

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  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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Keeping People Safe

## Police Issued Fixed Penalty Notice and Discretionary Disposal Statistics for Traffic Offences in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Published 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015

This bulletin presents the most recent fixed penalty notice and discretionary disposal statistics issued by the police for traffic offences for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 based on figures that were compiled on 24<sup>th</sup> July 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 28,214 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and discretionary disposals issued by the police for traffic offences in Northern Ireland in the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 compared with 26,237 issued in the previous twelve months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014, an increase of 1,977 (7.5%) (Table 1).
- Endorsable FPNs accounted for just over half (15,476, 54.9%) of all FPNs and discretionary disposals from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Table 1).
- FPNs and discretionary disposals issued for speeding offences (7,448) accounted for 26.4% 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 (21.5%) of FPNs and discretionary disposals, a total of 6,053 were issued for using hand held mobile phone in the 12 months to June 2015.
- Persons aged 30-49 accounted for 42.2% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- Males account for 72.1% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, where the gender is known.

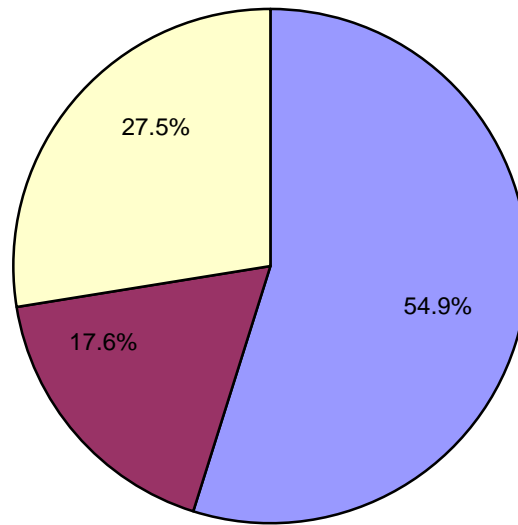
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**Table 1: Number of police officer issued FPNs and discretionary disposals for Motoring Offences\***

	1st Jul 2013 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2014				1st Jul 2014 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun 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	%
Jul	882	268	902	<b>2,052</b>	1360	418	750	<b>2,528</b>	476	23.2
Aug	985	312	1,003	<b>2,300</b>	1129	390	911	<b>2,430</b>	130	5.7
Sep	1,094	390	813	<b>2,297</b>	1676	466	419	<b>2,561</b>	264	11.5
Oct	1,241	535	842	<b>2,618</b>	1764	481	461	<b>2,706</b>	88	3.4
Nov	982	472	766	<b>2,220</b>	1,126	410	567	<b>2,103</b>	-117	-5.3
Dec	755	487	684	<b>1,926</b>	1,169	505	1,109	<b>2,783</b>	857	44.5
Jan	860	408	769	<b>2,037</b>	1,277	521	864	<b>2,662</b>	625	30.7
Feb	1,110	537	693	<b>2,340</b>	1,262	524	581	<b>2,367</b>	27	1.2
Mar	978	499	788	<b>2,265</b>	1,460	423	516	<b>2,399</b>	134	5.9
Apr	917	410	696	<b>2,023</b>	1,233	291	554	<b>2,078</b>	55	2.7
May	930	554	636	<b>2,120</b>	1,098	304	546	<b>1,948</b>	-172	-8.1
Jun	898	399	742	<b>2,039</b>	922	233	494	<b>1,649</b>	-390	-19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,632</b>	<b>5,271</b>	<b>9,334</b>	<b>26,237</b>	<b>15,476</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>7,772</b>	<b>28,214</b>	1,977	7.5

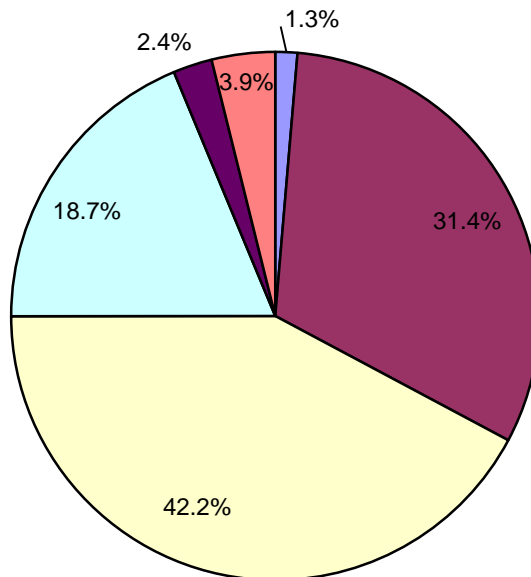
\* Figures are provisional and subject to change

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



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

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



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

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**Table 2: Number of police officer issued FPNs and discretionary disposals for  
Motoring Offences by offence group\* <sup>1</sup>  
Between 1st July 2014 and 30th June 2015**

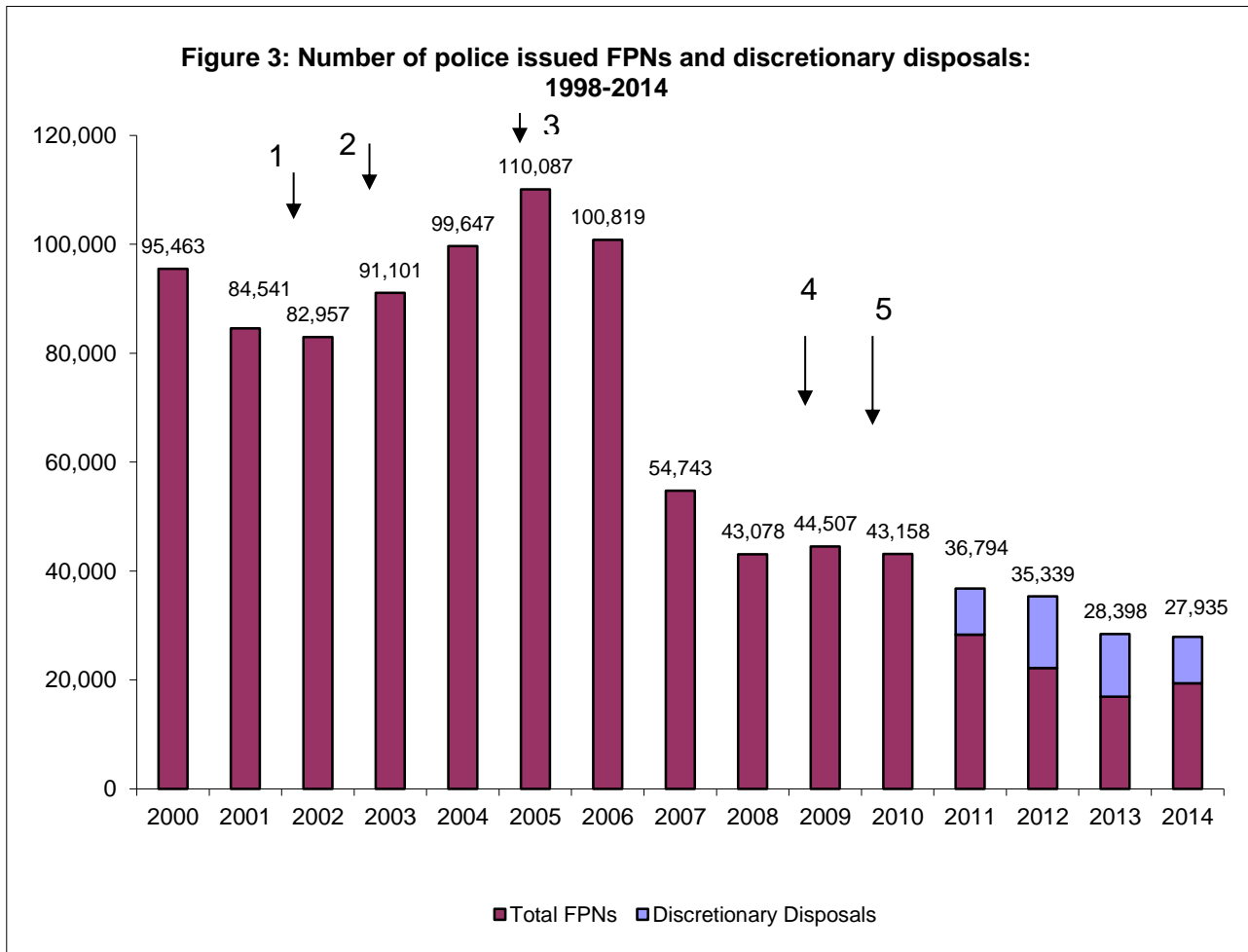
	Gender				Age						
	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Total	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs and signals	84	223	376	683	2	175	281	125	14	86	683
Careless/ Inconsiderate driving	1,263	2,903	619	4,785	95	1,579	1,854	963	281	13	4,785
Construction and use	544	1,774	581	2,899	65	1,427	972	392	28	15	2,899
Dangerous Driving	36	169	23	228	5	102	86	32	3	0	228
Lighting	45	263	269	577	19	272	199	78	8	1	577
Miscellaneous	235	561	83	879	46	306	290	163	66	8	879
Parking	74	142	1,042	1,258	1	72	227	54	8	896	1,258
Pedal cyclists	2	21	5	28	1	15	8	4	0	0	28
Pedestrian	13	47	30	90	5	62	13	7	3	0	90
Seatbelt	227	706	633	1,566	26	482	665	349	44	0	1,566
Speeding <sup>2</sup>	1,422	3,105	2,921	7,448	76	2,315	3,345	1,567	141	4	7,448
Tachograph	0	16	10	26	0	4	14	7	0	1	26
Using a hand-held mobile phone	842	2,385	2,826	6,053	10	1,555	3,144	1,277	67	0	6,053
No Insurance	90	217	252	559	12	208	261	73	5	0	559
No Vehicle Test Certificate	140	478	459	1,077	5	290	517	190	5	70	1,077
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	21	36	0	57	11	9	27	9	1	0	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>13,047</b>	<b>10,129</b>	<b>28,214</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>8,873</b>	<b>11,903</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>28,214</b>

\* Figures are provisional and subject to change

<sup>1</sup> Please note an offence group is made up of many individual offences

<sup>2</sup> 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

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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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 the most recent twelve months. 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.