

Security Statistics

User feedback and comments along with response/action taken

Updated July 2014

User feedback/comment	
Comments from 2014 User Survey	PSNI's Statistics Branch response/action taken
<p>It would be great if you could post historical data about the Security Situation (at least from the start of the Troubles)</p>	<p>Historic information is currently available on the Security Statistics part of the website in an excel spreadsheet. Deaths due to the security situation are available from 1969. Paramilitary Style Assaults (PSA) from 1973, Security Related Incidents from 1969, Firearms and Explosives Finds from 1969 and those arrested under the Terrorism Act (2000) are available from its enactment in February 2001. http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_security_situation_statistics.htm</p>
<p>It would be helpful to know the no. of persons charged under terrorism legislation following a s. 41 arrest. The report gives the no. of people charged under any legislation following a s.41 arrest. NIO produces an annual report that gives the no. of people charged with a terrorism offence, but they were not necessarily arrested under s.41, it could have been a PACE arrest. Thus there is a gap in terms of knowing the no. of persons arrested under s.41 who are subsequently charged with a terrorist offence.</p>	<p>1) The statistics on persons arrested under S41 or the Terrorism Act who are subsequently charged with an offence under the Terrorism Act is currently not reported by PSNI, but we do provide this information to the NIO for inclusion in their annual Terrorism Statistics reports.</p> <p>2) Within PSNI, any arrests for a terrorism related offence are made under S41 of the Terrorism Act and not under PACE. So the S41 Terrorism Act arrest statistics reported by PSNI cover all terrorism related arrests in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>I like to see which of the custody suites in which persons were detained were non-designated during the relevant period, and this isn't readily apparent from the stats report. However, I appreciate that it might not be appropriate to include that information in a statistical report and I can obtain this information through other means.</p>	<p>There are no longer non-designated custody suites in the PSNI estate.</p>
<p>Why are PACE detention stats so late in being published compared to other stats?</p>	<p>PACE detention statistics are published within 10 weeks of the end of the financial year. This allows time for validation of the information and for those in Statistics Branch to meet other publication deadlines.</p>
<p>I know that statistics can't reveal the whole picture and that not everything is quantifiable, but they can be a good starting point and are helpful for identifying trends and initiating conversations around certain issues. By way of examples... A combination of PSNI and NIO stats reveal that section 41 terrorist arrests result in a small no. of charges and an even smaller no. of charges for terrorism offences. When you look at the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation's annual report the past couple of years,</p>	<p>It is very difficult to link cases across the various criminal justice agencies to provide the information referred to and at the moment, this can only be achieved through a manual trawl of the data which is resource intensive and cost prohibitive.</p>

<p>he provides figures that he obtained from the Court Service which show a smaller number again of those charges go to court, and perhaps only a couple each year result in a conviction. It would be great if there was a way of tracking cases throughout the criminal justice system, if police stats linked into PPS and Court Service stats. However, I know that's probably unrealistic, and I recognise that of the aforementioned organisations, the police seem to be the only one that collects and publishes statistics on a regular basis. I find the statistical branch in PSNI to be really helpful and the reports themselves to be comprehensive and well presented.</p>	
<p>Comments from 2011 Survey are updated below</p>	<p>PSNI's Statistics Branch response/action taken</p>
<p>User Survey: (Internal) Recent stats that I have seen are not up-to-date.</p>	<p>The issue of timeliness is under constant review but this needs to be balanced with the need for careful validation of each of the statistics and publications before release. It isn't currently feasible to make more up to date management information on the PSNI's security statistics available within PSNI in advance of the publically available statistics published each month.</p>
<p>User Survey: (Internal) PSNI stats are poor and as such other agencies present this data in a more structured and informed layout.</p>	<p>Statistics Branch continues to work closely with users of the statistics to ensure that we are meeting their needs in terms of structure and layout. We have made a variety of improvements to the statistics over the last number of years and continue to strive to improve these further.</p>
<p>User Survey: (Internal) Is there any way of reducing the time lag of the statistics published?</p>	<p>The issue of timeliness is under constant review but this needs to be balanced with the need for careful validation of each of the statistics and publications before release. It isn't currently feasible to make more up to date management information on the PSNI's security statistics available within PSNI in advance of the publically available statistics published each month.</p>
<p>User Survey: (Internal) Could monthly updates be broken down by area?</p>	<p>Further disaggregation of the data could result of a breach in our disclosure rules so this is kept under constant review.</p>
<p>User Survey: (Internal) It would be useful to have the stats in Excel so they could be drilled down more.</p>	<p>Security Statistics are now available in Excel format covering security statistics back to 1969 by month. These are available from the PSNI website http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_security_situation_statistics.htm</p>
<p>User Survey: (External) There can be too much details in these reports.</p>	<p>The content of the reports has been improved over recent years and the commentary has been developed in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics to meet the needs of a variety of users.</p>

<p>User Survey: (External) No monthly breakdown to determine if trends are seasonal.</p>	<p>Security Statistics are now available in Excel format covering security statistics back to 1969 by month. These are available from the PSNI website http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_security_situation_statistics.htm .</p>
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General feedback not requiring a response

User survey: I find Stats Branch staff extremely helpful and knowledgeable