

Police Service of Northern Ireland

User Guide to

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

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<u>Table of Contents</u>		Page
Section 1	Introduction	3
Section 2	Data Sources and Collection Methods	4
	Validation process / Quality Assurance	4
	Strengths and Limitations	4
	Confidentiality	5
	Comparability within UK and ROI	5
Section 3	Definitions	7
Section 4	Publication Process and Methods	8
Section 5	User Consultation	9
Section 6	List of Fixed Penalty Notice Offences	10

Section 1

Introduction

FPNs originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. The scheme was then expanded to cover minor road traffic offences in the mid-1980s and was again further expanded to incorporate Endorsable and Non Endorsable offences with the introduction of penalty points in October 1997.

Non Endorsable offences are those which don't result in penalty points on your licence and which incur a fine of £30. The standard fine for Endorsable offences is £60 along with three penalty points. More serious offences such as driving without insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by NI Court Service.

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

A list of fixed penalty offences is available at the end of this document and can also be found on PSNI website and can be accessed via following link – [List of FPNs](#)

FPNs issued to drivers who were detected for speeding through the NI Road Safety Partnership (RSP) are excluded from these statistics as the FPN reports focus only on Police Officer issued tickets. The NI RSP involves the co operation of a number of government departments/agencies and the PSNI. The partnership has responsibility for 4 fixed speed cameras, 6 red light running cameras. In addition there are 8 camera vans operated by civilians (they are not staffed by police officers or police personnel). More information and figures relating to those detected through the Partnership can be accessed via following link – [NI RSP Website](#)

The number of FPNs being issued has fluctuated over recent years and can be explained by the following -

1. Parking offences are no longer enforced by PSNI from 29th Oct 2006 as the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 came into effect on 30th October 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.
2. Speed awareness course introduced in June 2010 as an alternative method of disposal for low level offenders instead of receiving a FPN for speeding offences.
3. Discretionary Disposals introduced during 2011 as another alternative method of disposal instead of receiving a FPN for traffic offences.

Section 2

Data Sources and Collection Methods

As per the [PSNI Statement of Administrative Sources](#) included in the Statistics section of the PSNI website, information on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and Discretionary Disposals are collected using the organisations own administrative and management sources. The main IT system involved in the collation of the FPNs is the Vehicle Procedures / Fixed Penalty Office (VP/FPO) system. This operational system provides an administrative dataset that is analysed and reported on by the PSNI's Statistics Branch. Discretionary Disposals issued are extracted from the NICHE Information Management system.

Much of the data collation for FPNs is still reliant on paper tickets being completed by police officers and then forwarded to the Fixed Penalty Processing Centre (FPPC) for input onto police systems. However, increasing use is being made of technology which will allow police officers to record the information at the scene meaning that the information is then transferred directly to PSNI systems.

As with all administrative systems, statistics are a by-product of the process and are heavily reliant on the information being entered correctly by staff across PSNI. To address this risk, Statistics Branch has developed a wide range of quality assurance measures and data validation checks to ensure that the statistics are as accurate and meaningful as possible within the given resource and time constraints. These processes are outlined in more detail below.

Validation Process / Quality Assurance

Quality assurance checks have been developed to ensure that the statistics we produce are of high quality, accurate and meaningful. Our internal quality assurance and validation procedures are regularly tested, reviewed and updated.

Data quality checks are conducted regularly throughout the year to identify and correct inconsistencies within the data. Examples of the data quality checks are –

- All essential fields are populated to ensure monthly reports can be published
- Ensuring a speed is recorded against all Endorsable speeding offences
- Checks to ensure offender age is appropriate for the FPN that has been issued
- Check for inconsistency between the current status (i.e. Paid confirmed, Fine registration, Potential prosecution) of the FPN and it's current state (i.e. Issued, Provisional, Suspended)
- Check for inconsistency with date of offence and date input onto the VPFPO system

Strengths and Limitations of the data

Strengths

Police recorded statistics relating to issued fixed penalty notices and discretionary disposals in Northern Ireland are the main source of official information in trends and statistics relating to disposals issued for traffic offences. 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. Discretionary Disposals introduced during 2011 as another alternative method of disposal instead of receiving a FPN for traffic offences.

Limitations

As the fixed penalty and discretionary disposal figures relate to those traffic offences that took place within Northern Ireland, they do not include any traffic offences that may have happened either in the Republic of Ireland or in Great Britain.

There are a range of other disposals available to the police with regards to motoring offences such as completion of a Driver Awareness Course and prosecution. Statistics on these sources are currently being developed and assessed for inclusion in this report to give a more inclusive and rounded picture of how the PSNI are dealing with Motoring Offences in Northern Ireland.

These figures remain separate to those of the NI Road Safety Partnership which operates as an independent cross departmental body for Road Safety. This can cause confusion for users but information is provided in the report on how to access the most recent NI RSP data.

Confidentiality

The PSNI's Statistics Branch complies with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 5: Confidentiality. A Confidentiality Protection Arrangements document is available on the statistics section of the PSNI website. It outlines the arrangements for maintaining confidentiality of statistical data and covers:

- Physical Security
- Technical Security
- Staff Training
- Statistical Disclosure Control
- Sharing of data with a third party

Disclosure control may have been applied to some tables in line with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Where this applies cells have been merged or suppressed in order to ensure that the identity of individuals or any private information relating to them is not revealed.

Comparability within UK and ROI

Promoting comparability is an important requirement of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics which aids interpretation for the users of the fixed penalty notice statistics. Listed below are useful comparative sources of fixed penalty statistics for traffic offences.

An Garda Síochána - Republic of Ireland

<http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=10748&Lang=1>

England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

Information about the process of issuing fixed penalty notices for motoring offences in England and Wales, including the penalty levels, are shown in the guidance issued by the Crown Prosecution Service

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/p_to_r/road_traffic_offences_guidance_on_fixed_penalty_notices/

Scotland stopped collecting information on police fixed penalties for traffic offences in 2009/10, the last data published can be found at the address below

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/MV0910>

Section 3

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.

They carry a fine of £30 and there are no points endorsed on your driving licence.

The Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 came into effect on 30th October 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 has transferred to the Department for Regional Development and is now carried out by Traffic Attendants employed by them. 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 which is 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 by the PSNI 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 five 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.

Section 4

Publication Process and Methods

Police issued Fixed Penalty Notice and Discretionary Disposal Statistics for Motoring Offences for Northern Ireland are published on the Police Service of Northern Ireland website under the Statistics section -

http://www.psnl.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

Within a given calendar year, in-year these statistics are updated on a monthly basis until the end of the year when more detailed validations take place, as per the publication schedule, these in-year statistical updates are provisional and subject to amendment.

The final figures for the reporting period are published in late March each year with the publication date pre-announced in line with the PSNI's publication scheme.

Publication Schedule

In line with National Statistics guidelines our publication dates are pre-announced and are available on our website under [Publication Schedule](#).

Section 5

User Consultation

User consultation is an important aspect of our work. It informs our work schedules and statistical planning process. Our [Customer Service and Engagement Statement](#) is available on our website and highlights our aims and standards for dealing with key users and requests from members of the public.

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Section 6

List of Fixed Penalty Notice Offences

Offence Code	Offence Wording	Offence group	Offence Endorsable	Offence Points
E002	Breach of signal given by Constable	Careless Driving	Y	3
E004	Excess Speed	Speeding	Y	3
E005	Breach of Temporary Speed Limit	Speeding	Y	3
E011	Parking within the limits of a Pelican Crossing	Parking	Y	3
E012	Unlawful use of central reservation of Motorway	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E013	Reversing on Motorway	Careless Driving	Y	3
E014	Driving on hard shoulder of Motorway	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E015	Parking on hard shoulder of Motorway	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E016	Failing to Wear Seatbelt - Driver	Seatbelt	Y	3
E017	Driver Carrying Unbelted Child Under 14 Years	Seatbelt	Y	3
E018	Driver Carrying Child Under 12 Years and Under 135cms without proper restraint	Seatbelt	Y	3
E020	Parking within the limits of a Zebra Crossing	Parking	Y	3
E021	Driving classified vehicle on special road	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E023	Remain on hard shoulder of motorway longer than necessary	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E026	Stopping on motorway	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E030	Using a Hand-held Mobile Phone	Using hand held Mobile Phone	Y	3
E031	Driver does not have Proper Control of Vehicle	Careless Driving	Y	3
E031A	Driver does not have Proper Control of Vehicle	Careless Driving	Y	3
E032	Driver does not have Full View of Road and Traffic Ahead	Careless Driving	Y	3
E033	Stopping on approach to a Pelican Crossing	Parking	Y	3
E035	Stopping within the limits of Zebra Controlled area	Parking	Y	3
E037	Overtaking moving vehicle at Zebra crossing	Careless Driving	Y	3
E045	Leaving vehicle in a dangerous position	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E047	Carrying unauthorised passenger on motorbicycle	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E051	Breach of Traffic Sign	Careless Driving	Y	3

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

E058	No L plates displayed	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E059	Unaccompanied L Driver	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E060	L Driver carrying passenger on motorcycle	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E061	L Driver Towing A Trailer	Miscellaneous	Y	3
E062	No 'R' Plates Displayed	Miscellaneous	Y	2
E080	USING GOODS VEHICLE IN DANGEROUS CONDITION	Dangerous Driving	Y	3
E081	USING MOTOR VEHICLE IN DANGEROUS CONDITION	Dangerous Driving	Y	3
E090	No Prescribed Braking System	Dangerous Driving	Y	3
E091	Defective Braking System	Dangerous Driving	Y	3
E092	Defective Steering	Dangerous Driving	Y	3
E103	Defective Tyre-General	Construction & Use	Y	3
E165	Failing to Set Handbrake	Careless Driving	Y	3
E166	Tyres Insufficient to Support Axle Weight	Construction & Use	Y	3
E167	R Driver Exceeding 45mph Limit	Speeding	Y	3
ELSC001	Excess Speed (30mph)	Speeding	Y	3
ESC005	Excess Speed (70mph Limit)	Speeding	Y	3
N001	Jay Walking	Pedestrian	N	0
N002	Obstructing of a road by a motor vehicle or trailer	Parking	N	0
N003	Failing to stop for Police	Breach of signs & signals	N	0
N004	Deposit of solids/liquids unto a road	Miscellaneous	N	0
N005	Parking on yellow lines	Parking	N	0
N006	Parking within 15 metre of junction	Parking	N	0
N007	Parking at a bus stop	Parking	N	0
N008	Parking on footway adjacent to Clearway	Parking	N	0
N009	Parking in a clearway-AM	Parking	N	0
N010	Parking in a clearway-PM	Parking	N	0
N010	Parking in a clearway-PM	Parking	N	0
N016	Pedestrian on Motorway	Pedestrian	N	0
N017	Breach of box junction	Careless Driving	N	0
N018	Failing to drive in near side lane	Careless Driving	N	0
N019	Overtaking on inside lane	Careless Driving	N	0
N022	Parking as to obstruct access	Parking	N	0
N024	Parking in a disabled person's parking space	Parking	N	0
N025	Interfering with traffic sign	Miscellaneous	N	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

N027	Parking within the limits of a taxi stand	Parking	N	0
N028	Incorrectly parked at parking place	Parking	N	0
N029	Unauthorised vehicle in parking place	Parking	N	0
N030	Parking in an urban clearway (Portadown)	Parking	N	0
N031	Parking without payment	Parking	N	0
N032	Incorrectly parked in layby	Parking	N	0
N036	Pedestrian remaining on Zebra crossing longer than necessary	Pedestrian	N	0
N038	Manoeuvring vehicle without signalling	Careless Driving	N	0
N039	Failing to display a valid parking ticket	Parking	N	0
N040	Wrongful use of a disabled person's badge	Parking	N	0
N041	Parking in Suspended Bay	Parking	N	0
N042	Driver of a motorcycle failing to wear protective headgear	Miscellaneous	N	0
N043	Rider on motorcycle failing to wear protective headgear	Miscellaneous	N	0
N044	Parking HGV unlawfully (verge,footway,central reservation)	Parking	N	0
N046	Causing dangerous article to be on road	Miscellaneous	N	0
N048	Unlawfully using moving vehicle for the purposes of being drawn	Miscellaneous	N	0
N049	Dangerous cycling	Pedal Cyclist	N	0
N050	Parking otherwise than at side of carriageway	Parking	N	0
N052	Breach of Traffic sign	Breach of signs & signals	N	0
N053	Breach of Junction; Waiting restriction Belfast City	Parking	N	0
N054	Waiting within the limits of a bus stop Belfast City	Parking	N	0
N055	Waiting so as to obstruct access to premises Belfast City	Parking	N	0
N056	Waiting otherwise than at the side of the carriageway Belfast City	Parking	N	0
N057	Waiting within the limits of Taxi stand Belfast City	Parking	N	0
N063	Exceeding 45mph while displaying R plates	Speeding	N	0
N064	Exceeding 45mph while displaying L plates	Speeding	N	0
N065	Being unauthorised passenger on goods vehicle	Miscellaneous	N	0
N066	carrying unauthorised passenger on goods vehicle	Miscellaneous	N	0
N067	Carrying unauthorised passengers on goods vehicle	Miscellaneous	N	0
N068	Using trailer for carrying passengers for hire or reward	Construction & Use	N	0
N069	Excess Weight	Construction & Use	N	0
N070	Excess axle weight	Construction & Use	N	0
N071	Overcrowding on PSV	Miscellaneous	N	0
N072	Failing to wear taxi drivers' badge	Miscellaneous	N	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

N073	Exceeding driving periods	Tachograph	N	0
N074	Failing to operate switch mechanisms to tacograph	Tachograph	N	0
N075	Using record sheet for longer than stipulated	Tachograph	N	0
N076	Failing to return record sheet within 21 days	Tachograph	N	0
N077	Failing to keep tachograph record sheets in clean condition	Tachograph	N	0
N078	No taxi roof sign	Miscellaneous	N	0
N079	Incorrect form of registration mark	Construction & Use	N	0
N080	Failing to take daily rest period from driving	Tachograph	N	0
N081	Driver smoking in PSV	Miscellaneous	N	0
N082	Passenger smoking in PSV	Miscellaneous	N	0
N083	Insecure Load	Construction & Use	N	0
N084	No speedometer	Construction & Use	N	0
N085	Defective speedometer	Construction & Use	N	0
N086	Unmarked tow rope	Construction & Use	N	0
N087	No mirrors on motor vehicle	Construction & Use	N	0
N088	Defective windscreen washers	Construction & Use	N	0
N089	Dirty windscreen	Construction & Use	N	0
N093	No windscreen wipers	Construction & Use	N	0
N094	Defective windscreen wipers	Construction & Use	N	0
N095	Defective Seatbelts	Construction & Use	N	0
N096	Carrying child under 14 years without seat belt (front)	Seatbelt	N	0
N097	Defective exhaust and silencer system	Construction & Use	N	0
N098	Excessive smoke	Construction & Use	N	0
N099	Using strident horn on motor vehicle	Construction & Use	N	0
N100	No horn	Construction & Use	N	0
N101	Using vehicle fitted with two tone horn	Construction & Use	N	0
N102	Using horn when stationary	Construction & Use	N	0
N104	Driver unable to have proper control of vehicle	Careless Driving	N	0
N105	No footrests on motorcycle	Construction & Use	N	0
N106	Failing to switch off engine	Construction & Use	N	0
N107	Failing to set handbrake	Careless Driving	N	0
N108	Excess noise	Construction & Use	N	0
N109	No passenger seat belt fitted	Construction & Use	N	0
N110	No mudguards on trailer	Construction & Use	N	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

N111	Failing to notify police of abnormal load	Construction & Use	N	0
N112	No manufacturer's plate fitted	Construction & Use	N	0
N113	No mudguards on motor car	Construction & Use	N	0
N114	No mudguards on agricultural motor vehicle	Construction & Use	N	0
N116	Unframed internal mirror	Construction & Use	N	0
N117	No windscreen washers	Construction & Use	N	0
N118	No driver's seat belt fitted	Construction & Use	N	0
N119	No anchorage points	Construction & Use	N	0
N120	Insecure petrol tank	Construction & Use	N	0
N121	Leaking petrol tank	Construction & Use	N	0
N122	Use vehicle not fitted with suitable and sufficient springs	Construction & Use	N	0
N124	No mudguards on motorcycle	Construction & Use	N	0
N125	No rear protective guard	Construction & Use	N	0
N127	No side protective guard	Construction & Use	N	0
N128	Defective side protective guard	Construction & Use	N	0
N129	Dangerous mascot on motor	Construction & Use	N	0
N130	Carrying child under 14 years without seatbelt (rear)	Seatbelt	N	0
N131	Opening vehicle's door causing danger	Careless Driving	N	0
N132	Driver unable to have full view of road	Construction & Use	N	0
N133	Reversing for unreasonable distance	Careless Driving	N	0
N135	Sounding horn at night on a restricted road	Construction & Use	N	0
N136	Drawing more than permitted number of trailers	Construction & Use	N	0
N137	Towing with rope in excess of prescribed limit	Construction & Use	N	0
N138	Exceeding height limit of semi-trailer	Construction & Use	N	0
N139	Trailer failing to have minimum ground clearance	Construction & Use	N	0
N140	Vehicle exceeding permitted length	Construction & Use	N	0
N141	Vehicle exceeding permitted width	Construction & Use	N	0
N142	Vehicle exceeding permitted overhang	Construction & Use	N	0
N143	No spray suppression device	Construction & Use	N	0
N144	Failing to maintain spray suppression device	Construction & Use	N	0
N145	Motorcycle sidecar not properly attached	Construction & Use	N	0
N146	Carrying passengers in a living van	Construction & Use	N	0
N147	Lifting apparatus not properly secured	Construction & Use	N	0
N148	Television receiving apparatus in sight of Driver	Careless Driving	N	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

N149	Failing to wear seat belt	Seatbelt	N	0
N150	Driving passenger car with unrestrained child under 12 years	Seatbelt	N	0
N151	Failing to maintain excess fuel device	Construction & Use	N	0
N152	No lights on pedal cycle	Pedal Cyclist	N	0
N153	No lights on projecting load	Lighting	N	0
N154	No side marker lamps on projecting load	Lighting	N	0
N155	Fitting lamp capable of showing red light to front	Lighting	N	0
N156	Failing to have warning beacon fitted	Lighting	N	0
N157	Defective light	Lighting	N	0
N158	Using vehicle when lamp not lit and unobscured	Lighting	N	0
N159	Allow unlighted vehicle to remain at rest on a road	Lighting	N	0
N160	Unlawful use of lamp	Lighting	N	0
N161	Unlawful use of hazard warning signal device	Lighting	N	0
N164	Failing to Give Precedence to Pedestrian at a Pelican Crossing	Careless Driving	N	0
N166	No Vehicle Test Certificate	No Vehicle Test Certificate	N	0
N167	No Goods Vehicle Certificate	No Vehicle Test Certificate	N	0
N168	Obscured Number Plate	Construction & Use	N	0
N169	No Number Plate	Construction & Use	N	0
N170	No School Bus Sign	Construction & Use	N	0
N171	Failure to Have Obligatory Lamp or Reflector or Rear Marking	Construction & Use	N	0
N172	Misuse of a Mobile Phone	Using hand held Mobile Phone	N	0
N173	No PSV Licence	Miscellaneous	N	0
N174	Driving on Land Other Than a Road	Miscellaneous	N	0
N175	Failing to Display Trade Plates	Miscellaneous	N	0
N177	Using a Vehicle With Windows With Insufficient Transmission of Light	Construction & Use	N	0
N178	Failing to use Tachograph	Tachograph	N	0
N356	Failure to affix and display external plates in the correct position	Miscellaneous	N	0
P001	Driving causing or permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle while uninsured	No Insurance	Y	6
T001	No Vehicle Test Certificate	No Vehicle Test Certificate	N	0
T002	No Goods Vehicle Test Certificate	No Vehicle Test Certificate	N	0

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