

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2013

(Providing final figures for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013)

**Published 9 May 2013**

# Domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly update to 31 March 2013 (final figures for 2012/13)

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This quarterly bulletin presents finalised domestic abuse incidents and crimes statistics recorded by the police for the financial year 2012/13, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

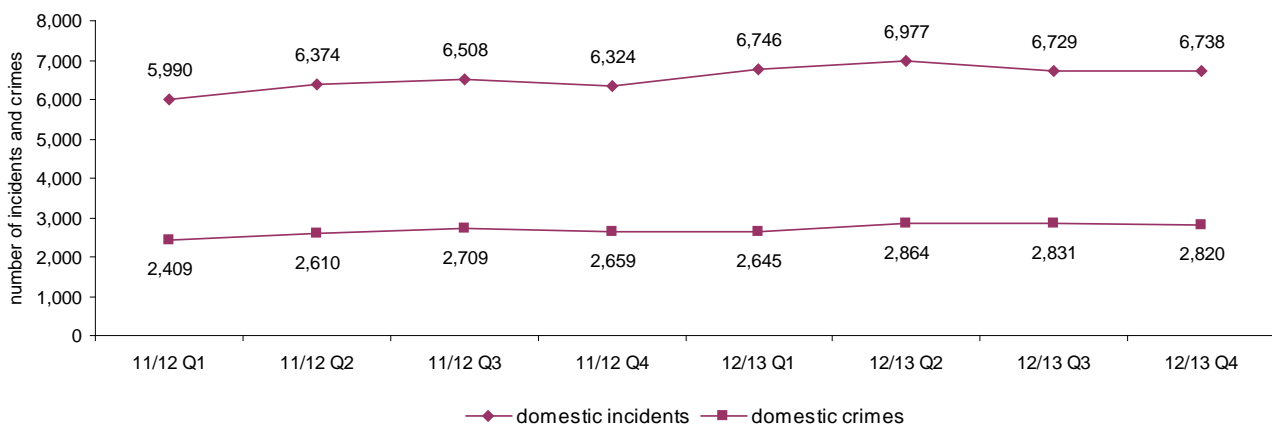
A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES page at the end of the bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2012/13 will be available in early July 2013. The next quarterly update covering the latest 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 will be published on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

## MAIN POINTS

- The number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2012/13 is at the highest level since the data series was first compiled in 2004/05. The latest figure of 27,190 is 7.9 per cent higher than 2011/12 and is 29.7 per cent higher than the level of 20,959 recorded in 2004/05. Domestic abuse incidents were higher in each quarter of 2012/13 when compared with the same quarters in 2011/12, although the difference was least evident when comparing quarter 3 of each year.
- The level of 11,160 domestic abuse crimes recorded in 2012/13 is also the highest level recorded since 2004/05 (the 2012/13 figure is 7.4 per cent higher than 2011/12 and 31.2 per cent higher than 2004/05). Domestic abuse crimes were higher in each quarter of 2012/13 when compared with the corresponding quarter of 2011/12.
- The domestic abuse sanction detection rate rose year on year from 2004/05 to a peak of 46.5 per cent in 2010/11. The 2011/12 rate then fell by 5.4 percentage points to 41.1 per cent, and fell further by 6.3 percentage points to 34.8 per cent in 2012/13. There was one non-sanction detection in 2012/13, where no prosecution was directed.
- There were 5 murders with a domestic abuse motivation in 2012/13, compared with 3 in 2011/12.

**Figure 1 Domestic abuse incidents and crimes: quarterly totals 2011/12 and 2012/13**



**Table 1 Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded, 2012/13 compared with 2011/12**

	Numbers and percentages		
	2011/12	2012/13	% change between years
Domestic abuse incidents	25,196	27,190	7.9

**Table 2 Crimes and sanction detection rates with a domestic abuse motivation recorded, 2012/13 compared with 20112**

Offence group	Numbers and percentages					
	Offences Recorded			Sanction Detection Rate (%)		
	2011/12	2012/13	% change between years	2011/12	2012/13	% point change
Violence against the person offences	7,144	7,698	7.8	37.5	30.8	-6.7
<i>Violence against the person – with injury</i> <sup>1</sup>	3,538	3,593	1.6	42.8	38.0	-4.9
<i>Violence against the person – without injury</i> <sup>1</sup>	3,606	4,105	13.8	32.2	24.6	-7.6
Property crime	1,996	2,092	4.8	45.3	42.1	-3.3
Breach of non-molestation order	946	911	-3.7	63.4	62.1	-1.3
All other offences	301	459	52.5	30.6	15.0	-15.5
<b>Total recorded crime (domestic abuse motivation) – all offences</b>	<b>10,387</b>	<b>11,160</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Minor changes to crime classifications introduced in 2012/13 mean that the 2011/12 figures presented in Table 2 differ slightly from those previously published. Overall totals are not affected.

## COMPARISON OF POLICING DISTRICTS AND AREAS

- Domestic abuse incidents decreased in D District (-6.7 per cent), and B District (-4.2 per cent) when comparing 2012/13 with 2011/12. A, C, E, F, G and H policing districts have shown increases, ranging from 3.7 per cent in G District to 23.2 per cent in A District. At policing area level the change between 2011/12 and 2012/13 has ranged from a fall of 14.9 per cent in Antrim policing area to a rise of 27.5 per cent in Craigavon policing area.
- Domestic abuse crimes decreased in D District (-2.5 per cent), H District (-1.7 per cent) and G District (-1.3 per cent) when comparing 2012/13 with 2011/12. A, B, C, E, and F policing districts have shown increases, ranging from 8.4 per cent in E District to 29.1 per cent in A District. At policing area level the change between 2011/12 and 2012/13 has ranged from a fall of 22.1 per cent in Carrickfergus policing area to a rise of 38.2 per cent in North Belfast policing area.

**Table 3 Recorded crime and sanction detection rates for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and policing area, 2011/12 and 2012/13**

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages								
	Incidents <sup>1</sup>			Recorded crime <sup>1</sup>			Sanction detection rate (%) <sup>2</sup>		
	2011/12	2012/13	change	2011/12	2012/13	change	2011/12	2012/13	% point change <sup>3</sup>
North Belfast	1,940	2,406	466	693	958	265	48.6	35.5	-13.1
West Belfast	1,264	1,540	276	536	629	93	42.2	38.8	-3.4
<b>A District</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>3,946</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>-9.0</b>
East Belfast	1,527	1,478	-49	552	623	71	34.1	33.2	-0.8
South Belfast	1,086	1,025	-61	433	464	31	33.9	30.0	-4.0
<b>B District</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Ards	737	861	124	337	361	24	32.0	27.4	-4.6
Castlereagh	429	540	111	164	202	38	51.2	35.6	-15.6
Down	619	718	99	298	323	25	40.9	27.9	-13.1
North Down	726	887	161	326	360	34	39.0	30.6	-8.4
<b>C District</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>-9.4</b>
Antrim	854	727	-127	359	329	-30	40.4	39.8	-0.6
Carrickfergus	539	492	-47	235	183	-52	43.4	30.1	-13.3
Lisburn	1,749	1,566	-183	593	640	47	33.6	33.4	-0.1
Newtownabbey	1,046	1,121	75	433	428	-5	37.9	32.5	-5.4
<b>D District</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>-282</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Armagh	595	636	41	253	243	-10	38.3	34.2	-4.2
Banbridge	567	655	88	222	253	31	40.5	36.8	-3.8
Craigavon	1,399	1,784	385	621	698	77	39.9	34.5	-5.4
Newry & Mourne	1,136	1,221	85	538	578	40	43.9	37.5	-6.3
<b>E District</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
Cookstown	490	535	45	216	185	-31	42.6	41.6	-1.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	656	773	117	282	314	32	45.4	39.8	-5.6
Fermanagh	631	750	119	296	380	84	42.6	45.3	2.7
Omagh	631	639	8	223	272	49	47.1	40.4	-6.6
<b>F District</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Foyle	2,224	2,405	181	941	983	42	45.3	33.2	-12.1
Limavady	467	455	-12	232	188	-44	47.8	34.0	-13.8
Magherafelt	391	434	43	172	204	32	44.2	32.4	-11.8
Strabane	636	561	-75	253	203	-50	37.9	36.5	-1.5
<b>G District</b>	<b>3,718</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1,598</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>-10.8</b>
Ballymena	932	895	-37	435	390	-45	42.5	41.8	-0.7
Ballymoney	345	368	23	152	152	0	34.9	22.4	-12.5
Coleraine	978	1,109	131	363	402	39	44.9	31.1	-13.8
Larne	426	412	-14	159	140	-19	37.1	35.7	-1.4
Moyle	176	197	21	70	75	5	48.6	36.0	-12.6
<b>H District</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>-7.5</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>25,196</b>	<b>27,190</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>10,387</b>	<b>11,160</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

1. Incidents and crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

2. The detection figures are based on sanction detections only. The reason for focusing on sanction detections instead of the overall detection rate is that there have been a number of changes to the rules governing what can be counted as a detection since 1998/99. However sanction detections remained unaffected by these changes and so provide the most comparable data series. An explanation of the changes to the recording of detections, along with details on what constitutes a sanction detection, can be found in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland.

Offences detected in any particular year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100. The sanction detection rate is the number of crimes that are cleared up by a sanction detection expressed as a percentage of the total number of recorded offences.

3. Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

## 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.

### 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

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 for the 2011/12 financial year. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: [http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly\\_domestic\\_abuse\\_update\\_apr-mar\\_12\\_13.xls](http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly_domestic_abuse_update_apr-mar_12_13.xls).

This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on domestic abuse incidents, domestic abuse crimes, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection 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 (latest and previous financial years and each of the last 8 quarters).

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

Annual figures on domestic abuse incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2011/12 are available in the publication Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2011/12, available at:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/domestic\\_abuse\\_incidents\\_and\\_crimes\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2004-05\\_to\\_2011-12.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/domestic_abuse_incidents_and_crimes_in_northern_ireland_2004-05_to_2011-12.pdf)

An updated publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2012/13 will be available in early July 2013.

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. The [definition of domestic abuse](#) upon which these statistics are based is also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)

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](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk);

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998