

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2017

(Providing final figures for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

**Published 17 May 2017**

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2017 (Final figures for 2016/17)

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This monthly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2016/17, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Knife and sharp instrument crime figures for each financial year 2007/08 to 2016/17 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 to 20](#) of this bulletin. In addition a [User Guide](#) provides further information about the collation of these statistics.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2016/17 will be pre-announced in due course. The next monthly update covering the 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

## 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 resulted in the designation of these statistics being cancelled in July 2014; designation was subsequently confirmed in September 2016.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> May. This report judged that the police recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland can be designated as National Statistics.

## CONTENTS

Statistics are presented under the following headings:

[Overall crime trends 1998/99 to 2016/17](#)

[Overall crime trends 2001/02 to 2016/17: policing districts](#)

[Comparison of 2016/17 with 2015/16: overall crime](#)

[Comparison of 2016/17 with 2015/16: violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery](#)

[Comparison of 2016/17 with 2015/16: theft \(including burglary\) and criminal damage](#)

[Comparison of 2016/17 with 2015/16: other crimes against society](#)

[Outcome rates](#)

[Outcome rates by policing district](#)

[Knife and Sharp Instrument Crime](#)

[Crimes where alcohol is a contributory factor](#)

[Online Crime](#)

[Recording of Fraud](#)

[Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2015/16 and 2016/17](#)

[Table 4 Crime outcomes 2015/16 and 2016/17, rates \(%\)](#)

[Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal 2015/16 and 2016/17, rates \(%\)](#)

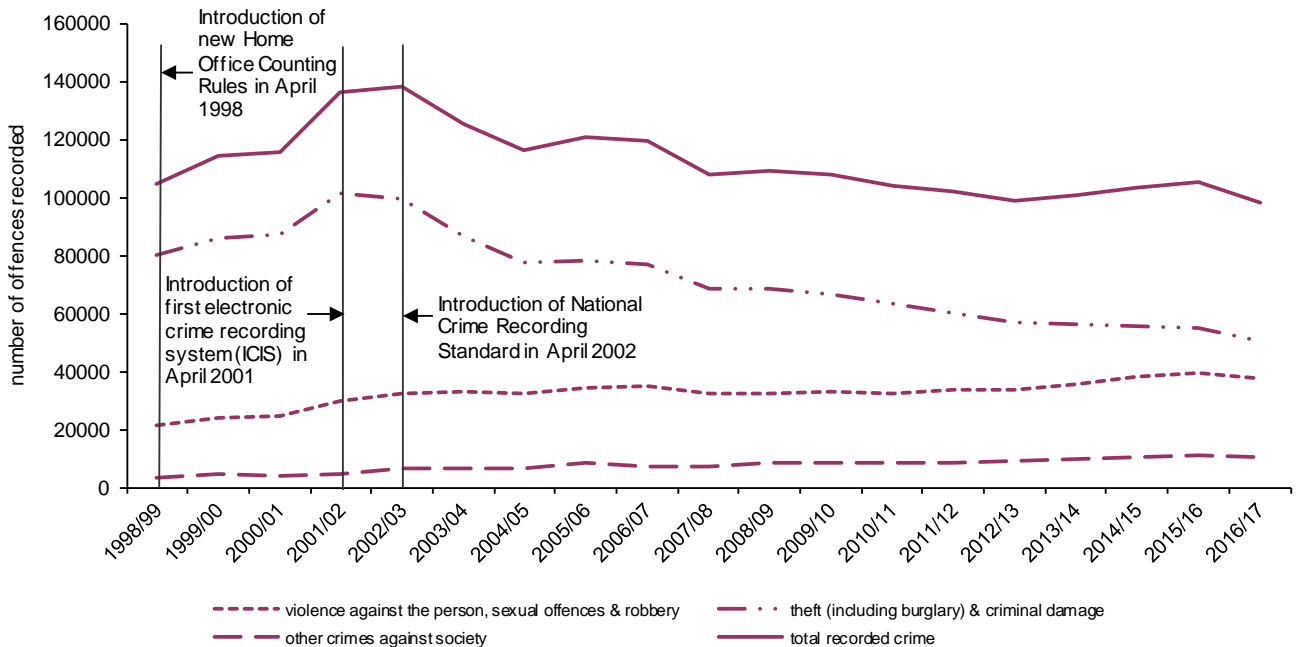
[Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcome rates by policing district 2015/16 and 2016/17](#)

[Notes](#)

## OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2016/17 (excluding fraud)

- Recorded crime has shown an overall downwards trend over the last fourteen years. It reached a peak of 138,132 in 2002/03 and has since fallen to 98,076 in 2016/17, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 (the first year for which crime data comparable under the revised Home Office Counting Rules is available). The level of crime recorded in 2016/17 shows a decrease of 6.6 per cent on the previous year. This represents 53 crimes per 1,000 population in 2016/17, 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 2016/17**



- The overall downwards trend in crime over the last fourteen years has mainly been experienced within the crime types of robbery, burglary, vehicle offences and criminal damage, each of which have fallen to their lowest levels recorded in 2016/17. The number of robbery offences in 2016/17 is just over one quarter of the peak level in 2002/03, burglary levels have more than halved since they reached a peak in 2002/03, vehicle offences are less than one quarter of the number recorded in 2002/03 and criminal damage is less than half the number of offences recorded in 2001/02.
- Offences of violence against the person showed a general upwards trend between 1998/99 and 2006/07. While the level fell in 2007/08 and remained fairly constant until 2012/13, this was followed by a year on year increase to 2015/16 to become the highest level recorded since 1998/99 (35,734 offences). In 2016/17 the level fell by 6.6 per cent to 33,360, the third highest level recorded.
- Sexual offences have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01. At 3,158, the figure for 2016/17 is the highest level recorded since 1998/99 and is almost three times the level recorded in 2000/01. The rate of increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17 is less than was seen in the previous three years.
- 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 (17,807 offences). From 2007/08 there was a general upwards trend to 2014/15 in the number of such theft offences recorded. Levels have fallen in the last two years with 19,479 offences recorded in 2016/17, the second lowest figure recorded since 1998/99.
- Drug offences reached their highest level in 2015/16. The number of such offences increased year on year between 2006/07 (2,413 offences) and 2015/16 (5,577 offences). The level has seen a fall of 2.6 per cent between 2015/16 and 2016/17. 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 and has continued during 2016/17.
- 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 increased again reaching 923 in 2015/16 which is the highest level recorded since 1998/99. The level fell to 890 offences in 2016/17.

- 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 experienced since 2009/10. At 1,216 offences, 2016/17 has seen the lowest level recorded since the peak in 2005/06.
- The number of miscellaneous crimes against society has tended to fluctuate over the years with a slight upwards trend emerging. The latest figure of 2,854 recorded during 2016/17 is the highest seen since 1998/99, when 1,498 offences were recorded.

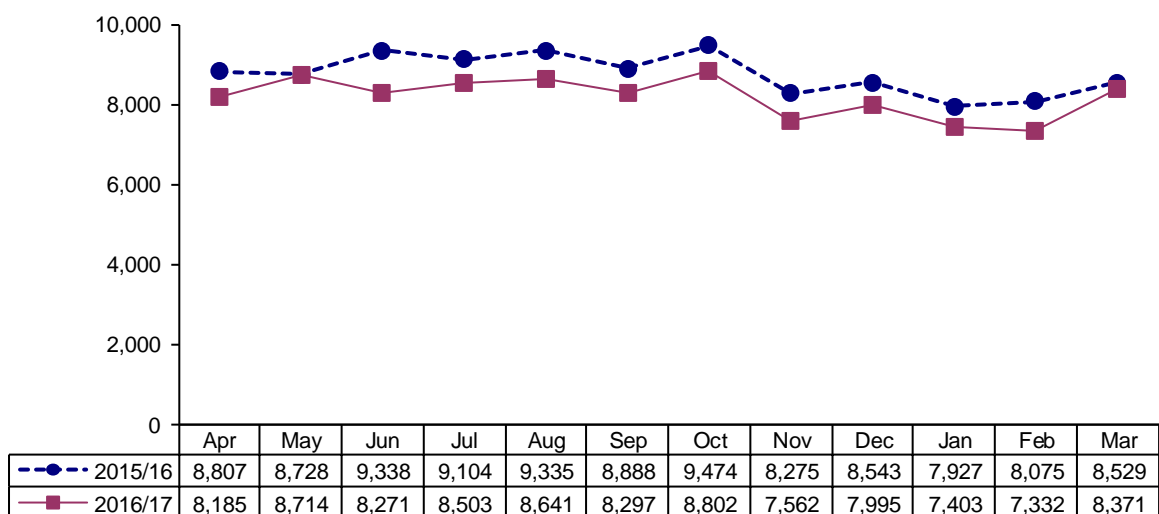
**OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 2001/02 TO 2016/17: POLICING DISTRICTS (excluding fraud)**

- Across the eleven districts nine recorded a decrease in crime in 2016/17 with Ards and North Down and Mid & East Antrim showing increases.
- 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 the majority of districts during 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Derry City & Strabane, Causeway Coast & Glens and Antrim & Newtownabbey experienced their lowest crime level in 2016/17.
- Levels in Belfast City increased each year from 2011/12 (31,920 offences) to 2015/16 (35,701 offences) before falling by 7.0 percent to 33,192 in 2016/17. Each of the local policing teams (LPTs) within Belfast City has experienced a fall in the level of crime in 2016/17. The LPT based in Strandtown (East) has shown falls in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Tennent Street LPT (North), the Lisburn Road LPT (South) and the Woodbourne LPT (West) each increased between 2014/15 and 2015/16 with levels falling again in 2016/17. In 2016/17 Woodbourne LPT recorded their second lowest crime figure since 2001/02.
- Looking at those districts which experienced their lowest crime levels during 2011/12 and 2012/13 before showing subsequent increases, Lisburn & Castlereagh City, Newry, Mourne & Down and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon most recently showed a fall in crime between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Ards & North Down and Mid & East Antrim have increased between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

**COMPARISON OF 2016/17 WITH 2015/16: OVERALL CRIME (excluding fraud)**

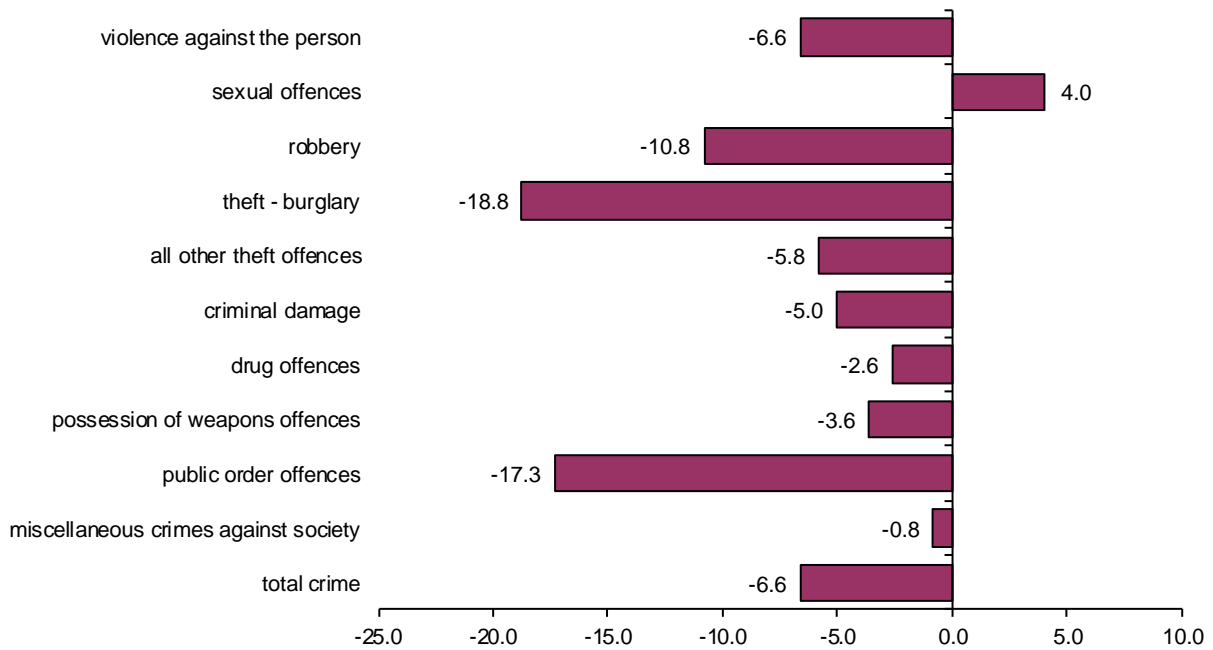
- Crime fell by 6.6 per cent between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Crime levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2016/17 with the same month in 2015/16, albeit at a lower level in all months during 2016/17. The largest monthly difference was seen in June, with the level in 2016 being 11.4 per cent lower than that during June 2015. The month showing the smallest difference was May, with 14 fewer crimes recorded in May 2016 compared with May 2015.

**Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, 2015/16 and 2016/17**



As can be seen in figure 3 below, all of the main crime types showed a decrease in the number of crimes recorded when comparing 2016/17 with 2015/16 with the exception of sexual offences.

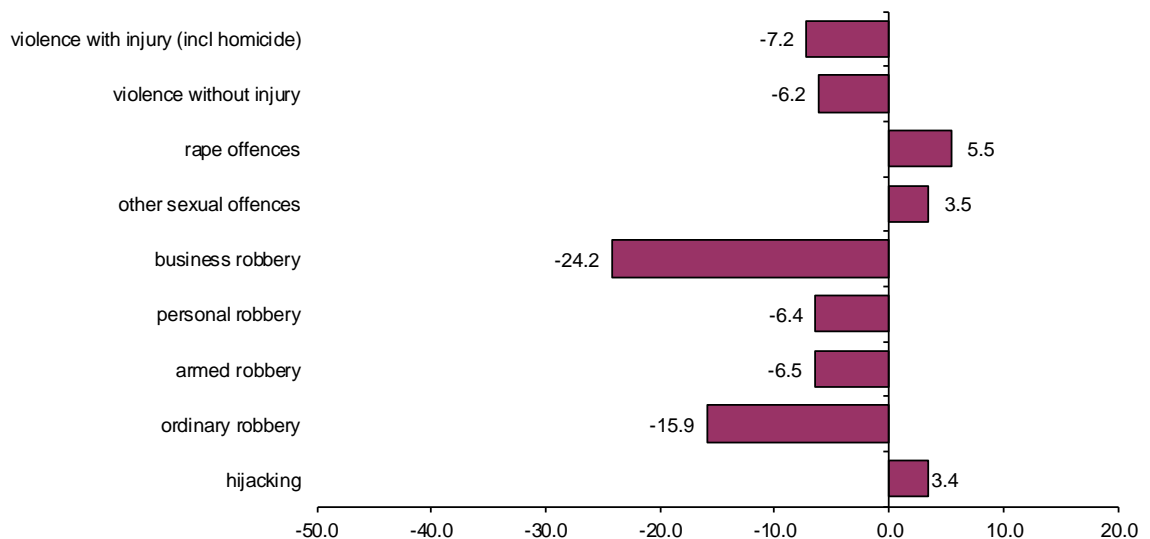
**Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



**COMPARISON OF 2016/17 WITH 2015/16: 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, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**

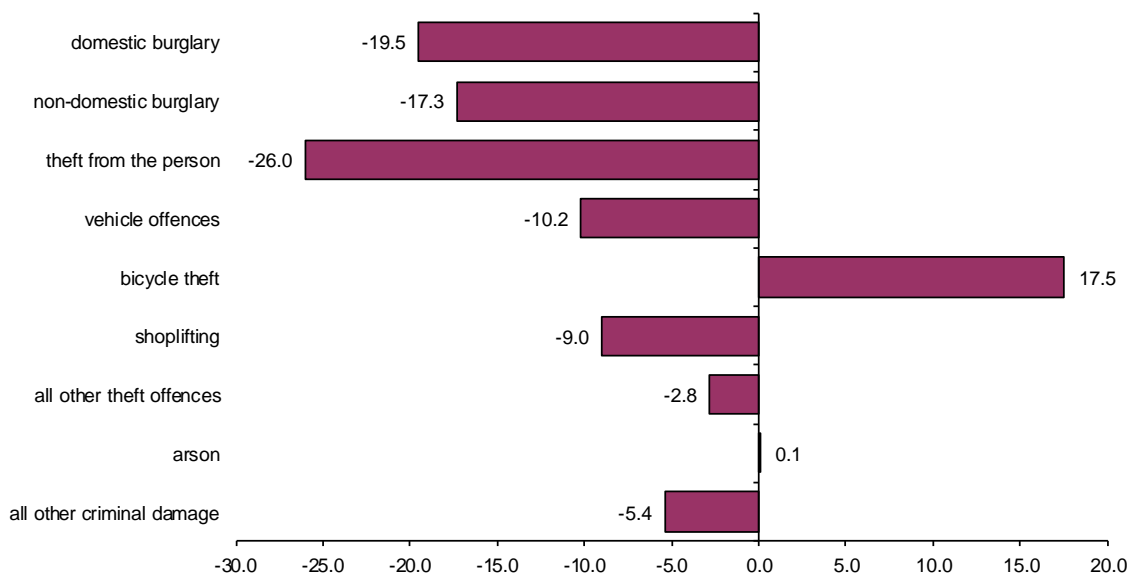


- In 2016/17 there were 12 murders, nine fewer than were recorded in 2015/16. There were five offences of manslaughter recorded, with none having been recorded the previous year. Offences of violence against the person with injury decreased by 1,081 when comparing 2016/17 with 2015/16; the main contributors to this decrease were a fall of 6.9 per cent (927 offences) in the classification 8N Assault with injury and a fall of 9.5 per cent (123 offences) in the classification 5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm.
- There was a decrease of 1,289 in the number of offences of violence against the person without injury. The largest falls were in threats to kill which fell by 17.7 per cent (404 offences) and harassment which fell by 11.1 per cent (374 offences).

- There were decreases in the number of offences of assault on police, both with injury (97) and without injury (262).
- Offences of cruelty to children/young persons increased by 54, from 341 to 395. This increase is smaller than was seen between 2014/15 and 2015/16 when levels nearly doubled from 174 to 341.
- Offences of rape increased by 43 to 823, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series in 1998/99. There were 32 more sexual assault offences and sexual activity offences rose by 39. Further information on the reporting of historic sexual offences will be provided when the more comprehensive publication covering crime trends from 1998/99 to 2016/17 is published.
- Robbery offences fell to the lowest level recorded in the data series since 1998/99, with a fall of 73.8 per cent when compared to the peak recorded in 2002/03. Business robbery showed a decrease of 44 offences when compared with 2015/16 and personal robbery fell by 35 to a level of 515 offences. Armed robbery fell by 18 and ordinary robbery by 63, whilst hijacking offences were 2 higher when compared with 2015/16.

## COMPARISON OF 2016/17 WITH 2015/16: THEFT (INCLUDING BURGLARY) AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

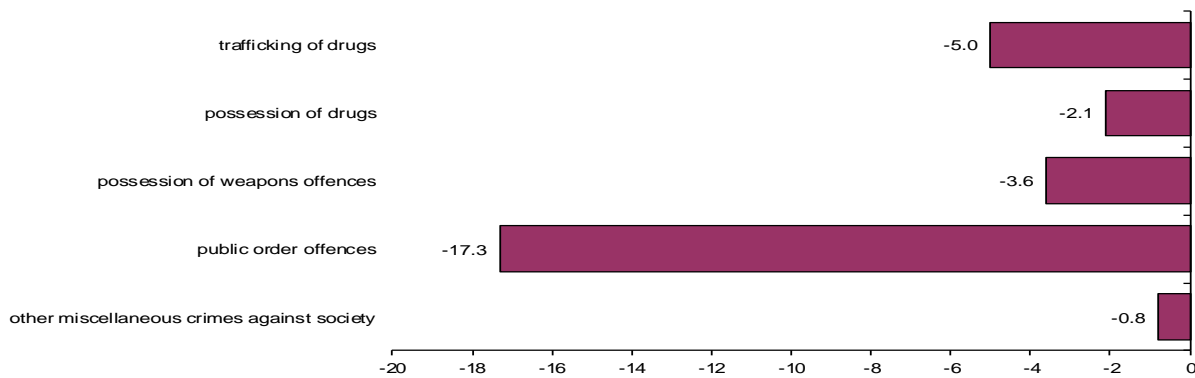
**Figure 5 Percentage change in theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



- Both domestic and non-domestic burglary fell to their lowest recorded levels in 2016/17. When compared with 2015/16 domestic burglary fell by 1,142 to 4,714 offences recorded while non-domestic burglary fell by 506 to a level of 2,411 offences.
- Vehicle offences fell by 504 between 2015/16 and 2016/17 to 4,421 offences, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99. Within vehicle offences theft from a vehicle fell by 343 and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle fell by 118. Interfering with a motor vehicle and aggravated vehicle showed smaller decreases of 25 and 18 respectively.
- Theft from the person showed a decrease when comparing 2016/17 with 2015/16, from 558 offences to 413 the lowest level recorded since 2001/02, while bicycle theft rose by 126 to 844.
- The highest level of shoplifting recorded since 1998/99 was in 2015/16; the number of offences subsequently fell by 611 in 2016/17 to a level of 6,162.
- The category containing all other theft offences showed a decrease of 350 from 12,410 recorded in 2015/16 to 12,060 in 2016/17. Within this category there was a decrease of 788 in the classification of other theft to 9,168. Offences of making off without payment increased by 514 offences with the level rising to 1,761, the highest since 2008/09. Blackmail increased by 35 offences to 258, the highest level recorded since 1998/99.
- Arson offences rose by 2 in 2016/17; levels have remained fairly similar since 2011/12. Within all other criminal damage offences, criminal damage to a dwelling decreased by 505, criminal damage to a vehicle fell by 370 and other criminal damage fell by 163 while criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling rose by 8 offences.

**COMPARISON OF 2016/17 WITH 2015/16: OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY**

**Figure 6 Percentage change in other crimes against society, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



- Possession of drugs offences fell from the highest level recorded since the start of the data series in 2015/16 (4,701 offences) to 4,600, a decrease of 101. Trafficking of drugs also fell by 44 offences.
- Possession of weapons offences fell from a level of 923 in 2015/16 (the highest recorded since the start of the data series) to 890 in 2016/17. Public order offences fell by 254 from 1,470 to 1,216 offences; offences of violent disorder (including riots) fell by 19 and other offences against the state and public order fell by 235. Within other offences against the state and public order, breach of non-molestation orders accounted for the majority of this decrease falling from 979 offences in 2015/16 to 809 in 2016/17 (the lowest level recorded in the data series which started in 2005/06). Bomb hoax related offences decreased by 37 to 163.
- Miscellaneous crimes against society showed a slight fall of 23 offences. There were increases of 167 in the classifications 60/61 (forgery) and of 38 offences in classification 814 Fraud, forgery etc associated with vehicle or driver records. Offences relating to obscene publications and protected sexual material increased by 51 offences to 445, the highest level in the data series. There was a fall of 97 in offences of threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage and a decrease of 66 in dangerous driving.

**OUTCOME RATES (excluding fraud)**

**Definition:** Outcome rates are defined as the number of outcomes (charge/summons, cautions, community resolutions, 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) recorded in a given time period expressed as percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period. Further details are available in the user guide. For example, in 2016/17 27,751 outcomes recorded divided by 98,076 crimes recorded equates to an outcome rate of 28.3%.

**Figure 7 Trends in Outcome Rates, 1998/99 to 2016/17**

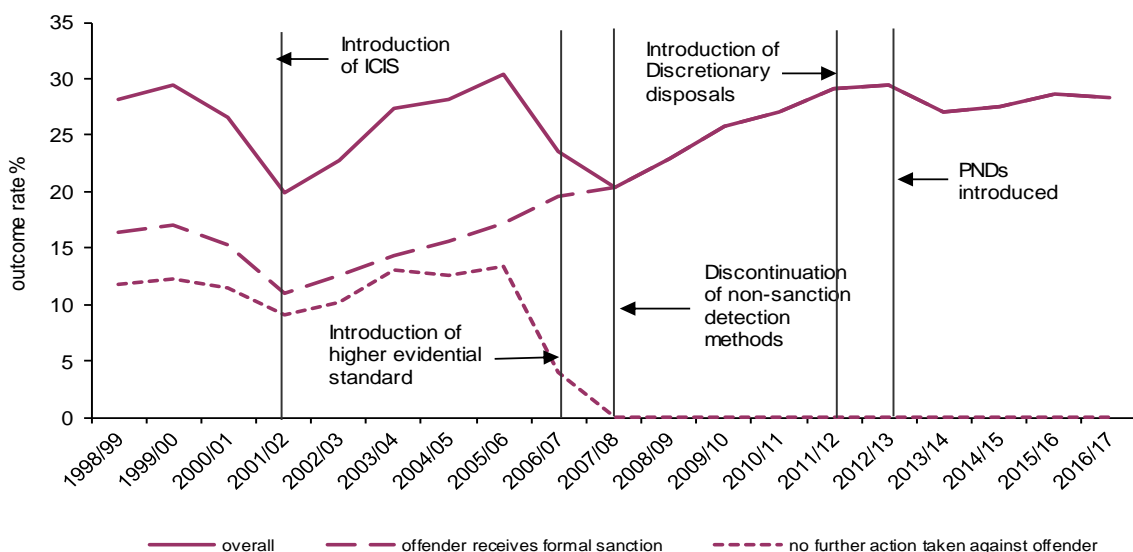


Figure 7 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate since 1998/99, split by those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction (including discretionary disposals) and those where no further action is taken against the offender. Northern Ireland experienced a drop in the outcome rate of 7 percentage points between 2000/01



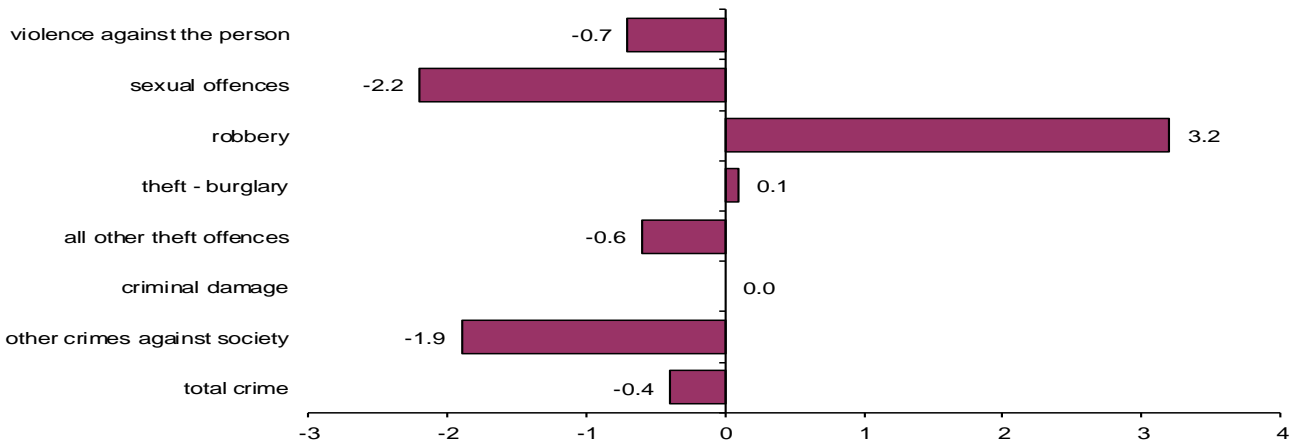
and 2001/02, most likely influenced by the introduction of the ICIS system within PSNI. This system improved the capture of low level crimes such as criminal damage which tend to be harder to detect.

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. The rate has since fallen to 28.3% in 2016/17. PSNI introduced discretionary disposals during 2011/12 (relaunched as community resolutions in June 2016); 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, 3.9% in 2015/16 and 4.1% in 2016/17. 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, 1.0% in 2015/16 and 0.8% in 2016/17.

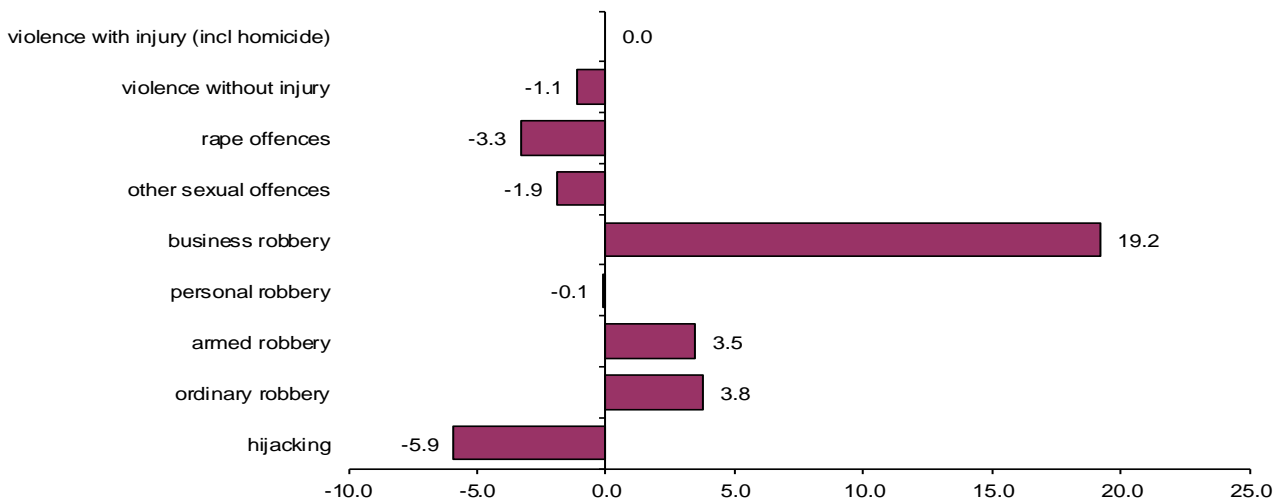
There were eight offences during 2016/17 where no further action was taken against the offender; one where the offender died before proceedings and seven where the PPS directed no prosecution.

**Figure 8 Percentage point change in the main recorded crime type outcome rates, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



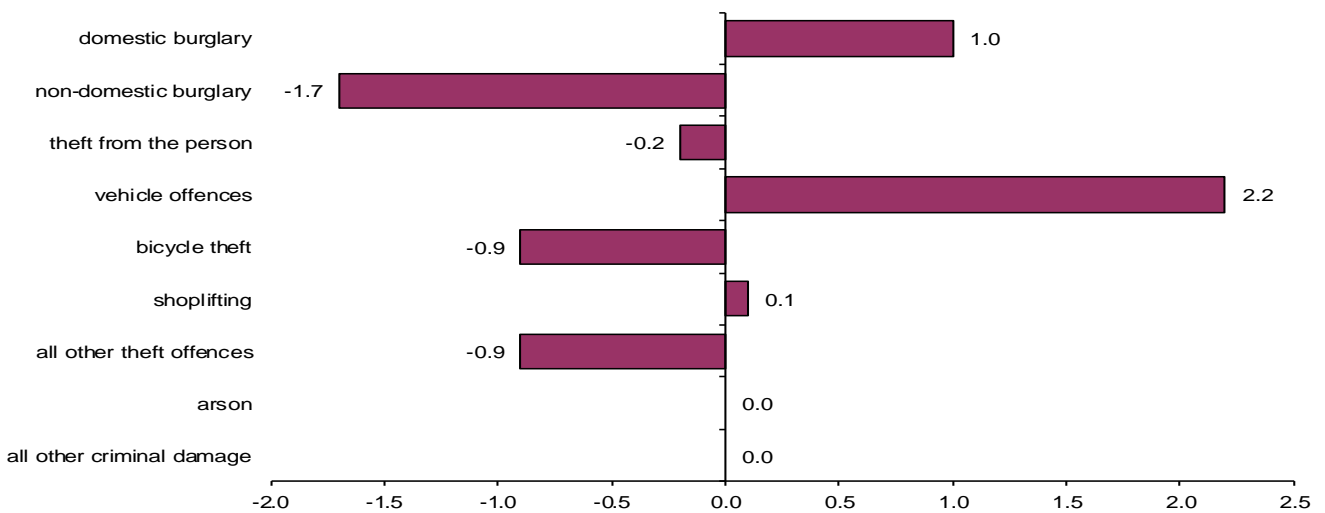
- At 28.3% the outcome rate for 2016/17 is 0.4 percentage points lower than 2015/16. The outcome rate has fallen slightly in respect of charge/summons (from 20.9% to 20.8%), increased for community resolutions (from 3.9% to 4.1%) and decreased for penalty notices for disorder (from 1.0% to 0.8%). The outcome rate for adult cautions decreased from 1.9% to 1.7% and juvenile cautions remained unchanged at 0.9%.
- Outcome rates decreased in five of the main crime categories between 2015/16 and 2016/17 (see figure 8 and table 4).

**Figure 9 Percentage point change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery outcome rates, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



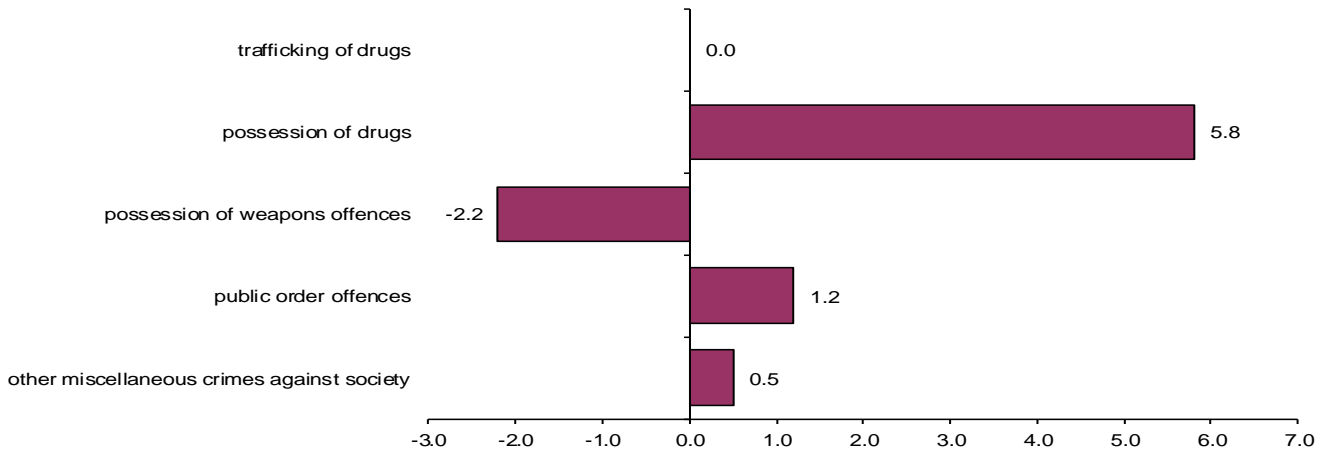
- The outcome rate for violence against the person with injury (including homicide) increased year on year from 28.3% in 2007/08 to 37.0% in 2010/11, before falling each year to 32.2% in 2014/15; the rate increased to 32.5% in 2015/16 and 32.6 % in 2016/17. Violence against the person without injury 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 and has since fallen to 28.3% in 2016/17.
- The outcome rate for rape offences has fallen from 11.8% in 2015/16 to 8.5% in 2016/17, the lowest level since 2007/08. The outcome rate for other sexual offences increased each year from 2007/08 (17.9%) to 2011/12 when it reached 30.2%. Since then the outcome rate has fallen each year to the current level of 14.1% in 2016/17.
- While robbery of business property showed its highest outcome rate in 2016/17 (54.3%, an increase of 19.1 percentage points on the previous year), the outcome rate for robbery of personal property for 2016/17 (15.3%) fell by 0.2 percentage points when compared with 2015/16. Between 2015/16 and 2016/17 the outcome rate for armed robbery rose from 28.4% to 31.9% (the highest rate since 2007/08) and for ordinary robbery the outcome rate rose from 13.9% to 17.7%. The outcome rate for hijacking fell from 25.9% in 2015/16, (the highest level since 2007/08) to 20.0% in 2016/17.

**Figure 10 Percentage point change in outcome rates for theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



- The domestic burglary outcome rate has ranged between 8.8% in 2014/15 and 12.1% in 2011/12. The latest outcome rate of 10.6% in 2016/17 is 1.0 percentage points higher than 2015/16. The outcome rate for non-domestic burglary was at its lowest in 2007/08 (10.9%) and reached 13.9% in 2011/12. The outcome rate for 2016/17 is 11.3%, a decrease of 1.7 percentage points on 2015/16.
- The outcome rate for vehicle offences rose year on year between 2007/08 (11.9%) and 2012/13 (20.6%). The rate of 20.1% achieved in 2016/17 is the second highest level since 2007/08 and is 2.2 percentage points higher than 2015/16. Between 2015/16 and 2016/17 the outcome rate for theft from the person fell by 0.2 percentage points and outcome rates for bicycle theft and shoplifting both fell by 0.9 percentage points. The outcome rate for shoplifting increased by 0.1 percentage point to 60.9% in 2016/17.
- 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 for 2016/17 is 7.0% compared with 7.1% in 2015/16. For all other criminal damage offences the outcome rate generally increased between 2007/08 (9.8%) and 2014/15 (17.3%), the highest rate achieved since 2007/08; the outcome rate for both 2015/16 and 2016/17 is 17.1%.

**Figure 11 Percentage point change in outcome rates for crimes against society, 2016/17 compared with 2015/16**



- The outcome rate for trafficking of drugs reached its highest level in 2014/15 (82.7%). The latest outcome rate of 74.8% in 2016/17 is 7.8 percentage points lower than the rate of 82.6% in 2015/16.
- The outcome rate for possession of drugs was 74.4% in 2007/08, fluctuating since then to reach 90.0% in 2015/16, the highest level since 2007/08. It has since fallen by 0.7 percentage points to 89.3% in 2016/17.
- 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 in 2016/17 is 67.5%, 4.0 percentage points higher than 2015/16.
- 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 increased by 1.2 percentage points between 2015/16 (55.2%) and 2016/17 (56.4%).
- The outcome rate for miscellaneous crimes against society has been falling since 2010/11 (66.5%) to the lowest level recorded in 2016/17 (48.5%). The outcome rate decreased by 6.3 percentage points between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

#### **OUTCOME RATES BY POLICING DISTRICT (excluding fraud)**

- Outcome rates decreased in seven policing districts between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and rose in four. The change in outcome rates ranged from a fall of 3.1 percentage points in Ards & North Down and in Newry, Mourne & Down to an increase of 1.7 percentage points in Derry City & Strabane.
- Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster both reached their highest outcome rate in 2012/13; for Derry City & Strabane their highest outcome rate was in 2013/14. While all three policing districts have shown lower outcome rates in the years since, each achieved a higher outcome rate in 2016/17 when compared with 2015/16.
- The outcome rate for Belfast City policing district reached its highest level in 2010/11 before falling to 21.9% in 2014/15; the rate has since increased to 23.7% in 2016/17. The outcome rates for each of the local policing teams (LPTs) in Belfast City have followed a similar trend to the overall district, although both Tennent Street LPT (North) and Woodbourne LPT (West) showed a slight dip in their outcome rates between 2015/16 and 2016/17. While Lisburn Road LPT (South) showed a generally higher outcome rate than for Belfast City as a whole in 2016/17, the Tennent Street LPT (North), Strandtown LPT (East) and Woodbourne LPT (West) experienced a lower outcome rate.
- In 2015/16, Lisburn & Castlereagh City, Ards & North Down and Antrim & Newtownabbey achieved their highest outcome rate since the start of the comparable data series in 2007/08. These policing districts have each experienced a fall in their outcome rate in 2016/17. Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid & East Antrim showed a higher outcome rate in 2015/16 when compared with 2014/15, and have also shown a fall in their outcome rate in 2016/17.
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon outcome rate peaked in 2014/15 (34.0%), and has fallen in each of the years since to 31.1% in 2016/17.

## 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 Instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2012/13 to 2016/17**

Selected offence type	Numbers				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	7	3	3	8	3
Attempted murder	28	27	41	31	20
Threats to kill	84	72	80	65	60
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	558	574	573	538	484
Robbery	238	200	216	142	133
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	13	13	11	5	7
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>707</b>

**Table 2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2012/13 to 2016/17 (i.e. 18 per cent of all homicides in 2016/17 involved knives or sharp instruments)**

Selected offence type	Percentages				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2012/13 (%)	2013/14 (%)	2014/15 (%)	2015/16 (%)	2016/17 (%)
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	35	14	13	38	18
Attempted murder	27	24	35	31	24
Threats to kill	5	4	3	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	4	4	4	4	4
Robbery	23	21	25	19	20
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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 and 2016/17 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 and in 2016/17.

## ONLINE CRIME

Online crime (excluding fraud) accounted for 0.6 per cent of all crimes in 2014/15, 0.8 per cent in 2015/16 and 1.1 per cent in 2016/17. In terms of population rates there were 3 offences of online crime per 10,000 population in 2014/15, 4 per 10,000 population in 2015/16 and 6 per 10,000 population in 2016/17.

## RECORDING OF FRAUD

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 Action Fraud became responsible for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and 2016/17. Figures received from Action Fraud at the start of May 2017 showed that in 2016/17 Action Fraud recorded 3,170 offences compared with 2,230 in 2015/16.

**Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2015/16 and 2016/17**

Offence group	Number and percentage changes			
	2015/16	2016/17	change between years	% change between years <sup>1</sup>
<b>VICTIM-BASED CRIME</b>				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	35,734	33,360	-2,374	-6.6
<i>Homicide</i>	21	17	-4	-
<i>Violence with injury</i>	15,047	13,966	-1,081	-7.2
<i>Violence without injury</i>	20,666	19,377	-1,289	-6.2
SEXUAL OFFENCES	3,037	3,158	121	4.0
<i>Rape</i>	780	823	43	5.5
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	2,257	2,335	78	3.5
ROBBERY	732	653	-79	-10.8
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	550	515	-35	-6.4
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	182	138	-44	-24.2
THEFT OFFENCES	34,157	31,025	-3,132	-9.2
<i>Burglary</i>	8,773	7,125	-1,648	-18.8
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	5,856	4,714	-1,142	-19.5
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	2,917	2,411	-506	-17.3
<i>Theft from the person</i>	558	413	-145	-26.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	4,925	4,421	-504	-10.2
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	718	844	126	17.5
<i>Shoplifting</i>	6,773	6,162	-611	-9.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	12,410	12,060	-350	-2.8
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	20,516	19,488	-1,028	-5.0
<b>OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>				
DRUG OFFENCES	5,577	5,432	-145	-2.6
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	876	832	-44	-5.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	4,701	4,600	-101	-2.1
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	923	890	-33	-3.6
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,470	1,216	-254	-17.3
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,877	2,854	-23	-0.8
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)</b>	<b>105,023</b>	<b>98,076</b>	<b>-6,947</b>	<b>-6.6</b>

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

**Table 4 Crime outcomes<sup>1</sup> 2015/16 and 2016/17, rates (%)**

Offence group	Percentages		
	Crime Outcomes <sup>1</sup> (rate %)		% point change <sup>2</sup>
	2015/16	2016/17	
<b>VICTIM-BASED CRIME</b>			
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	30.7	30.1	-0.7
<i>Homicide</i>	76.2	105.9	29.7
<i>Violence with injury</i>	32.5	32.5	0.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	29.5	28.3	-1.1
SEXUAL OFFENCES	14.9	12.7	-2.2
<i>Rape</i>	11.8	8.5	-3.3
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	16.0	14.1	-1.9
ROBBERY	20.4	23.6	3.2
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	15.5	15.3	-0.1
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	35.2	54.3	19.2
THEFT OFFENCES	21.3	21.2	-0.1
<i>Burglary</i>	10.7	10.8	0.1
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	9.6	10.6	1.0
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	13.0	11.3	-1.7
<i>Theft from the person</i>	6.5	6.3	-0.2
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	17.9	20.1	2.2
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	5.3	4.4	-0.9
<i>Shoplifting</i>	60.8	60.9	0.1
<i>All other theft offences</i>	10.0	9.1	-0.9
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	16.3	16.3	0.0
<b>OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>			
DRUG OFFENCES	88.9	87.1	-1.8
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	82.6	74.8	-7.9
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	90.0	89.3	-0.7
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	63.5	67.5	4.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	55.2	56.4	1.2
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	54.8	48.5	-6.4
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions (formerly known as 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).

<sup>2</sup> Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

**Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal<sup>1</sup> 2015/16 and 2016/17, rates (%)**

Offence group	Percentages											
	Charge/summons		Caution		Community resolution <sup>2</sup>		Penalty notice for disorder <sup>3</sup>		Taken into consideration		No action taken against the offender <sup>4</sup>	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
<b>VICTIM-BASED CRIME</b>												
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	25.2	24.9	2.4	2.0	3.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Homicide</i>	76.2	105.9	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>	27.3	27.3	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	23.6	23.0	2.3	1.8	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	14.1	11.2	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
<i>Rape</i>	11.4	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	15.0	12.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
<b>ROBBERY</b>	20.4	23.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	15.5	15.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	35.2	53.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>	13.6	13.7	1.5	1.5	3.4	3.7	2.8	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Burglary</i>	10.2	10.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	9.3	10.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	12.0	10.0	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	5.4	5.6	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	16.5	18.4	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	3.5	3.2	0.4	0.1	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	30.9	31.9	4.8	4.8	11.2	12.3	14.0	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	6.4	5.6	0.9	0.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	11.2	11.4	1.4	1.5	3.4	3.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>												
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>	49.3	49.0	20.8	16.6	18.8	21.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	75.6	68.0	6.1	6.1	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	44.4	45.5	23.5	18.5	22.1	25.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES</b>	49.1	56.6	8.1	8.8	6.3	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES</b>	53.3	51.7	1.7	2.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	51.4	45.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud)</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Discretionary Disposals were revised and rebranded as Community Resolutions on 30 June 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Penalty notices for disorder were introduced in June 2012.

<sup>4</sup> No action was taken against the offender includes indictable only offences where the offender died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute.



**Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcomes by policing district, 2015/16 and 2016/17, rates (%)**

Policing district <sup>1</sup>	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime			Crime Outcomes (rate, %) <sup>2</sup>		
	2015/16	2016/17	% change 2015/16 to 2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	% point change 2015/16 to 2016/17 <sup>3</sup>
Belfast City: of which	35,701	33,192	-7.0	23.1	23.7	0.6
<i>East</i> <sup>4</sup>	6,621	6,276	-5.2	19.6	20.7	1.1
<i>North</i> <sup>4</sup>	9,590	8,990	-6.3	23.7	23.5	-0.1
<i>South</i> <sup>4</sup>	12,199	11,456	-6.1	24.8	26.1	1.4
<i>West</i> <sup>4</sup>	7,291	6,470	-11.3	22.5	22.4	-0.2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	5,960	5,799	-2.7	37.2	34.7	-2.5
Ards & North Down	6,256	6,264	0.1	32.8	29.6	-3.1
Newry, Mourne & Down	8,800	8,072	-8.3	32.3	29.2	-3.1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	10,068	9,370	-6.9	31.6	31.1	-0.4
Mid Ulster	5,044	4,615	-8.5	29.3	29.7	0.4
Fermanagh & Omagh	4,998	4,640	-7.2	32.8	33.6	0.8
Derry City & Strabane	9,425	8,510	-9.7	30.0	31.6	1.7
Causeway Coast & Glens	6,301	5,846	-7.2	31.2	30.7	-0.5
Mid & East Antrim	5,565	5,735	3.1	29.7	28.5	-1.2
Antrim & Newtownabbey	6,905	6,033	-12.6	29.8	28.1	-1.7
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>105,023</b>	<b>98,076</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

<sup>2</sup> Outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions (formerly known as 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).

<sup>3</sup> Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

<sup>4</sup> 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 2015/16 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; they also exclude those crimes that are not recorded in order to comply with the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR). 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 2015/16 that around 52 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 available in the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales Chapter which can be accessed through the ONS website in [Crime and justice 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 was 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 and District 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 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2016 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 2016 and it is fully processed on the crime recording system by 15th November 2016. As figures for the bulletin covering the latest 12 months to 30th November 2016 are extracted and published in December 2016, 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017, it will not be available for inclusion in the figures until the data extracted and published towards the end of January 2017.
- 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 cancelled (previously referred to as 'no crime'd') or removed from the crime figures. This can happen for a number of reasons:
  - Transferred: the crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded;
  - Cancelled: additional verifiable information becomes available which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed;
  - Cancelled: the crime, as alleged, constitutes part of a crime already recorded;
  - Cancelled: the reported incident was recorded as a crime in error;
  - Cancelled: self-defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults).

Full guidance on crime cancellation 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 28 February 2017, which were first published in March 2017.

**Table 7 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 28 February 2017, which was first published 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

	Numbers & Percentages					
	As published in March 2017	As published in May 2017	Scale of revision		% change between years	
			number	%	As published Mar'17	As published May'17
Financial Year to date: Apr 2016 to Feb 2017	89,763	89,705	-58	-0.06	-7.0	-7.0
12 Months Mar 2016 to Feb 2017	98,292	98,234	-58	-0.06	-6.6	-6.7

## Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 2016/17 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 document format.

- a detailed breakdown of recorded crimes at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 1998/99 to 2016/17;
- 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 2016/17;

- the number of outcomes and outcome rate (%) by method of outcome at a Northern Ireland level for each year from 1998/99 to 2016/17;
- summary tables for Northern Ireland, each policing district comparing recorded crimes and outcome rates for 2016/17 with 2015/16 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;
  - for a range of crime types;
  - for a range of time periods (2015/16, 2016/17 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, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

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.

### Introduction of Action Fraud within Northern Ireland

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 Action Fraud became responsible for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1<sup>st</sup> 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. As a result, this bulletin contains a short section on the recording of fraud which presents 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015.

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.

### 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 2015/16](#) was published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2016/17 will be pre-announced in due course.

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 website](#).

### 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](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk);

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

Telephone: 029 9065 0222 ext 24135