

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Issued Fixed Penalty Notice and Discretionary Disposal Statistics for Traffic Offences in Northern Ireland

Monthly Report

Covering the reporting period
1st May 2014 – 30th April 2015

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Police Issued Fixed Penalty Notice and Discretionary Disposal Statistics for Traffic Offences in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 30th April 2015

Published 27th May 2015

This bulletin presents the most recent fixed penalty notice and discretionary disposal statistics issued by the police for traffic offences for the period 1st May 2014 to the 30th April 2015 based on figures that were compiled on 19th May 2015. Figures are provisional and will be subject to change. A further breakdown of the information provided in this report can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#) which is also published on the PSNI website.

Key Findings

- There were 28,175 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and discretionary disposals issued by the police for traffic offences in Northern Ireland in the 12 months from 1st May 2014 to the 30th April 2015 compared with 27,009 issued in the previous twelve months to 30th April 2014, an increase of 1,166 (4%) (Table 1).
- Endorsable FPNs accounted for just over half (14,804, 53%) of all FPNs and discretionary disposals from 1st May 2014 to the 30th April 2015 (Table 1).
- FPNs and discretionary disposals issued for speeding offences (7,529) accounted for 27% of all those issued. This does not include drivers detected for speeding through the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership or those police officer detections where drivers were given the option of attending a Speed Awareness Course.
- Just over one-fifth (21%) of FPNs and discretionary disposals, a total of 5,941 were issued for using hand held mobile phone in the 12 months to April 2015.
- Persons aged 30-49 accounted for 44% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1st May 2014 to the 30th April 2015, where the age is known.
- Males account for 73% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1st May 2014 to 30th April 2015, where the gender is known.

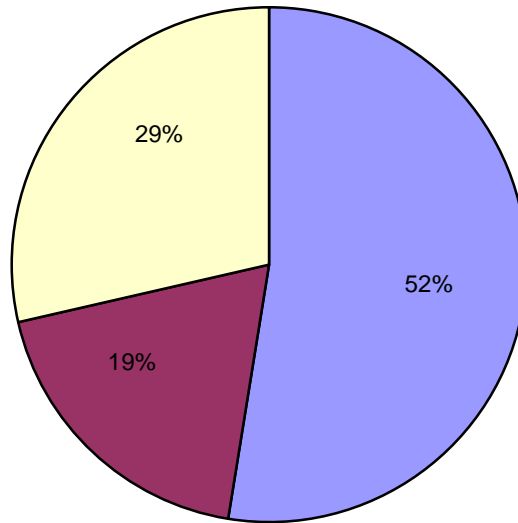
NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Table 1: Number of police officer issued FPNs and discretionary disposals for Motoring Offences*

	1st May 2013 - 30th April 2014				1st May 2014 - 30th April 2015				Change last 12 months	
	Endorsable Fixed Penalty	Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	Discretionary Disposal	Total	Endorsable Fixed Penalty	Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	Discretionary Disposal	Total	Number	%
May	1,155	482	1,320	2,957	930	554	636	2,120	-837	-28.3
Jun	786	269	919	1,974	898	399	742	2,039	65	3.3
Jul	882	268	902	2,052	1360	418	750	2,528	476	23.2
Aug	985	312	1,003	2,300	1129	390	911	2,430	130	5.7
Sep	1,094	390	813	2,297	1676	466	419	2,561	264	11.5
Oct	1,241	535	842	2,618	1764	481	461	2,706	88	3.4
Nov	982	472	766	2,220	1,126	410	567	2,103	-117	-5.3
Dec	755	487	684	1,926	1,169	505	1,109	2,783	857	44.5
Jan	860	408	769	2,037	1,261	518	860	2,639	602	29.6
Feb	1,110	537	693	2,340	1,223	525	571	2,319	-21	-0.9
Mar	978	499	788	2,265	1,280	389	502	2,171	-94	-4.2
Apr	917	410	696	2,023	988	261	527	1,776	-247	-12.2
Total	11,745	5,069	10,195	27,009	14,804	5,316	8,055	28,175	1,166	4.3

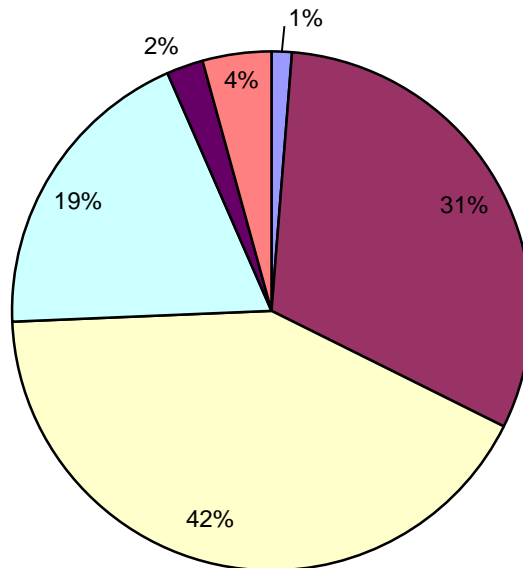
* Figures are provisional and subject to change

**Figure 1: Number of issued FPNs and discretionary disposals:
1st May 2014 - 30th April 2015**



■ Endorsable Fixed Penalty ■ Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty □ Discretionary Disposal

**Figure 2: Number of FPNs and discretionary disposals issued by age:
1st May 2014 - 30th April 2015**



■ Under 18 ■ 18-29 □ 30-49 □ 50-69 ■ 70+ ■ Unknown

Table 2: Number of police officer issued FPNs and discretionary disposals for Motoring Offences by offence group* ¹

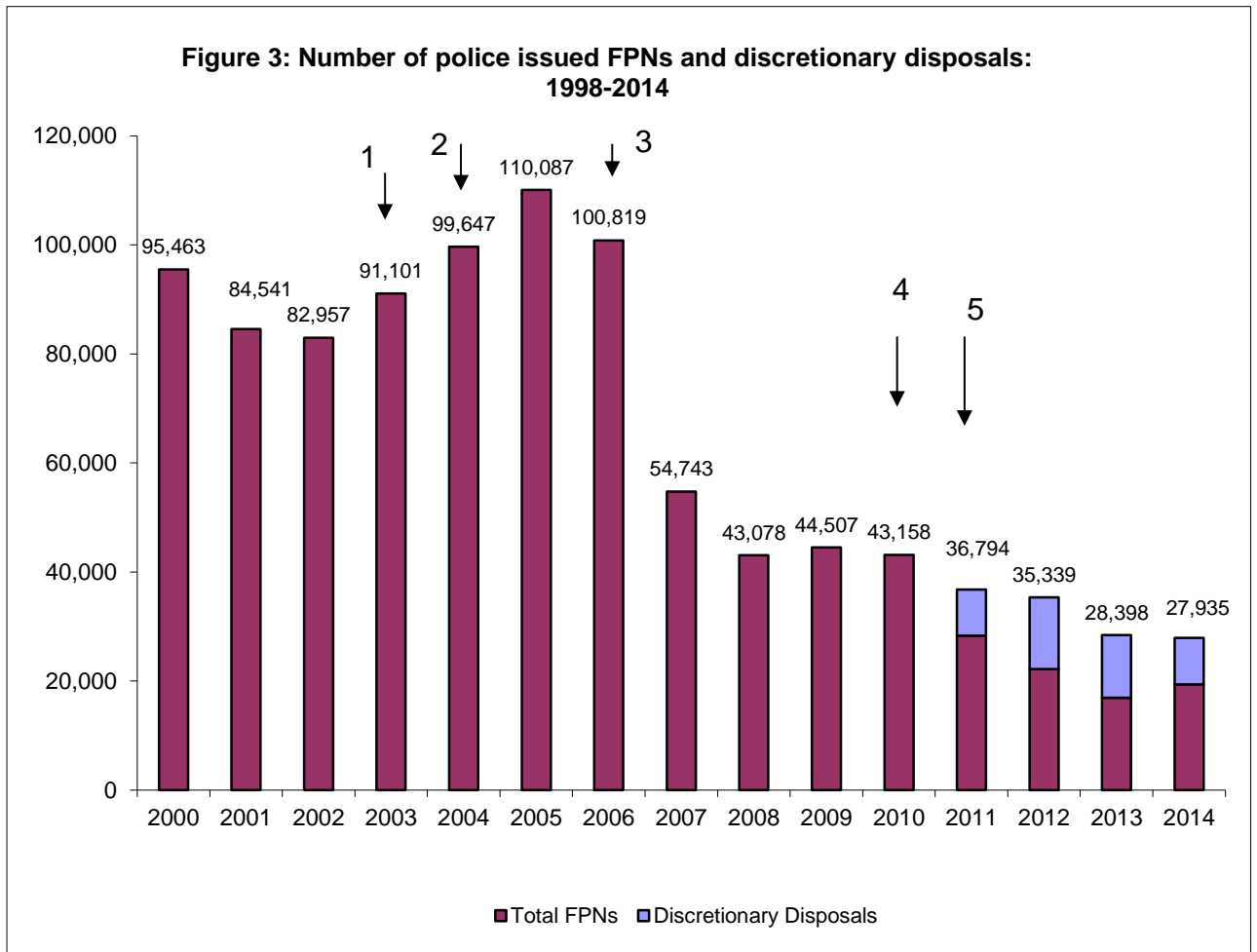
	Gender				Age						
	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Total	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs and signals	115	321	345	781	2	206	299	142	14	118	781
Careless/ Inconsiderate driving	1,223	2,913	409	4,545	83	1,487	1,767	930	266	12	4,545
Construction and use	552	1,832	385	2,769	67	1,359	940	364	25	14	2,769
Dangerous Driving	36	183	13	232	4	102	93	29	4	0	232
Lighting	47	309	215	571	18	280	187	78	7	1	571
Miscellaneous	235	599	54	888	41	314	297	166	62	8	888
Parking	74	154	1,022	1,250	2	65	182	44	8	949	1,250
Pedal cyclists	3	26	1	30	2	15	9	4	0	0	30
Pedestrian	14	58	15	87	5	53	20	8	1	0	87
Seatbelt	272	875	377	1,524	23	448	658	350	45	0	1,524
Speeding ²	1,709	3,824	1,996	7,529	64	2,321	3,383	1,620	136	5	7,529
Tachograph	0	17	7	24	0	4	11	8	0	1	24
Using a hand-held mobile phone	1,075	3,055	1,811	5,941	10	1,539	3,046	1,285	61	0	5,941
No Insurance	123	295	154	572	15	218	252	82	5	0	572
No Vehicle Test Certificate	235	744	395	1,374	5	339	661	264	7	98	1,374
Drink or drug driving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving whilst disqualified	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No driving licence	19	38	0	57	14	7	26	7	2	1	57
Horse Drawn Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,732	15,244	7,199	28,175	356	8,757	11,831	5,381	643	1,207	28,175

* Figures are provisional and subject to change

¹ Please note an offence group is made up of many individual offences

² Please note this does not include drivers detected for speeding through the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership or officer detections where the driver was given the option to attend Speed Awareness Course

Trend Information



1. Legislation changed in 2003 to enforce seatbelt offences with FPNs in place of advice and warning
2. Introduction of 'Using hand held mobile phone' offence in March 2004
3. Majority of parking offences no longer enforced by PSNI from 29th Oct 2006
4. Speed awareness course introduced in June 2010 as a disposal option instead of receiving a FPN for speeding offences
5. Discretionary Disposals introduced during 2011 as an alternative disposal option for dealing with traffic offences

Notes

Fixed Penalties originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. Such was its success that it was identified as an efficient way to deal with minor road traffic offences and was expanded to encompass these matters in the mid 1980s. With the introduction of penalty points for traffic offences, the scheme was expanded to incorporate Endorsable and Non-Endorsable offences.

Non-endorsable offences - meaning those which don't result in points on your licence incur a fine of £30. Fines for endorsable offences are £60 and three points. More serious offences such as driving without insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Other fixed penalty offences include No MOT (£60) or Vehicle Excise License (£60). Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by the NI Courts Service.

Discretionary disposals were introduced to the PSNI in 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with traffic offences.

A list of fixed penalty offences can be found at – [FPN List](#)

This report looks at all FPNs issued by the police – both Endorsable and non Endorsable as well as discretionary disposals issued for Motoring Offences during May 2014 – April 2015. It does not include FPNs issued to drivers who were detected for speeding through the NI Road Safety Partnership. Figures relating to those detected through the Partnership can be accessed via following link – [NI RSP](#)

We are currently undertaking development work with the aim of expanding the number of disposal options we include in this report.

Definitions

Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalties

Police officers in uniform currently issue Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalties. There are over 130 offences associated with a non-endorsable notice ranging from lighting offences to incorrect form of registration marking.

Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalty notices carry a fine of £30. There are no points endorsed on your driving licence.

The Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 came into effect on 30th December 2006. The effect of this legislation was to decriminalise the vast majority of parking and waiting offences in Northern Ireland. Responsibility for enforcement of parking/waiting restrictions is carried out by Traffic Attendants and is the responsibility of DRD Road Services. National Car Parks Limited provides this service on behalf of DRD Road Services.

Endorsable Fixed Penalties

Police officers (in uniform) are able to issue Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices (EFPNs) for a variety of road traffic offences. The offences range from stopping on a motorway to defective tyres. However, the most common ones are excess speed, using a handheld mobile phone and driver failing to wear a seatbelt.

Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices differ from non-endorsable fixed penalty notices. They involve the endorsement of penalty points on a driving licence and they carry a heavier fine currently £60. Penalty Points remain on your licence for a period of 3 years.

The offence of 'Driving or causing or permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle whilst uninsured' may also be dealt with by the issue of an Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notice. The penalty for this offence is a fine of £200 and six penalty points. Your vehicle will also be seized pending the production of valid insurance and any other required driving documents.

Discretionary Disposal

Discretionary disposals were introduced to provide a speedy, effective outcome tailored to the needs of the victim. In addition they challenge offenders to recognise the impact of their behaviour. They can be used for a specified list of low level offences and are dealt with in this way rather than reporting the case to the Public Prosecution Service. In addition, the offender must have admitted to the offence before a discretionary disposal can be considered.

Speed Awareness Courses

Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, may be offered an opportunity to attend a Speed Awareness Course as an alternative to penalty points. The course which is available at nine locations throughout Northern Ireland and delivered and managed by an appointed contractor must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection. This method of disposal was introduced in June 2010. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option.