

Statistical Report No. 4

DRUG SEIZURES AND ARRESTS

1st April 2005 - 31st March 2006

Released 9th May 2006



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Table 4.1 Drug Seizures and Arrests
2003/04 – 2005/06

Table 4.2 Seizure Incidents and Arrests by District
Command Unit 2004/05 and 2005/06

4. Drug Seizures and Arrests

Summary

Total Seizures

- A total of 2,767 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2005/06, an increase of 15.2% on 2004/05. As in previous years cannabis was the drug most commonly seized.

Class A Seizures

- The number of seizures involving Class A drugs increased by 4.7% (449 seizure incidents in 2005/06 compared with 429 in 2004/05).
- Ecstasy accounted for the greatest number of Class A seizure incidents. The number of ecstasy tablets seized decreased by 73.8% from 351,296 in 2004/05 to 92,107 in 2005/06.
- There were 168 seizures of cocaine powder in 2005/06, an increase in seizures of 93.1% on 2004/05. Also, the amount of cocaine powder seized has progressively increased with 27.1 kg being seized in 2005/06 compared to 21.3 kg in 2004/05 and 11.5 kg in 2003/04.

Class B Seizures

- The number of seizures involving class B drugs was similar to the previous year (154 seizure incidents in 2005/06 compared with 151 in 2004/05).
- There was a decrease in the amount of amphetamine powder seized during 2005/06 (73.7 kg compared with 79.1 kg in 2004/05), although this remains noticeably higher than the amount seized during 2003/04 (17.3kg).

Class C (Cannabis) Seizures

- Seizures of cannabis increased by 16.1% during the year from 2,021 in 2004/05 to 2,347 in 2005/06.
- There was a substantial decrease in the amount of cannabis resin seized during 2005/06 (426.2 kg compared with 933.0 kg in 2004/05).
- The amount of herbal cannabis seized this year has increased considerably (68.6 kg compared with 19.7 kg in 2004/05).

Arrests

- The number of persons arrested for drug related offences increased by 6.2% from 1,356 in 2004/05 to 1,440 in 2005/06.

Charges

- The number of persons charged or summonsed for drug related offences increased by 18.5% from 1,077 in 2004/05 to 1,276 in 2005/06.

Table 4.1: Drug Seizures and Arrests 2003/04 – 2005/06

Drugs Seized		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
		No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A							
Cocaine:	Powder (gms)	77	11,470.9	87	21,331.6	168	27,123.8
	Wraps	2	6	3	24	11	38
	'Crack' (gms)	3	9.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ecstasy:	Tablets	342	222,888	317	351,296	256	92,107
	Powder (gms)	9	72.1	6	43.41	13	391.7
	Capsules	1	20	2	4	1	10
LSD:	Doses	0	0	7	1,134	14	306
	Microdots	1	6	2	7,012	1	2
Opiates:	Powder (gms)	14	189.9	14	5.1	30	321.8
	Tablets	1	3	5	57	0	0
	Ampoules	1	20	0	0	1	35
	Mls	13	163.6	8	202.2	11	385.1
	Wraps	2	2	0	0	0	0
All Class A¹		431	-	429	-	449	-
Class B²							
Amphetamine:	Powder (kgs)	130	17.3	147	79.1	138	73.7
	Wraps	9	35	3	24	11	32
	Tablets	2	58	1	32	5	258
Barbiturates:	Tablets	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Class B¹		1,703²	-	151²	-	154²	-
Class C (Cannabis)³							
Cannabis ³ :	Resin (kgs)	1,819	2,204.2	1,841	933.0	2,086	426.2
	Herbal (kgs)	109	32.8	131	19.7	180	68.6
	Plants	59	1,173	43	574	45	1,504
	Oil (gms)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joints	138	212	132	208	197	267
All Cannabis¹		1,984	-	2,021	-	2,347	-
Total Seizure Incidents¹		2,347		2,402		2,767	
'Street Value' of Drugs Seized		£15,108,410		£9,507,689		£7,157,566	
Persons Arrested		1,754		1,356		1,440	
Persons Charged		1,088		1,077		1,276	

¹ As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

² Cannabis was reclassified from Class B to Class C on the 29th January 2004, as such Class B totals include cannabis seizure incidents prior to reclassification.

³ For presentation purposes, total seizures of cannabis are presented together regardless of class.

Table 4.2: Seizure Incidents and Arrests by DCU 2004/05 – 2005/06

DCU	No. of Seizure Incidents				No. of Arrests			
	2004/05	2005/06		% Change	2004/05	2005/06	Change	% Change
Antrim	89	97	8	9.0%	47	70	23	48.9%
Ards	46	40	-6	-13.0%	25	21	-4	-16.0%
East Belfast	100	100	0	0.0%	77	58	-19	-24.7%
North Belfast	154	215	61	39.6%	81	96	15	18.5%
South Belfast	228	219	-9	-3.9%	135	118	-17	-12.6%
West Belfast	58	68	10	17.2%	37	59	22	59.5%
Carrickfergus	64	50	-14	-21.9%	21	15	-6	-28.6%
Castlereagh	48	45	-3	-6.3%	29	16	-13	-44.8%
Larne	10	15	5	50.0%	5	9	4	80.0%
Lisburn	121	118	-3	-2.5%	98	67	-31	-31.6%
Newtownabbey	45	63	18	40.0%	18	28	10	55.6%
North Down	116	105	-11	-9.5%	65	56	-9	-13.8%
Urban Region	1079	1135	56	5.2%	638	613	-25	-3.9%
Armagh	71	98	27	38.0%	64	104	40	62.5%
Ballymena	153	122	-31	-20.3%	89	78	-11	-12.4%
Ballymoney	13	14	1	7.7%	6	2	-4	-66.7%
Banbridge	32	46	14	43.8%	21	17	-4	-19.0%
Coleraine	147	181	34	23.1%	92	110	18	19.6%
Cookstown	76	98	22	28.9%	17	29	12	70.6%
Craigavon	126	191	65	51.6%	52	61	9	17.3%
Down	104	102	-2	-1.9%	37	32	-5	-13.5%
Dungannon & South Tyrone	74	101	27	36.5%	25	27	2	8.0%
Fermanagh	78	75	-3	-3.8%	52	74	22	42.3%
Foyle	146	163	17	11.6%	89	94	5	5.6%
Limavady	70	110	40	57.1%	29	45	16	55.2%
Magherafelt	42	40	-2	-4.8%	33	16	-17	-51.5%
Moyle	10	16	6	60.0%	1	4	3	300.0%
Newry & Mourne	60	80	20	33.3%	35	40	5	14.3%
Omagh	97	159	62	63.9%	59	75	16	27.1%
Strabane	24	36	12	50.0%	17	19	2	11.8%
Rural Region	1323	1632	309	23.4%	718	827	109	15.2%
Total	2402	2767	365	15.2%	1356	1440	84	6.2%