

Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

2018 Annual Report

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- In 2018, there were 52,121 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 20 offences on the 52,141 detections recorded in 2017.
- Of the 52,121 detections in 2018, over half (57.1%) resulted in a referral for prosecution and a further 24.9% in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- The largest offence group recorded was insurance offences with a total of 8,517 detections in 2018 accounting for 16.3% of all detections for motoring offences. However this was a decrease of 5.0% (448) on the number recorded in 2017.
- Speeding offences accounted for 8,279 (15.9%) of all these detections in 2018, an increase of 18.8% (1,310) on the number recorded in 2017. There were a further 4,541 detections related to mobile phone offences down by 5.9% on the number in 2017.
- Vehicle test certificate offences have seen an increase of 24.5% to 4,899 in 2018 when compared with 2017.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Keeping People Safe



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This bulletin is an Official Statistics Publication meaning it complies with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. More information on [Official Statistics](#) is available on the PSNI Statistics website.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland in 2018. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership. Figures relating to such detections through the Partnership can be accessed via following link – [NI RSP](#).

The range of disposals covered includes those offences dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice (FPN), speed awareness course and referral for prosecution. Details of the offences included in each offence grouping can be found in Section 6 of the [Motoring Offence User Guide](#) on the PSNI website.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 19th and 20th March 2019. As of that date, 99.6% of FPNs for 2018 had been processed, while 0.4% remained pending. Referred for prosecution figures are available from 2011 and figures from 1st January 2016 remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment.

Please note the figures refer to the number of offences and not the number of persons detected as a person can be detected for more than one offence.

Uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring, and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), media and academics.

More detail can be found in the Motoring Offence User Guide which can be accessed via the [motoring offences](#) statistics web page on the PSNI website.

PSNI Statistics Branch welcomes any user feedback on the changes, which can be provided via the email address on the cover page.

2. Summary

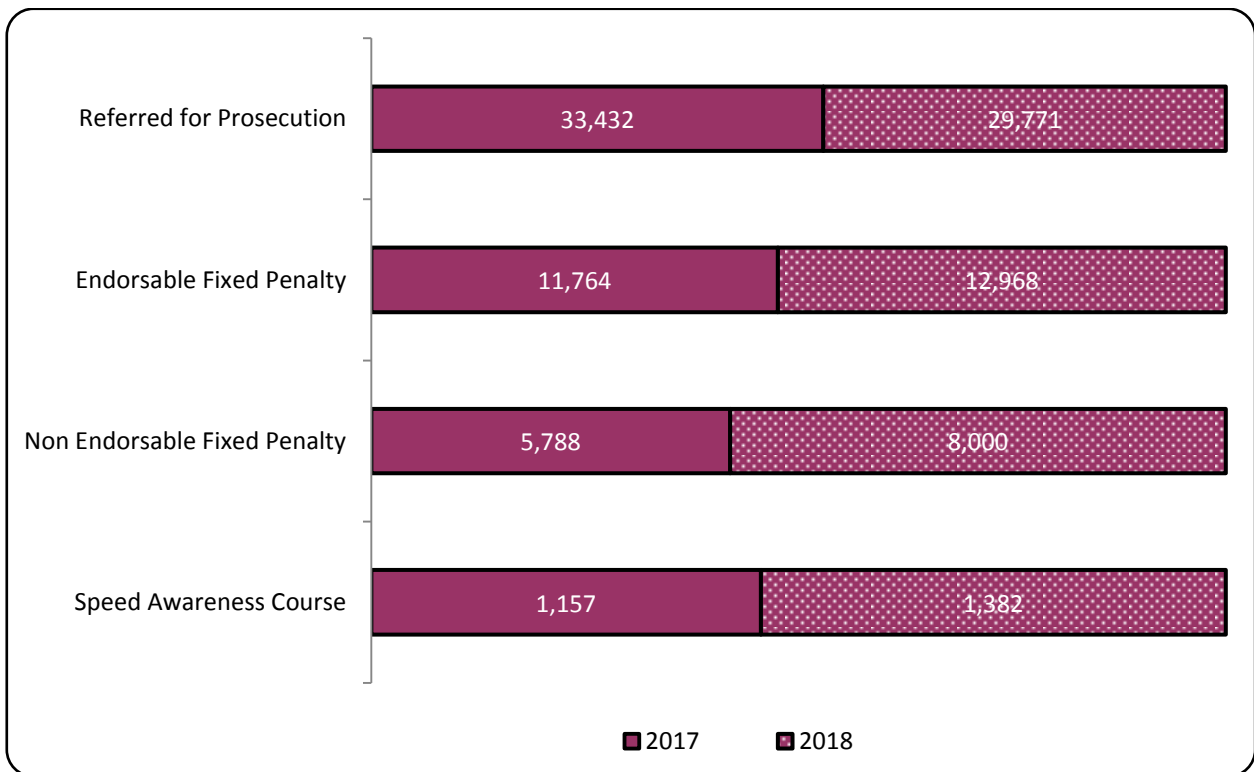
Over the last 12 months:

- the number of motoring offences decreased by 20 offences;
- non endorsable fixed penalties increased by 38.2% or 2,212 mainly due to an increase in number of vehicle test certificate offences and parking offences;
- endorsable fixed penalties increased by 10.2% or 1,204;
- offences referred for prosecution fell by 11.0% or 3,661

Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	Change over last 12 months	
			Number	%
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	11,764	12,968	1,204	10.2
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	5,788	8,000	2,212	38.2
Referred for Prosecution	33,432	29,771	-3,661	-11.0
Speed Awareness Course	1,157	1,382	225	19.4
Total	52,141	52,121	-20	0.0

Figure 1: Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences, 2017 and 2018



3. Trends

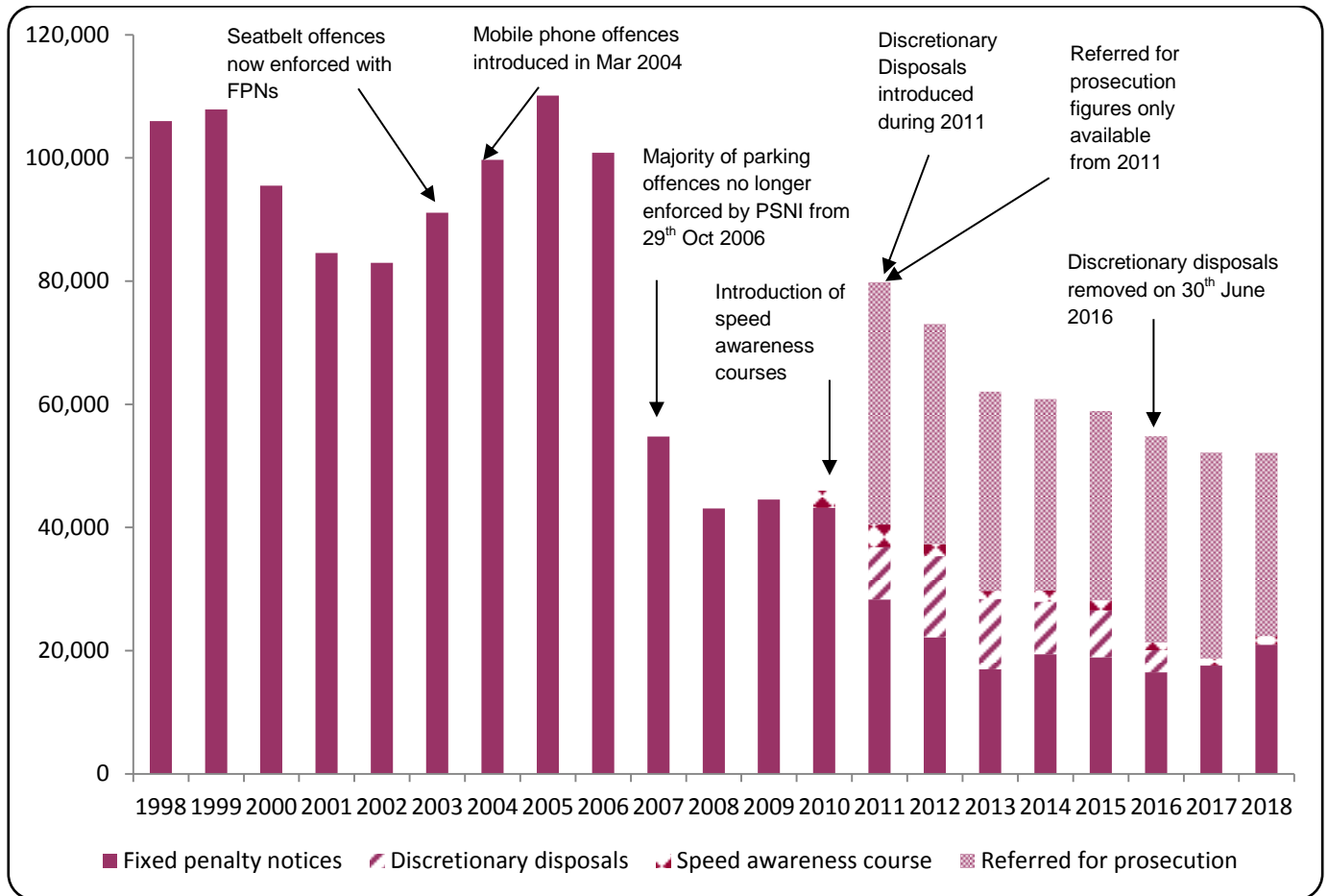
The number of FPNs has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 105,966 recorded in 1998 to 20,968 recorded in 2018.

A large proportion of the decrease is due to the introduction of the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 which came into effect on 30th October 2006. This legislation decriminalised the vast majority of parking and waiting offences in Northern Ireland. Enforcement of parking/waiting restrictions is now the responsibility of Traffic Attendants employed by National Car Parks Limited on behalf of Transport NI.

The total number of motoring offences has been steadily decreasing over the past number of years from 79,795 recorded in 2011 to 52,121 in 2018.

The removal of discretionary disposals as an option for motoring offences has had a notable impact on the number of motoring offences, albeit other disposals have also seen a decline over the years.

Figure 2: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1998 –2018



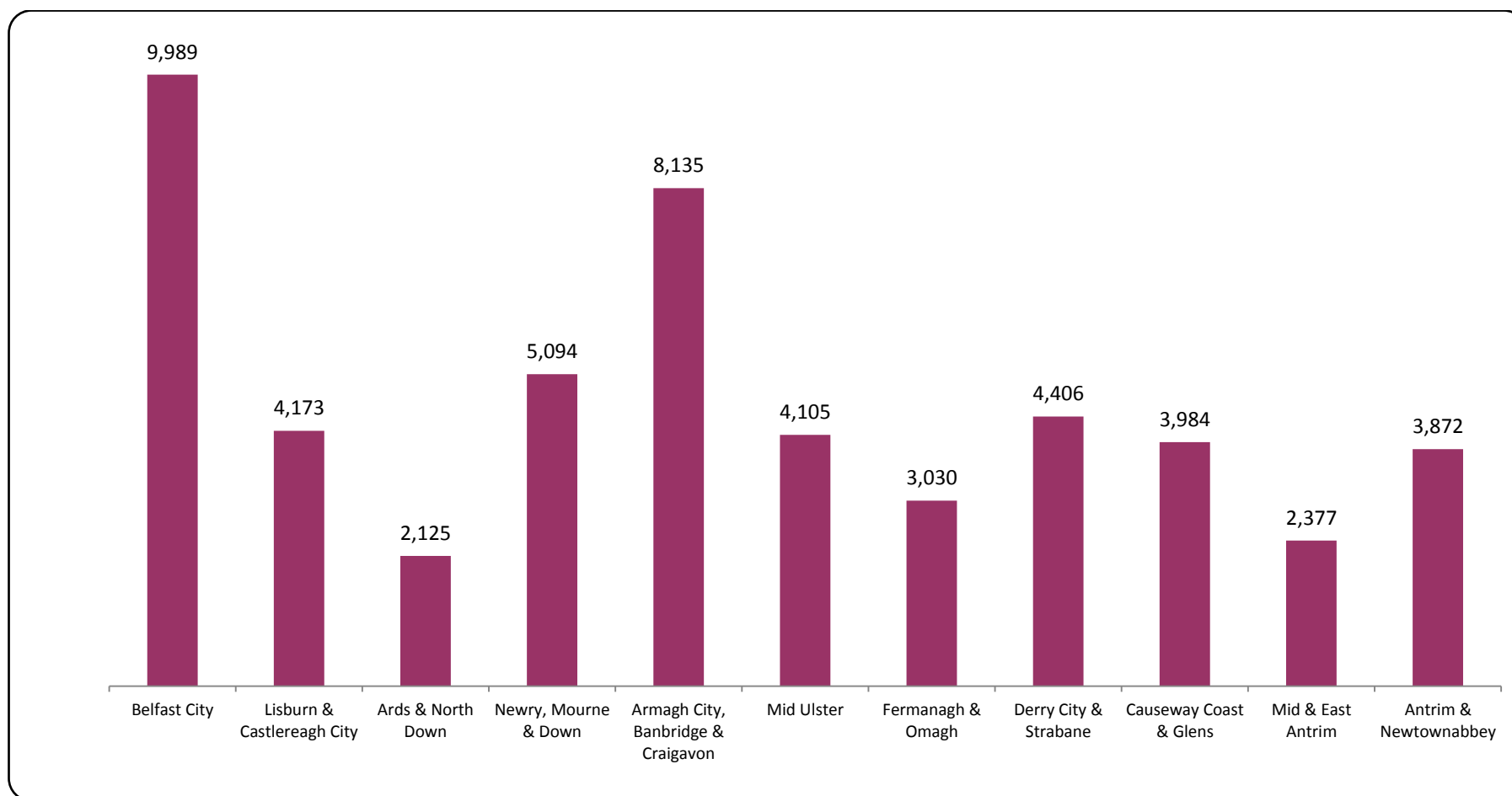
4. Offence group

Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2017 and 2018

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Total	Change over last 12 months	
	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	Number	%
Breach of signs & signals	20	23	43	34	32	22	52	61	42	41	33	24	427	321	106	33.0
Careless driving	426	361	382	317	454	393	368	388	356	319	337	278	4,379	5,027	-648	-12.9
Construction & use	181	227	219	183	131	128	145	160	178	149	133	96	1,930	1,540	390	25.3
Dangerous driving	162	159	136	152	162	172	147	147	160	126	107	83	1,713	1,884	-171	-9.1
Drink or drug driving	235	238	260	247	222	250	233	221	252	190	202	235	2,785	3,038	-253	-8.3
Driving licence	424	453	398	363	387	389	342	360	337	332	293	264	4,342	4,882	-540	-11.1
Driving whilst disqualified	106	92	119	116	89	111	98	86	71	83	73	67	1,111	1,179	-68	-5.8
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	197	231	217	202	273	202	207	225	170	179	162	172	2,437	3,100	-663	-21.4
Fraudulent use / declaration	18	33	24	30	27	22	22	24	16	17	17	21	271	283	-12	-4.2
Insurance	849	817	787	721	771	706	672	674	622	652	670	576	8,517	8,965	-448	-5.0
L & R driver	169	148	128	137	170	147	120	142	95	108	121	104	1,589	1,608	-19	-1.2
Miscellaneous	66	79	69	64	53	62	61	60	50	42	44	45	695	797	-102	-12.8
Mobile phone	473	513	437	387	397	385	297	357	385	385	299	226	4,541	4,825	-284	-5.9
Non motor vehicle	3	1	0	3	2	2	4	3	3	2	3	2	28	38	-10	-26.3
Parking	236	87	119	155	84	68	73	119	199	314	236	77	1,767	1,112	655	58.9
Pedestrian	7	5	10	3	8	4	7	8	7	7	3	7	76	76	0	0.0
Seatbelt	95	90	88	93	86	101	123	125	128	80	66	50	1,125	1,227	-102	-8.3
Speeding	762	660	592	724	812	777	653	677	732	846	651	393	8,279	6,969	1,310	18.8
Vehicle TADA / tampering	139	103	140	167	110	104	98	89	82	70	59	49	1,210	1,336	-126	-9.4
Vehicle test certificate	498	441	454	349	403	373	334	412	418	470	434	313	4,899	3,934	965	24.5
Total	5,066	4,761	4,622	4,447	4,673	4,418	4,056	4,338	4,303	4,412	3,943	3,082	52,121	52,141	-20	0.0

5. Policing District

Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2018



Unknown district is excluded from the chart above

The number of motoring offences detected in Belfast City represented almost one-fifth (19.5%) of all motoring offences detected in 2018 where the district was known. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest detections, accounting for 4.1% of the total in 2018. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 38 offences per 1,000 population while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 1,000 population, with 13.

6. Age and Gender

Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group, 2018

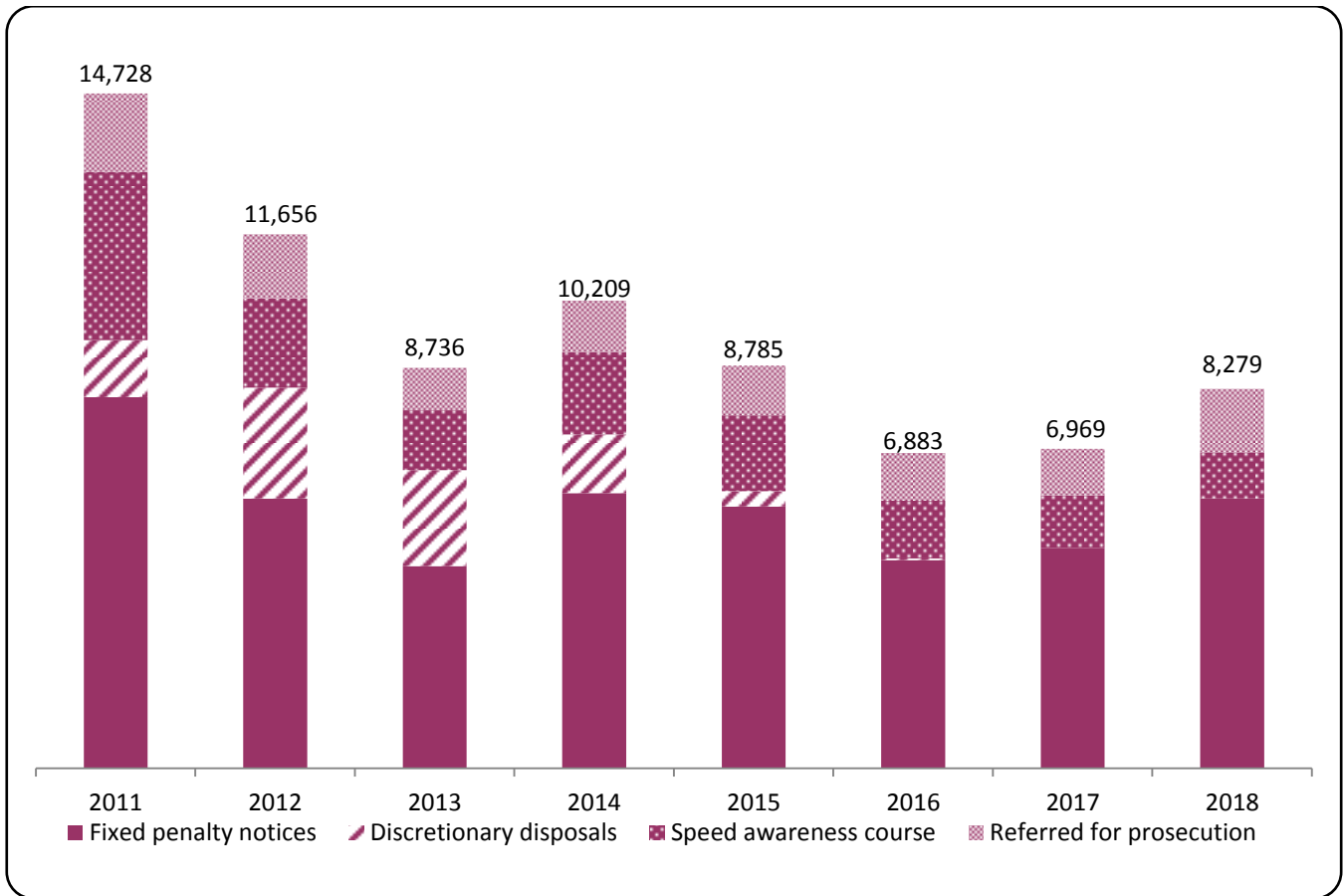
2018	Gender			Age						Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	
Breach of signs & signals	294	101	32	4	95	131	65	10	122	427
Careless driving	3,313	1,064	2	109	1,548	1,636	850	223	13	4,379
Construction & use	1,696	228	6	74	1,114	487	185	20	50	1,930
Dangerous driving	1,516	196	1	62	880	559	183	28	1	1,713
Drink or drug driving	2,257	527	1	25	915	1,347	455	43	0	2,785
Driving licence	3,603	737	2	131	1,745	1,937	491	35	3	4,342
Driving whilst disqualified	995	116	0	63	427	516	98	7	0	1,111
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	1,974	460	3	69	968	942	329	126	3	2,437
Fraudulent use / declaration	236	35	0	4	98	132	33	2	2	271
Insurance	6,986	1,530	1	206	3,638	3,716	872	84	1	8,517
L & R driver	1,359	230	0	105	769	572	122	21	0	1,589
Miscellaneous	634	61	0	31	360	247	52	5	0	695
Mobile phone	3,610	931	0	24	1,114	2,309	1,023	71	0	4,541
Non motor vehicle	28	0	0	1	19	6	2	0	0	28
Parking	991	692	84	1	281	202	101	5	1,177	1,767
Pedestrian	67	9	0	5	42	23	5	1	0	76
Seatbelt	886	238	1	19	361	478	235	25	7	1,125
Speeding	5,805	2,473	1	108	2,803	3,512	1,680	174	2	8,279
Vehicle TADA / tampering	1,106	104	0	133	614	412	47	4	0	1,210
Vehicle test certificate	3,631	1,265	3	20	1,244	2,281	1,018	87	249	4,899
Total	40,987	10,997	137	1,194	19,035	21,445	7,846	971	1,630	52,121

7. Speeding

In Northern Ireland speeding offences can be detected by PSNI officers or by the fixed cameras and mobile cameras operated by the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP). More detailed information regarding the NIRSP can be obtained from the [NI RSP website](#). In 2017¹ (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 31,076 persons speeding which equated to approximately four fifths (81.7%) of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Prior to the formal change in policy on 30th June 2016 and in response to the increase in number of road traffic collision fatalities, advice was given to police officers to cease using discretionary disposals for speeding, mobile phone and seatbelt offences. This is reflected by the reduction in the number of discretionary disposals issued in recent years for speeding offences.

Figure 4: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2011 – 2018



In 2018, there were 8,279 detections for speeding offences, accounting for more than one in six (15.9%) of all motoring offences detected by PSNI. Over one quarter (29.8%) of these were detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) – see Table 3.

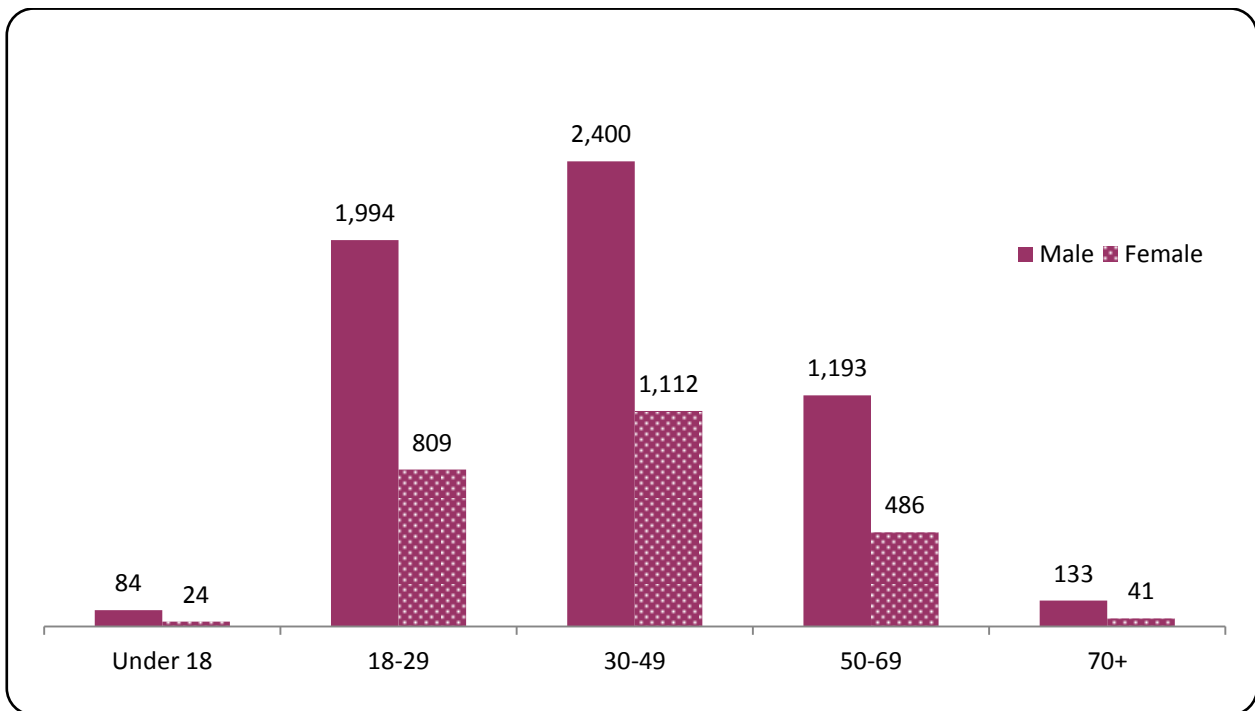
¹ 2018 figures will be published on 28th June 2019.

Table 4: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	103	152	107	89	110	70	131	762
February	119	113	85	81	89	85	88	660
March	92	70	120	71	78	90	71	592
April	159	89	79	103	101	72	121	724
May	132	50	101	182	163	74	110	812
June	134	110	108	83	114	98	130	777
July	93	87	130	102	73	91	77	653
August	100	97	76	83	123	123	75	677
September	96	85	101	82	157	90	121	732
October	82	145	131	118	141	114	115	846
November	88	62	63	73	134	134	97	651
December	62	40	44	52	57	65	73	393
Total	1,260	1,100	1,145	1,119	1,340	1,106	1,209	8,279

Where the gender is known males accounted for 70.1% of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 30 – 49 represented over two-fifths (42.4%) of all persons detected for speeding offences where age is known, followed by 18 -29 year olds accounting for a further 33.9%.

Figure 5: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2018

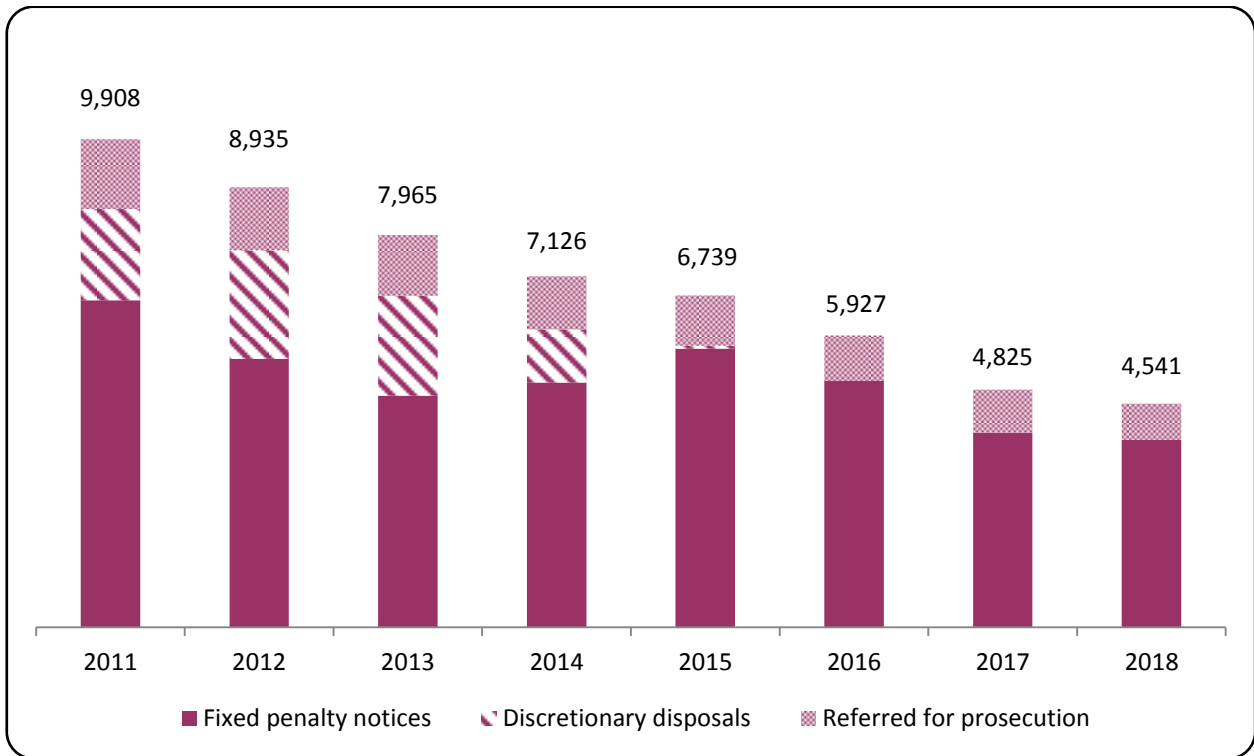


Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

8. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 9,908 in 2011 to 4,541 in 2018 (a decrease of 54.2%). As with speeding, the changes to discretionary disposals resulted in decreased use of this disposal in recent years for mobile phone offences.

Figure 6: Number of mobile phone offences, 2011 – 2018



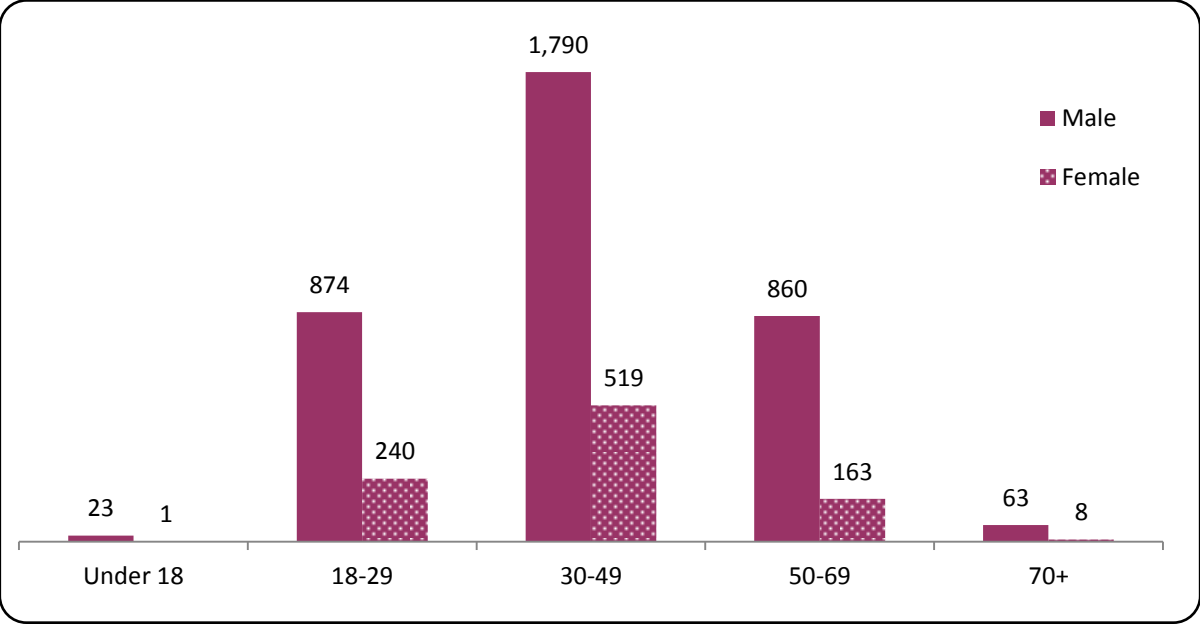
Mobile phone offences accounted for 8.7% of all motoring offences in 2018. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Saturday and Sunday with the majority detected on a Thursday (18.9%).

Table 5: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	20	90	73	90	75	74	51	473
February	40	100	93	76	76	76	52	513
March	20	53	78	62	83	94	47	437
April	32	64	48	52	65	85	41	387
May	19	29	65	93	86	67	38	397
June	23	48	57	59	71	87	40	385
July	29	38	72	46	50	35	27	297
August	15	41	52	63	79	75	32	357
September	23	43	35	67	84	79	54	385
October	25	67	65	74	63	64	27	385
November	16	32	54	35	74	55	33	299
December	17	39	20	38	51	29	32	226
Total	279	644	712	755	857	820	474	4,541

Males accounted for four fifths (79.5%) of all persons detected for mobile phone offences while persons aged 30 – 49 accounted for over half (50.8%).

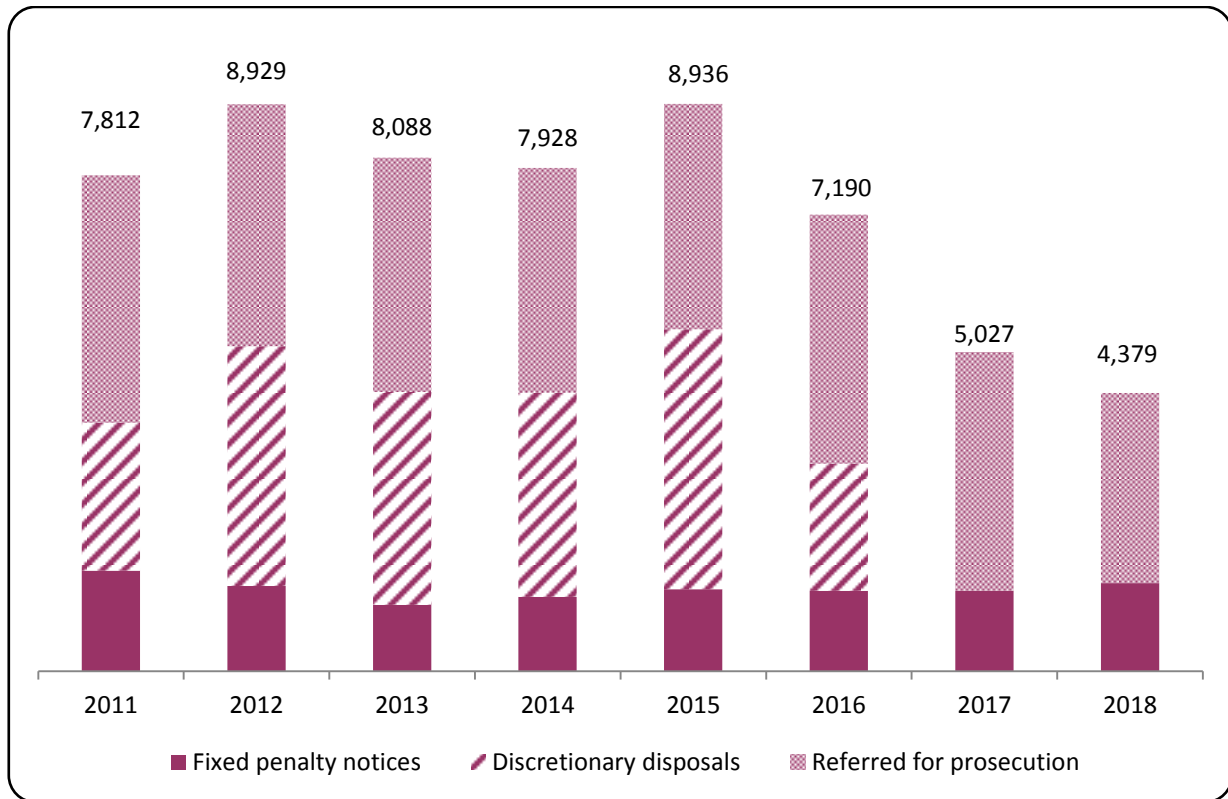
Figure 7: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2018



8. Careless driving

The number of careless driving offences has decreased from 7,812 in 2011 to 4,379 in 2018 (a decrease of 43.9%). Careless driving offences accounted for 8.4% of all motoring offences in 2018.

Figure 8: Number of careless driving offences, 2011 – 2018



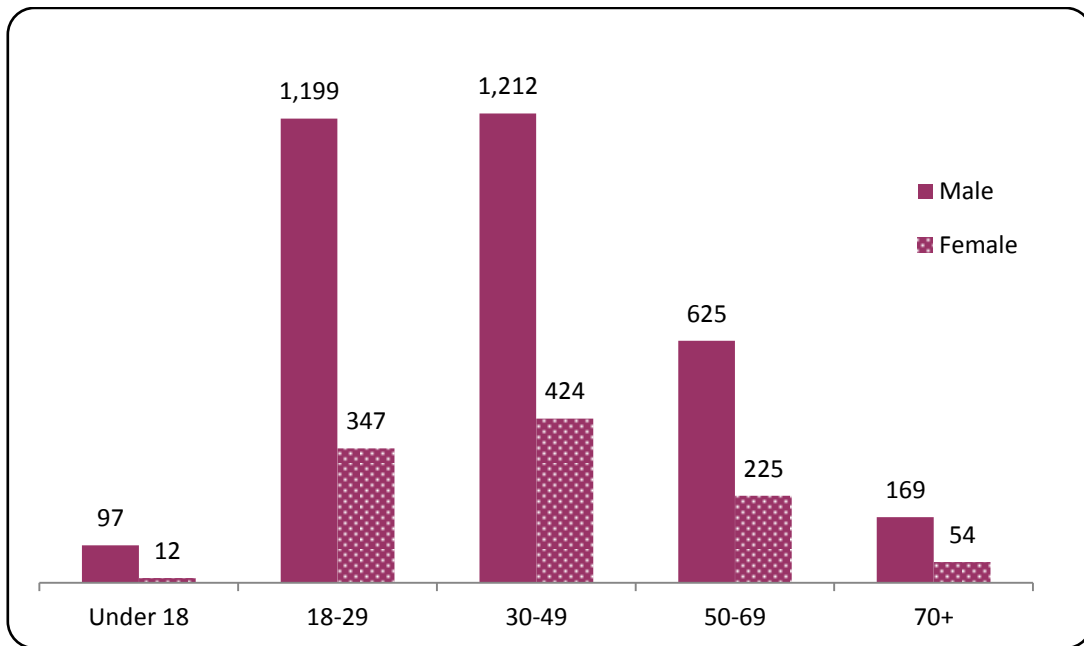
One in six (16.1%) were issued on a Friday while May was the month of year where most detections for careless driving offences occurred, accounting for 10.4% of the total.

Table 6: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	43	70	75	48	72	59	59	426
February	47	41	60	55	59	56	43	361
March	51	42	47	61	64	62	55	382
April	50	45	36	38	47	52	49	317
May	55	57	56	83	85	60	58	454
June	54	46	39	57	56	80	61	393
July	56	51	62	37	47	68	47	368
August	50	50	49	56	71	64	48	388
September	62	45	40	47	40	68	54	356
October	48	39	40	51	47	45	49	319
November	41	36	40	47	66	56	51	337
December	39	41	25	39	47	37	50	278
Total	596	563	569	619	701	707	624	4,379

Where gender is known males accounted for 75.7% of careless driving offences and where age is known 30-49 year olds accounted for almost two fifths (37.5%).

Figure 9: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2018



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

9. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 57.1% (29,771) of all motoring offences detected in 2018, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 24.9% (12,968). A further 15.3% were dealt with by means of a non endorsable FPN (8,000), while the remaining 2.7% completed a speed awareness course (1,382).

Figure 10: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2018

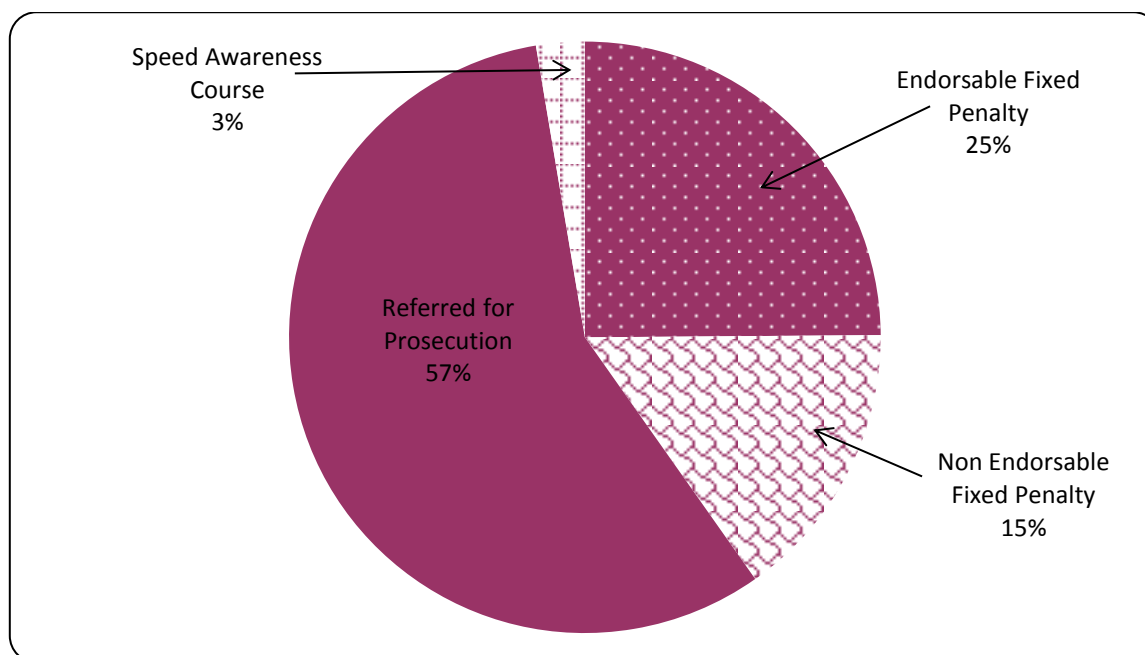


Table 7: Offence group by disposal type, 2018

2018	Endorsable FPN	Non Endorsable FPN	Referred for prosecution	Speed Awareness	Total
Breach of signs & signals	0	427	0	0	427
Careless driving	1,137	248	2,994	0	4,379
Construction & use	0	1,615	315	0	1,930
Dangerous driving	369	0	1,344	0	1,713
Drink or drug driving	0	0	2,785	0	2,785
Driving licence	0	0	4,342	0	4,342
Driving whilst disqualified	0	0	1,111	0	1,111
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	0	0	2,437	0	2,437
Fraudulent use / declaration	0	2	269	0	271
Insurance	968	0	7,549	0	8,517
L & R driver	109	0	1,480	0	1,589
Miscellaneous	6	48	641	0	695
Mobile phone	3,807	0	734	0	4,541
Non motor vehicle	0	6	22	0	28
Parking	26	1,730	11	0	1,767
Pedestrian	0	36	40	0	76
Seatbelt	677	117	331	0	1,125
Speeding	5,869	15	1,013	1,382	8,279
Vehicle TADA / tampering	0	0	1,210	0	1,210
Vehicle test certificate	0	3,756	1,143	0	4,899
Total	12,968	8,000	29,771	1,382	52,121

9.1 Fixed penalty notices

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

Non endorsable offences are those which do not result in penalty points on your licence and which incur a fine of £30. The standard fine for endorsable offences is £60 along with three penalty points. More serious offences such as driving causing or permitting no insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by NI Court Service.

A list of fixed penalty offences can be found at - [FPN list](#)

Endorsable fixed penalty notices

Endorsable FPNs accounted for almost one quarter (24.9%) of all disposal types used in 2018. Persons aged 30-49 represented 44.9% of those issued with an endorsable FPN, followed by persons aged 18-29 (30.4%). Females accounted for just over one quarter (26.1%) of all issued endorsable FPNs, while males accounted for 73.9%. Over half (52.3%) of all endorsable FPNs issued to females were for speeding offences.

Table 8: Number of endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, gender and age, 2018

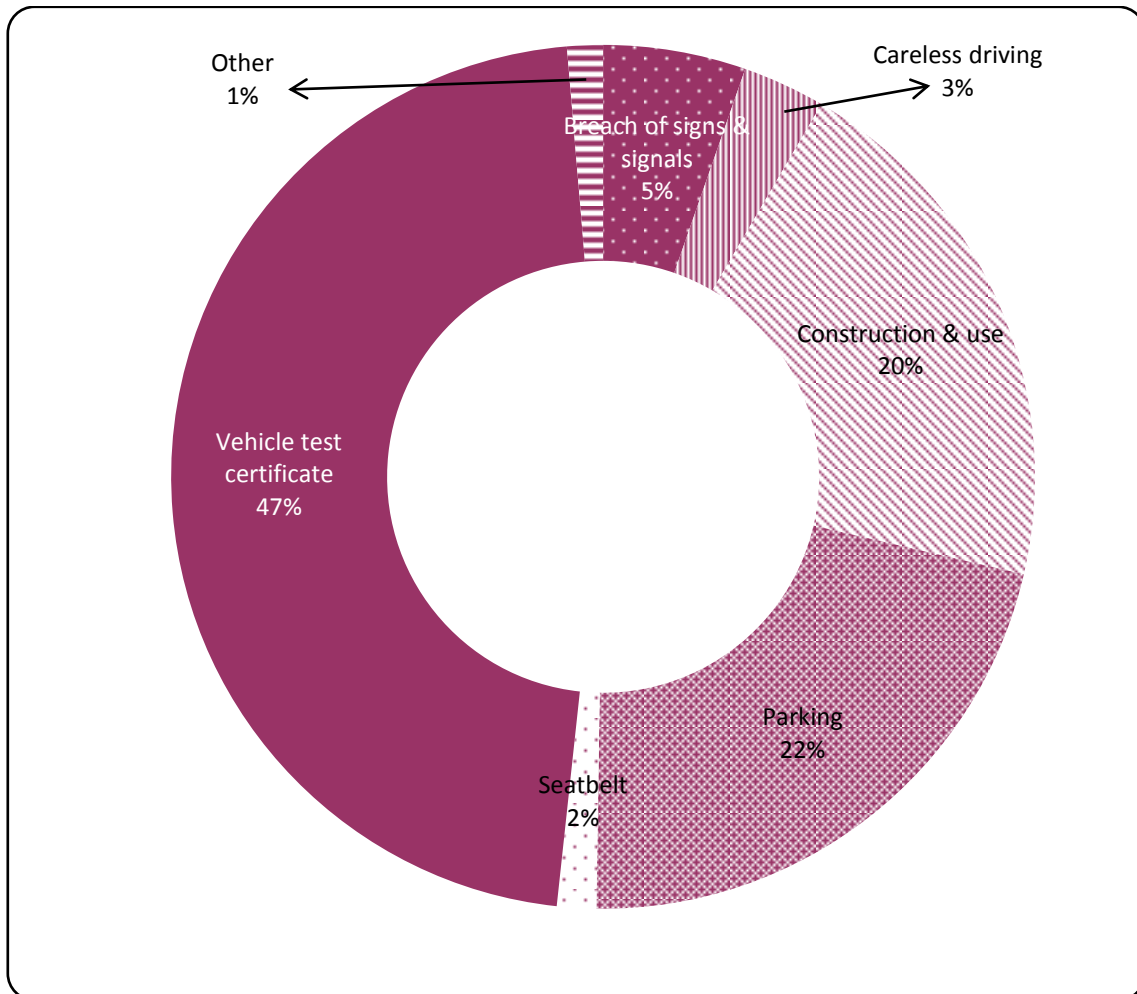
2018	Gender		Age					Total
	Male	Female	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	
Careless driving	833	304	15	332	472	273	45	1,137
Dangerous driving	325	44	11	199	102	52	5	369
Insurance	680	288	0	309	483	155	21	968
L & R driver	96	13	26	63	15	4	1	109
Miscellaneous	6	0	0	3	2	0	1	6
Mobile phone	2,993	814	22	885	1,917	918	65	3,807
Parking	19	7	0	10	9	6	1	26
Seatbelt	530	147	4	189	278	187	19	677
Speeding	4,097	1,772	56	1,958	2,550	1,177	128	5,869
Total	9,579	3,389	134	3,948	5,828	2,772	286	12,968

Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 8,000 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2018, an increase of 38.2% on the number issued in 2017. The increase can largely be attributed to the continued increase in the number of vehicle test certificate offences over the same period, due to the increased use of ANPR and also parking offences which increased by 60.2% when compared with 2017.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for one in six (15.3%) of all motoring offences. Vehicle test certificate offences accounted for almost half (47.0%) of all non endorsable issued FPNs, followed by parking offences (21.6%).

Figure 11: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2018



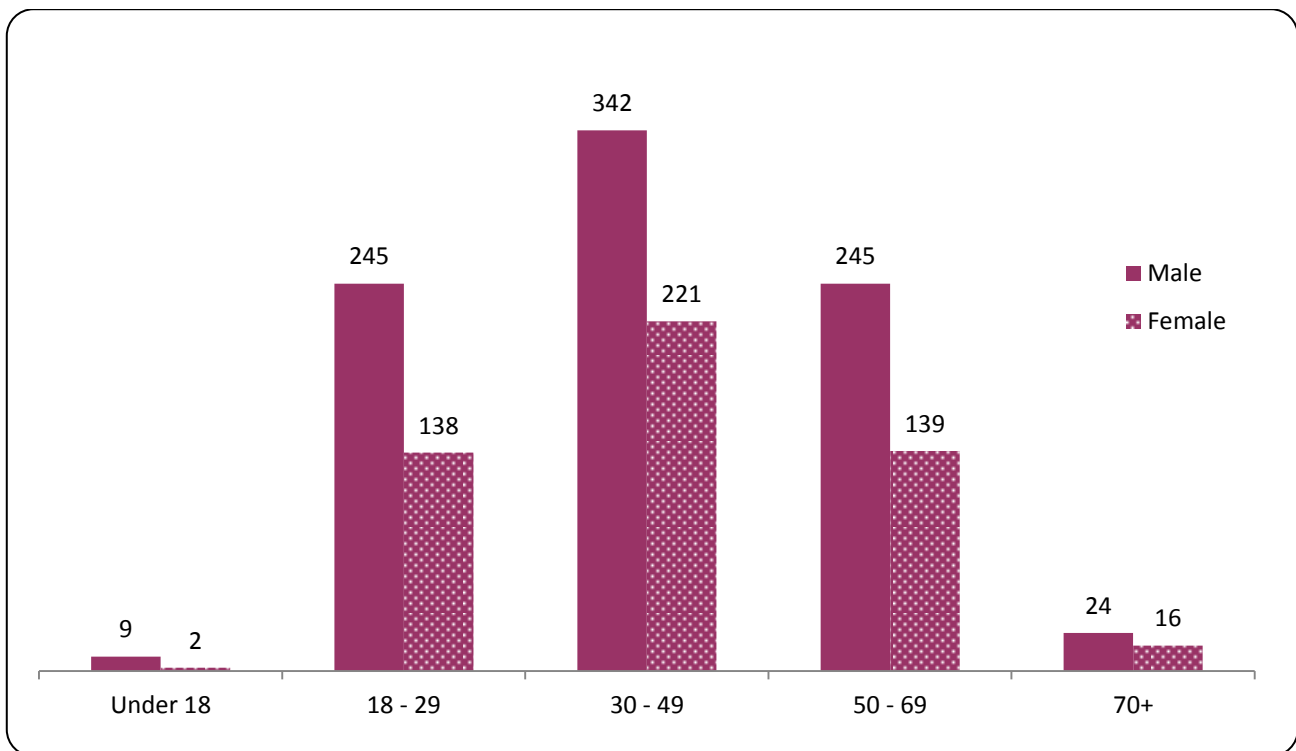
Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non motor vehicle', 'Pedestrians' and 'Speeding'.

9.2 Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, may be offered an opportunity to attend a speed awareness course as an alternative to penalty points. The course, which is available at eight locations throughout Northern Ireland and delivered and managed by an appointed contractor, must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option, for those not eligible they will be dealt with by means of an alternative disposal option.

Almost one in six (16.7%) of drivers caught speeding by police officers in 2018 completed a speed awareness course. Drivers aged 30-49 represented two-fifths (40.7%) of those who completed a course, followed by drivers aged 50-69 (27.8%).

Figure 12: Age and gender of drivers who completed a speed awareness course, 2018



Based on date of detection and not date course was completed, one persons age was unknown

9.3 Referred for prosecution

Police led prosecutions for motoring offences occur when the offence is of a serious nature and has no corresponding fixed penalty or where multiple offences have occurred or where the alleged offender wishes to have the matter(s) heard at court. Where an offending driver has already accumulated a number of penalty points, to the extent that a driving disqualification is now in scope, such cases must be heard at court and will consequently also be subject of a prosecution.

Motoring offences that have been referred for prosecution accounted for 57.1% of all motoring offences in 2018 with insurance offences making up one quarter (25.4%) of all offences referred for prosecution.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths (83.3%) of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 41.7%.

Table 9: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group, gender and age, 2018

2018	Gender			Age						Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	
Breach of signs & signals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Careless driving	2,275	718	1	92	1,113	1,061	543	177	8	2,994
Construction & use	288	27	0	16	182	90	25	2	0	315
Dangerous driving	1,191	152	1	51	681	457	131	23	1	1,344
Drink or drug driving	2,257	527	1	25	915	1,347	455	43	0	2,785
Driving licence	3,603	737	2	131	1,745	1,937	491	35	3	4,342
Driving whilst disqualified	995	116	0	63	427	516	98	7	0	1,111
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	1,974	460	3	69	968	942	329	126	3	2,437
Fraudulent use / declaration	235	34	0	4	98	132	33	2	0	269
Insurance	6,306	1,242	1	206	3,329	3,233	717	63	1	7,549
L & R driver	1,263	217	0	79	706	557	118	20	0	1,480
Miscellaneous	581	60	0	30	347	219	43	2	0	641
Mobile phone	617	117	0	2	229	392	105	6	0	734
Non motor vehicle	22	0	0	1	15	5	1	0	0	22
Parking	8	3	0	0	4	6	1	0	0	11
Pedestrian	33	7	0	5	19	11	4	1	0	40
Seatbelt	277	53	1	4	109	168	44	6	0	331
Speeding	832	180	1	38	453	398	117	6	1	1,013
Vehicle TADA / tampering	1,106	104	0	133	614	412	47	4	0	1,210
Vehicle test certificate	935	208	0	13	421	527	162	18	2	1,143
Total	24,798	4,962	11	962	12,375	12,410	3,464	541	19	29,771

10. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website.

Referred for prosecution figures from 2016 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

	2017	2018	Change	
	publication	publication	Number	%
Referred for Prosecution - 2016	33,400	33,490	90	0.3
Referred for Prosecution - 2017	31,469	33,432	1,963	6.2
Total	64,869	66,922	2,053	3.2