

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2012

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012)

Published 10 May 2012

Incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland with a racist, homophobic, sectarian, faith/religion, disability or transphobic motivation: Quarterly update to 31 March 2012 (final figures for 2011/12)

Published 10 May 2012

This quarterly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to incidents and crimes with a racist, homophobic, sectarian, faith/religion, disability or transphobic motivation recorded by the police for the financial year 2011/12, which runs from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012. A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES page at the end of the bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends in hate motivated incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012. The next quarterly update covering the latest 12 months to 30th June 2012 will be published on 30th August 2012.

MAIN POINTS

Incidents and crimes with racist motivation

- Racist incidents have shown a general downward trend over the last two years. There were 696 racist incidents in 2011/12, a decrease of 17.3 per cent on the 2010/11 figure of 842, and the lowest figure since racist incidents were first recorded in 2004/05. Incidents were lower in each quarter of 2011/12 compared with the same quarters in 2010/11, although the difference was less evident when comparing quarter 1 of each year.
- Racist crimes have also shown a general downward trend from 531 in 2010/11 to 458 in 2011/12, the lowest figure recorded since 2004/05. While Q1 2011/12 increased to a level of 147, there were falls in each subsequent quarter.
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a racist motivation for 2011/12 is 16.8%, compared with 13.4% for 2010/11.

Incidents and crimes with homophobic motivation

- Homophobic incidents have decreased by 11 incidents over the last year. Much of the decrease between 2010/11 and 2011/12 came in Q4 2011/12, with the first 3 quarters continuing the general upwards trend seen since 2006/07.
- At 120, the number of homophobic crimes for 2011/12 has also decreased from the 2010/11 figure of 137, again with the decrease evident in the last quarter (Q4) of 2011/12. Whilst homophobic incidents have shown a general upward trend since 2006/07, homophobic crimes have tended to fluctuate.
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a homophobic motivation for 2011/12 is 15.0%, compared with 17.5% for 2010/11.

Incidents and crimes with sectarian motivation

- The 2011/12 figure of 1,344 sectarian incidents is the lowest level recorded since the data series was first compiled in 2005/06. However, within the year, a sharp increase occurred between Q1 and Q2 2011/12 (from 360 to 462 incidents respectively).
- Sectarian crimes have shown a very similar trend to incidents, albeit at a lower level. The 885 sectarian crimes in 2011/12 is the lowest number recorded since the data series started in 2005/06. In a similar pattern to the incidents sectarian crimes showed a marked increase between the first and second quarters (from 228 crimes to 318).
- The sanction detection rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation has fallen from 28.8% in 2010/11 to 16.8% in 2011/12.

Figure 1 Racist incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to March 2012

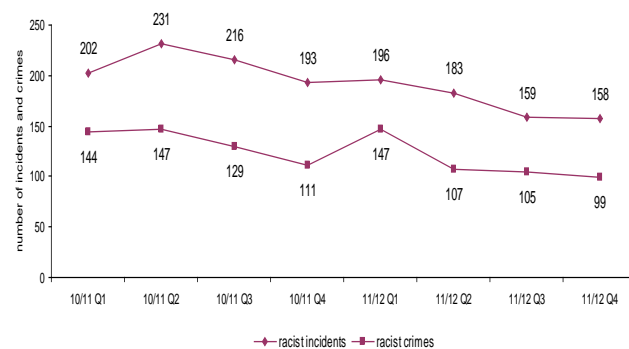


Figure 2 Homophobic incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to March 2012

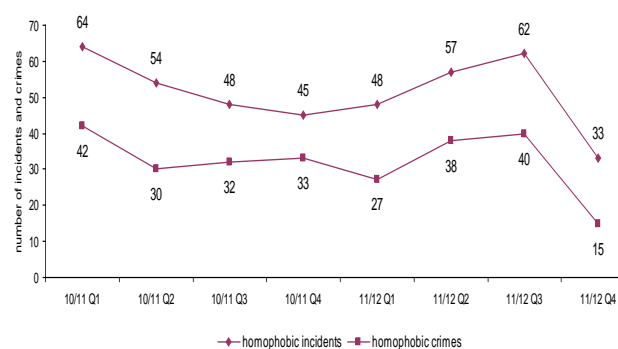


Figure 3 Sectarian incidents and crimes: quarterly totals over the two years to March 2012

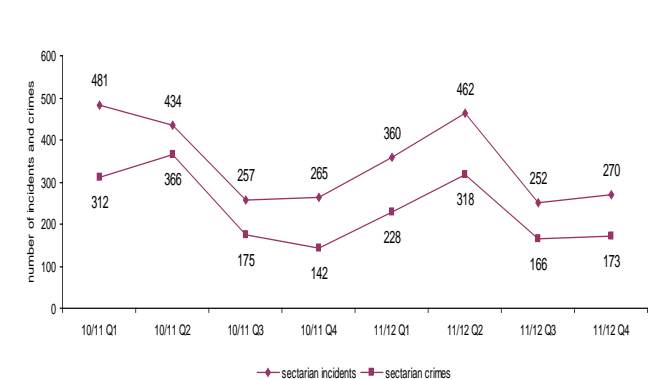


Table 1: Incidents with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation recorded, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

	Numbers					
	Racist incidents		Homophobic incidents		Sectarian incidents	
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12
Incidents	842	696	211	200	1,437	1,344

Table 2: Crimes and sanction detection rates with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

Offence group	Numbers and percentages											
	Racist motivated crimes				Homophobic motivated crimes				Sectarian motivated crimes			
	2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12	
	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)
Violence Against the Person Offences	234	19.7	217	27.6	86	20.9	79	21.5	493	36.9	401	20.7
Property Crime	284	8.1	236	7.2	41	7.3	35	2.9	427	11.9	429	9.3
All Other Crime	13	15.4	5	0.0	10	30.0	6	0.0	75	72.0	55	47.3
Total Recorded Crime	531	13.4	458	16.8	137	17.5	120	15.0	995	28.8	885	16.8

Table 3: Attacks on symbolic premises, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

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.

Type of symbolic premises	Numbers	
	2010/11	2011/12
Church or Chapel	23	12
GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall	8	8
Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall	58	32
School	*	4

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

Table 4: Incidents with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation recorded, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 year by policing district and policing area

Numbers

Policing district/area	Racist incidents ¹		Homophobic incidents ¹		Sectarian incidents ¹	
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12
North Belfast	114	43	22	29	389	221
West Belfast	28	16	6	6	99	87
A District	142	59	28	35	488	308
East Belfast	61	62	19	12	101	172
South Belfast	156	160	29	48	74	90
B District	217	222	48	60	175	262
Ards	29	18	5	10	13	17
Castlereagh	24	24	7	4	15	9
Down	25	9	7	6	12	17
North Down	19	18	1	4	8	6
C District	97	69	20	24	48	49
Antrim	23	30	4	2	29	29
Carrickfergus	5	7	3	0	5	6
Lisburn	34	28	4	1	27	41
Newtownabbey	43	19	6	2	41	38
D District	105	84	17	5	102	114
Armagh	11	11	2	0	19	18
Banbridge	3	8	3	5	17	13
Craigavon	43	34	5	9	34	41
Newry & Mourne	25	16	5	8	28	20
E District	82	69	15	22	98	92
Cookstown	10	3	1	1	25	24
Dungannon & South Tyrone	25	32	7	3	26	18
Fermanagh	15	11	1	3	21	25
Omagh	6	10	7	7	9	16
F District	56	56	16	14	81	83
Foyle	40	50	26	12	189	175
Limavady	19	11	8	3	12	19
Magherafelt	8	10	16	3	29	50
Strabane	4	5	4	3	12	16
G District	71	76	54	21	242	260
Ballymena	31	35	4	4	31	38
Ballymoney	6	4	3	7	52	39
Coleraine	30	16	2	4	86	74
Larne	1	2	2	1	31	20
Moyle	4	4	2	3	3	5
H District	72	61	13	19	203	176
Northern Ireland	842	696	211	200	1,437	1,344

1. Incidents are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

Table 5: Crimes and sanction detection rates with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 by policing district and policing area

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages												
	Racist motivated crimes				Homophobic motivated crimes				Sectarian motivated crimes				
	2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12		
Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²
North Belfast	74	4.1	28	17.9	15	40.0	10	10.0	202	40.1	88	17.0	
West Belfast	9	11.1	6	16.7	3	33.3	5	0.0	22	45.5	32	18.8	
A District	83	4.8	34	17.6	18	38.9	15	6.7	224	40.6	120	17.5	
East Belfast	34	11.8	36	11.1	10	30.0	6	66.7	39	10.3	98	12.2	
South Belfast	89	11.2	102	11.8	18	22.2	25	12.0	58	22.4	54	13.0	
B District	123	11.4	138	11.6	28	25.0	31	22.6	97	17.5	152	12.5	
Ards	16	6.3	8	37.5	2	0.0	5	20.0	12	8.3	12	25.0	
Castlereagh	15	20.0	13	15.4	3	0.0	1	0.0	7	28.6	5	0.0	
Down	17	0.0	7	42.9	4	0.0	4	0.0	9	44.4	13	7.7	
North Down	11	18.2	11	9.1	1	0.0	1	100.0	4	25.0	4	0.0	
C District	59	10.2	39	23.1	10	0.0	11	18.2	32	25.0	34	11.8	
Antrim	16	31.3	21	14.3	7	14.3	2	0.0	24	16.7	27	7.4	
Carrickfergus	4	0.0	4	0.0	4	50.0	0	-	4	0.0	6	16.7	
Lisburn	18	33.3	21	19.0	2	50.0	0	-	11	18.2	33	3.0	
Newtownabbey	24	0.0	9	0.0	6	16.7	0	-	30	20.0	26	15.4	
D District	62	17.7	55	12.7	19	26.3	2	0.0	69	17.4	92	8.7	
Armagh	7	14.3	9	11.1	2	0.0	0	-	18	16.7	12	8.3	
Banbridge	4	25.0	5	20.0	1	0.0	4	0.0	19	21.1	12	8.3	
Craigavon	31	6.5	29	10.3	2	0.0	7	28.6	31	35.5	42	19.0	
Newry & Mourne	24	25.0	15	20.0	2	0.0	6	0.0	25	12.0	16	18.8	
E District	66	15.2	58	13.8	7	0.0	17	17.6	93	22.6	82	15.9	
Cookstown	6	16.7	2	50.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	26	34.6	23	30.4	
Dungannon & South Tyrone	24	25.0	28	10.7	7	14.3	4	0.0	22	9.1	11	0.0	
Fermanagh	13	23.1	6	66.7	1	0.0	3	66.7	17	23.5	16	12.5	
Omagh	5	20.0	6	16.7	6	16.7	4	0.0	9	0.0	12	0.0	
F District	48	22.9	42	21.4	15	13.3	12	16.7	74	20.3	62	14.5	
Foyle	26	30.8	34	26.5	16	18.8	8	25.0	200	44.0	149	30.2	
Limavady	12	8.3	4	25.0	5	0.0	2	0.0	12	50.0	19	10.5	
Magherafelt	2	50.0	11	9.1	7	0.0	4	0.0	18	22.2	35	20.0	
Strabane	4	0.0	3	100.0	1	0.0	6	16.7	8	37.5	15	20.0	
G District	44	22.7	52	26.9	29	10.3	20	15.0	238	42.4	218	26.1	
Ballymena	25	8.0	21	9.5	3	0.0	1	0.0	19	31.6	30	6.7	
Ballymoney	2	0.0	4	75.0	3	0.0	4	0.0	36	8.3	25	12.0	
Coleraine	14	21.4	9	33.3	1	0.0	4	0.0	75	16.0	53	18.9	
Larne	1	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	33	3.0	14	21.4	
Moyle	4	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0	5	0.0	3	0.0	
H District	46	10.9	40	20.0	11	0.0	12	0.0	168	13.1	125	14.4	
Northern Ireland	531	13.4	458	16.8	137	17.5	120	15.0	995	28.8	885	16.8	

1. Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

2. The detection figures are based on sanction detections only. The reason for focusing on sanction detections instead of the overall detection rate is that there have been a number of changes to the rules governing what can be counted as a detection since 1998/99. However sanction detections remained unaffected by these changes and so provide the most comparable data series. An explanation of the changes to the recording of detections, along with details on what constitutes a sanction detection, can be found in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland. Offences detected in any particular year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100. The sanction detection rate is the number of crimes that are cleared up by a sanction detection expressed as a percentage of the total number of recorded offences.

Incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability or transphobic motivation

While the levels of faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivated incidents and crimes are the lowest recorded since each data series were compiled, increasingly rigorous data checks have been carried out on the application of the motivations for these incidents, to ensure that the definition is being clearly adhered to. These improvements will have had an impact in reducing the levels of these incidents recorded in more recent years.

MAIN POINTS

- Disability motivated incidents fell by 5 between 2010/11 and 2011/12, while the number of crimes with a disability motivation fell from 31 to 15 over the same time period. The number of disability motivated incidents and crimes by policing district and area is provided in Table 8 of this bulletin.
- In 2011/12, there were 8 faith/religion motivated incidents recorded, two in South Belfast and one each in North Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, Craigavon, Newry & Mourne and Ballymena. Over the same time period there were 6 faith/religion crimes (one each in North Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, Craigavon, Newry & Mourne and Ballymena) and one sanction detection in Newry & Mourne.
- Of the four transphobic motivated incidents recorded in 2011/12, two were in Foyle, one was in North Belfast and one was in Dungannon & South Tyrone. Three transphobic crimes were recorded - two in Foyle and one in Dungannon & South Tyrone. There were no transphobic detections recorded in 2011/12.

Table 6: Incidents with a faith/religion, disability or transphobic motivation recorded, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

	Numbers					
	Faith/religion incidents		Disability incidents		Transphobic incidents	
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12
Incidents	21	8	38	33	22	4

Table 7: Crimes and sanction detection rates with a faith/religion, disability, or transphobic motivation, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

Offence group	Numbers and percentages											
	Faith/religion motivated crimes				Disability motivated crimes				Transphobic motivated crimes			
	2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12		2010/11		2011/12	
	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)	Offences Recorded	Sanction Detection Rate (%)
Violence Against the Person Offences	5	0.0	2	0.0	12	25.0	7	28.6	5	0.0	0	-
Property Crime	11	0.0	4	25.0	16	6.3	6	50.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
All Other Crime	1	0.0	0	-	3	0.0	2	50.0	2	50.0	1	0.0
Total Recorded Crime	17	0.0	6	16.7	31	12.9	15	40.0	8	12.5	3	0.0

Table 8: Incidents, crimes and sanction detection rates with a disability motivation, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 by policing district and policing area

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages						
	Disability motivated incidents ¹		Disability motivated crimes				
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11		2011/12		
			Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	Offences Recorded ¹	Sanction Detection Rate (%) ²	
North Belfast	2	1	2	0.0	1	0.0	
West Belfast	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
A District	3	1	3	0.0	1	100.0	
East Belfast	1	4	1	0.0	1	0.0	
South Belfast	3	6	2	0.0	3	0.0	
B District	4	10	3	0.0	4	0.0	
Ards	2	2	2	50.0	1	0.0	
Castlereagh	2	1	2	0.0	1	100.0	
Down	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
North Down	2	2	1	0.0	1	0.0	
C District	7	5	6	16.7	3	66.7	
Antrim	1	1	1	0.0	1	100.0	
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	-	0	-	
Lisburn	2	1	1	0.0	0	-	
Newtownabbey	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
D District	4	2	3	0.0	1	100.0	
Armagh	3	1	2	0.0	1	0.0	
Banbridge	0	3	0	-	1	0.0	
Craigavon	6	2	4	0.0	1	100.0	
Newry & Mourne	1	0	1	100.0	0	-	
E District	10	6	7	14.3	3	33.3	
Cookstown	1	0	0	-	0	-	
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
Fermanagh	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
Omagh	0	0	0	-	0	-	
F District	3	0	2	0.0	0	-	
Foyle	3	3	4	0.0	1	100.0	
Limavady	1	0	1	100.0	0	-	
Magherafelt	0	2	0	-	0	-	
Strabane	0	2	0	-	0	-	
G District	4	7	5	20.0	1	100.0	
Ballymena	0	1	0	-	1	0.0	
Ballymoney	0	0	0	-	0	-	
Coleraine	1	1	0	-	1	0.0	
Larne	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
Moyle	1	0	1	0.0	0	-	
H District	3	2	2	50.0	2	0.0	
Northern Ireland	38	33	31	12.9	15	40.0	

1. Incidents and crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

2. The detection figures are based on sanction detections only. The reason for focusing on sanction detections instead of the overall detection rate is that there have been a number of changes to the rules governing what can be counted as a detection since 1998/99. However sanction detections remained unaffected by these changes and so provide the most comparable data series. An explanation of the changes to the recording of detections, along with details on what constitutes a sanction detection, can be found in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland. Offences detected in any particular year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100. The sanction detection rate is the number of crimes that are cleared up by a sanction detection expressed as a percentage of the total number of recorded offences.

NOTES

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs).

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

Time periods covered

The figures in this bulletin are presented on a financial year basis and, in this context:

- Quarter 1 refers to the months April, May and June
- Quarter 2 refers to the months July, August and September
- Quarter 3 refers to the months October, November and December
- Quarter 4 refers to the months January, February and March

Data accuracy

While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, 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 abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but quarterly audits and data quality checks are conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of hate motivated incidents and crimes recorded by the police for the 2011/12 financial year. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly_hate_motivations_update_apr-mar_11_12.xls. This spreadsheet provides summary figures for each hate motivation. It also contains a pivot table providing statistics on incidents, crimes, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection rates (%) for racist, homophobic and sectarian motivations. Each of these data measures is available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
- for a range of crime types; and
- for a range of time periods (latest and previous financial years and each of the last 8 quarters).

The pivot table allows the user to manipulate the data, select the data they are most interested in and carry out calculations on the data. The data records displayed in the pivot table are also available in this spreadsheet.

Further information

Annual figures on hate motivated incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2010/11 are available in the publication Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2010/11, available at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/hate_motivated_incidents_and_crimes_in_northern_ireland_2004-05_to_2010-11.pdf

An updated publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics, including those with a hate motivation, are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). 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 [hate motivation definitions](#) upon which these statistics are based are also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site: http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for 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: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998