change	% change	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Antrim	706	595	-111	-15.7	291	367	+76	+26.1	29.2	37.6	45.4	15.8	74.6	53.4
Ards	843	1,012	+169	+20.0	425	456	+31	+7.3	19.3	21.3	52.2	18.4	71.5	39.7
East Belfast	1,336	1,513	+177	+13.2	513	492	-21	-4.1	26.5	36.4	46.4	22.0	72.9	58.3
North Belfast	2,157	2,231	+74	+3.4	863	932	+69	+8.0	23.5	32.3	43.8	9.7	67.3	42.0
South Belfast	999	886	-113	-11.3	481	430	-51	-10.6	17.0	27.7	57.6	13.0	74.6	40.7
West Belfast	1,113	1,069	-44	-4.0	564	316	-248	-44.0	32.4	42.1	46.1	7.6	78.5	49.7
Carrickfergus	480	419	-61	-12.7	223	201	-22	-9.9	12.6	30.8	70.9	28.4	83.4	59.2
Castlereagh	432	493	+61	+14.1	171	189	+18	+10.5	20.5	32.8	57.9	5.3	78.4	38.1
Larne	313	272	-41	-13.1	142	155	+13	+9.2	23.2	38.1	59.9	31.0	83.1	69.0
Lisburn	1,551	1,819	+268	+17.3	781	841	+60	+7.7	20.7	30.3	60.1	22.4	80.8	52.7
Newtownabbey	973	941	-32	-3.3	538	514	-24	-4.5	15.8	28.8	52.6	16.3	68.4	45.1
North Down	919	867	-52	-5.7	395	395	0	0.0	28.9	27.8	60.3	14.7	89.1	42.5
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>12,117</b>	<b>+295</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>5,387</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>47.8</b>
Armagh	482	497	+15	+3.1	254	223	-31	-12.2	37.4	40.8	54.7	12.6	92.1	53.4
Ballymena	584	516	-68	-11.6	361	358	-3	-0.8	21.6	27.9	60.4	10.6	82.0	38.5
Ballymoney	272	232	-40	-14.7	150	100	-50	-33.3	20.7	34.0	58.7	10.0	79.3	44.0
Banbridge	431	406	-25	-5.8	211	205	-6	-2.8	17.1	34.6	67.8	13.7	84.8	48.3
Coleraine	1,072	1,183	+111	+10.4	423	472	+49	+11.6	28.8	33.9	54.6	7.8	83.5	41.7
Cookstown	503	386	-117	-23.3	219	155	-64	-29.2	21.0	27.1	49.8	28.4	70.8	55.5
Craigavon	1,403	1,460	+57	+4.1	646	632	-14	-2.2	20.1	28.3	53.3	13.3	73.4	41.6
Down	670	792	+122	+18.2	350	353	+3	+0.9	28.6	26.6	44.9	9.9	73.4	36.5
Dungannon & South Tyrone	406	476	+70	+17.2	187	170	-17	-9.1	33.7	42.9	47.1	15.9	80.7	58.8
Fermanagh	609	557	-52	-8.5	307	234	-73	-23.8	27.0	27.4	59.6	8.5	86.6	35.9
Foyle	1,691	1,561	-130	-7.7	698	551	-147	-21.1	27.8	26.5	48.9	14.7	76.6	41.2
Limavady	460	564	+104	+22.6	253	221	-32	-12.6	28.1	24.9	55.7	15.4	83.8	40.3
Magherafelt	345	342	-3	-0.9	181	163	-18	-9.9	20.4	31.9	65.7	24.5	86.2	56.4
Moyle	128	145	+17	+13.3	69	67	-2	-2.9	14.5	31.3	69.6	13.4	84.1	44.8
Newry & Mourne	960	954	-6	-0.6	559	449	-110	-19.7	22.5	23.8	59.6	14.9	82.1	38.8
Omagh	723	789	+66	+9.1	272	261	-11	-4.0	26.1	35.6	36.0	6.9	62.1	42.5
Strabane	498	479	-19	-3.8	241	213	-28	-11.6	29.5	45.1	57.7	11.7	87.1	56.8
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>11,237</b>	<b>11,339</b>	<b>+102</b>	<b>+0.9</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>-554</b>	<b>-10.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>43.6</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,059</b>	<b>23,456</b>	<b>+397</b>	<b>+1.7</b>	<b>10,768</b>	<b>10,115</b>	<b>-653</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>45.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> The domestic offence and clearance rate figures shown above do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

<sup>2</sup> The Domestic Incidents and Crimes Summary page provides a full explanation of the change in the non sanction and overall clearance rates when comparing 2006/07 with 2005/06.

**Table 2.3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Offences Recorded by Type of Offence 2006/07**

	Total offences recorded	Offences recorded by type of offence <sup>1</sup>												
		Murder	Manslaughter	Attempted Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	Wounding / GBH (incl with intent)	AOABH / common assault	Intimidation / harassment	Rape (incl attempts)	All indecent assaults	Other Violent Crime	All criminal damage	Breach of orders	All other notifiable offences
Antrim	367	0	0	0	20	2	192	10	3	4	0	60	69	7
Ards	456	0	0	1	25	5	263	15	5	2	1	60	37	42
East Belfast	492	1	0	0	28	6	285	12	2	1	1	87	39	30
North Belfast	932	0	0	0	54	33	533	29	8	6	6	141	61	61
South Belfast	430	0	0	2	24	3	262	25	1	2	2	47	41	21
West Belfast	316	0	0	0	27	6	170	3	0	1	1	52	36	20
Carrickfergus	201	0	0	0	17	4	132	6	0	0	0	26	13	3
Castlereagh	189	0	0	0	8	1	105	14	0	1	0	37	18	5
Larne	155	0	0	1	3	3	105	4	0	1	0	21	17	0
Lisburn	841	0	0	0	63	15	452	50	2	3	3	144	74	35
Newtownabbey	514	0	0	2	44	8	281	21	1	1	0	87	52	17
North Down	395	0	0	3	19	7	251	21	1	1	0	41	41	10
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>251</b>
Armagh	223	0	0	1	19	8	99	18	0	1	0	36	25	16
Ballymena	358	0	0	2	35	3	219	1	0	3	0	53	35	7
Ballymoney	100	0	0	0	6	2	62	2	1	0	4	12	10	1
Banbridge	205	0	0	0	8	2	108	12	2	0	0	27	39	7
Coleraine	472	0	0	1	29	9	256	29	2	1	2	74	39	30
Cookstown	155	0	0	0	8	0	78	10	0	0	0	41	10	8
Craigavon	632	0	0	2	13	5	353	29	2	3	2	98	77	48
Down	353	1	0	1	22	4	184	20	2	1	1	58	47	12
Dungannon & South Tyrone	170	0	0	0	4	6	121	8	1	0	0	15	9	6
Fermanagh	234	0	0	0	11	7	136	15	4	0	0	31	24	6
Foyle	551	0	0	0	21	11	301	31	2	4	1	84	68	28
Limavady	221	0	0	0	4	5	122	9	2	1	3	45	19	11
Magherafelt	163	0	0	0	11	1	90	6	2	1	1	24	25	2
Moyle	67	0	0	0	1	0	42	1	0	2	0	9	11	1
Newry & Mourne	449	1	0	6	37	4	245	11	1	1	2	78	49	14
Omagh	261	0	0	0	11	4	167	9	1	2	1	33	21	12
Strabane	213	0	0	1	18	2	129	10	2	2	1	16	20	12
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,115</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>5,743</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>472</b>

<sup>1</sup> The domestic offence figures provided above do not include assault on police.

**Table 2.4: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District Command Unit 2005/06 and 2006/07**

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown <sup>1</sup>		Total Offences <sup>2</sup>	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Antrim	163	230	43	53	16	10	69	74	291	367
Ards	257	259	111	124	25	27	32	46	425	456
East Belfast	294	313	107	106	22	27	90	46	513	492
North Belfast	576	605	134	172	39	48	114	107	863	932
South Belfast	288	265	104	105	19	15	70	45	481	430
West Belfast	351	190	96	59	22	17	95	50	564	316
Carrickfergus	144	131	52	48	10	4	17	18	223	201
Castlereagh	111	127	31	31	6	10	23	21	171	189
Larne	72	94	32	32	13	12	25	17	142	155
Lisburn	487	531	177	168	32	52	85	90	781	841
Newtownabbey	321	308	132	110	20	31	65	65	538	514
North Down	242	243	81	90	26	17	46	45	395	395
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>5,387</b>	<b>5,288</b>
Armagh	139	128	48	52	10	10	57	33	254	223
Ballymena	226	254	52	39	31	23	52	42	361	358
Ballymoney	88	60	30	20	10	9	22	11	150	100
Banbridge	116	116	53	42	8	6	34	41	211	205
Coleraine	246	285	87	95	29	31	61	61	423	472
Cookstown	133	89	39	42	17	10	30	14	219	155
Craigavon	368	369	145	126	46	34	87	103	646	632
Down	217	206	52	77	14	17	67	53	350	353
Dungannon & South Tyrone	106	108	30	38	5	12	46	12	187	170
Fermanagh	186	142	58	42	18	23	45	27	307	234
Foyle	419	339	112	96	28	36	139	80	698	551
Limavady	146	127	56	54	15	16	36	24	253	221
Magherafelt	93	103	43	26	9	7	36	27	181	163
Moyle	52	36	10	17	0	2	7	12	69	67
Newry & Mourne	322	276	106	93	19	26	112	54	559	449
Omagh	156	163	50	52	14	22	52	24	272	261
Strabane	144	121	51	48	16	18	30	26	241	213
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>4,827</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,463</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>10,768</b>	<b>10,115</b>

<sup>1</sup> The gender/age unknown figures for 2005/06 do not match with the previously published figures as they now include breach of non molestation orders, which were previously excluded.

<sup>2</sup> The domestic 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. Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and go free, this also counts as one clearance. In this respect clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while clearance data counts crimes.

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 or restorative caution.

Offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' are those where the police take no further action for the following reasons:

- Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
- Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
- Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
- Police or PPS decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;
- Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

### 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.