

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 June 2014 – 31st May 2015

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Police Issued Fixed Penalty Notice and Discretionary Disposal Statistics for Traffic Offences in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31st May 2015

Published 24th June 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 June 2014 to the 31st May 2015 based on figures that were compiled on 19th June 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 28,228 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and discretionary disposals issued by the police for traffic offences in Northern Ireland in the 12 months from 1st June 2014 to the 31st May 2015 compared with 26,172 issued in the previous twelve months to 31st May 2014, an increase of 2,056 (8%) (Table 1).
- Endorsable FPNs accounted for just over half (15,168, 54%) of all FPNs and discretionary disposals from 1st June 2014 to the 31st May 2015 (Table 1).
- FPNs and discretionary disposals issued for speeding offences (7,545) 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 5,996 were issued for using hand held mobile phone in the 12 months to May 2015.
- Persons aged 30-49 accounted for 44% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1st June 2014 to the 31st May 2015, where the age is known.
- Males account for 72% of all FPNs and discretionary disposals in the 12 months from 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015, where the gender is known.

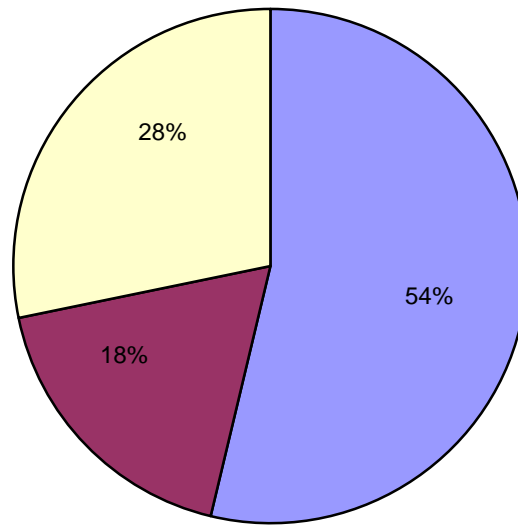
NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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

	1st Jun 2013 - 31st May 2014				1st Jun 2014 - 31st May 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	%
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	1,276	520	863	2,659	622	30.5
Feb	1,110	537	693	2,340	1,254	524	577	2,355	15	0.6
Mar	978	499	788	2,265	1,433	420	513	2,366	101	4.5
Apr	917	410	696	2,023	1,135	270	547	1,952	-71	-3.5
May	930	554	636	2,120	948	287	511	1,746	-374	-17.6
Total	11,520	5,141	9,511	26,172	15,168	5,090	7,970	28,228	2,056	7.9

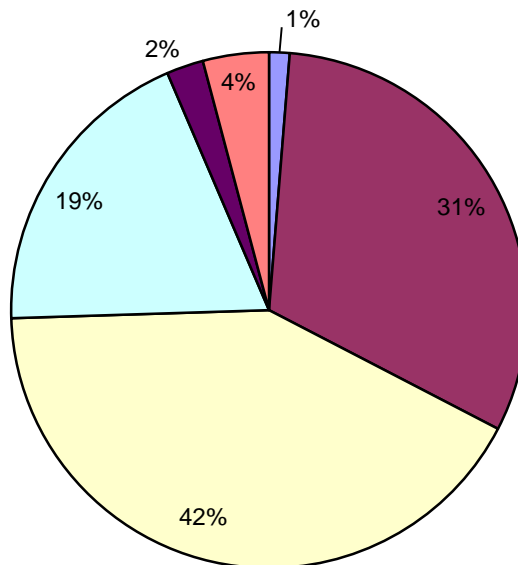
* Figures are provisional and subject to change

**Figure 1: Number of issued FPNs and discretionary disposals:
1st Jun 2014 - 31st May 2015**



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

**Figure 2: Number of FPNs and discretionary disposals issued by age:
1st Jun 2014 - 31st May 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

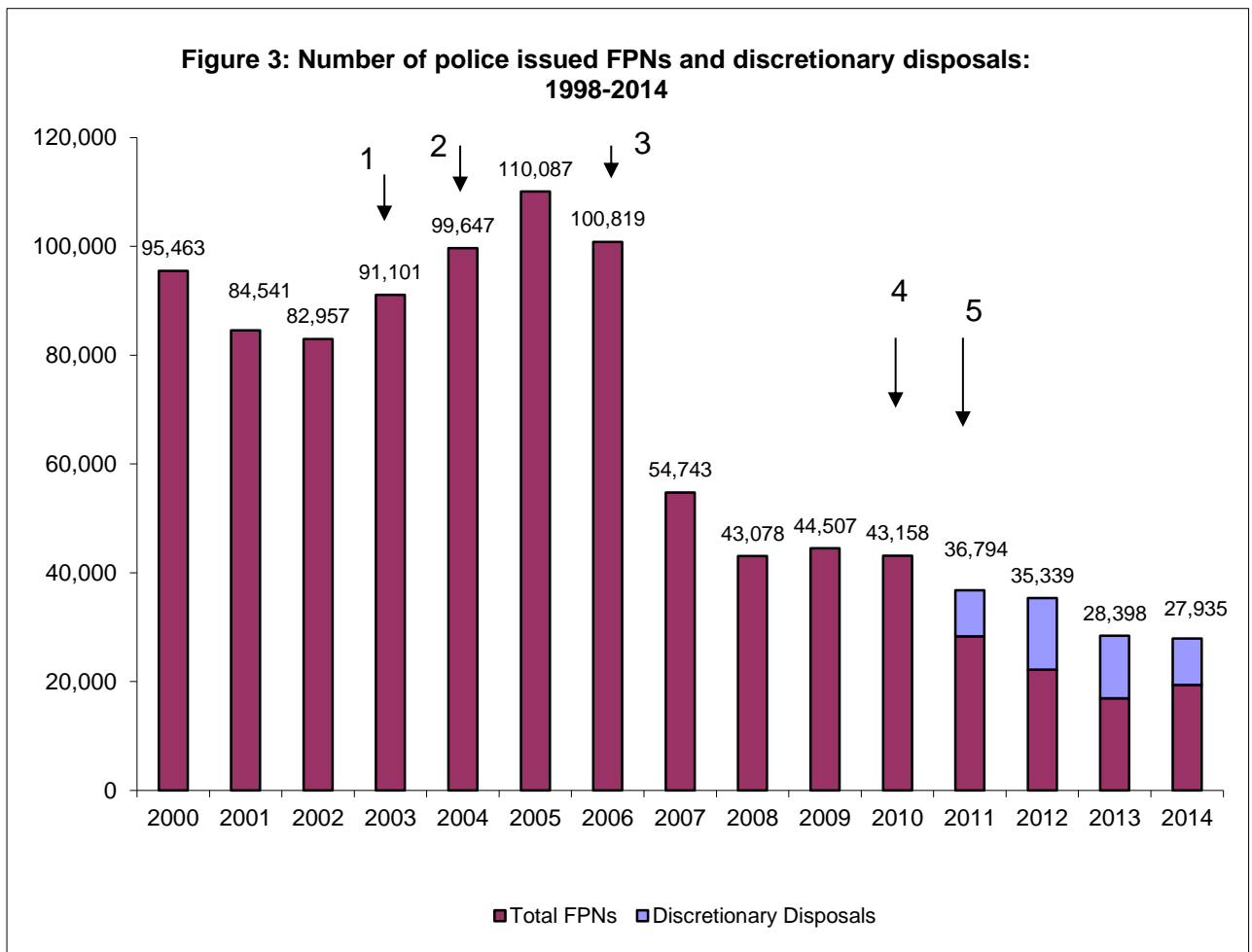
	Gender				Age						
	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Total	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs and signals	98	261	357	716	2	188	282	131	14	99	716
Careless/ Inconsiderate driving	1,253	2,953	522	4,728	86	1,550	1,831	972	275	14	4,728
Construction and use	539	1,789	487	2,815	68	1,389	937	381	27	13	2,815
Dangerous Driving	38	168	16	222	4	96	90	29	3	0	222
Lighting	46	278	242	566	18	271	193	76	7	1	566
Miscellaneous	227	576	61	864	40	309	277	166	64	8	864
Parking	72	146	1,035	1,253	2	66	185	49	8	943	1,253
Pedal cyclists	3	23	3	29	1	15	9	4	0	0	29
Pedestrian	13	56	23	92	5	57	19	9	2	0	92
Seatbelt	243	798	506	1,547	22	469	660	355	41	0	1,547
Speeding ²	1,574	3,496	2,475	7,545	70	2,337	3,394	1,601	138	5	7,545
Tachograph	0	17	9	26	0	4	13	8	0	1	26
Using a hand-held mobile phone	957	2,706	2,333	5,996	10	1,557	3,079	1,289	61	0	5,996
No Insurance	108	254	210	572	15	211	263	78	5	0	572
No Vehicle Test Certificate	181	589	429	1,199	5	316	566	223	7	82	1,199
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	20	37	0	57	14	8	26	7	1	1	57
Horse Drawn Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,372	14,148	8,708	28,228	363	8,843	11,824	5,378	653	1,167	28,228

* Figures are provisional and subject to change

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

² 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 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.