

Christmas drink drive campaign 2019/20

Northern Ireland

This bulletin summarises available information in relation to the PSNI Christmas drink driving campaign 2019/20, which ran from 28th November 2019 to 1st January 2020 inclusive, specifically the outcomes in terms of Preliminary Breath Tests (PBTs), arrests and evidential procedures.

These figures are provisional and subject to change, particularly for PBTs which are likely to increase as more information is uploaded to the system.

Key points:

- During the Christmas drink drive campaign from 28th November 2019 to 1st January 2020, PSNI officers conducted over 13,568 preliminary breath tests (PBTs), an increase of 1,669 (14.0%) on the campaign period last year.
- Of the 13,568 PBTs conducted, 3.6% (486) resulted in a fail or failed to provide, a lower proportion when compared with the 2018/19 campaign (4.6%).
- A total of 418 people were arrested for drink/drug driving related offences during this year's campaign, representing an increase of 29.8% compared with the same period last year (322).
- The majority of arrests were made in Belfast (73) followed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon district with 56.
- A total of 397 evidential procedures were completed, on persons ranging from 14 to 83 years old. Males accounted for the majority, with 314 (79.1%) 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 2019/20 statistics, the PBT figures are based on an extract of the data on 15th January 2020 and are likely to increase as more information is uploaded to the system. The arrest figures and evidential figures were extracted on 7th January 2020. 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	30 th Nov 2018 – 1 st Jan 2019		28 th Nov 2019 – 1 st Jan 2020		% change between 2018/19 and 2019/20
	Number	%	Number	%	
Zero	10,993	92.4%	12,782	94.2%	16.3%
Pass	327	2.7%	278	2.0%	-15.0%
Warning	36	0.3%	22	0.2%	-38.9%
Fail	396	3.3%	300	2.2%	-24.2%
Failed to Provide	147	1.2%	186	1.4%	26.5%
Total	11,899	100.0%	13,568	100.0%	14.0%

Arrests

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

District	30 th Nov 2018 – 1 st Jan 2019	28 th Nov 2019 – 1 st Jan 2020
Antrim and Newtownabbey	18	32
Ards and North Down	26	10
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	41	56
Belfast City	66	73
Causeway Coast and Glens	27	27
Derry City and Strabane	29	41
Fermanagh and Omagh	20	32
Lisburn and Castlereagh	28	31
Mid and East Antrim	16	36
Mid Ulster	26	37
Newry, Mourne and Down	25	43
Total	322	418

Evidential Procedures²

Table 3 Details of evidential procedures completed for drink / drug driving offences

30 th Nov 2018 – 1 st Jan 2019	28 th Nov 2019 – 1 st Jan 2020
Total procedures = 303	Total procedures = 397
Youngest: 14 years old	Youngest: 14 years old
Oldest: 83 years old	Oldest: 83 years old
Male: 234 (77%)	Male: 314 (79%)
Female: 69 (23%)	Female: 83 (21%)
Zero: 14	Zero: 14
1 - 34µg/100ml: 22	1 - 34µg/100ml: 40
35 - 49µg/100ml: 34	35 - 49µg/100ml: 55
50+µg/100ml: 176	50+µg/100ml: 211
No breath result: 57	No breath result: 77
Highest breath reading: 153µg	Highest breath reading: 163µg

²Evidential 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.

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh