



Motoring Offence Statistics For Northern Ireland

1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021

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PSNI Statistics Branch
Lisnasharragh
42 Montgomery Road
Belfast
BT6 9LD

Web: [PSNI Statistics](#)

☎ 02890 650222 Ext. 24135

✉ statistics@psni.police.uk

In the 12 months from 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2021:

- there were 43,435 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 14% on the 50,216 detections recorded in the previous 12 months.
- the largest offence group recorded was speeding offences with a total of 7,343 detections. This was a decrease of 16% on the number recorded in the previous 12 months.
- the highest speed detected by PSNI officers was 130mph, on the M1 Motorway, Portadown.
- Insurance offences accounted for 17% of all detections, a decrease of 891 on the number detected from August 2019 – July 2020.
- there has been a 78% decrease in the number of vehicle test certificate offences when compared with the previous 12 months. Automatic MOT renewals will likely have impacted on this decrease.



Contents

1. Things you need to know about this release
2. Summary
3. Trends
4. Age and Gender
5. Offence Group
6. Policing District
7. Further Information

We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

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).

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland from 1st August 2020 – 31st July 2021. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership (NI RSP). Figures relating to such detections through the Partnership can be accessed via the 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.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 27th September 2021. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2019 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment. The information is also available in tabular format in the [accompanying spreadsheets](#) on the PSNI website.

Background information and details of the offences included in each offence grouping (Section 6) can be found in the [Motoring Offence User Guide](#) on the PSNI website. 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.

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in March 2020 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- In November 2020, a review of the motoring offence codes was conducted to ensure all appropriate offences continue to be included in the statistics, with the referred for prosecution figures amended accordingly.
- In September 2021, a further review of the motoring offence codes was completed and as a result the offence groups were amended to better reflect the offences recorded within them.

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.

Related statistics

Sources of motoring offences data for other domains include [An Garda Síochána - Republic of Ireland](#) and [England and Wales](#). Related statistics include [Injury road traffic collision statistics](#) and [NI Road Safety Partnership](#) statistics.

2. Summary

Table 1 shows that, over the last 12 months:

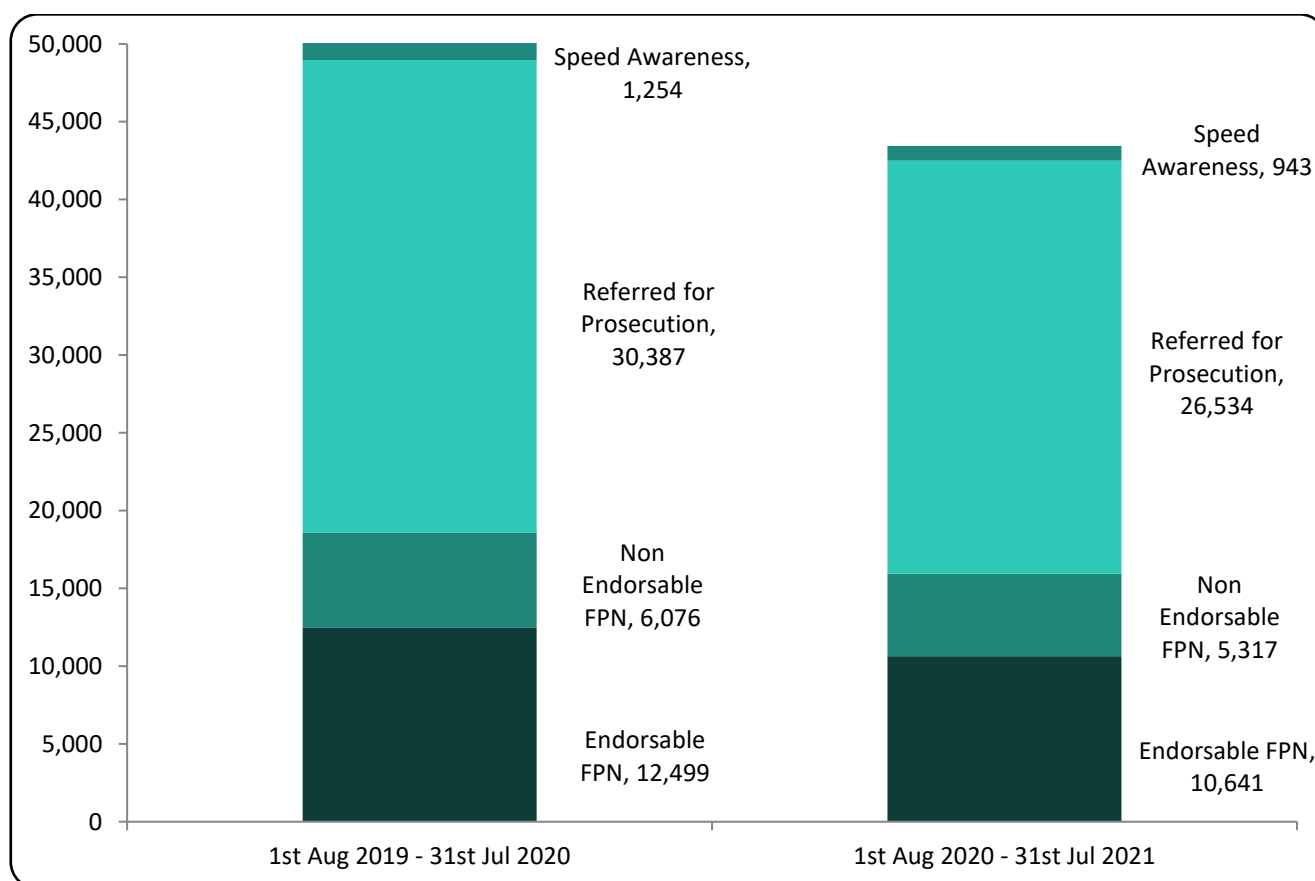
- The number of motoring offences detected fell by 14% to 43,435
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 13%
- Non endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 12%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 25%

Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2021*

	1 st Aug 2019 – 31 st Jul 2020	1 st Aug 2020 – 31 st Jul 2021	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	12,499	10,641	-1,858	-15
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	6,076	5,317	-759	-12
Referred for Prosecution	30,387	26,534	-3,853	-13
Speed Awareness Course	1,254	943	-311	-25
Total	50,216	43,435	-6,781	-14

*Figures are provisional and subject to change.

Figure 1 Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences between 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2020 and 1st August 2020 – 31st July 2021



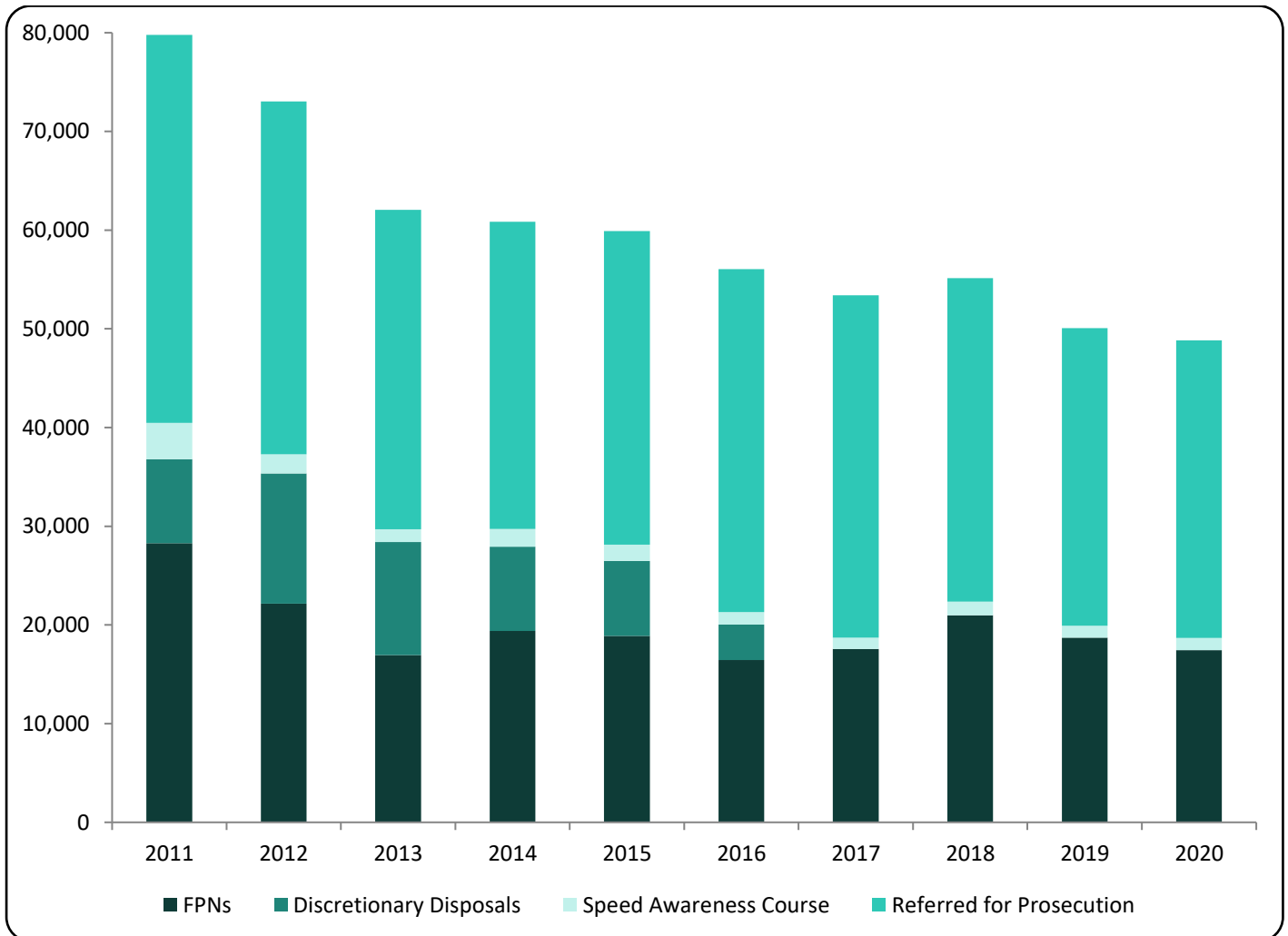
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

3. Trends

The number of motoring offences have been generally decreasing over a 9 year period from a total of 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 48,837 recorded in 2020 (see figure 2).

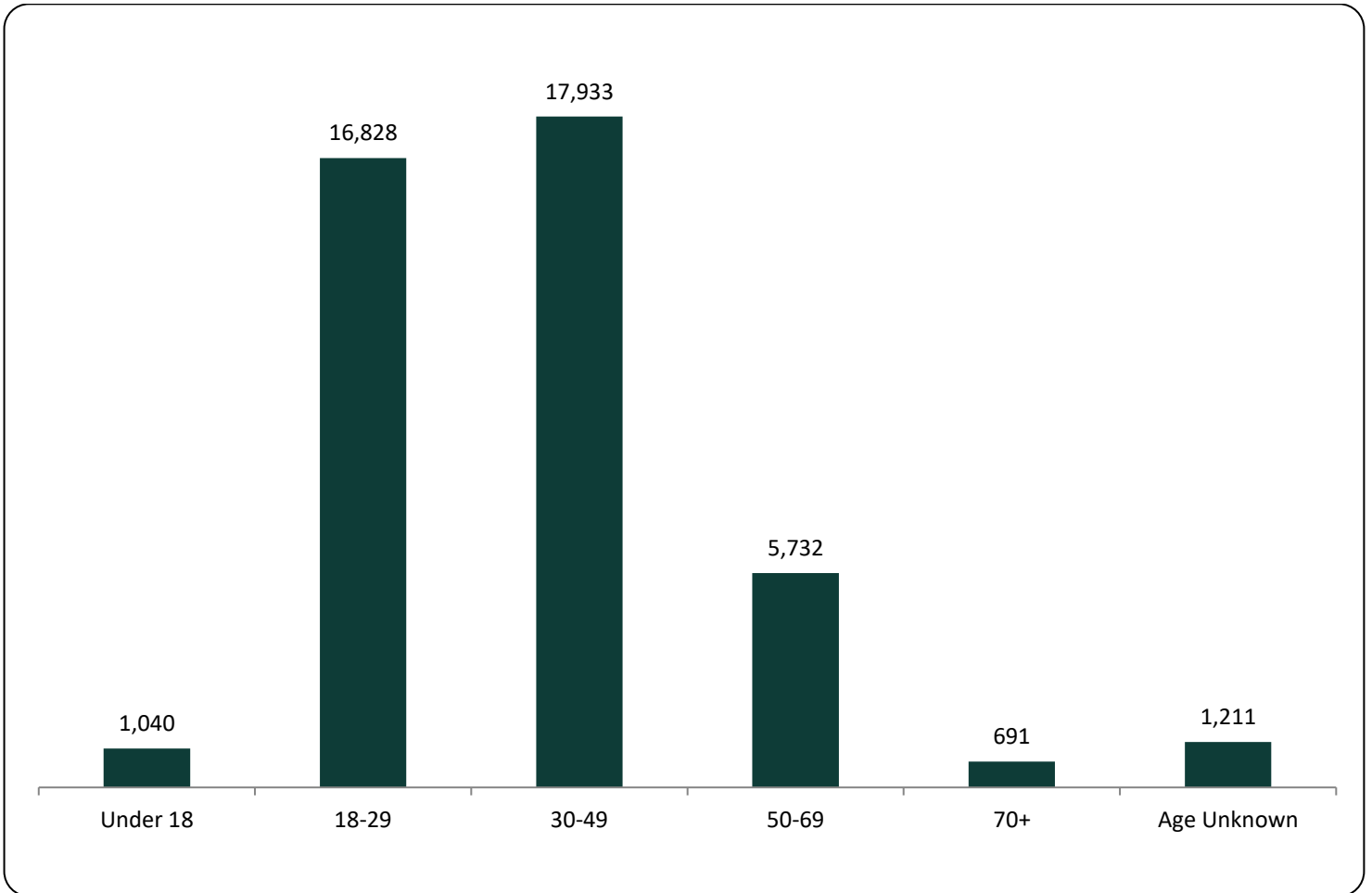
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but was then removed on 31st August 2016.

Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1st January 2011 – 31st December 2020



4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1st August 2020 – 31st July 2021



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1st August 2020 and 31st July 2021, followed by those aged 18-29 (39%). Almost all (99%) of the unknown ages refer to non endorsable offences, which can be issued in the absence of the offender and do not require licence details to process, for example parking offences.
- Males accounted for over 8 in 10 of all motoring offences detected between 1st August 2020 and 31st July 2021.

5. Offence Group

Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group¹
1st August 2020 – 31st July 2021*

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	100	236	8	1	84	106	62	10	81	344
Careless driving	842	3,002	1	62	1,452	1,475	706	141	9	3,845
Construction & use	348	2,738	4	54	1,851	813	301	31	40	3,090
Dangerous driving	198	1,518	0	43	905	578	168	22	0	1,716
Drink or drug driving	536	2,095	3	22	809	1,332	437	33	1	2,634
Driving licence	516	3,211	3	117	1,471	1,730	368	44	0	3,730
Driving whilst disqualified	67	954	0	90	303	537	83	7	1	1,021
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	383	1,843	0	77	855	928	311	52	3	2,226
Fraudulent use / declaration	42	239	0	0	96	148	32	3	2	281
Insurance	1,123	6,195	6	221	3,034	3,378	622	68	1	7,324
L & R driver	296	1,461	0	124	827	664	127	15	0	1,757
Miscellaneous	72	865	3	58	413	377	79	9	4	940
Mobile phone	476	2,352	1	8	683	1,446	631	60	1	2,829
Non driver	245	416	1	12	263	292	84	10	1	662
Parking	518	748	56	0	85	115	57	4	1,061	1,322
Seatbelt	174	669	0	14	259	376	165	29	0	843
Speeding	2,080	5,263	0	31	2,799	2,997	1,377	139	0	7,343
Vehicle TADA / tampering	89	944	0	94	486	415	34	4	0	1,033
Vehicle test certificate	96	399	0	12	153	226	88	10	6	495
Total	8,201	35,148	86	1,040	16,828	17,933	5,732	691	1,211	43,435

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

¹ Please refer to section 7 further information for more detail regarding the offence groups.

- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was speeding offences with a total of 7,343 detections, accounting for 17% of all detections for motoring offences. This was a decrease of 16% on the number recorded in the previous 12 months.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 130mph on the M1 Motorway, Portadown.
- In the latest 12 months, the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 5 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (42,780).
- Insurance offences also accounted for 17% of all offences, this was a decrease of 11% on the number recorded between August 2019 and July 2020.
- There has been a 30% increase in the number of construction and use offences when compared with August 2019 – June 2020. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in the number of FPNs issued for number plate type offences e.g. 'Incorrect form of registration mark' and 'No number plate'.
- The number of offences related to failing to stop / remain / report a collision decreased by just over one fifth during the current reporting period, reflecting the reduction in the number of collisions during 2020¹.
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- One quarter of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- There has been a 78% decrease in the number of vehicle test certificate offences when compared with the previous 12 months. Automatic MOT renewals will likely have impacted on this decrease.
- Almost one in five detections where the offender was aged under 30 was for insurance offences.
- Over three fifths of those detected for construction and use offences were aged under 30.

¹ [Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collision and Casualties Key Statistics Report 2020](#)

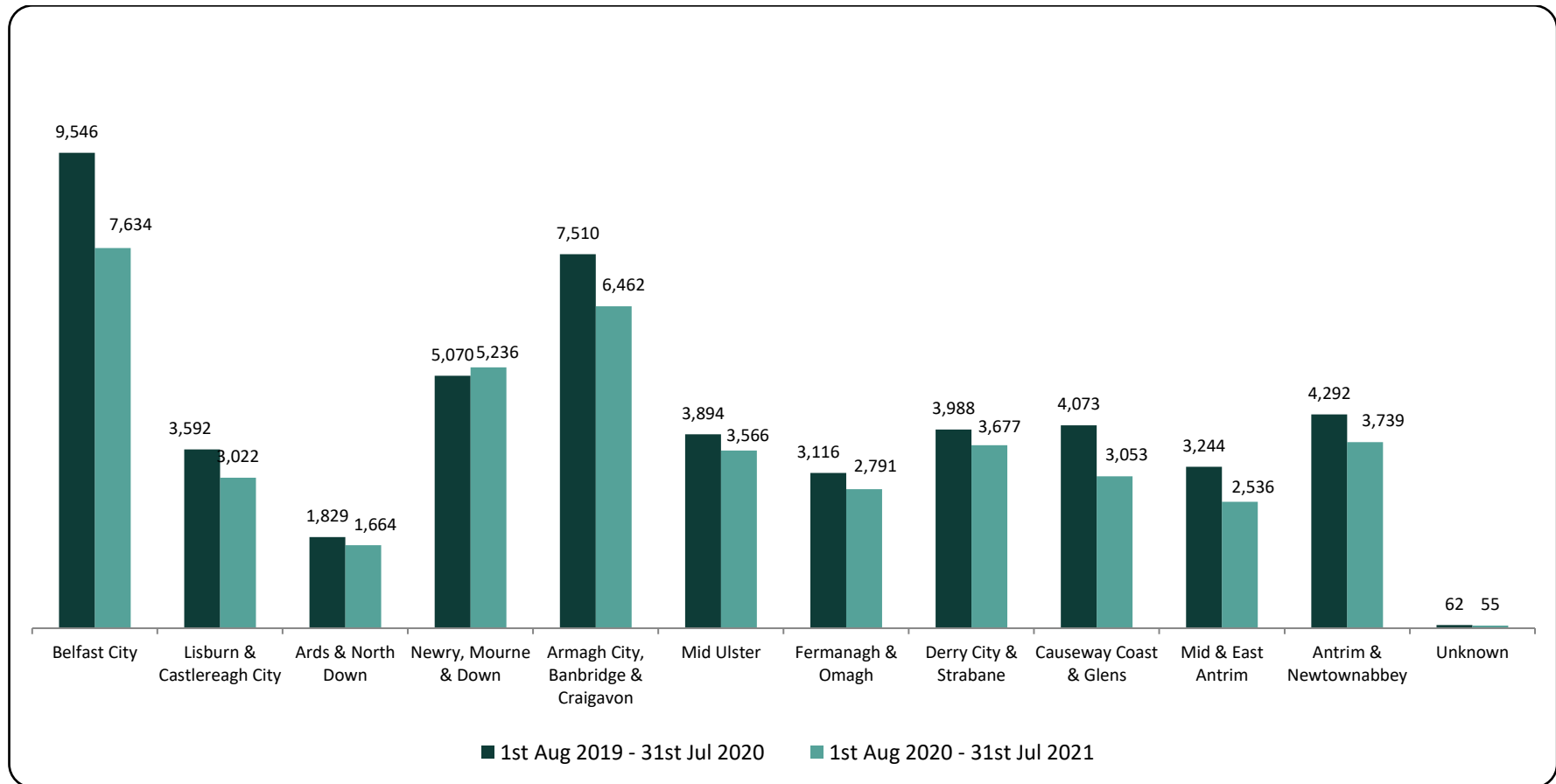
Table 3 Number of motoring offences by month and offence group¹, 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2021*

	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2020 – Jul 2021	Aug 2019 – Jul 2020	Change over last 12 months	% change over last 12 months
Breach of signs & signals	26	16	32	21	15	28	22	58	43	20	33	30	344	337	7	2
Careless driving	350	363	347	334	297	294	295	291	369	354	315	236	3,845	4,027	-182	-5
Construction & use ²	273	252	304	252	185	267	257	215	288	339	257	201	3,090	2,372	718	30
Dangerous driving	126	172	165	152	124	138	146	162	167	167	107	90	1,716	1,623	93	6
Drink or drug driving	272	281	252	239	250	189	182	187	180	221	193	188	2,634	3,252	-618	-19
Driving licence	311	352	306	347	304	290	306	348	348	319	288	211	3,730	4,305	-575	-13
Driving whilst disqualified	80	77	90	91	82	80	90	110	94	78	84	65	1,021	1,020	1	0
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	264	257	250	226	218	164	174	144	154	180	116	79	2,226	2,876	-650	-23
Fraudulent use / declaration	34	21	24	17	41	27	15	35	22	14	21	10	281	308	-27	-9
Insurance	643	649	675	668	585	612	559	673	646	562	557	495	7,324	8,215	-891	-11
L & R driver ³	140	152	153	121	146	149	148	148	157	151	161	131	1,757	1,637	120	7
Miscellaneous	93	99	84	81	76	87	82	81	75	63	62	57	940	969	-29	-3
Mobile phone	332	316	285	217	150	246	215	198	235	239	229	167	2,829	3,640	-811	-22
Non driver	77	67	65	76	57	43	45	55	45	50	47	35	662	686	-24	-3
Parking	49	79	56	26	30	61	53	313	176	163	67	249	1,322	1,718	-396	-23
Seatbelt	79	67	76	71	38	44	67	62	93	81	109	56	843	903	-60	-7
Speeding ⁴	738	710	704	731	401	462	500	638	693	705	601	460	7,343	8,700	-1,357	-16
Vehicle TADA ⁵ / tampering	94	106	99	112	92	96	86	99	88	59	46	56	1,033	1,373	-340	-25
Vehicle test certificate	34	39	24	31	25	14	27	34	48	61	72	86	495	2,255	-1,760	-78
Total	4,015	4,07	3,99	3,81	3,11	3,29	3,26	3,85	3,92	3,82	3,36	2,90	43,435	50,216	-6,781	-14

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

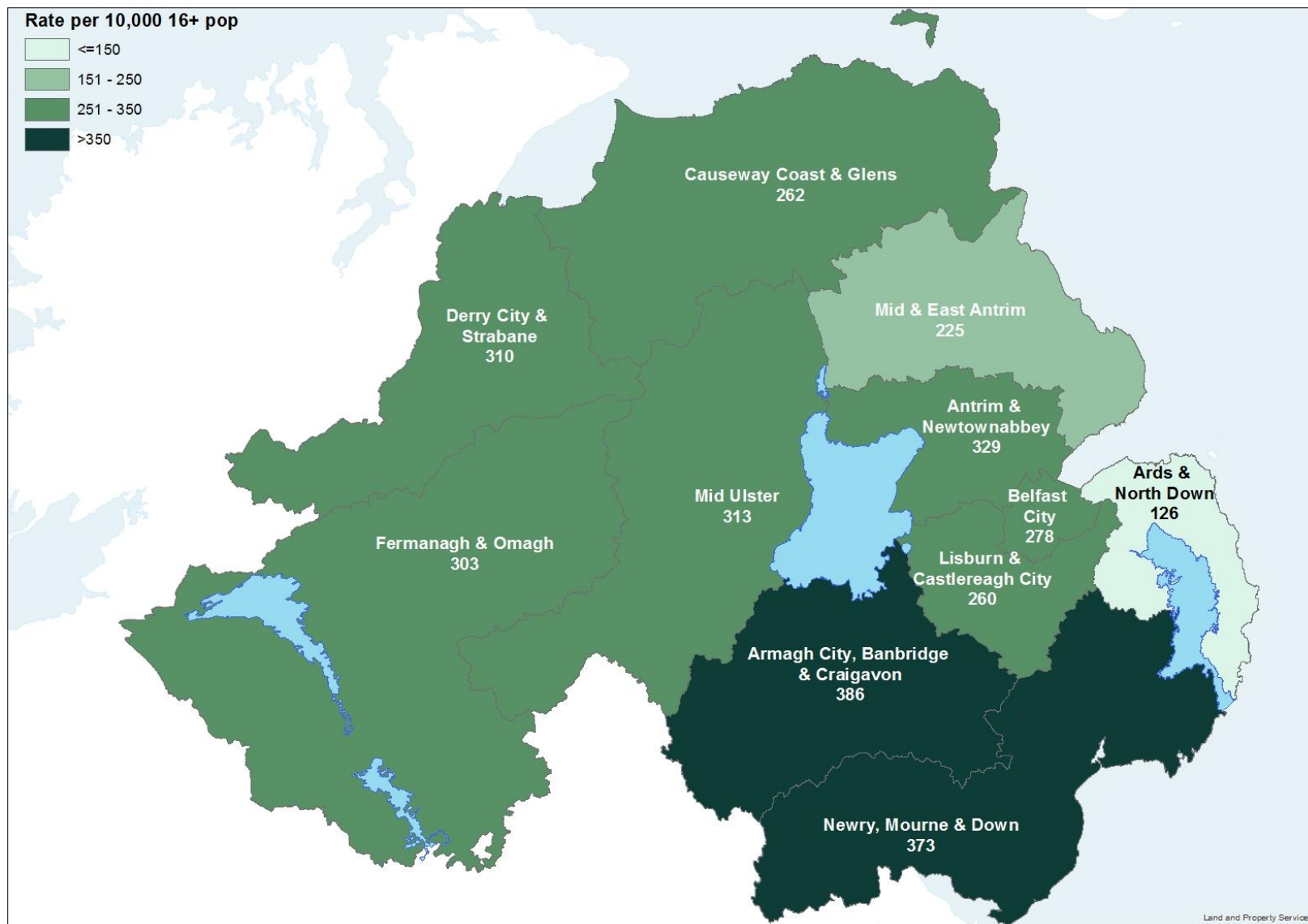
¹ Please refer to section 7 further information for more detail regarding the offence groups.

Figure 4: Number of motoring offences by Policing District: 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2021



- Figure 4 shows that 18% of motoring offences was detected in Belfast City District followed by a further 15% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon district.
- Newry, Mourne and Down saw a 3% increase in detections when compared with the previous 12 months, while all other districts experienced a decrease.

Figure 5: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population² aged 16+ by Policing District: 1st August 2020 – 31st July 2021



² Population figures sourced from [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service \(NINIS\)](#), based on mid-year population estimates for 2019.

7. Further Information

A [User Guide](#) providing detailed information on the motoring offences statistics is available on the PSNI website.

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

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.

Fixed penalty notices

Fixed penalties originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. Such was its success that it was identified as an efficient way to deal with minor road traffic offences and was expanded to encompass these matters in the mid-1980s. With the introduction of penalty points for traffic offences, the scheme was expanded to incorporate endorsable and non-endorsable offences.

Non-endorsable offences - meaning those which don't result in points on your licence incur a fine of £30. Fines for endorsable offences are £60 and three points. More serious offences such as driving without insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Other fixed penalty offences include No MOT (£60) or Vehicle Excise License (£60). Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by the NI Courts Service.

The full list of offences and groups are published on the [motoring offences section](#) of the PSNI website.

Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, August 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 (currently online due to COVID-19) 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.

Offence groups

An offence group is made up of many individual offences. For the full list of offences and groups see the [motoring offences section](#) of the PSNI website.

Careless driving

Unlike England and Wales there is not one single offence for careless driving in Northern Ireland. The careless driving offence group includes driver does not have proper control of vehicle, driving without due care and attention, overtaking on inside lane, driving on hard shoulder of motorway and reversing on motorway.

Construction and use

Construction and use offence group includes defective tyre, defective exhaust, excess noise, incorrect form of registration and no number plate offences.

L & R driver

L & R driver means learner and restricted driver offence group. Note the offence of L or R driver exceeding 45mph is included in the speeding group.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous offence group includes taxi related offences, tachograph and driver hours offences.

Non driver

The non driver offence group his includes all aiding and abetting, permitting and causing offences. It also includes non motor vehicle and pedestrian offences.

Speeding

This does not include drivers deteted speeding through the NI Road Safety Partnership.

Vehicle TADA / tampering

Vehicle TADA means Vehicle taking and driving away.

Revisions

Figures for 2020 were finalised in March 2021. Figures from January 2021 onwards are currently provisional and subject to ongoing quality assurance and minor amendment, primarily due to the time taken to process all offences, particularly those referred for prosecution or completing a speed awareness course.

To demonstrate the scale of revisions, updated figures for January – June are provided in the table below:

	Last Month Publication	This month publication	Change	Percentage change
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	5,136	5,226	90	1.8
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	2,969	2,978	9	0.3
Referred for Prosecution	12,073	12,829	756	6.3
Speed Awareness Course	442	490	48	10.9
Total	20,620	21,523	903	4.4