

Christmas drink drive campaign 2017/18

Northern Ireland

This bulletin summarises available information in relation to the PSNI Christmas drink driving campaign 2017/18, which ran from 1st December 2017 to 1st January 2018, specifically the outcomes in terms of Preliminary Breath Tests (PBTs) and evidential procedures.

Key points:

- During the Christmas drink drive campaign from 1st December 2017 to 1st January 2018, PSNI officers conducted over 13,000 preliminary breath tests (PBTs), an increase of 1,868 (16.6%) on the same period last year.
- Of the 13,132 PBTs conducted, 3.5% (454) resulted in a fail or failed to provide, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points on the same period last year in 2016/17 (4.7%).
- A total of 357 people were arrested for drink/drug driving related offences during this year's campaign, representing an increase of 15.5% compared with the same period last year (309).
- The majority of arrests were made in Belfast (68) followed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon district with 42.
- A total of 340 evidential procedures were completed, on persons ranging from 17 to 87 years old. Males accounted for the majority, with 292 (86%) subject to evidential procedures.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Keeping People Safe



Background

There is no one measure of counting alcohol or drug driving offences as this is a complex process and there is no unique source of data. This bulletin has presented the information on the basis that those who have a Preliminary Breath Test with a result of 'Fail' or 'Failure to Provide' are a proxy measure for driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Police will arrest people, collect further evidence via breath, blood or urine and present this to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) who will ultimately decide on the prospect of a successful case.

In terms of the 2017/18 statistics, the PBT figures are based on an extract of the data on 10th January 2018 and are likely to increase as more information is uploaded to the system. The arrest figures were extracted on 8th January 2018 and the evidential figures on the 5th January 2018. These figures are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Preliminary Breath Tests

Table 1 Number of Preliminary Breath Tests carried out by PSNI by result

Result	1 st Dec 2016 – 1 st Jan 2017	1 st Dec 2017 – 1 st Jan 2018	% change
Zero	10,423	12,291	+17.9
Pass	283	353	+24.7
Warning	31	34	+9.7
Fail	345	314	-9.0
Failed to Provide	182	140	-23.1
Total	11,264	13,132	+16.6

Arrests

Table 2 Number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences by District

District	1 st Dec 2016 – 1 st Jan 2017	1 st Dec 2017 – 1 st Jan 2018
Antrim and Newtownabbey	28	23
Ards and North Down	18	27
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	30	42
Belfast City	59	68
Causeway Coast and Glens	22	21
Derry City and Strabane	26	28
Fermanagh and Omagh	32	33
Lisburn and Castlereagh	14	24
Mid and East Antrim	21	31
Mid Ulster	28	26
Newry, Mourne and Down	31	34
Total	309	357

Evidential Procedures¹

Table 3 Details of evidential procedures completed

1 st Dec 2016 – 1 st Jan 2017	1 st Dec 2017 – 1 st Jan 2018
Total procedures = 283	Total procedures = 340
Youngest: 17 years old	Youngest: 17 years old
Oldest: 80 years old	Oldest: 87 years old
Male: 240 (85%)	Male: 292 (86%)
Female: 43 (15%)	Female: 48 (14%)
Zero: 6	Zero: 12
1 - 34µg/100ml: 23	1 - 34µg/100ml: 47
35 - 49µg/100ml: 38	35 - 49µg/100ml: 36
50+µg/100ml: 166	50+µg/100ml: 173
No breath result: 50	No breath result: 72
Highest breath reading: 149µg	Highest breath reading: 133µg

¹Evidential figures include completed procedures only and do not include those drivers who provided a blood/urine sample only and were not entered onto Police Works system.

Please note the current drink driving limit is 35µg/100ml of breath.

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh