

3. Hate Incidents and Crimes

Summary

During 2004/05 improvements have been made to the processes for identifying racial and homophobic incidents and crimes. Rather than gathering data through manual returns, incidents and crimes of this nature are now collated through the PSNI Integrated Crime Information System.

Definitions

Incidents

Any incident perceived to be racial or homophobic by the victim or any other person, whether a crime has occurred or not, will be recorded by the police.

Recorded Crimes

- Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A full explanation of how recorded crime figures are produced is provided in the recorded crime definitions section on page x.
- In the same way as incidents are identified as racial or homophobic, a crime will be recorded as racial or homophobic where the victim or any other person perceives it as such. Not all incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Racial and homophobic crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

Racial Incidents and Crimes

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Total number of racial incidents	226	453	813

- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the number of racial incidents increased by 360 (79.5%).
- There were a total of 634 racial crimes recorded during 2004/05.
- The overall clearance rate was 15.9%.
- Criminal damage accounted for 322 racial crimes (50.8%), with a further 187 racial crimes (29.5%) categorised as woundings or assaults.

Homophobic Incidents and Crimes

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Total number of homophobic incidents	35	71	196

- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the number of homophobic incidents increased by 125 (176.1%).
- There were a total of 151 homophobic crimes recorded during 2004/05.
- The overall clearance rate was 22.5%.
- Woundings or assaults accounted for 73 homophobic crimes (48.3%) with a further 31 homophobic crimes (20.5%) categorised as criminal damage.

Table 3.1: Racial Incidents and Recorded Crimes with a Racial Motivation: Offences Recorded and % Cleared by District Command Unit 2004/05

	Racial incidents	Racial offences		Total offences recorded by type of offence								
		Total offences recorded	% clearance rate	Murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	All woundings / assaults ¹	Intimidation / harassment	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Criminal damage	All other notifiable offences
Antrim	23	21	4.8	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	14	0
Ards	25	22	13.6	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	16	0
East Belfast	54	32	9.4	0	1	10	2	0	0	1	18	0
North Belfast	76	49	8.2	0	0	12	2	3	0	0	31	1
South Belfast	159	108	12.0	0	3	38	12	4	0	1	50	0
West Belfast	13	15	20.0	0	0	7	1	0	0	2	4	1
Carrickfergus	21	14	14.3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	8	1
Castlereagh	12	4	25.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Larne	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	28	19	15.8	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	12	0
Newtownabbey	15	15	0.0	0	0	5	5	0	1	0	4	0
North Down	19	14	35.7	0	2	5	0	0	0	2	5	0
Urban Region	445	313	12.1	0	6	93	25	8	5	7	166	3
Armagh	14	13	23.1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	7	1
Ballymena	52	39	5.1	0	0	10	3	0	1	1	23	1
Ballymoney	8	8	25.0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	0
Banbridge	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	22	21	19.0	0	0	9	3	0	2	0	6	1
Cookstown	16	24	41.7	1	0	6	3	0	0	0	13	1
Craigavon	79	74	13.5	0	1	25	9	3	0	3	33	0
Down	8	4	50.0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	69	55	20.0	0	0	9	6	1	1	2	36	0
Fermanagh	18	11	0.0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	5	1
Foyle	40	29	6.9	0	1	10	2	3	0	3	8	2
Limavady	7	6	50.0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Magherafelt	9	10	50.0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	4	0
Moyle	1	1	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Newry & Mourne	15	17	35.3	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	8	1
Omagh	6	5	40.0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0
Strabane	3	4	25.0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Rural Region	368	321	19.6	1	4	94	36	8	4	10	156	8
Grand Total	813	634	15.9	1	10	187	61	16	9	17	322	11

¹ includes wounding with intent / GBH with intent, wounding / GBH, AOABH, common assault, aggravated assault and assault on police.

Table 3.2: Homophobic Incidents and Recorded Crimes with a Homophobic Motivation: Offences Recorded and % Cleared by District Command Unit 2004/05

	Homophobic incidents	Homophobic offences		Total offences recorded by type of offence								
		Total offences recorded	% clearance rate	Attempted murder	Threat or conspiracy to murder	All woundings / assaults ¹	Intimidation / harassment	Burglary	Robbery	Theft	Criminal damage	All other notifiable offences
Antrim	4	4	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Ards	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Belfast	6	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
North Belfast	27	18	5.6	0	0	8	6	0	2	0	1	1
South Belfast	28	24	16.7	0	2	17	0	1	1	1	2	0
West Belfast	4	3	0.0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Carrickfergus	1	1	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	4	2	50.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Larne	2	2	100.0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	5	3	33.3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Newtownabbey	9	6	0.0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
North Down	4	3	33.3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Urban Region	94	70	14.3	1	2	34	10	2	6	1	10	4
Armagh	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	3	3	66.7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ballymoney	4	4	25.0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Banbridge	1	1	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	5	2	50.0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cookstown	4	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Craigavon	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Down	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fermanagh	3	3	0.0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Foyle	69	55	25.5	1	2	27	6	0	1	2	16	0
Limavady	3	5	60.0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magherafelt	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Newry & Mourne	2	1	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omagh	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Strabane	2	2	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Rural Region	102	81	29.6	1	3	39	11	1	1	2	21	2
Grand Total	196	151	22.5	2	5	73	21	3	7	3	31	6

¹ includes wounding with intent / GBH with intent, wounding / GBH, AOABH, common assault, aggravated assault and assault on police.