Police Service of Northern Ireland

Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2018/19

Annual Bulletin published 08 November 2019
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Things you need to know about this release

Coverage
This release is produced in accordance with the pillars and principles set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded incidents and crimes with a hate motivation. As these figures only relate to those hate motivated incidents reported to the police, they only provide an indication of the true extent of hate motivations. The statistics are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Collation of this data started in 2004/05.

This release presents statistics relating to incidents and crimes with a hate motivation recorded by the police between 2004/05 and 2018/19. Supplementary data are available from the PSNI website in the accompanying spreadsheets.

What is a hate motivated incident or hate motivated crime as recorded by the police?

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents (see ‘Hate Incident or Hate Crime’ below).

Hate Incident or Hate Crime?
Police recorded crime data is a victim oriented approach to crime recording. A crime will be recorded as having a hate motivation where it meets the relevant definition provided above. Not all hate motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a hate abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics.

Further details of the background and recording practice in relation to police recorded crime statistics are available in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. An explanation of what constitutes an incident and a crime is provided in Section 2.1 of this guide, while reference to hate motivated incidents and crimes is available in Section 6. These recording practices, methods of counting outcomes and allocation of crime types apply equally to crimes with a hate motivation.

The victim of the hate crime will be recorded as the person to whom the hostility or prejudice is displayed, even if they do not have the personal characteristic targeted but are connected to someone who has, for example a parent who is harassed because they have a child with a disability. In some cases the personal characteristic may be incorrectly perceived by the person displaying the hostility or prejudice.

Within PSNI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transphobia. The definition for each of these motivations is provided on the next page, while an explanation of the perception test is provided below.

The Perception Test
Evidence is not the test when reporting a hate incident; when an incident or crime has been reported to police by the victim or by any other person and they perceive it as being motivated by prejudice or hate, it will be recorded and investigated as a hate incident or crime. The perception of the victim, or any other person is the defining factor in determining whether an incident is a hate incident, or in recognising the hostility element of a hate crime. Perception-based recording refers to the perception of the victim, or any other person. It would not be appropriate to record a crime or incident as a hate crime or hate incident if it was based on the perception of a person or group who had no knowledge of the victim, crime or the area, and who may be responding to media or internet stories or who are reporting for a political or similar motive. The other person could, however, be one of a number of people, including; police officers or staff; witnesses; family members; civil society organisations who know details of the victim, the crime or hate crimes in the locality, such as a third-party reporting charity; a carer or other professional who supports the victim; someone who has knowledge of hate crime in the area – this could include many professionals and experts such as the manager of an education centre used by people with learning disabilities who regularly receives reports of abuse from students; a person from within the group targeted with the hostility, eg, a Traveller who witnessed racist damage in a local park.
Race
A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

Homophobia (sexual orientation)
Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality.

Sectarianism
The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam.

Faith/Religion (non-sectarian)
A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

Disability (or Disablist)
Any disability including physical or sensory disability, learning disability, long-term illness and mental health.

Transphobia
Includes people who are transsexual, transgender, transvestite and those who hold the gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Points to note in this bulletin

Incidents and multiple motivations: A small number of incidents will have more than one type of hate motivation attributed to the incident. This means that summing up the totals for each year from Table 1.1 will provide a higher total than the number of incidents actually recorded.

Crimes: As there may be more than one crime recorded within an individual incident, it is possible for the number of crimes with a particular hate motivation to be higher than the number of incidents with that motivation.

Incidents and Crimes: Hate-motivated crimes and hate-motivated incidents should not be added together as crimes for each motivation strand are included in the incident count for each hate motivation strand.

Gender unknown: Where reference is made to gender unknown, this may include persons who have not identified as either male or female.

Malicious Communications: the recording of malicious communications offences commenced for the first time in Northern Ireland from 1st April 2017 and are classified to Harassment which sits within Violence Against the Person.

Faith/religion, Disability and Transphobic motivations: In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation to ensure the motivations are being accurately assigned. Data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 (shaded in Table 1.1) should be regarded with caution. For this reason the sections within this bulletin covering these motivations comment on the trends from 2009/10.

Annual Revisions: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature will next be applied in May 2020. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.
Conventions used in figures and tables
While the outcome rates are rounded to one decimal place, the outcome rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded outcome rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

'-' indicates that for offences recorded a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50, and that for offences detected an outcome rate cannot be calculated as there were no offences recorded.

'..' indicates that data are not available.

Disclosure control has 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 the identity of individuals/organisations or any private information relating to them is not revealed. '*' indicates a cell has been suppressed.

Please note that population rates in this bulletin are expressed per 10,000 population.

Contact Details
We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided below.

For further information about the hate incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime and Incident Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135
1 Overview of Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes

Incidents and crimes with a racist or homophobic motivation have been collated by PSNI in their current format since 2004/05. Sectarian, faith/religion and disability motivated incidents and crimes have been collated since 2005/06. Incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation have been collated since 2006/07.

There are a range of factors that can have an impact on the recorded crime data series. For example changes to existing legislation, the introduction of new legislation and clarifications or changes to the Home Office Counting Rules can all cause discontinuities to the data series. As far as possible these factors will be identified in the commentary within this bulletin. These are also highlighted in Appendix 1.

1.1 Hate motivated incidents and crimes: Table 1.1 outlines the numbers of incidents and crimes recorded in each hate motivation strand.

- Between 2005/06 and 2015/16 sectarian incidents accounted for the largest number of incidents recorded in any of the hate motivation strands. In 2016/17 the number of sectarian incidents was exceeded by the number of racist incidents for the first time. The first time the number of racist crimes exceeded the number of sectarian crimes was in 2017/18. The racist motivation strand continues to account for the largest numbers of incidents and crimes in 2018/19.

- With the exception of sectarian incidents, hate motivated incidents have recorded their highest levels in more recent years; 2014/15 for racist and disability incidents, 2015/16 for homophobic incidents and 2017/18 for faith/religion and transphobic incidents.

- Sectarian incidents were at their highest level in 2009/10 and have shown a general decline since then.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Racist Incident</th>
<th>Homophobic Incident</th>
<th>Sectarian Incident</th>
<th>Faith/Religion Incident</th>
<th>Disability Incident</th>
<th>Transphobic Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incident</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Incident</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Incident</td>
<td>Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>1,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1,584</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>1,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>1,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>1,437</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1,336</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>1,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>1,124</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation. Data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 should be regarded with caution.
Due to the variation in volumes recorded within each of the hate motivations, the charts in figures 1.1 to 1.6 are not shown to the same scale.

**1.2 Racist motivated incidents and crimes:** Following a decline in levels of racist incidents and crimes between 2009/10 and 2011/12 they increased each year between 2011/12 and 2014/15 (the highest recorded in the series). Levels fell again in each of the three years 2015/16 to 2017/18 before showing an increase in 2018/19. The number of incidents in 2018/19 is the third highest in the data series, while the number of crimes is the eighth highest.

**Population rates:** The number of racist incidents per 10,000 population is between 4 and 7, while for racist crimes the figure is between 3 and 5 per 10,000 population.

**Figure 1.1** Trends in racist motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2018/19

**1.3 Homophobic motivated incidents and crimes:** Homophobic motivated incidents generally increased between 2006/07 and 2015/16 to reach the highest level recorded since the data series began in 2004/05. While there was more fluctuation in crime levels, these increased year on year between 2011/12 and 2015/16 (the highest number of homophobic crimes recorded since 2004/05). The levels reached in 2015/16 were followed by a fall in both incidents and crimes to levels previously seen in 2013/14 and 2014/15. An increase in 2018/19 saw the third highest number of incidents and crimes recorded in the data series.

**Population rates:** The number of homophobic incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population is between 1 and 2, while for homophobic crimes the figure is 1 per 10,000 population.

**Figure 1.2** Trends in homophobic motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2018/19
1.4 Sectarian motivated incidents and crimes: The number of sectarian incidents was at its highest level in 2009/10 with 1,840 incidents recorded. Levels have generally fallen since then to 865 in 2018/19, the lowest in the data series and less than half of the peak level recorded in 2009/10. The number of sectarian crimes recorded in 2018/19 is the second lowest in the data series, showing a fall of 58 per cent when compared with the highest level which was recorded in 2005/06.

Population rates: The number of sectarian incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population is between 5 and 10, while for the number of sectarian crimes the figure is between 3 and 9 per 10,000 population.

Figure 1.3 Trends in sectarian motivated incidents and crimes, 2005/06 to 2018/19

1.5 Faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes: The latest five years, 2014/15 to 2018/19, have each shown higher levels of faith/religion incidents and crimes than those recorded in the five years between 2009/10 and 2013/14. The highest number of faith/religion incidents and crimes was recorded in 2017/18, with levels in 2018/19 falling again to those previously seen in 2015/16.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate.

Figure 1.4 Trends in faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2018/19
1.6 Disability motivated incidents and crimes: Disability motivated incidents and crimes were showing slightly decreasing levels between 2009/10 and 2011/12, after which levels started to increase considerably. While levels have fallen again since 2014/15, they remain higher than those experienced between 2009/10 and 2012/13.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a disability motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate.

Figure 1.5 Trends in disability motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2018/19

1.7 Transphobic motivated incidents and crimes: The earlier part of the time series saw fluctuation in the levels of transphobic motivated incidents and crimes, with more similar levels recorded between 2013/14 and 2016/17. The highest number of incidents and crimes was recorded during 2017/18. Whilst 2018/19 has seen a slight fall in levels recorded, the number of incidents recorded is still higher than for any year prior to 2017/18.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate.

Figure 1.6 Trends in transphobic motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2018/19
1.8 **Attacks on symbolic premises:** Attacks on symbolic premises are recorded where a crime has a sectarian motivation, where the premises is the intended target of the attack, and where the premises are one of the following: a church or chapel, a GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, an Orange Hall or Apprentice Boys Hall, or a school. These figures are a subset of sectarian motivated crimes and are available back to 2007/08.

In 2018/19 attacks on symbolic premises represented 4 per cent of all sectarian crimes, the same proportion as seen in 2014/15. The lowest proportion recorded in the data series is 3 per cent in 2015/16 and 2017/18.

**Table 1.2  Attacks on symbolic premises, 2007/08 to 2018/19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Church or Chapel</th>
<th>GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall</th>
<th>Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Cell suppression has been applied to ensure that the identity of individuals/organisations or any private information relating to them is not revealed.

**Figure 1.7  Attacks on symbolic premises as a proportion of all sectarian crimes, 2007/08 to 2018/19**
2 Racist Motivations: Trends since 2004/05

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

2.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a racist motivation

Levels of racist incidents and crimes reached a peak in 2014/15 and subsequently fell between 2015/16 and 2017/18. The number of incidents and crimes rose again in 2018/19 to the third highest and eighth highest levels in the data series respectively.

Crimes with a racist motivation represent less than one per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.3].

Table 2.1 Racist motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes¹, 2004/05 to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Outcomes, numbers</th>
<th>Outcomes (rates, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>16.2</td>
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<td>2009/10</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>16.2</td>
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<td>2010/11</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>13.4</td>
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<td>2011/12</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>19.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1,336</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>14.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>1,124</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

During 2018/19 there were 1,124 incidents recorded where there was a racist motivation. Of these, there were 502 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 622 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 702 racist crimes in total). Around two out of every five incidents recorded during 2018/19 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 2.1 Incidents and crimes with a racist motivation, 2018/19

1,124 racist incidents recorded in total

resulting in
702 racist crimes recorded in total

incidents where no crime recorded
502

incidents where one or more crimes recorded
622

2018/19
2.2 Trends in crimes with a racist motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications.

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a racist motivation are shown in figure 2.2 below. The full data series is available in the accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.2.

**Figure 2.2** Crimes with a racist motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2018/19

**Violence against the person with a racist motivation:** Since 2011/12 around half of all racially motivated crimes have fallen within violence against the person. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 2.3 shows the changing pattern of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), violence without injury and harassment.

**Figure 2.3** Violence against the person with a racist motivation, 2004/05 to 2018/19

**Criminal damage with a racist motivation:** During 2018/19 criminal damage represented around two in five racist motivated crimes, the majority of these relating to criminal damage to a dwelling. The overall trend in criminal damage since 2004/05 is shown in figure 2.2 above.
2.3 Victims of racist crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. Victim-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. A person is the victim of a racist crime in 91 to 95 per cent of cases, while in 4 to 8 per cent of racist crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to one per cent of racist crimes are state-based. [accompanying spreadsheet table 2.4].

2.3.1 Racist crimes: ethnicity and nationality of victims

Since 2007/08 the ethnicity of victims of racist crimes is available in at least 84 per cent of records, while the nationality of victims is also available in at least 84 per cent.

**Ethnicity:** Different ethnicity classifications have been used within the PSNI crime recording systems since 2007/08. Table 2.5 in the accompanying spreadsheet reflects racist crimes by the ethnicity of the victim grouped by Asian, Black, Mixed/Other and White ethnicities. The historic classifications that are no longer available for selection on the NICHE system are separately identified. These may still be identified in the data where the victim details were recorded while the historic classifications were in use.

Between 2007/08 and 2015/16 there was an upwards trend in the number of victims of racist crimes with black ethnicity; there were 40 such crimes in 2007/08 with 2015/16 showing the highest level of 119. Since 2016/17 this level has fallen. Levels within the remaining ethnicities have tended to fluctuate. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.5]

**Nationality:** Table 2.6 in the accompanying spreadsheet shows the nationalities of victims of racist crime. These figures are based on nationality only and do not take into account the victim’s ethnicity.

Since 2007/08 levels of racist crime in relation to most nationalities has fluctuated. The number of crimes where the victim was of UK and Ireland nationality was at its highest in 2015/16 (213 crimes) before falling again to levels previously seen. In relation to Polish nationality, levels were at their highest in 2008/09 (193 crimes recorded) and at their lowest in 2011/12 (65 crimes). While levels increased again to reach 155 and 149 in 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively, they have since fallen to 66 in 2018/19. Levels for Chinese and Indian nationality have tended to fall since 2007/08. Those in relation to victims with Nigerian and Somalian nationality showed higher levels between 2013/14 and 2016/17. Racist crime, where the victim was of Romanian nationality, showed a sharp increase between 2017/18 and 2018/19. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.6]

**Ethnicity and Nationality combined:** Not all victims of the same nationality have the same ethnicity. This is particularly evident for those victims of racist crimes who identify their nationality as UK and Ireland. Table 2.7 in the accompanying spreadsheet shows the most frequently recorded victim nationalities for each ethnicity. This makes it possible to see, for example, the number of victims with UK and Ireland nationality who have Asian, Black or White ethnicity. This can also be seen in relation to a number of other nationalities.

**Figure 2.4 Ethnicity of victims of racist crimes, 2007/08 to 2018/19**
### 2.3.2 Racist crimes: age and gender of victims

**Victim age:** Since 2007/08 the proportion of racist crimes where the victim is in the 18 to 29 age group has generally fallen, while the proportion for victims aged 30 or over has generally increased. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 has been fairly consistent throughout the data series. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.8]

**Figure 2.5 Racist crimes by age of victim, 2007/08 and 2018/19**

**Victim gender:** Since 2007/08 there has been a general increase in the proportion of racist crimes with female victims, from 30 per cent in 2007/08 to 41 per cent in 2017/18, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of male victims from 70 per cent to 59 per cent. The proportions seen in 2018/19 are 38 per cent female victims and 62 per cent male victims. Figure 2.6 shows these changes. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.9]

**Figure 2.6 Racist crimes by gender of victim, 2007/08 to 2017/19**
2.4 Outcomes for crimes with a racist motivation

An explanation of crime outcomes and crime outcome rates can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

Figure 2.7 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate for crimes with a racist motivation since 2004/05. It also shows the split between those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction and those where no further action is taken against the offender.

Changes to the evidential standard following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service and resulting restrictions in the use of certain disposal methods meant that the overall outcome rate for racist crimes fell from the highest recorded rate of 20.5% in 2005/06 to 11.4% in 2007/08.

Figure 2.7 Outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation, 2004/05 to 2018/19

Figure 2.8 illustrates the move away from the use of those outcomes not resulting in a sanction against the offender, following the introduction of the higher evidential standard in 2006/07 and the limited use of the outcome methods where no action was taken against the offender from 2007/08. The increase in the use of charge / summons as an outcome method can also be seen. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 2.12]

Figure 2.8 Outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation by method of disposal, 2004/05 to 2018/19
Figures 2.9 and 2.10 show the trends in crimes, outcomes and outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage, which together account for nine in every ten racist crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of crimes and outcomes can have an impact on the outcome rate. [accompanying spreadsheet Tables 2.2, 2.11 (numbers) and 2.11 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.

**Figure 2.9 Violence against the person with a racist motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2018/19**

**Figure 2.10 Criminal damage with a racist motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2018/19**
Comparison of outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation and all crimes recorded by the police:
Outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation tend to be lower than the outcome rates for all crimes recorded by the police, regardless of crime type. This comparison for outcome rates in 2018/19 is shown in figure 2.11 below.

Figure 2.11 Outcome rates by crime type, racist motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2018/19
3 Homophobic Motivations: Trends since 2004/05

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual’s preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual’s view of their own sexuality.

3.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a homophobic motivation

Homophobic motivated incidents generally increased between 2006/07 and 2015/16 to reach the highest level recorded since the data series began in 2004/05. While there has been more fluctuation in the level of crimes recorded, they increased year on year between 2011/12 and 2015/16 (the highest number of homophobic crimes recorded since 2004/05). Incidents and crimes fell in 2016/17 and 2017/18, and have since increased again in 2018/19 to the third highest level of incidents and crimes recorded in the data series.

Crimes with a homophobic motivation represent up to 0.2 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [accompanying spreadsheet Table 3.3].

Table 3.1 Homophobic motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes1, 2004/05 to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Outcomes, numbers</th>
<th>Outcomes (rates, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

During 2018/19 there were 281 incidents recorded where there was a homophobic motivation. Of these, there were 110 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 171 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 201 homophobic crimes in total). Around two out of every five homophobic incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 3.1 Incidents and crimes with a homophobic motivation, 2018/19

- 281 homophobic incidents recorded in total
- 110 incidents where no crime recorded
- 171 incidents where one or more crimes recorded
- Resulting in 201 homophobic crimes recorded in total
3.2 Trends in crimes with a homophobic motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications.

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a homophobic motivation are shown in figure 3.2 below. The full data series for crimes with a homophobic motivation is available in table 3.2 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Figure 3.2 Crimes with a homophobic motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2018/19

Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation: At least three in every five crimes with a homophobic motivation falls within violence against the person. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. It also includes offences such as harassment. Figure 3.3 shows the changing pattern of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), violence without injury and harassment.

Figure 3.3 Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation, 2004/05 to 2018/19

All other offences with a homophobic motivation: Criminal damage represents around a quarter of all crimes with a homophobic motivation, with the majority relating to criminal damage to a dwelling. There are fewer than twenty offences recorded each year in the remaining classifications of sexual offences, robbery, theft, burglary and other crimes against society.
3.3 Victims of homophobic crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. A person is the victim of a homophobic crime in 93 to 99 per cent of cases, while in 1 to 6 per cent of homophobic crimes the victim is a business or organisation. In most years the proportion of homophobic crimes that are state-based is either zero or 1 per cent [accompanying spreadsheet Table 3.4].

In relation to the sexual orientation of the victims of homophobic crimes, this information is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide these details) to present meaningful statistics.

3.3.1 Homophobic crimes: age and gender of victims

**Victim age:** Between 38 and 51 per cent of victims of homophobic crime are between the ages of 18 and 29. Proportions between the various age groups have tended to fluctuate since 2007/08. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 3.5]

![Figure 3.4 Homophobic crimes by age of victim, 2007/08 to 2018/19](image1)

**Victim gender:** In relation to the gender of victims of homophobic crimes, between 14 per cent and 27 per cent are female, and between 71 per cent and 86 per cent are male. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 3.6]

![Figure 3.5 Homophobic crimes by gender of victim, 2007/08 to 2018/19](image2)
3.4 Outcomes for crimes with a homophobic motivation

An explanation of crime outcomes and crime outcome rates can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

Figure 3.6 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate for crimes with a homophobic motivation since 2004/05. It also shows the split between those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction and those where no further action is taken against the offender.

Changes to the evidential standard following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service and resulting restrictions in the use of certain disposal methods meant that the overall outcome rate for homophobic crimes fell from the highest recorded rate of 32.4% in 2005/06 to 15.8% in 2007/08.

Figure 3.6 Outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation, 2004/05 to 2018/19

Figure 3.7 shows the impact on the overall outcome rate of adopting the higher evidential standard and the subsequent limitation in the use of those disposal methods not resulting in a sanction against the offender. Between 2004/05 and 2006/07 outcomes not resulting in a sanction against the offender accounted for around one third of all outcomes for crimes with a homophobic motivation. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 3.9]

Figure 3.7 Outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation by method of disposal, 2004/05 to 2018/19
Figures 3.8 and 3.9 show the trends in crimes, outcomes and outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for around nine out of every ten crimes recorded with a homophobic motivation. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of crimes and outcomes can have an impact on the outcome rate. [accompanying spreadsheet Tables 3.2, 3.8 (numbers) and 3.8 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.

**Figure 3.8** Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2018/19

**Figure 3.9** Criminal damage with a homophobic motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2018/19
Comparison of outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation and all crimes recorded by the police: Outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation tend to be lower than those for all crimes recorded by the police. This comparison for outcome rates in 2018/19 is shown in figure 3.10 below.

Figure 3.10 Outcome rates by crime type, homophobic motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2018/19
4 Sectarian Motivations: Trends since 2005/06

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. The term ‘sectarian’, whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi’ite in Islam.

4.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a sectarian motivation

The number of sectarian incidents was at its highest level in 2009/10 with 1,840 incidents recorded. Levels have generally fallen since then to 865 in 2018/19, the lowest level in the data series and 53 per cent lower than the peak recorded in 2009/10. The number of sectarian crimes recorded in 2018/19 is the second lowest in the data series, showing a fall of 58 per cent when compared with the highest level recorded in 2005/06.

Crimes with a sectarian motivation represent around 1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [accompanying spreadsheet Table 4.3].

Table 4.1 Sectarian motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes¹, 2005/06 to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sectarian motivations</th>
<th>Numbers and percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incidents Crimes</td>
<td>Outcomes, numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>1,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>1,584</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>1,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>1,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>1,437</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>1,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

During 2018/19 there were 865 incidents recorded where there was a sectarian motivation. Of these, there were 303 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 562 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 622 sectarian crimes in total). Around one third of sectarian incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 4.1 Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation, 2018/19

865 sectarian incidents recorded in total

622 sectarian crimes recorded in total

resulting in

incidents where no crime recorded

incidents where one or more crimes recorded

303

562

2018/19
4.2 Trends in crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications.

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sectarian motivation are shown in figure 4.2 below. The full data series for crimes with a sectarian motivation is available in table 4.2 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Figure 4.2 Crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type, 2005/06 to 2018/19

Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation: Around half of all crimes with a sectarian motivation fall within violence against the person. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 4.3 shows the changing pattern of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), violence without injury and harassment since 2005/06.

Figure 4.3 Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation, 2005/06 to 2018/19
The makeup of classifications within violence against the person has changed between 2005/06 and 2018/19. The proportion of assault with injury and intimidation offences has fallen, while the proportion of assault without injury and harassment offences has increased. The proportion of threats to kill offences remains relatively unchanged. These shifts in proportion are shown in figure 4.4 below.

**Figure 4.4 Selected violence against the person offences with a sectarian motivation, comparison of 2005/06 with 2018/19**

**Criminal damage with a sectarian motivation:** These offences account for less than half of all sectarian crime; in 2018/19 it was closer to two in five offences. Within criminal damage, around one in three offences are for criminal damage to a dwelling. Prior to 2016/17 more than one in five criminal damage offences were for criminal damage to a vehicle; since 2016/17 the proportion has fallen to below one in five and is now lower than for all other types of criminal damage.

**All other offences with a sectarian motivation:** There was a general increase in the number of theft offences (including burglary) with the highest level of 60 recorded in 2016/17; since then, the level has fallen with 41 such offences recorded in 2018/19. Public order offences have declined in number from the highest level of 68 in 2009/10 to the lowest level of 4 recorded in 2016/17.

### 4.3 Victims of sectarian crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. A person is the victim of a sectarian crime in 74 to 83 per cent of cases, while in 13 to 18 per cent of sectarian crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to 9 per cent of sectarian crimes are state-based [accompanying spreadsheet Table 4.4].

In relation to the religious background of the victims of sectarian crimes, this information is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide) to present any meaningful statistics.

#### 4.3.1 Sectarian crimes: age and gender of victims

**Victim age:** Since 2007/08 the proportion of sectarian crimes by age of victim has tended to fluctuate from year to year. However there has been a general fall in the proportion of victims under the age of 18 and a general increase in the proportion of victims aged 30 to 39 and those aged 50 plus. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 4.5]
Victim gender: In relation to the gender of victims of sectarian crimes, between 27 per cent and 39 per cent are female, and between 54 per cent and 65 per cent are male. In 2018/19, less than 1 per cent of victims of sectarian motivated crimes were police officers on duty. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 4.6]
Figure 4.7  Outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation, 2005/06 to 2018/19

Figure 4.8 shows that adopting the higher evidential standard and the subsequent limitation in the use of those disposal methods not resulting in a sanction against the offender had little impact on the overall outcome rate. However while there were initially increases in the outcome rate for those disposal methods resulting in a sanction against the offender, these have declined over the last number of years. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 4.9]

Figure 4.8  Outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation by method of disposal, 2005/06 to 2018/19

Figures 4.9 and 4.10 show the trends in crimes, outcomes and outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for around nine out of every ten sectarian crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of crimes and outcomes can have an impact on the outcome rate. [accompanying spreadsheet Tables 4.2, 4.8 (numbers) and 4.8 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.
Comparison of outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation and all crimes recorded by the police: Broadly speaking, outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation tend to be lower than those for all crimes recorded by the police, regardless of crime type. Between 2007/08 and 2010/11 there was an exception for the combined outcome rate for crime types including other crimes against society (i.e. crime types other than violence against the person, theft offences (including burglary) and criminal damage); during this time period they showed a similar or higher outcome rate when compared with all crimes recorded by the police. Since then the outcome rate for these crimes has shown the same pattern as the other sectarian crimes.

Figure 4.11 Outcome rates by crime type (excluding fraud), sectarian motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2018/19
5 Faith/Religion Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

5.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a faith/religion motivation

The latest five years, 2014/15 to 2018/19 have each shown higher levels of faith/religion incidents and crimes than the levels recorded between 2009/10 and 2013/14. The highest number of faith/religion incidents and crimes was recorded in 2017/18, with levels in 2018/19 falling again to those previously seen in 2015/16.

Crimes with a faith/religion motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Table 5.1 Faith/religion motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes\(\textsuperscript{1,2}\), 2009/10\(\textsuperscript{2}\) to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Outcomes, numbers</th>
<th>Outcomes (rates, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(\textsuperscript{1}\) An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

\(\textsuperscript{2}\) In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation; data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 are only presented in Table 1.1 and should be regarded with caution.

During 2018/19 there were 56 incidents recorded where there was a faith/religion motivation. Of these, there were 35 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 21 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 23 faith/religion crimes in total). Around three out of every five faith/religion incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 5.1 Incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation, 2018/19

56 faith/religion incidents recorded in total

incidents where no crime recorded 35

incidents where one or more crimes recorded 21

resulting in 23 faith/religion crimes recorded in total

2018/19

5.2 Trends in crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications. Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a faith/religion motivation are shown in figure 5.2. The full data series for crimes with a faith/religion motivation is available in table 5.2 in the accompanying spreadsheet.
In 2018/19 violence against the person offences accounted for 39 per cent of all crimes with a faith/religion motivation while criminal damage offences accounted for 52 per cent.

5.3 Victims of faith/religion crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. A person is the victim of a faith/religion crime in 53 to 85 per cent of cases, while in 12 to 41 per cent of faith/religion crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to eight per cent of faith/religion crimes are state-based.

The number of person victims of faith/religion motivated crimes is too small to enable further details to be provided in relation to age, gender or religious background. In addition, the religious background of the victims of faith/religion crimes is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide).

5.4 Outcomes for crimes with a faith/religion motivation

An explanation of crime outcomes and crime outcome rates can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

Figure 5.3 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate for crimes with a faith/religion motivation since 2009/10 and demonstrates the volatility of the outcome rate when the levels of crimes and outcomes recorded are small.

Figure 5.3 Crimes, outcomes and outcome rates with a faith/religion motivation, 2009/10 to 2018/19
6 Disability Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Those with a disability motivation cover any disability including physical or sensory disability, learning disability, long-term illness and mental health.

6.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a disability motivation

Disability motivated incidents and crimes were showing broadly similar levels throughout the data series until 2012/13, after which levels started to increase considerably. Levels have fallen back slightly over the last three years.

Crimes with a disability motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Table 6.1 Disability motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes\(^1\), 2009/10\(^2\) to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Outcomes, numbers</th>
<th>Outcomes (rates, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10(^2)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.
\(^2\) In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a disability motivation; data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 are only presented in Table 1.1 and should be regarded with caution.

During 2018/19 there were 100 incidents recorded where there was a disability motivation. Of these, there were 54 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 46 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 53 disability crimes in total). Around half of disability incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 6.1 Incidents and crimes (excluding fraud) with a disability motivation, 2018/19

100 disability incidents recorded in total

- incidents where no crime recorded: 54
- incidents where one or more crimes recorded: 46

resulting in 53 disability crimes recorded in total

2018/19
6.2 Trends in crimes with a disability motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications.

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a disability motivation are shown in figure 6.2 below. The full data series for crimes with a disability motivation is available in table 6.2 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Figure 6.2 Crimes with a disability motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2018/19

Violence against the person with a disability motivation: In most years at least half of all crimes with a disability motivation fall within violence against the person. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 6.3 shows the changing pattern of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), violence without injury and harassment since 2009/10.

Figure 6.3 Violence against the person with a disability motivation, 2009/10 to 2018/19
6.3 Victims of disability crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. A person is the victim of a disability-motivated crime in at least 93 per cent of cases, while in up to 7 per cent of disability crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to 3 per cent of disability crimes are state-based. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 6.3]

All 53 crimes with a disability motivation recorded in 2018/19 involved a person victim. Eight of these persons were identified as having a learning disability.

6.3.1 Disability crimes: age and gender of victims

Victim age: Since 2009/10 the proportion of disability crimes by age of victim has tended to fluctuate. Figure 6.4 shows the age breakdown for 2018/19. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 6.4]

Victim gender: Figure 6.4 also shows the gender breakdown for 2018/19. While the proportions have varied since 2009/10, 2017/18 is the only time females have shown a higher proportion than males. [accompanying spreadsheet Table 6.5]

Figure 6.4 Disability crimes by age and gender of victim, 2018/19

6.4 Outcomes for crimes with a disability motivation

An explanation of crime outcomes and crime outcome rates can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

Figure 6.5 shows the trends in crimes, outcomes and outcome rates for all disability crimes. It demonstrates the volatility of the outcome rate when the levels of crimes and outcomes recorded are small. [accompanying spreadsheet Tables 6.2, 6.6 (numbers) and 6.6 (rates)]

Figure 6.5 Crimes, outcomes and outcome rates with a disability motivation, 2009/10 to 2018/19
7 Transphobic Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. In relation to transphobia this includes people who are transsexual, transgender, transvestite and those who hold the gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

7.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and outcomes with a transphobic motivation

Fluctuation in the levels of transphobic motivated incidents and crimes in the earlier part of the data series was replaced by more steady levels between 2013/14 and 2016/17, with the highest levels reached in 2017/18.

Table 7.1 Transphobic motivations: incidents, crimes and outcomes, 2009/10 to 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Outcomes, numbers</th>
<th>Outcomes (rates, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 An explanation of the crime outcomes data series can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

During 2018/19 there were 33 incidents recorded where there was a transphobic motivation. Of these, there were 21 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 12 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 12 transphobic crimes in total). Almost two thirds of transphobic incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Crimes with a transphobic motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Figure 7.1 Incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation, 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018/19

7.2 Trends in crimes with a transphobic motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in section 3 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. Appendix 1 of this guide contains a list of all recorded crime classifications. Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, theft/criminal damage and all other crimes with a transphobic
motivation are shown in figure 7.2. The full data series for crimes with a transphobic motivation is available in table 7.2 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

**Figure 7.2** Crimes with a transphobic motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2018/19

7.3 Victims of transphobic crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. All crimes with a transphobic motivation recorded since 2006/07 have had a person victim, with the exception of one crime recorded with a business/organisation victim.

The number of person victims of transphobic motivated crimes is too small to enable further details to be provided in relation to age, gender or any other background information.

7.4 Outcomes for crimes with a transphobic motivation

An explanation of crime outcomes and crime outcome rates can be found in Appendix 1, page 39.

Figure 7.3 shows the trends in crimes, outcomes and outcome rates for all transphobic crimes. It demonstrates the volatility of the outcome rate when the levels of crimes and outcomes recorded are small. [accompanying spreadsheet Tables 7.2, 7.3 (numbers) and 7.3 (rates)]

There have been twelve outcomes for crimes with a transphobic motivation since 2009/10; all have been detected by means of charge/summons, caution or community resolution.

**Figure 7.3** Crimes, outcomes and outcome rates with a transphobic motivation, 2009/10 to 2018/19
8 Geographic patterns of hate motivated incidents and crimes

As a general rule crimes are recorded geographically by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. The complete hate motivated crime data series was able to be allocated to the new policing districts. However the level of geographic information required to allocate hate motivated incident records to the new boundaries was insufficient for the financial years 2004/05 to 2006/07. For this reason, comparison of hate motivated incidents at policing district level is only available for the financial years dating back to 2007/08.

Belfast City, whilst being only one policing district, accounts for a reasonable proportion of all hate motivated incidents/crimes recorded in Northern Ireland. It includes four local policing teams based in Strandtown (East), Tennent Street (North), Lisburn Road (South), and Woodbourne (West). Figures for each of these local policing teams are made available to assist with district level comparisons.

8.1 Racist, Homophobic and Sectarian Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the accompanying spreadsheets covering incidents, recorded crime, outcome rates and population rates for incidents and crimes.

Pivot tables are available providing a breakdown of crime type for each of recorded crime, outcomes (numbers and rates) and population rates.

Racist motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 2.13 to 2.18 and pivot table]  
Homophobic motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 3.10 to 3.15 and pivot table]  
Sectarian motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 4.10 to 4.15 and pivot table]

8.2 Faith/religion and Disability Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the accompanying spreadsheets covering incidents, recorded crime and outcome rates. Levels are too small to provide meaningful population rates.

Faith/religion motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 5.6 to 5.8]  
Disability motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 6.8 to 6.10]

8.3 Transphobic Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the accompanying spreadsheets covering incidents and recorded crime. Outcome numbers are too small to provide outcome rates at policing district and crime levels are too small to provide meaningful population rates.

Transphobic motivations accompanying spreadsheet [tables 7.4 and 7.5]

8.4 Additional geographic breakdowns of hate motivated incidents and crimes

The Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website [http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/] is updated annually in relation to incidents and crimes with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation. The available geographies are listed below.

Incidents with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation  
Ward 2014, District Electoral Area (DEA) 2014 and Local Government District (LGD) 2014

Crimes with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation  
Ward 2014, District Electoral Area (DEA) 2014, Local Government District (LGD) 2014, Assembly Area (AA), Education & Library Board (ELB), Health & Social Care Trust (HSCT), Urban/Rural and Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)
Hate crimes are recorded by the police in England and Wales under five centrally monitored strands:

- race or ethnicity;
- religion or beliefs;
- sexual orientation;
- disability; and
- transgender identify.

The method of identifying hate crimes in England & Wales is similar to that within PSNI, through use of a flag as part of the crime recording process to identify the relevant motivation(s).

In England & Wales there are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated element. These are defined by statute and constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents. As police in England & Wales can identify other general offences as hate crimes, the total number of race or religious hate crimes will be greater than the number of police recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences.

These specific racially or religiously aggravated offences do not exist within Northern Ireland. Instead, all hate crimes are identified through a motivation ‘tick box’ on the system used within PSNI to record crime.

Figure 9.1 compares hate crimes in England & Wales with hate crimes in Northern Ireland over the last eight years. The Northern Ireland figures are shown including and excluding crimes with a sectarian motivation which is a separate hate strand in Northern Ireland; in 2011/12 crimes with a sectarian motivation accounted for nearly 60 per cent of all crimes with a hate motivation, falling to around 39 per cent in 2018/19.

As there is a large difference in the volume of hate crimes recorded between England & Wales and Northern Ireland, both data series have been indexed to allow a comparison to be made, where each year 2012/13 to 2018/19 is shown in relation to the level recorded in 2011/12.

The Home Office publication on Hate Crime in England & Wales 2018–19 provides comment on hate crime following major events, focusing on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police by month.

Within Northern Ireland, monthly data on all the strands of hate motivation is available in the accompanying pivot table. However numbers are small and the data series shows general fluctuations and peaks which would be difficult to attribute to the events highlighted by the Home Office. A second limitation is that the racially or religiously aggravated offences are not available within Northern Ireland and so there is no equivalent data series that can be produced.

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1 The England & Wales details have been sourced from the publication Hate Crime in England & Wales 2018-19.
Appendix 1  Background and Data Quality

1  Methodology

1.1 Data Collection
PSNI's Statistics Branch started compiling statistics on racist and homophobic incidents and crimes in April 2004. The system which was in use at that time for crime recording (the integrated crime information system or 'ICIS') was modified to enable incidents to be identified as having a one of these motivations. Where an incident was given this marker, each crime recorded within that incident was also identified as having a racist or homophobic motivation. While PSNI compiled statistics on incidents with racist and homophobic motivations prior to 2004/05, the method of data collection and definitions of crimes and crime types was not comparable and so these figures are not included within this bulletin. The compilation of incidents and crimes with a sectarian, faith/religion or disability motivation started within PSNI from 2005/06, while those with a transphobic motivation started in 2006/07.

The current system which is used within PSNI to record crime is called NICHE and was introduced from 1st April 2007. This system refined the process for recording crimes with a hate motivation in that the marker identifying an incident or crime as hate motivated could be applied to each incident or crime separately. In other words a crime which may have been recorded within an incident identified as hate motivated, but which did not itself have a hate motivation, would not have the hate motivation marker applied. However this did not have a great impact on the number of hate motivated crimes recorded.

1.2 Data Quality
While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, the identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI’s Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation. Data for these motivations should be regarded with caution prior to this date.

Annual Revisions: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature will next be applied in May 2020. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.

1.3 Crime outcomes and outcome rates
Section 2.4 of the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics describes in detail what crime outcomes are, the recording practice in relation to outcomes and changes to this practice that have affected the recording of outcomes and outcome rates.

The outcome figures provided in this bulletin are based on the following outcome methods; charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute). There have been a number of changes to the rules governing what can be counted as an outcome since 1998/99, an explanation of which can be found in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics. For this reason figures are shown dating back to 2007/08 in order to provide a data series that is as comparable as possible, bearing in mind that community resolutions were first introduced as an outcome method during 2011/12 (these were called discretionary disposals prior to 30 June 2016) and penalty notices for disorder were introduced in June 2012.

The outcome rates for the first year of each data series will have been impacted to some extent by the fact that there were no crimes identified as having those motivations prior to this. As a result the outcome rates for these initial years were based solely on those offences with a motivation that were both recorded and detected within that financial year. Any impact of this will have been experienced to a much lesser extent in later financial years.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. This restricted the use of those disposal methods where no further action is taken against the offender, in particular the disposal method of complainant declined to prosecute which, between 2004/05 and 2006/07, accounted for the majority of these types of outcomes for
crimes with a hate motivation. From April 2007 some of the methods that had been allowed for claiming outcomes that did not result in a sanction against the offender were discontinued altogether.

Outcome rates refer to the number of outcomes recorded in a given year expressed as a percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period.

Volumes of outcomes recorded in a particular time period can provide a useful indication of police activity in resolving crime. However outcome rates presented in this way are described by the Home Office as illustrative rather than true rates that can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. Where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly. This is particularly true in relation to crimes and outcomes with a hate motivation as the levels recorded tend to be low and even small fluctuations can have a marked effect on the outcome rate. Please note that it is possible to show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome.

An alternative way of presenting crime outcomes is available in the publication on Police Crime Outcomes in Northern Ireland (see 3.5 for link to publication). This bulletin presents the wider outcomes framework within PSNI, summarising the outcomes that have been assigned to hate motivated crimes recorded by the police since 2015/16. It also provides a comparison of the two different approaches to crime outcomes.

2 Factors with an impact on the Hate Motivation data series

2.1 Changes to crime classifications
On occasion, the structure of the classifications used to compile recorded crime may change.

Alignment of PSNI classifications with England and Wales: During 2010/11 an exercise was conducted to more closely align the crime recording classifications used in PSNI publications with those used for police recorded crime figures in England and Wales. The aim of this exercise was to improve comparability of police recorded crime figures in Northern Ireland with those for England and Wales, while taking into account legislative differences between the two jurisdictions. The realigned crime classification was introduced within PSNI in April 2011.

This exercise realigned the police recorded crime figures for each financial year dating back to 1998/99. Figures at the level of individual classifications differed slightly after reclassification to those figures published prior to reclassification. However the total recorded crime figure for each financial year 1998/99 onwards remained unchanged from the total figure originally published.

Crime classifications consultation November 2011: In November 2011 PSNI’s Statistics Branch ran a consultation exercise about proposed changes to reduce the overall number of crime classifications. This was in line with a similar exercise conducted by the Home Office in England and Wales. This resulted in a reduction in the number of crime classifications from 148 to 126 and these changes which were introduced in April 2012.

Crime classifications consultation December 2012: The focus of the consultation launched in December 2012 concerned the presentation of police recorded crime under two broad categories – ‘victim-based crime’ and ‘other crimes against society’ in order to improve clarity of presentation. This consultation followed a similar exercise conducted by ONS in respect of police recorded crime in England and Wales. This resulted in a change to the previous classification system implemented from 1st April 2013. All police recorded crime figures published from June 2013 onwards are based on this revised classification, including this trends bulletin. ‘Victim based crime’ and ‘other crimes against society’ are further broken down as follows:

Victim-based crimes
- Violence against the person
- Sexual offences
- Robbery
- Theft offences (inc burglary)
- Criminal Damage

Other crimes against society
- Possession of weapon offences
- Public order offences (includes breaches of court orders eg non-molestation orders and ASBOs)
- Drug offences
- Miscellaneous crimes against society

Figures based on previous classifications are still available in the Hate Motivation Statistics Archive on the PSNI website.
2.2 Introduction of Action Fraud within Northern Ireland

From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK’s National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. The Action Fraud figures do not separately identify those offences with a hate motivation and therefore all hate motivated crime figures in this bulletin exclude fraud.

2.3 Change to policing boundaries as a result of implementing the Review of Public Administration

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. The level of geographic information required to allocate incident/crime records to the new boundaries was insufficient for the financial years 2004/05 to 2006/07 for hate motivated incidents and for the financial year 2004/05 for hate motivated crimes. For this reason, comparison at policing district level is only available for the financial years dating back to 2007/08 for incidents and 2004/05 for crimes.

Belfast City, whilst being only one policing district, accounts for a large proportion of all hate abuse motivated incidents/crimes recorded in Northern Ireland. It includes four local policing teams based in Strandtown (East), Tennent Street (North), Lisburn Road (South), and Woodbourne (West). Figures for each of these local policing teams are provided for a selected number of geographical tables to assist with district level comparisons.

3 Further Information

3.1 Data Use

These statistics are used widely within PSNI as management information and to monitor performance on hate motivation related targets against the Policing Plan. The figures are also used by government departments and other voluntary and statutory agencies to inform debate and policy development regarding incidents and crimes with a hate motivation in Northern Ireland.

3.2 Data Availability

Hate motivated incidents and crimes in Northern Ireland are currently published as an annual bulletin providing finalised figures for the latest financial year, along with trends and commentary. Quarterly updates providing a summary of the latest hate motivated incidents and crimes are published during the year, these statistics being provisional and subject to change.

3.3 Publication

Annual data are published on a financial year basis (ie 1st April to 31st March), with the annual bulletin providing finalised figures for the latest financial year along with trends and commentary. Provisional incident and recorded crime data are published each quarter on a rolling 12 month basis and financial year to date basis. Provisional figures remain subject to change until the annual data are published. Provisional figures in each quarterly bulletin supersede those published in previous quarterly updates.

A publication schedule is available on the PSNI website.

The main tables in this bulletin are also available on the PSNI website in the form of summary tables and pivot tables in both excel format and open data format.

PSNI publications on hate motivated incidents and crimes are available from the PSNI website. This link also provides access to the latest quarterly updates and to annual reports dating back to the year the recording of each type of hate motivation started.

3.4 Crime Statistics User Guide

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics, including the recording of incidents and crimes with a hate motivation which is available in Section 6. This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics. The guide provides background information on:

- definitions relating to crimes, incidents and outcomes, including a description of the crime types included within the crime bulletins;
- recording practices, including PSNI data collection, quality and audit processes;
- data timeliness and availability; and
- the geographic areas for which crimes are available (statistics for geographies other than policing area and policing district can be accessed through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS)).
3.5 Related information available on the PSNI website

Police Recorded Crime Statistics: These statistics are updated on a monthly basis, with publication dates available in the publication schedule. The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/

Crime Outcomes: This bulletin presents the wider outcomes framework within PSNI and summarises the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police since 2015/16. The publication can be accessed through: https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/

Anti-Social Behaviour Statistics: These statistics are updated on a monthly basis, with publication dates available in the publication schedule. The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/anti-social-behaviour-statistics/

Domestic Abuse Statistics: These statistics are updated on a quarterly basis (in August, November, February and May), with a more comprehensive trends publication made available annually; publication dates are available in the publication schedule. The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/