

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2016

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016)

Published 12 May 2016

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This monthly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2015/16, which runs from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. Knife and sharp instrument crime figures for each financial year 2007/08 to 2015/16 are also included in this bulletin.

A range of more detailed tables are available in the [summary tables](#) and [pivot table data](#) which accompany this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES section, on [pages 17 and 18](#) of this bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2015/16 will be available in July/August 2016. The next monthly update covering the 12 months to 30th April 2016 will be published on 2nd June 2016.

Assessment of police recorded crime in Northern Ireland

In January 2014 the UK Statistics Authority cancelled the designation of police recorded crime statistics in England & Wales because of concerns regarding the quality and integrity of their statistics; the lack of assurance of the data integrity in Scotland also resulted in the designation of these statistics being cancelled in July 2014.

As a result of these concerns, the Authority commenced an assessment of police recorded crime in Northern Ireland in June 2014. In addition to this assessment, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) were invited to conduct a crime data integrity audit within PSNI during September 2014 similar to those they conducted in England & Wales during 2014. The outcome of the audit was published on 19th March 2015 in the report [Crime data integrity – inspection of the Police Service of Northern Ireland](#). The main findings in relation to data quality were:

- a crime recording accuracy rate of 97 per cent with a confidence interval of +/-2 per cent;
- 98 per cent of crimes correctly classified; and
- 84 per cent recorded within the 72-hour limit allowed under the Home Office Counting Rules.

The UK Statistics Authority assessment was concluded after the publication of the HMIC report; the Authority's [assessment report Number 301 Statistics on Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland \(Police Service of Northern Ireland\)](#) was published on 28th May. This report judged that the police recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland can be designated as National Statistics. A letter of confirmation as National Statistics was published on 18th February 2016.

Introduction of Action Fraud within Northern Ireland: From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland will be provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. As a result, this bulletin contains a section on 'other fraud' which presents combined PSNI and Action Fraud figures covering the last two years. All other sections within the bulletin present figures on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud'.

Change to policing boundaries as a result of implementing the Review of Public Administration: As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. While previously published figures were based on a best approximation to the new boundaries, figures in this bulletin are based on the fully implemented boundaries.

The level of geographic information required to allocate crime records to the new boundaries was insufficient for the financial years 1998/99 to 2000/01. For this reason, comparison of crime at policing district level is only available for the financial years dating back to 2001/02.

While being only one policing district, Belfast City accounts for approximately one third of all crime recorded in Northern Ireland. It includes four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West). To assist with district level comparisons, crime figures for each of these local policing teams are provided in this bulletin.

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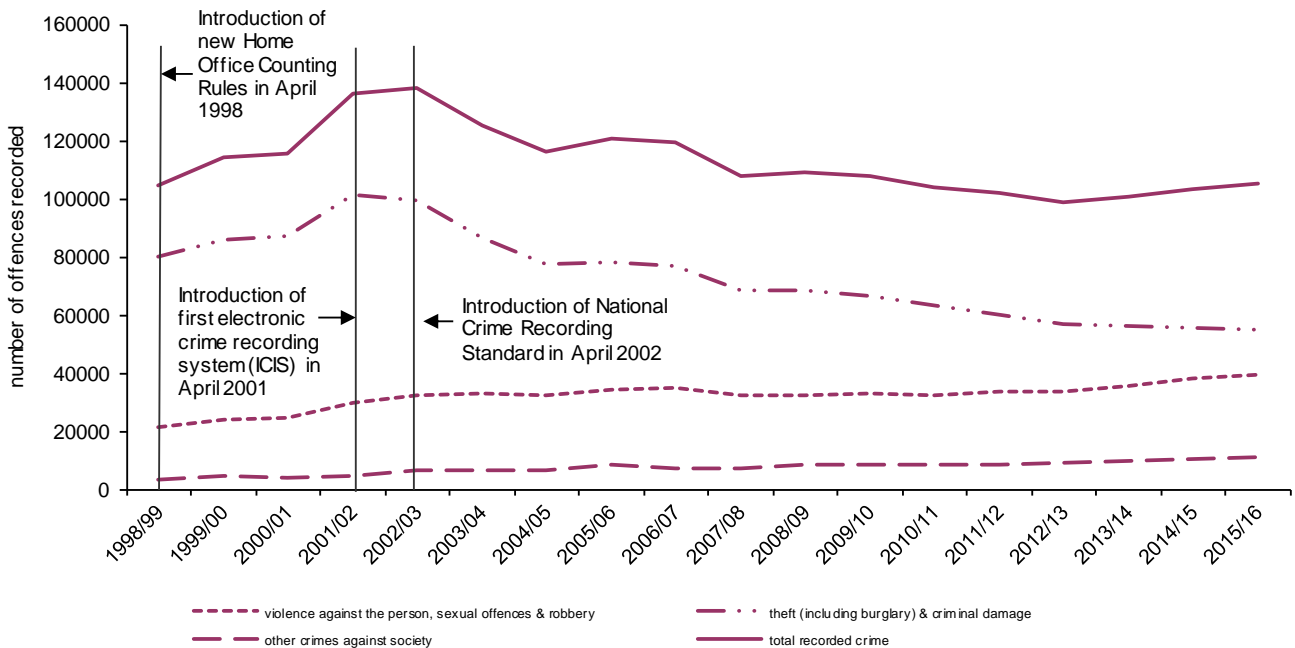
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OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2015/16 (excluding fraud)

- Crime has shown an overall downwards trend over the last twelve years. It reached a peak of 138,132 in 2002/03 and fell to 98,558 in 2012/13, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 (the first year for which crime data comparable under the revised Home Office Counting Rules is available). Crime has risen over the last three years to 105,023 in 2015/16. The level of crime recorded in 2015/16 shows an increase of 1.8 per cent on the previous year and is the seventh lowest crime figure recorded since 1998/99. This represents 57 crimes per 1,000 population, compared with a level of 81 crimes per 1,000 population when crime was at its highest level in 2002/03.

Figure 1 Trends in recorded crime, 1998/99 to 2015/16



- The overall downwards trend in crime over the last twelve years has generally been experienced within the main crime types of robbery, burglary and vehicle offences. In 2015/16 each of these crime types recorded their lowest levels since the start of the data series in 1998/99. The number of robbery offences is one third of the peak level in 2002/03, burglary levels have more than halved since they reached a peak in 2002/03 and vehicle offences are less than one quarter of the number recorded in 2002/03.
- Offences of violence against the person showed a general upwards trend between 1998/99 and 2006/07. The level fell again in 2007/08 and figures remained fairly constant until 2012/13. Levels have since risen in each of the last three financial years, with 2015/16 showing a 4.2 per cent increase on 2014/15 to become the highest level recorded since 1998/99.
- Sexual offences have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01. At 3,037, the figure for 2015/16 is the highest level recorded since 1998/99 and is almost three times the level recorded in 2000/01.
- Theft offences (including theft from person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and other theft) reached a peak in 2001/02 before falling to the lowest level recorded in 2007/08. From 2007/08 there was a general upwards trend to 2014/15 in the number of such theft offences recorded. Between 2014/15 and 2015/16 the number of offences fell by 4.5% to the seventh lowest level since 1998/99.
- Criminal damage was at its highest level in 2001/02 (39,748 offences). There has been a general downwards trend since, reaching its lowest level in 2014/15 (half the number of offences recorded in 2002/03). The level recorded in 2015/16 is the first increase seen in the past ten years.
- Drug offences are at their highest level since 1998/99. The number of such offences has increased year on year since 2006/07. Offences of this nature can be influenced by police activities (see Section 2.1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#)), for example Operation Torus, a high profile operation specifically targeted at 'street level drug dealing' which started during 2012 has continued during 2015/16.
- Possession of weapons offences showed an upwards trend between 1998/99 (351 recorded) and 2009/10 (804 recorded) before falling each year to a level of 651 in 2012/13. Levels have increased again in each of the last three financial years, reaching 923 in 2015/16 which is the highest level recorded since 1998/99.

- Public order offences were at their highest during 2005/06, reaching a level of 2,007. Levels have fluctuated since then with a mainly downwards trend since 2009/10. At 1,447 offences, 2014/15 experienced the lowest level recorded since the peak in 2005/06; the level has risen slightly to 1,470 in 2015/16.
- The number of miscellaneous crimes against society has tended to fluctuate over the years with no real trend emerging. The latest figure of 2,877 is the highest seen since 1998/99, when 1,498 offences were recorded.

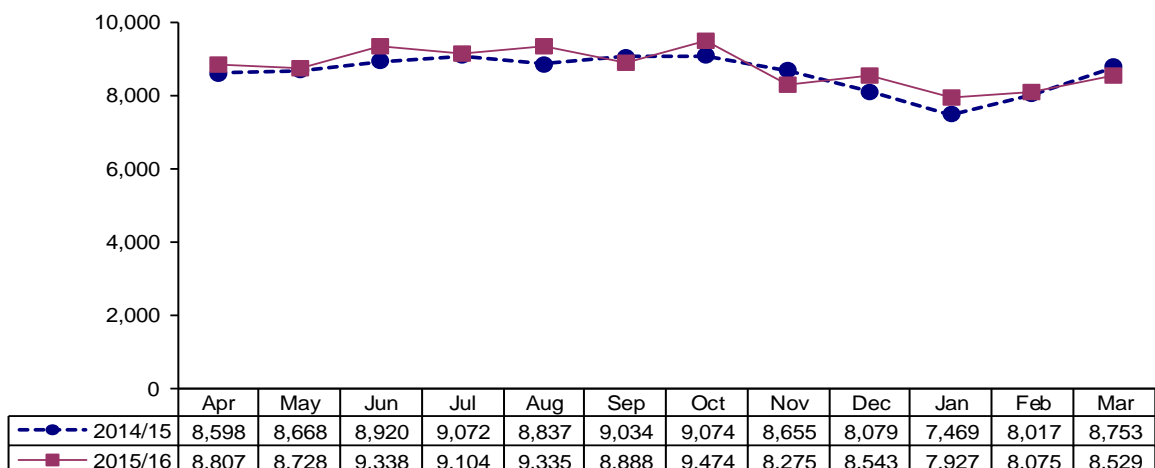
OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 2001/02 TO 2015/16: POLICING DISTRICTS (excluding fraud)

- Most policing districts showed peaks in crime levels around 2001/02 and 2002/03 (Belfast City, Lisburn & Castlereagh City, Ards & North Down, Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid & East Antrim and Antrim & Newtownabbey Districts) with Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Derry City & Strabane and Causeway Coast & Glens Districts showing their highest crime levels in 2005/06 and 2006/07. Crime levels were at their lowest in most districts during 2012/13 and 2013/14. Rising trends have been seen again in Belfast City and Lisburn & Castlereagh City policing districts over the last four years; the lowest crime level in these districts was in 2011/12. Crime in Causeway Coast & Glens reached its lowest level in 2015/16, levels fell in Mid & East Antrim between 2014/15 and 2015/16 and Mid Ulster and Derry City & Strabane showed a similar crime level over the same time period.
- In 2015/16 Belfast City policing district experienced the highest crime level in the last nine years. There are four local policing teams based in Belfast City policing district (which accounts for approximately one third of all crime in Northern Ireland). While the local policing team based in Strandtown (East) experienced the highest level in the last eleven years in 2014/15, levels have since fallen by 4.7 percentage points in 2015/16. The Tennent Street local policing team (North) has seen the highest level of crime recorded since 2003/04, the Lisburn Road local policing team (South) has experienced the highest level in the last nine years and the Woodbourne local policing team (West) has seen the level reach a six year high.
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City policing district experienced an increase of 11.8 percentage points in the crime level in 2015/16 when compared with 2014/15, the highest level of crime seen in the district for the last nine years.
- Ards & North Down and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon showed their lowest crime level during 2012/13, however the crime level has since increased in each of the last three financial years.
- Antrim & Newtownabbey and Fermanagh & Omagh districts reached their lowest level of crime recorded in 2013/14. The level has since increased in both 2014/15 and 2015/16.

COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2014/15: OVERALL CRIME (excluding fraud)

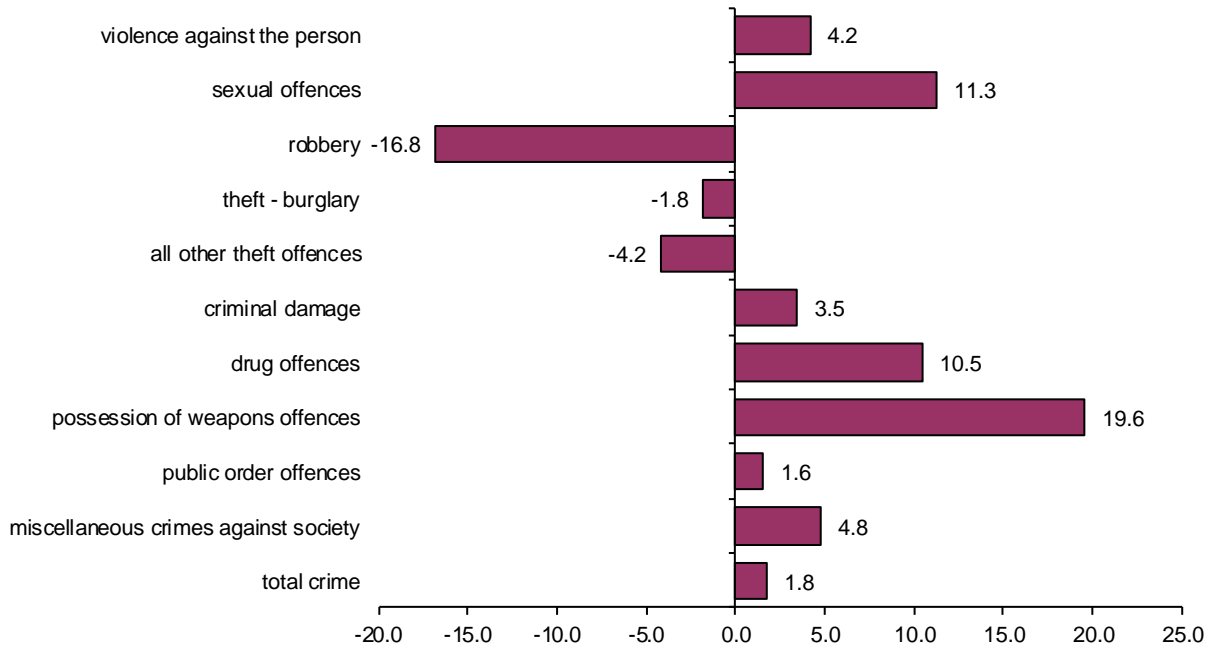
- Crime rose by 1.8 per cent between 2014/15 and 2015/16. Crime levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2015/16 with the same month in 2014/15, albeit at a higher level in nine of the months during 2015/16. The exceptions were September and November 2015 and March 2016. The largest monthly difference was seen in January, with the level in 2016 being 6.1 per cent higher than that during 2015.

Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, 2014/15 and 2015/16



As can be seen in figure 3 below, seven of the main crime types showed an increase in the number of crimes recorded when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15 with three showing decreases.

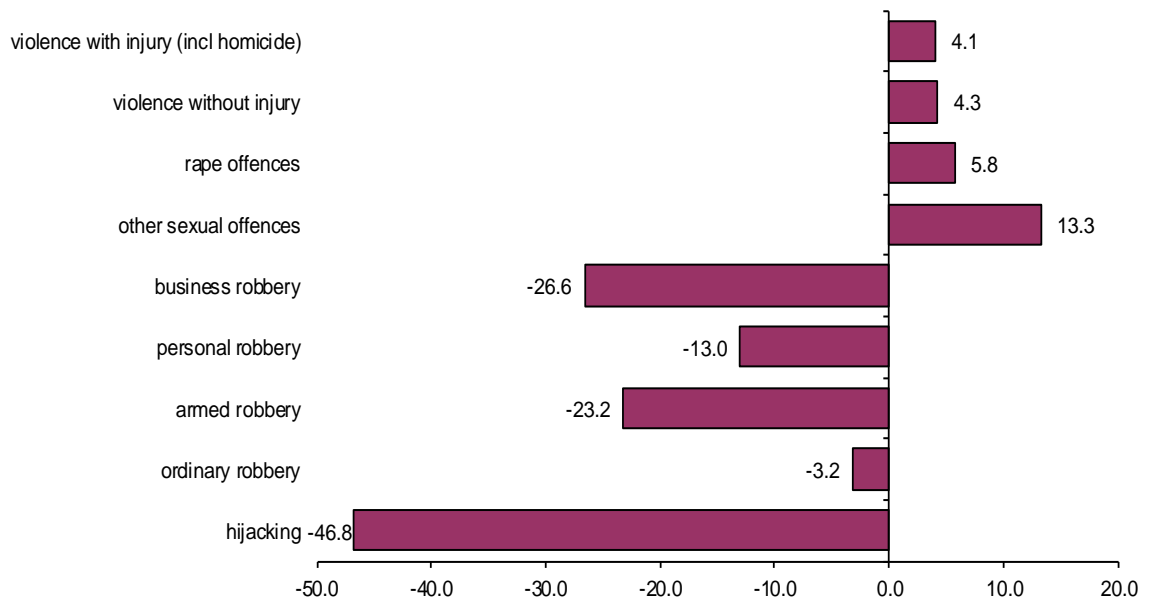
Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2014/15: VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON, SEXUAL OFFENCES AND ROBBERY

Figure 4 below shows a more detailed breakdown of offences involving violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. Please note that the breakdown of robbery offences is shown in two different ways; a split by business and personal robbery and a separate split into armed robbery, ordinary robbery and hijacking.

Figure 4 Percentage change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15

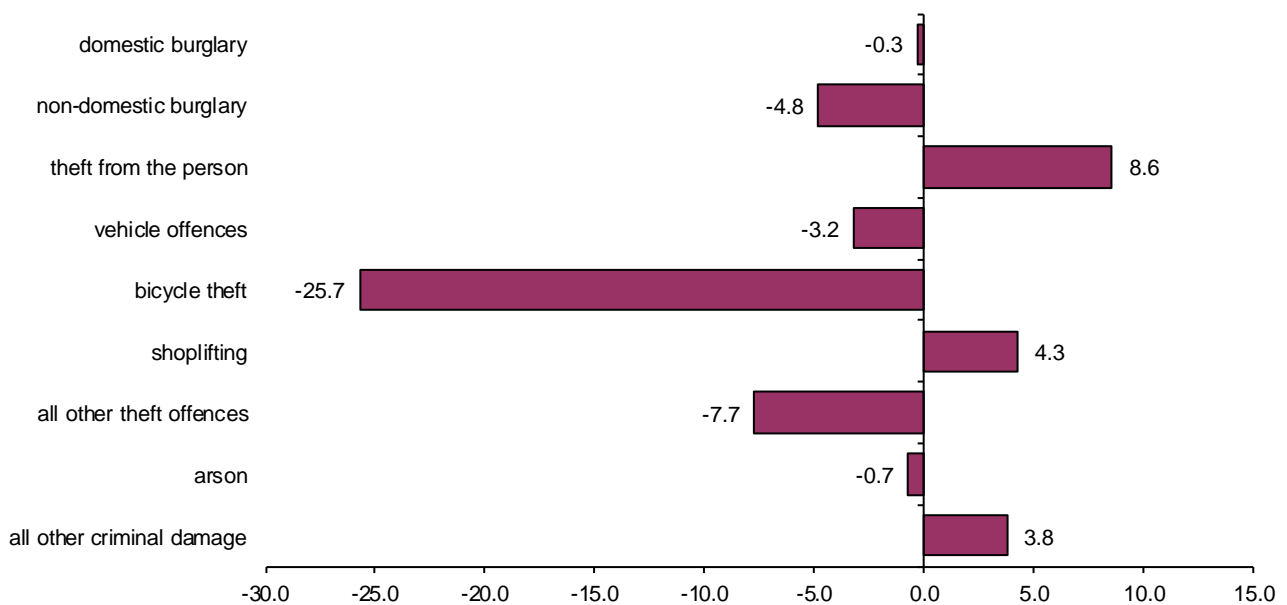


- In 2015/16 there were 21 murders, five more than the level recorded in 2014/15. There were no offences of manslaughter or corporate manslaughter recorded. The number of offences of violence against the person with injury increased by 598 when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15.

- There was an increase of 859 in the number of offences of violence against the person without injury, primarily made up of an increase of 839 in offences of assault without injury and an increase of 167 in cruelty to children/young persons (twice the level recorded in 2014/15). There was a decrease of 228 offences in harassment (which includes both harassment and intimidation offences).
- There were increases in the number of offences of assault on police, both with injury (23) and without injury (78).
- Offences of rape increased by 43 to 780, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series. The increase in the number of rape offences recorded during 2014/15 may in part be due to clarification received from the Home Office in relation to the issue of consent. This is an area that has been the subject of considerable debate from a crime recording perspective. [Crown Prosecution Service guidance](#) on the subject was issued to police forces which assisted with the application of the rules for recording rape offences set out by the Home Office.
- There were 153 more sexual assault offences and sexual activity offences rose by 99. More information on the reporting of historic sexual offences will be available in July/August when the more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2015/16 will be published.
- Robbery offences fell to the lowest level recorded in the data series since 1998/99 and a fall of 70.7 per cent when compared to the peak recorded in 2002/03. Business robbery showed a decrease of 66 when compared with 2014/15 and personal robbery fell by 82 to a level of 550 offences. Armed robbery fell by 84, ordinary robbery fell by 13 and hijacking offences fell by 51 when compared to 2014/15.

COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2014/15: THEFT (INCLUDING BURGLARY) AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Figure 5 Percentage change in theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15

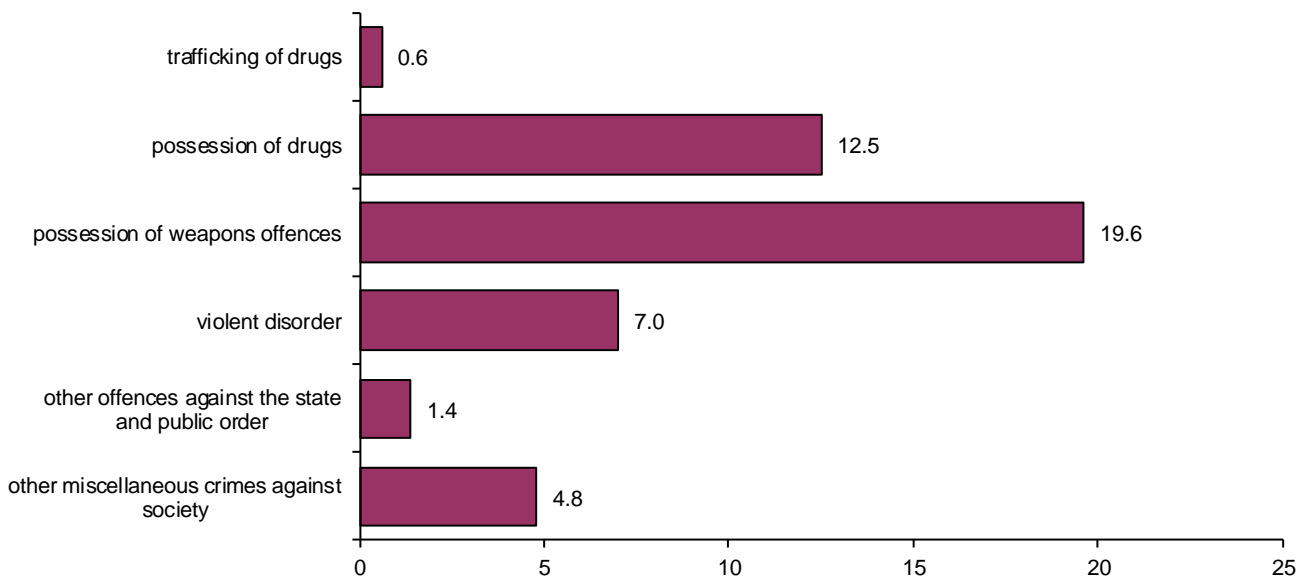


- Non-domestic burglary fell by 147 to its lowest recorded level of 2,917, domestic burglary decreased by 17 to a level of 5,856.
- Vehicle offences decreased between 2014/15 and 2015/16 to 4,925 offences, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99. Within vehicle offences, theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle fell by 255 to 1,429 while theft from a vehicle fell by 37 to 2,671. However offences of aggravated vehicle taking rose by 32 and interfering with a motor vehicle rose by 96.
- Theft from the person showed an increase when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15, from 514 offences to 558, while bicycle theft fell by 248 to 718, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99.
- Shoplifting rose by 278 to a level of 6,773, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series in 1998/99.

- The category containing all other theft offences showed a decrease of 1,033 from 13,443 recorded in 2014/15 to 12,410 in 2015/16. Within this category there was a decrease of 428 in offences of making off without payment with the level falling to 1,247. There was also a decrease of 572 in the classification of other theft to 9,956. At 223 offences the category of blackmail has risen to the highest level recorded since 1998/99, almost three times the level recorded during 2014/15.
- Arson offences fell by 10 in 2015/16 the level has remained fairly similar to the level over the previous three financial years. Within all other criminal damage offences, criminal damage to a vehicle increased by 229, criminal damage to a dwelling increased by 286 and other criminal damage rose by 208 offences while criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling which fell by 27 offences.

COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2014/15: OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Figure 6 Percentage change in other crimes against society, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



- Possession of drugs rose by 524 to 4,701, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series. At 876, trafficking of drugs remains similar to the level recorded in 2014/15 (871 offences).
- Possession of weapons offences rose by 151 from 772 to 923, the highest level recorded since 1998/99. Public order offences rose slightly in 2015/16 to 1,470 offences overall with both offences of violent disorder (including riots) rising by 3 and other offences against the state and public order rising by 20. Within other offences against the state and public order, breach of non-molestation orders recorded fell by 44. However bomb hoax related offences increased by 53 to 200 (similar to the level recorded in 2013/14).
- Miscellaneous crimes against society showed an increase of 131 offences. There were increases of 163 in offences relating to obscene publications and protected sexual material and of 57 in offences of threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage. There was also an increase of 49 in the dangerous driving classification. However, the classifications of other forgery and fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records both experienced a decrease of 77 and 78 offences respectively.

OUTCOME RATES (excluding fraud)

Figure 7 Trends in Outcome Rates, 1998/99 to 2015/16

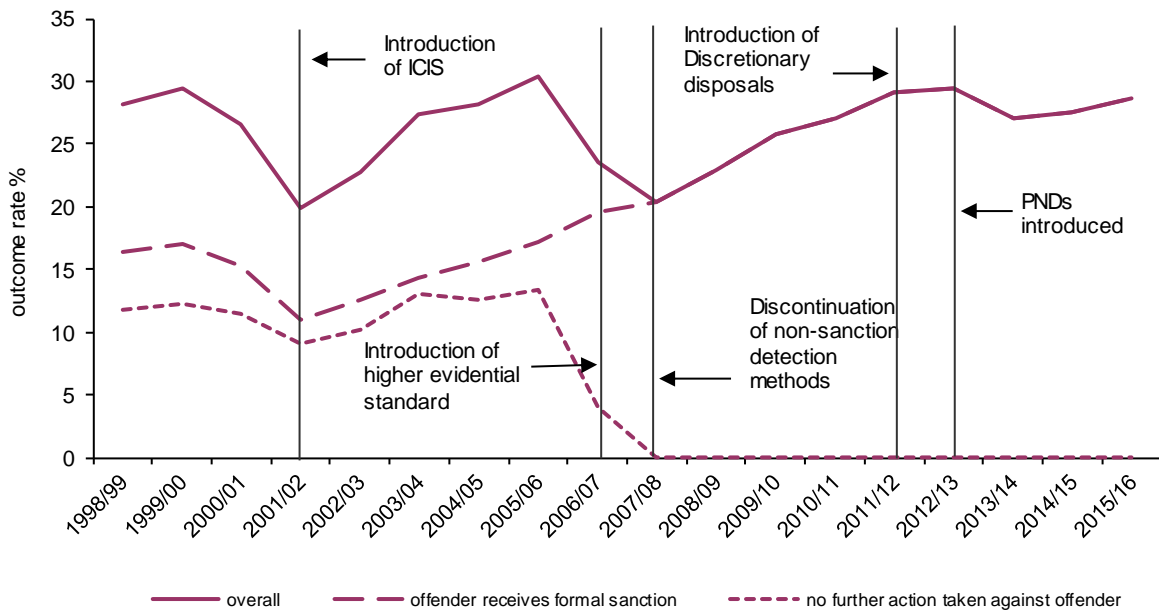


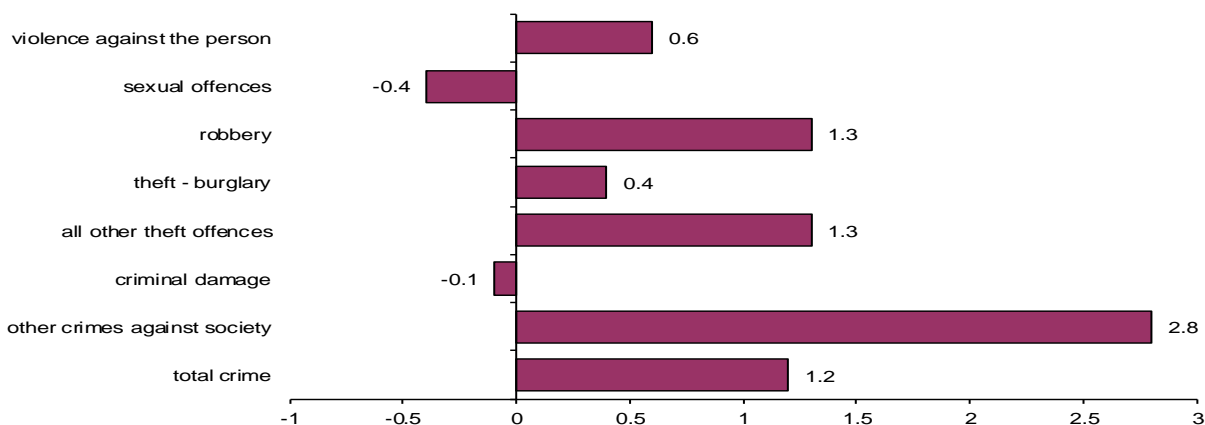
Figure 7 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate since 1998/99, split by those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction (including discretionary disposals) and those where no further action is taken against the offender. Northern Ireland experienced a drop in the outcome rate of 7 percentage points between 2000/01 and 2001/02, most likely influenced by the introduction of the ICIS system within PSNI. This system improved the capture of low level crimes such as criminal damage which tend to be harder to detect.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. This resulted in a fall in the outcome rate, from 30.4% in 2005/06 to 23.5% in 2006/07. From April 2007 some of the methods allowed for claiming outcomes where no further action was taken against the offender were discontinued altogether, and the overall outcome rate within Northern Ireland fell further, from 23.5% in 2006/07 to 20.4% in 2007/08. Since this date the overall outcome rate and the outcome rate for offences where the offender receives a formal sanction rates have essentially been the same. For this reason detailed outcome rates are now being compared from 2007/08 onwards.

The outcome rate rose each year from 2007/08 to 2012/13 when it reached 29.4%. The rate then fell to 27.1% in 2013/14 before increasing to 27.5% in 2014/15 and again by 1.2 percentage points to 28.7% in 2015/16. PSNI introduced discretionary disposals during 2011/12; these contributed 2.9% to the outcome rate in 2011/12, 3.1% in 2012/13, 2.6% in 2013/14, 3.1% in 2014/15 and 3.9% in 2015/16. Penalty notices for disorder, introduced in June 2012, contributed 0.4% to the outcome rate in 2012/13, 0.8% in 2013/14, 0.9% in 2014/15 and 1.0% in 2015/16.

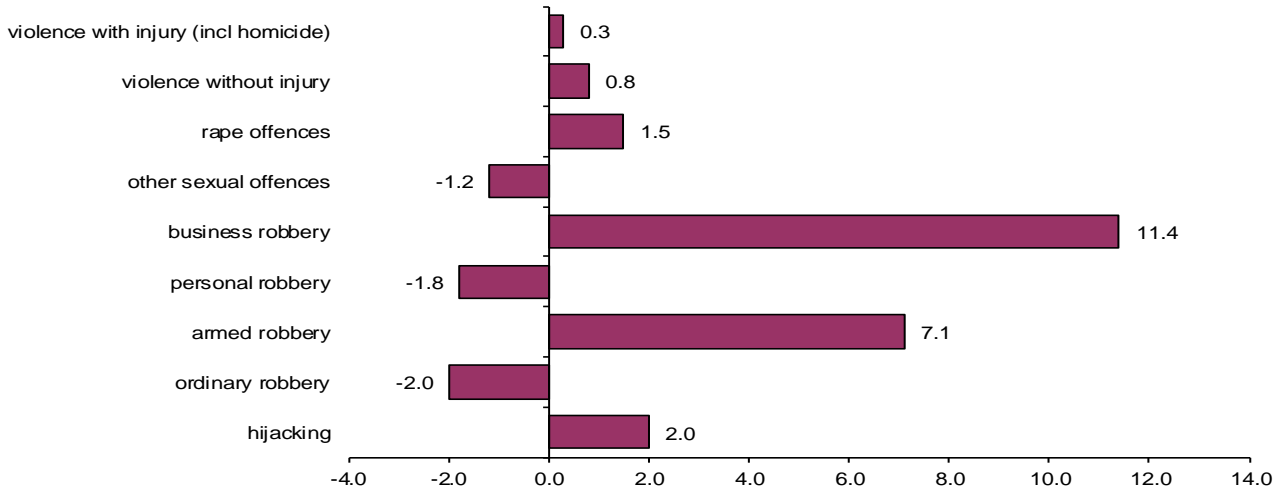
There were seven offences during 2015/16 where no further action was taken against the offender, five where the offender died before proceedings and two where the PPS directed no prosecution.

Figure 8 Percentage point change in the main recorded crime type outcome rates, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



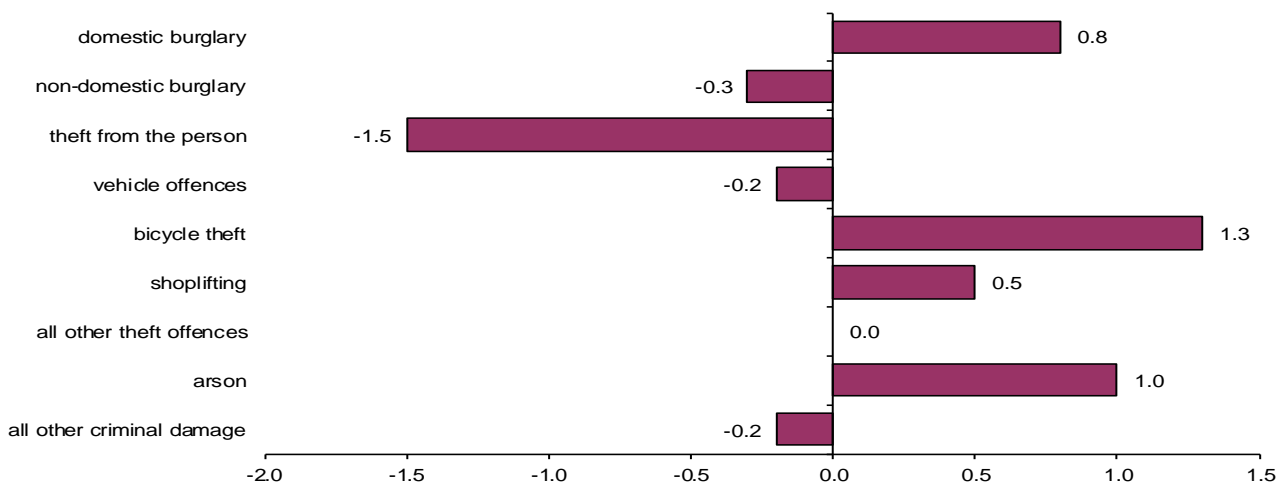
- At 28.7% the outcome rate for 2015/16 is 1.2 percentage points higher than 2014/15. The outcome rate has remained the same in respect of charge/summons (20.9%), increased for discretionary disposals (from 3.1% to 3.9%) and penalty notices for disorder (from 0.9% to 1.0%). The outcome rate for adult cautions remained unchanged at 1.9% and juvenile cautions increased from 0.7% to 0.9%.
- Outcome rates increased in five of the main crime categories between 2014/15 and 2015/16 (see figure 8).

Figure 9 Percentage point change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery outcome rates, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



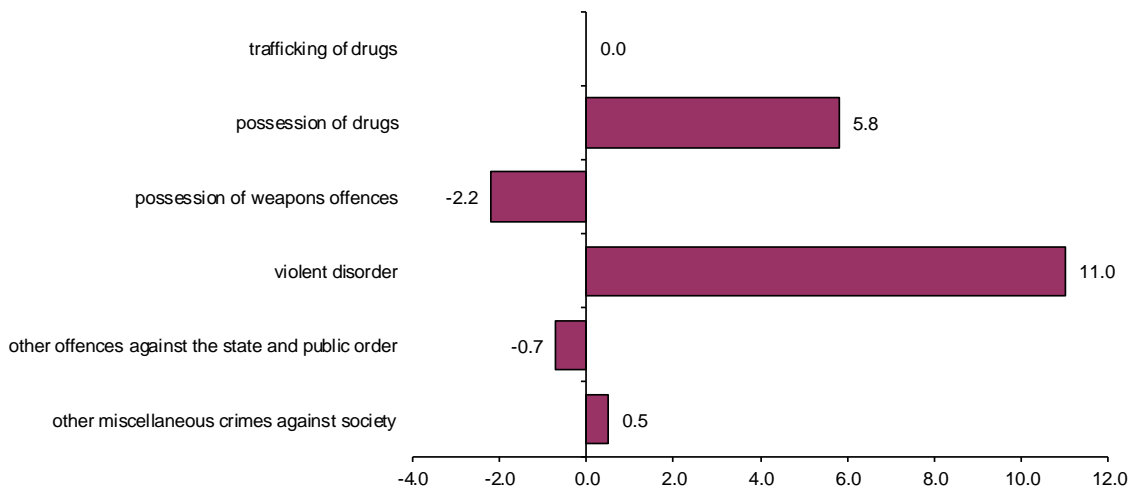
- The outcome rate for violence against the person with injury (including homicide) increased year on year from 28.3% in 2007/08 to 37.0% in 2010/11, before falling each year to 32.2% in 2014/15; the rate increased to 32.5% in 2015/16. Violence against the person without injury shows a similar trend, increasing year on year from 27.3% in 2007/08 to 40.7% in 2011/12 before falling to 28.7% in 2014/15, the rate rose to 29.5% in 2015/16.
- The outcome rate for rape offences fell to 10.3% in 2014/15, the lowest level since 2007/08. It has since risen to 11.8% in 2015/16, the second lowest level since 2007/08. The outcome rate for other sexual offences increased each year from 2007/08 to 2011/12 when it reached 30.2%. Since then the outcome rate has fallen each year to the current level of 16.0% in 2015/16.
- While robbery of business property showed its highest outcome rate in 2015/16 (35.2%, an increase of 11.4 percentage points on the previous year), the outcome rate for robbery of personal property for 2015/16 (15.5%) fell by 1.8 percentage points when compared with 2014/15. Between 2014/15 and 2015/16 the outcome rate for armed robbery rose from 21.3% to 28.4% (the second highest rate since 2007/08) and for ordinary robbery the outcome rate fell from 15.9% to 13.9%. The outcome rate achieved in relation to hijacking in 2015/16 was 25.9%, the highest level since 2007/08 and 2.0 percentage points higher than 2014/15.

Figure 10 Percentage point change in outcome rates for theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



- The domestic burglary outcome rate showed little change between 2007/08 (10.0%) and 2010/11 (9.7%) before rising to 12.1% in 2011/12. The outcome rate fell to 8.8% in 2014/15, the lowest since 2007/08 before rising to 9.6% in 2015/16. The outcome rate for non-domestic burglary reached 13.9% in 2011/12. The outcome rate for 2015/16 is 13.0%, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points on 2014/15.
- The outcome rate for vehicle offences rose year on year between 2007/08 (11.9%) and 2012/13 (20.6%). The rate then fell to 16.7% in 2013/14 before increasing again to 18.1% in 2014/15; it has fallen slightly to 17.9% in 2015/16. The outcome rates for theft from the person and shoplifting both increased between 2013/14 and 2014/15, reaching the second highest rates achieved since 2007/08. Whilst the outcome rate for shoplifting has further increased to 60.8% in 2015/16, the rate for theft from the person offences has fallen to 6.5%. During the same time period the outcome rate for bicycle theft increased by 1.3 percentage points to 5.3%, the second highest since 2007/08, while the outcome rate for all other theft offences remains unchanged at 10.0%.
- The outcome rate for arson offences reached its highest level in 2011/12 (7.8%) before falling to 6.4% in 2012/13 and remaining at this level in 2013/14. The outcome rate has risen from 6.1% in 2014/15 to 7.1% in 2015/16. For all other criminal damage offences the outcome rate increased year on year between 2007/08 (9.8%) and 2012/13 (16.9%) before falling slightly to 16.3% in 2013/14. The outcome rate increased again to 17.3% in 2014/15, the highest rate achieved since 2007/08, it has since fallen to 17.1% in 2015/16.

Figure 11 Percentage point change in outcome rates for crimes against society, 2015/16 compared with 2014/15



- The outcome rate for trafficking of drugs reached its highest level in 2014/15 (82.7%), an increase of 11.5 percentage points on the 2013/14 outcome rate of 71.2% which was the lowest rate since 2007/08. While the 2015/16 rate is 82.6% there is no change in percentage points between 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- The outcome rate for possession of drugs was 74.4% in 2007/08 and rose to 83.8% in 2008/09. Levels then fluctuated between 2008/09 and 2011/12 (82.8%) before increasing to 88.1% 2012/13. The outcome rate fell to 84.2% in 2014/15. In 2015/16 the outcome rate has risen to 90.0%, the highest level since 2007/08.
- The outcome rate for possession of weapons offences was at its highest in 2010/11 (72.9%) and then fell each year to 62.7% in 2013/14, the lowest outcome rate recorded since 2007/08. The outcome rate was 65.7% in 2014/15 and it has since fallen by 2.2 percentage points in 2015/16 to 63.5%.
- Public order offences showed their highest outcome rate in 2012/13 (64.5%) while the lowest outcome rate since 2007/08 was seen in 2013/14 (55.0%). The outcome rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points between 2014/15 (55.5%) and 2015/16 (55.2%).
- The outcome rate for miscellaneous crimes against society has been falling since 2010/11 (66.5%) to the lowest level recorded in 2014/15 (54.3%). The outcome rate increased by 0.5 percentage points between 2014/15 and 2015/16 to 54.8%.

OUTCOME RATES BY POLICING DISTRICT (excluding fraud)

- Outcome rates increased in seven policing districts between 2014/15 and 2015/16, and fell in four. The change in outcome rates ranged from a fall of 2.4 percentage points in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon to an increase of 5.1 percentage points in Lisburn & Castlereagh City.
- Of those that showed an increase in outcome rate over this time period, three achieved their highest outcome rate since the start of the comparable data series in 2007/08. These policing districts were Lisburn & Castlereagh City (37.2%), Ards & North Down (32.8%) and Antrim & Newtownabbey (29.8%). The other policing districts that showed a higher outcome rate in 2015/16 when compared with 2014/15 were Belfast City, Fermanagh & Omagh, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid & East Antrim.
- Fermanagh & Omagh, Causeway Coast & Glens and Mid & East Antrim districts reached their highest outcome rates in 2012/13, experienced lower rates in 2013/14 and 2014/15 before increasing again in 2015/16.
- Of those districts to show a fall in their outcome rate in 2015/16, Newry, Mourne & Down and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon showed an upwards trend to reach their highest outcome rates in 2014/15 before falling in 2015/16. Mid Ulster reached its highest rate in 2012/13 and Derry City & Strabane reached their highest rate in 2013/14; both districts have fallen in each of the years since their peak.
- The outcome rate for Belfast City policing district reached its highest level in 2010/11 and fell in each financial year to 2014/15; the rate has since increased by 1.2 percentage points to 23.1% in 2015/16. The outcome rates for each of the local policing teams in Belfast City have followed a similar trend to the overall district. While the Tennent Street local policing team (North) and Lisburn Road local policing team (South) showed a generally higher outcome rate than for Belfast City as a whole, the Strandtown local policing team (East) and Woodbourne local policing team (West) experienced a lower outcome rate.

KNIFE AND SHARP INSTRUMENT CRIME

Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments, where a sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle. Knives and sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. Offence coverage is for a group of selected offences, as detailed in tables 1 and 2 below.

Please note: the records used to provide the figures in tables 1 and 2 are identified from an operational crime recording system and, as such, may be subject to change where more up-to-date weapon information becomes available.

Table 1 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp Instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2015/16

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument								
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Homicide ²	5	8	7	8	7	7	3	3	8
Attempted murder	50	44	31	33	40	28	27	41	31
Threats to kill	100	102	105	67	74	84	72	80	65
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	569	521	600	520	492	558	574	573	538
Robbery	207	236	228	215	249	238	200	216	142
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	3	9	7	8	7	13	13	11	5
Total selected offences	934	920	978	851	869	928	889	924	789

Table 2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2015/16
(i.e. 38 per cent of all homicides in 2015/16 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Selected offence type	Percentages								
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument								
	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (%)	2012/13 (%)	2013/14 (%)	2014/15 (%)	2015/16 (%)
Homicide ²	17	31	32	29	29	35	14	13	38
Attempted murder	37	35	27	30	35	27	24	35	31
Threats to kill	5	5	5	3	3	5	4	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4
Robbery	18	18	18	16	20	23	21	25	19
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total selected offences	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	4

¹ A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), eg a broken bottle. The knife and sharp instrument figures presented here are based on weapon details taken from a live operational system and are therefore subject to change.

² Homicide includes murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter. The proportion of homicides involving a knife or sharp instrument shown in table 2 for 2011/12 and 2013/14 have been revised to include the offences of corporate manslaughter recorded in each of those years in the base for calculating the proportions.

³ Includes 5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm and 8N Assault with injury.

⁴ Includes indecent assault on a male/female (classifications 17/20) and sexual assault on a male/female (classifications 17A/17B/20A/20B), as well as 19A-19H Rape.

CRIMES WHERE ALCOHOL IS A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR

During 2012/13 a baseline was established relating to those crimes where alcohol was a contributory factor. This identified that alcohol was a contributory factor in 20 per cent of all crimes recorded, while for offences of violence against the person alcohol was a contributory factor in 47 per cent of crimes of this nature. Figures for 2015/16 indicate that alcohol is a contributory factor in 19 per cent of all crimes recorded, slightly less than the 20 per cent identified in 2013/14 and 2014/15. For offences of violence against the person the proportion in which alcohol was a contributory factor has fallen from 43 per cent in 2014/15 to 40 per cent in 2015/16.

RECORDING OF FRAUD

From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, the Action Fraud table in the [summary tables spreadsheet](#) accompanying this bulletin shows the detailed breakdown on a monthly basis of fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud in 2015/16. Figures received from Action Fraud at the start of May 2016 showed that in 2015/16 Action Fraud recorded 2,230 offences compared with 1,896 recorded by PSNI in 2014/15.

Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2014/15 and 2015/16

Offence group	Number and percentage changes			
	2014/15	2015/16	change between years	% change between years ¹
VICTIM-BASED CRIME				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	34,280	35,734	1,454	4.2
<i>Homicide</i>	24	21	-3	-
<i>Violence with injury</i>	14,449	15,047	598	4.1
<i>Violence without injury</i>	19,807	20,666	859	4.3
SEXUAL OFFENCES	2,729	3,037	308	11.3
<i>Rape</i>	737	780	43	5.8
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	1,992	2,257	265	13.3
ROBBERY	880	732	-148	-16.8
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	632	550	-82	-13.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	248	182	-66	-26.6
THEFT OFFENCES	35,444	34,157	-1,287	-3.6
<i>Burglary</i>	8,937	8,773	-164	-1.8
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	5,873	5,856	-17	-0.3
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	3,064	2,917	-147	-4.8
<i>Theft from the person</i>	514	558	44	8.6
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	5,089	4,925	-164	-3.2
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	966	718	-248	-25.7
<i>Shoplifting</i>	6,495	6,773	278	4.3
<i>All other theft offences</i>	13,443	12,410	-1,033	-7.7
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	19,830	20,516	686	3.5
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
DRUG OFFENCES	5,048	5,577	529	10.5
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	871	876	5	0.6
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	4,177	4,701	524	12.5
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	772	923	151	19.6
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,447	1,470	23	1.6
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,746	2,877	131	4.8
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)	103,176	105,023	1,847	1.8

¹ '-' indicates that for offences recorded a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50.

² From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. These figures are available in the table Action Fraud. As a result, all other sections within the bulletin present figures on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud'.

Table 4 Crime outcomes¹ 2014/15 and 2015/16, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages		
	Crime Outcomes ¹ (rate %)		% point change
	2014/15	2015/16	
VICTIM-BASED CRIME			
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	30.2	30.7	0.6
<i>Homicide</i>	54.2	76.2	22.0
<i>Violence with injury</i>	32.1	32.5	0.3
<i>Violence without injury</i>	28.7	29.5	0.8
SEXUAL OFFENCES	15.3	14.9	-0.4
<i>Rape</i>	10.3	11.8	1.5
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	17.2	16.0	-1.2
ROBBERY	19.1	20.4	1.3
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	17.2	15.5	-1.8
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	23.8	35.2	11.4
THEFT OFFENCES	20.3	21.3	1.0
<i>Burglary</i>	10.4	10.7	0.4
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	8.8	9.6	0.8
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	13.3	13.0	-0.3
<i>Theft from the person</i>	8.0	6.5	-1.5
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	18.1	17.9	-0.2
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	4.0	5.3	1.3
<i>Shoplifting</i>	60.4	60.8	0.5
<i>All other theft offences</i>	10.0	10.0	0.0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	16.4	16.3	-0.1
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY			
DRUG OFFENCES	84.0	88.9	4.9
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	82.7	82.6	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	84.2	90.0	5.8
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	65.7	63.5	-2.2
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	55.5	55.2	-0.3
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	54.3	54.8	0.5
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)	27.5	28.7	1.2

¹ Outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), discretionary disposals, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute).

² From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. These figures are available in the table Action Fraud. As a result, all other sections within the bulletin present figures on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud'.

Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal¹ 2014/15 and 2015/16, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages											
	Charge/summons		Caution		Discretionary disposal		Penalty notice for disorder ²		Taken into consideration		No action taken against the offender ³	
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
VICTIM-BASED CRIME												
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	25.5	25.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Homicide</i>	54.2	76.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence with injury</i>	27.7	27.3	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	23.9	23.6	2.0	2.3	2.8	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	14.1	14.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
<i>Rape</i>	10.0	11.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	15.6	15.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
ROBBERY	18.8	20.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	16.8	15.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	23.8	35.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
THEFT OFFENCES	13.3	13.6	1.5	1.5	3.0	3.4	2.5	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Burglary</i>	9.6	10.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	8.3	9.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	12.1	12.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	6.0	5.4	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	17.2	16.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	3.0	3.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	32.3	30.9	5.2	4.8	9.4	11.2	13.5	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	6.3	6.4	0.8	0.9	2.9	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	11.7	11.2	1.2	1.4	3.2	3.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY												
DRUG OFFENCES	51.4	49.3	22.1	20.8	10.4	18.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	75.7	75.6	6.3	6.1	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	46.4	44.4	25.4	23.5	12.4	22.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	54.3	49.1	6.6	8.1	4.8	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	53.9	53.3	1.5	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	50.6	51.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)⁴	20.9	20.9	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹ It is possible to detect a crime with an offence which attracts a lesser penalty than the crime recorded. For example where an assault occasioning actual bodily harm has been recorded (violence with injury), the offender may be dealt with for the offence of common assault (violence without injury).

² Penalty notices for disorder were introduced in June 2012.

³ No action was taken against the offender includes indictable only offences where the offender died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute.

⁴ From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. These figures are available in the table Action Fraud. As a result, all other sections within the bulletin present figures on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud'.

Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcomes by policing district, 2014/15 and 2015/16, rates (%)

Policing district ¹	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime ²			Crime Outcomes (rate, %) ³		
	2014/15	2015/16	% change 2014/15 to 2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	% point change 2014/15 to 2015/16 ⁴
Belfast City: of which	34,911	35,701	2.3	21.9	23.1	1.2
<i>East</i> ⁵	6,948	6,621	-4.7	17.7	19.6	1.9
<i>North</i> ⁵	9,028	9,590	6.2	22.5	23.7	1.2
<i>South</i> ⁵	12,077	12,199	1.0	23.3	24.8	1.5
<i>West</i> ⁵	6,858	7,291	6.3	22.6	22.5	-0.1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	5,331	5,960	11.8	32.1	37.2	5.1
Ards & North Down	6,167	6,256	1.4	29.8	32.8	3.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	8,536	8,800	3.1	32.9	32.3	-0.6
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	9,878	10,068	1.9	34.0	31.6	-2.4
Mid Ulster	5,019	5,044	0.5	29.6	29.3	-0.3
Fermanagh & Omagh	4,934	4,998	1.3	29.8	32.8	3.0
Derry City & Strabane	9,370	9,425	0.6	30.4	30.0	-0.4
Causeway Coast & Glens	6,534	6,301	-3.6	27.3	31.2	3.9
Mid & East Antrim	5,696	5,565	-2.3	28.2	29.7	1.5
Antrim & Newtownabbey	6,800	6,905	1.5	27.5	29.8	2.3
Northern Ireland	103,176	105,023	1.8	27.5	28.7	1.2

¹ Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred. As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts. The figures in this table are presented on the basis of these new boundaries.

² From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to victims residing in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. These figures are available in the table Action Fraud. As a result, all other sections within the bulletin present figures on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud'.

³ Outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), discretionary disposals, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute).

⁴ Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

⁵ Belfast City district has four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West).

NOTES

Strengths and Limitations of Police Recorded Crime Statistics and Alternative Measures of Crime

While this monthly update presents the level of crime recorded by the police, there is an alternative but complementary measure of crime, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) which is published by the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland. Each source of crime information has different strengths and limitations but can be looked at together to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. Details around the need for both recorded crime figures and the NICS can be found in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the bulletin [Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2014/15 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#). Both of these measures of crime inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs). It was estimated in 2014/15 that around 47 per cent of NICS comparable crime was reported to the police in Northern Ireland although this varied for individual offence types.

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

Variations in crime trends: crime survey data and police recorded crime figures in England & Wales and Northern Ireland

An analysis of variation in crime trends looking at comparable crime categories between the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the police recorded crime series for England and Wales was conducted by the Office for National Statistics. This was initially published in January 2013, with updated analysis made available in the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales in July 2014, an archived document on the ONS website in [Guidance and methodology - User Guides](#). This work identified a divergence in the trends between the two sets of figures, with the police recorded crime figures showing larger falls in crime. This raised questions about the quality of the police recorded crime figures and was one of the issues that led to the UK Statistics Authority removing the National Statistics designation from the police recorded crime figures in England and Wales.

The trends identified by ONS were not reflected in Northern Ireland; the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) showed crime falling at a greater rate than the police recorded crime statistics. Please note that the NICS was not conducted in 2002/03 and so comparisons were made instead with 2003/04. In addition, the initial analysis was based on comparisons with 2006/07 and were not re-run based on 2007/08. Further details can be found on page 6 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#).

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2002/03 to 2014/15 (England and Wales)

	Percentage change 2002/03-2007/08	Percentage change 2007/08-2012/13	Percentage change 2012/13-2014/15	Percentage change 2002/03-2014/15
Police recorded crime	-20	-32	0	-45
CSEW	-16	-19	-20	-46

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2003/04 to 2014/15 (Northern Ireland)

	Percentage change 2003/04-2006/07	Percentage change 2006/07-2012/13	Percentage change 2012/13-2014/15	Percentage change 2003/04-2014/15
Police recorded crime	-7	-22	0	-28
NICS	-28	-25	-17	-55

Data Accuracy

Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until finalised figures for the full financial year are published. Within year, crime figures are subject to a validation and quality assurance process and overall crime figures at Northern Ireland, District and Area level will cover all records identified as crimes, including those that have not yet completed the validation process. Figures covering the full financial year from 1st April to 31st March are presented in their finalised format and are not subject to revision.

Data Quality and Auditing

The quality assurance processes mentioned above have been set in place to ensure that the numbers and types of crimes being recorded are, as far as is possible, recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules.

Further details of the data quality checks and processes that PSNI has in place are available in section 4 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#).

As mentioned previously in this bulletin, in light of the crime recording issues in England & Wales and Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) were invited to conduct a crime data integrity audit within PSNI during September 2014, similar to those they conducted in England & Wales during 2014. The outcome of the audit was published on 19th March 2015 in the report [Crime data integrity – inspection of the Police Service of Northern Ireland](#). The main findings in relation to data quality were:

- a crime-recording accuracy rate of 97 percent with a confidence interval of +/-2 percent;
- 98 percent of crimes correctly classified; and
- 84 percent recorded within the 72-hour limit allowed under HOCR.

Revisions

As mentioned above in relation to Data Accuracy, figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until finalised figures for the full financial year are published. This means that the totals for each month, crime type and policing district for each month from April 2013 can change each time the figures are published during the financial year.

These revisions will happen for one of a number of reasons:

- Incidents identified as crimes but not processed on the crime recording system by the time the figures are extracted for publication will appear in subsequent updates. For example, a crime is reported to the police on 1st November 2013 and it is fully processed on the crime recording system by 15th November 2013. As figures for the bulletin covering the latest 12 months to 30th November 2013 are extracted and published in December 2013, this crime will be included in the November figures in this publication. However if the same crime is not processed on the crime recording system until 15th January 2014, it will not be available for inclusion in the figures until the data extracted and published towards the end of January 2014.
- Figures may change from month to month due to crimes being reclassified from one crime type to another during the financial year. This may be because quality checks have identified the crime as incorrectly classified, or further information may indicate that the circumstances surrounding the crime were not as initially recorded.
- These revisions are not always in an upwards direction. The Home Office Counting Rules allow crimes initially recorded to be 'no crime'd' or removed from the crime figures. This can happen for a number of reasons:
 - the crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded;
 - additional verifiable information becomes available which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed;
 - the crime, as alleged, constitutes part of a crime already recorded;
 - the reported incident was recorded as a crime in error.

Full guidance on 'no crimes' is available in the [Home Office Counting Rules](#).

Table 7 below shows the extent of revisions to the figures contained in the monthly update to 29 February 2016, which were first published in March 2016.

Table 7 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 29 February 2016, which was first published 24th March 2016

	As published in March 2016	As published in May 2016	Scale of revision		Numbers & Percentages	
			number	%	% change between years	
					As published Mar'16	As published May'16
Financial Year to date: Apr 2015 to Feb 2016	96,536	96,494	-42	-0.04	2.2	2.2
12 Months Mar 2015 to Feb 2016	105,289	105,247	-42	-0.04	1.9	1.9

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 2015/16 financial year. Accompanying this bulletin are additional data in the form of [summary tables](#) and [pivot table data](#), both of which are available in excel spreadsheets. The data is also available in open data format.

- a detailed breakdown of recorded crimes at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 1998/99 to 2015/16;
- a detailed breakdown of outcomes (numbers) and outcome rates (%) at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 2007/08 to 2015/16;

- the number of outcomes and outcome rate (%) by method of outcome at a Northern Ireland level for each year from 1998/99 to 2015/16;
- summary tables for Northern Ireland, each policing district comparing recorded crimes and outcome rates for 2015/16 with 2014/15 by a range of crime types;
- a pivot table providing statistics on recorded crime, outcomes (numbers) and outcome rates (%) with each data measure available:
 - at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
 - for a range of crime types;
 - for a range of time periods (2014/15, 2015/16 and each of the last 24 months);
- two pivot tables, one by age and one by gender providing statistics on recorded crime, outcomes (numbers), outcome rates (%) and population rate (per 1,000 population) with each data measure available:
 - at Northern Ireland level;
 - for a range of crime types;
 - by age range or gender;
 - for the latest two financial years, 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Each pivot table allows the user to manipulate the data, select the data they are most interested in and carry out calculations on the data. The data records displayed in the pivot table are also available in this spreadsheet.

National Statistics Designation

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The UK Statistics Authority commenced an assessment of police recorded crime in Northern Ireland in June 2014 and this was concluded after the publication of HMIC's crime data integrity report in March 2015. The Authority's [assessment report Number 301 Statistics on Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland \(Police Service of Northern Ireland\)](#) was published on 28th May. This report judged that the police recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland can be designated as National Statistics.

Geographic availability of police recorded crime statistics

Figures are available for a range of additional geographic areas through the [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System \(NINIS\)](#). These figures are updated on an annual basis.

Provisional management information drawn from police recorded crime figures, published at street level each month, is available through the [police crime mapping website](#). The figures on the crime mapping website will differ from those provided in this bulletin as they have been extracted from the police administrative system on different dates, and also require a grid reference in order to be mapped.

Further information

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2014/15](#) was published on 6th August 2015 and provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2015/16 will be available in July /August 2016.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#), and in the [Police Recorded Crime Statistics Quality Report](#). These are reference guides with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the [PSNI Internet site](#).

Contact details

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 029 9065 0222 ext 24135