

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update 31 March 2018

(Providing figures for 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)

Published 17 May 2018

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This bulletin presents statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2017/18.

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 12 to 14](#) of this bulletin. In addition a [User Guide](#) provides further information about the collation of these statistics.

The next update will be published on 28th June 2018. A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2017/18 will be pre-announced in due course.

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 2016/17 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 2016/17 that around 45 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.

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.

Points to note in this bulletin

Revisions to previously published police recorded crime and outcome figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17:

The Home Office introduced a wider outcomes framework for police recorded crime which was adopted within PSNI in April 2015; this approach means that every crime record should eventually be assigned an outcome. In a small number of cases changes to crimes, such as crime cancellation or identification of an outcome, occur after the figures have been published. To take account of such changes, revisions have been made for the first time to crimes recorded since 2015/16 which have since been cancelled or which have since had a sanction outcome identified. This has resulted in slight changes to the police recorded crime, outcome and outcome rate figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17, when compared with previous publications. Revisions of this nature will be routinely applied to future annual publications.

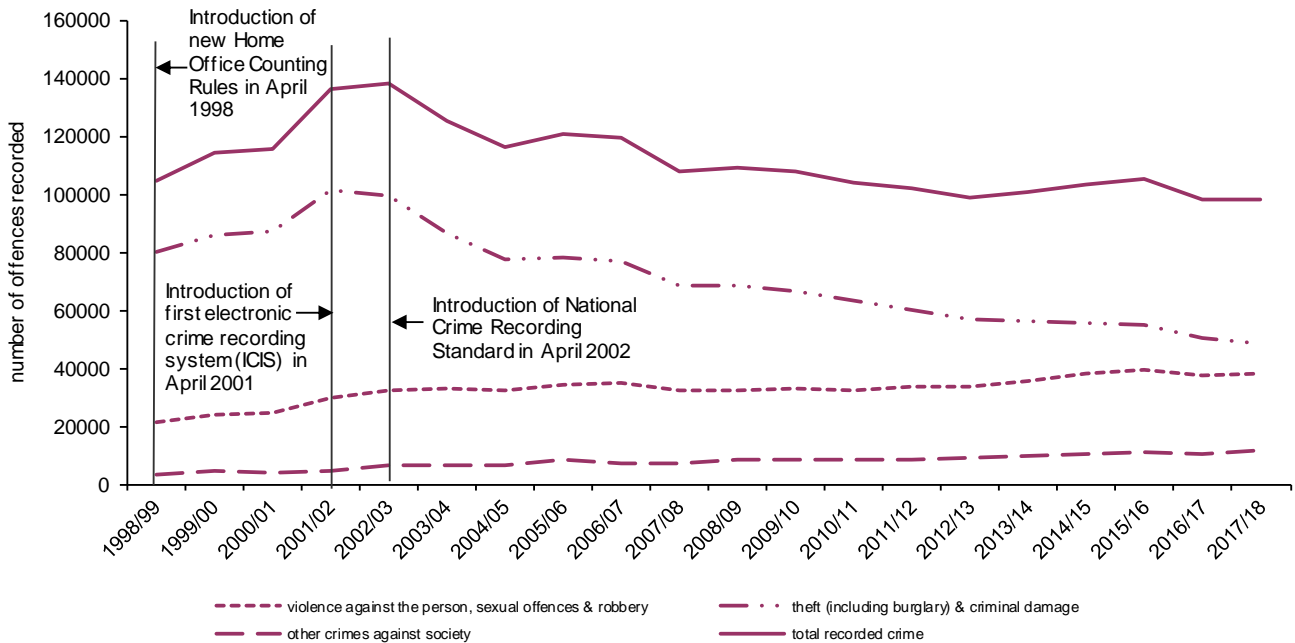
Malicious Communications: the recording of malicious communications offences commenced for the first time in Northern Ireland from 1st April 2017 and are classified to Harassment which sits within Violence Against the Person. Further details are in the [summary tables spreadsheet](#), notes to accompany Table 7.

Change to Home Office Counting Rules for Burglary: From 1st April 2017 the classifications within burglary have been changed from *domestic burglary* and *non-domestic burglary* to *burglary - residential* and *burglary - business & community*. Further details are available in the NOTES section, page 13.

OVERALL TRENDS IN POLICE RECORDED CRIME (excluding crimes recorded by Action Fraud)

- Police recorded crime has shown an overall downwards trend over the last fifteen years. It reached a peak of 138,132 in 2002/03 and has since fallen to 98,014 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 2017/18, (98,301 offences) shows a slight increase of 0.3 per cent on the previous year. This represents 53 crimes per 1,000 population in 2017/18, compared with 81 crimes per 1,000 population when crime was at its highest level in 2002/03.

Figure 1 Trends in police recorded crime, 1998/99 to 2017/18



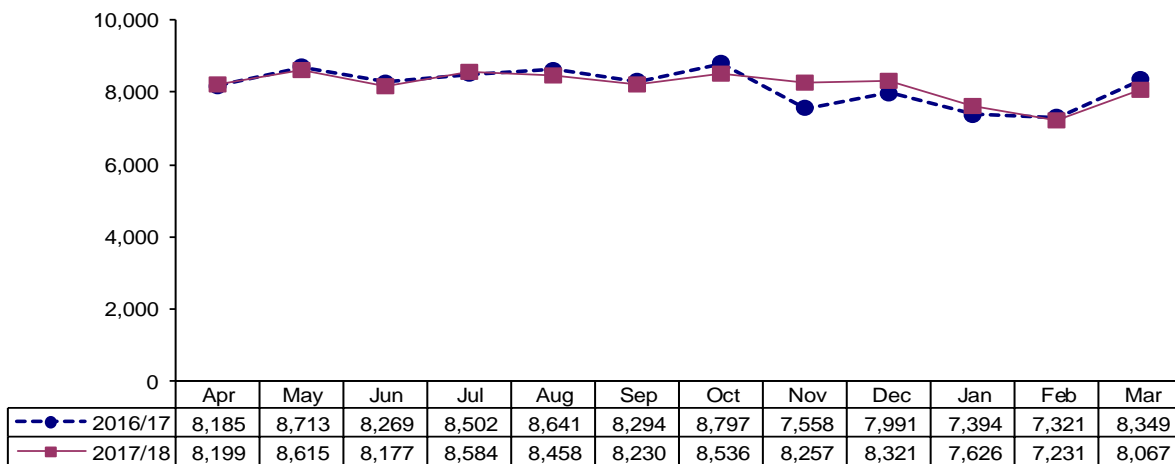
- Although the overall crime figure has seen a slight rise in 2017/18 there has been a downwards trend in crime over the last fifteen years mainly experienced within the crime types of robbery, burglary, vehicle offences and criminal damage, each of which have fallen to their lowest levels recorded in 2017/18. The number of robbery offences in 2017/18 is less than one quarter of the peak level in 2002/03 and is almost half of the level recorded five years ago. Burglary levels are just over one third of the peak reached in 2002/03, vehicle offences are less one fifth 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 reach the highest level recorded since 1998/99 (35,714 offences). The 2017/18 level of 34,162 shows a 2.4 percent increase (805 offences) on the previous year and is the third highest level recorded. Within this classification, the recording of malicious communications offences commenced for the first time in Northern Ireland from 1st April 2017 and accounts for 905 offences recorded in 2017/18.
- Sexual offences have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01. At 3,443, the figure for 2017/18 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 (24,107 offences) 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 since moved in a downwards direction to 19,551 offences recorded in 2017/18, the third lowest figure recorded since 1998/99.
- Drug offences reached their highest level in 2017/18. The number of such offences increased year on year between 2006/07 (2,413 offences) and 2015/16 (5,549 offences). A slight fall of 2.4 per cent between 2015/16 and 2016/17 was followed by an increase of 20.1 per cent (1,086 offences) in 2017/18 to reach 6,502 offences recorded. The higher number of recorded offences during 2017/18 reflects an increase in proactive work by all elements within PSNI in response to community concern about drugs.
- 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 reaching 1,000 offences in 2017/18 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 experienced since 2009/10. At 1,107 offences, 2017/18 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 2,958 recorded during 2017/18 is the highest seen since 1998/99, when 1,498 offences were recorded.

COMPARISON OF 2017/18 WITH 2016/17: OVERALL POLICE RECORDED CRIME (excluding Action Fraud)

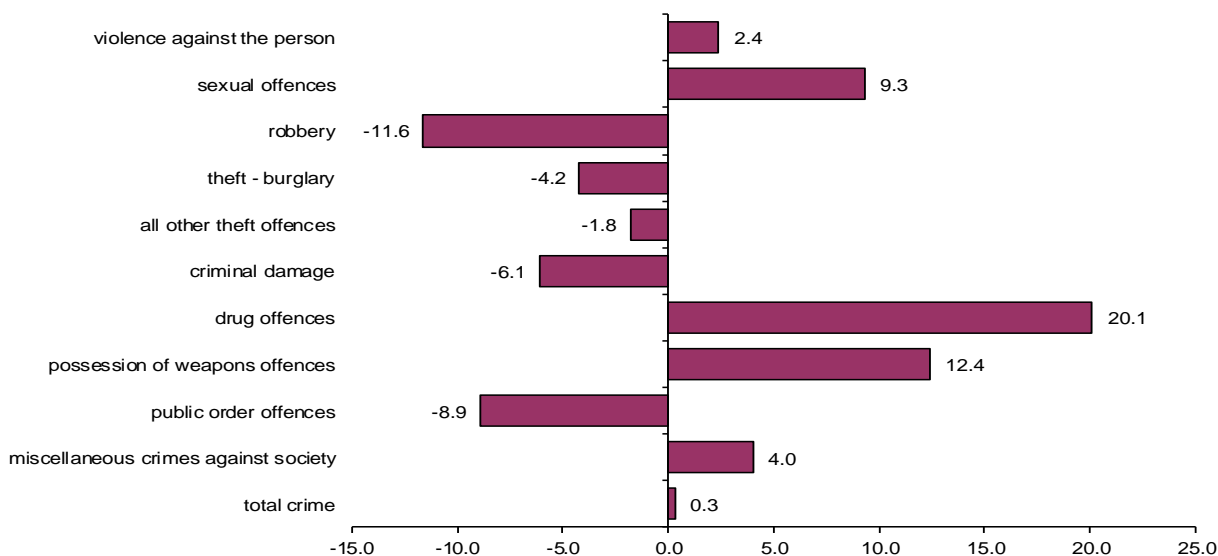
- Police recorded crime has shown a slight increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18 (0.3 per cent) and levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2017/18 with the same month in 2016/17. The largest monthly difference was seen in November, with the level in 2017 being 9.2 per cent higher than that during November 2016. The levels recorded in February 2018 (7,231) and February 2017 (7,321) are the lowest and third lowest monthly figures recorded since the data series began in April 1998; the second lowest monthly figure was in December 2010.

Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, 2016/17 and 2017/18



- Police recorded crime by type of crime for 2017/18 compared with 2016/17 is shown in Table 3. Overall crime outcomes and outcomes by type of disposal covering these same time periods are available in Tables 4 and 5.

Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2016/17 compared with 2017/18



- **Trends over the last 24 months:** The main crime categories of violence against the person, burglary, theft offences (excluding burglary), criminal damage and public order offences are showing a downwards trend over the last two years with robbery, possession of weapons offences and miscellaneous crimes against society each showing a fairly flat trend. Drug offences and sexual offences are showing an upwards trend.
- **Violence with injury (including homicide and death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving)** has shown a downwards trend over the last two years. Levels have fluctuated in a generally downwards direction from April 2016, falling to 970 offences in November 2016 (the third lowest level in the last two years). Levels then generally increased to 1,338 offences recorded in July 2017, the highest level in the past two years, before decreasing in most months to 962 offences recorded in January 2018, the lowest level in the past 24 months. **Violence without injury (including harassment)** has shown a fairly flat trend. Levels generally decreased from 1,860 in May 2016, the highest figure in the last two years to a two-year low of 1,369 offences in November 2016. The level has since moved in an upwards direction reaching 1,835 offences in June 2017 before generally decreasing in most months to February 2018. The number of offences recorded in each month in 2017/18 was higher than the corresponding month in 2016/17 with the exception of May 2017.
- **Sexual offences** have shown a slightly increasing trend over the last two years. While there have been month on month increases throughout much of the last two years, some sharp falls have contributed to flattening out the trend, such as decreases between June and July and October to December in both 2016 and 2017. The highest figure recorded in the last two years was in May 2017 (346 offences), while December 2016 (238 offences) was the lowest. The number of offences recorded in each month in 2017/18 was higher than the corresponding month in 2016/17 with the exception of April 2017.
- **Robbery** has shown a fairly flat trend over the last two years. Levels have tended to fluctuate, ranging from 70 offences recorded in July 2016 to the lower levels of 44 in May 2017, October 2017 and March 2018, 43 in December 2016 and January 2017 and 42 in November 2017. There has been less fluctuation in 2017/18 compared with 2016/17 with most months in 2017/18 lower than the corresponding months in 2016/17, the exceptions being December 2017 to February 2018. The number of robbery offences in 2017/18 is 11.6 per cent less than 2016/17.
- **Burglary: (an explanation of the change in burglary classifications is available in the NOTES section, page 13)** Over the last two years burglary offences have shown a downwards trend. Figures were lower in seven of the months during 2017/18 when compared with the corresponding months in 2016/17. A sharp increase in levels was recorded between November 2017 and January 2018. At 734, the number of burglaries recorded in January 2018 was the highest in the last two years and 157 higher than the level recorded in January 2017. This was followed by a sharp fall to 508 offences in February 2018 and 502 in March 2018, the lowest recorded in the data series.
- The classification of theft offences (excluding burglary) has shown a downwards trend over the last two years. Within this classification the following trends can be seen:
 - **Theft from the person** has shown an overall flat trend. There were peaks seen in December 2016 (60 offences) and December 2017 (53 offences), while the lowest levels were 21 offences in June 2016, 25 in February 2018 and 26 offences in January 2017 and March 2017.
 - **Vehicle offences** have shown a downwards trend over the past two years. There were increases in most months since May 2016 (299 offences) to reach a peak of 434 offences in December 2016. Levels then fell to the third lowest in the past two years in August 2017 (277 offences) before increasing each month to 395 offences recorded in November 2017. This was followed by a sharp fall to 259 offences in February 2018, the lowest figure recorded since the start of the data series.
 - **Shoplifting offences** have shown an overall flat trend. Since June 2016, when 577 offences were recorded, the level moved in a generally downwards direction to January 2017 (381 offences, the lowest level in the last two years). Levels have risen since then, reaching a two-year high of 595 offences in September 2017 with similar figures recorded in November and December 2017 (588 and 583 offences respectively). A lower level of 484 offences was recorded in February 2018, followed by 542 offences in March 2018.
 - **Bicycle theft** generally increased from 59 offences in April 2016 to 96 offences in October 2016. A sharp fall to 40 offences recorded in December 2016 was followed by increases in most months to reach 104 offences in May 2017 and 107 in September 2017, the highest level in the past 24 months (June 2017 and July 2017 were lower, with 68 and 67 offences recorded respectively). The level has since moved in sharp downwards direction with 38 offences recorded in February 2018, the lowest figure in the last two years.
 - **All other theft offences** have shown a slight downwards trend over the last two years. The level has generally fluctuated, with the highest figure in the past two years recorded in March 2018 (1,102 offences) while the lowest level recorded in the last two years was in November 2016 (923 offences). While this classification has shown an overall fall of 68 offences between 2016/17 and 2017/18, it includes the offence of Making Off

Without Payment (MOWP) which has seen an increase of 621 offences over the same time period. Recently PSNI introduced a pilot scheme covering two policing districts, in which the petrol station deals with non payment of fuel through the Civil Debt Recovery process, allowing police to focus on those who are deliberately seeking to avoid paying for their fuel. Each MOWP report is still recorded as a crime by police who will identify if there are any aggravating factors (eg false registration plate). If none exist there is no additional requirement for police intervention. However the strict crime cancellation criteria contained in the Home Office Counting Rules means that it is not possible to cancel such reports, thus leading to an increase in the number of these offences remaining recorded.

- **Criminal damage** offences have shown a downwards trend over the last two years. In both twelve month periods levels tended to be higher between May and October and lower between November and February. However, the monthly figures from June 2017 to March 2018 have been consistently lower than the corresponding months in the previous year; the two lowest levels since the start of the data series were recorded in January and February 2018, 1,264 and 1,246 respectively.
- **Outcomes where disposal administered:** The overall rate has shown a fairly flat trend, which has been reflected across most of the main crime types.

COMPARISON OF 2017/18 WITH 2016/17: POLICING DISTRICTS (excluding Action Fraud)

- Belfast City, Fermanagh & Omagh, Ards & North Down, Causeway Coast & Glens and Derry City & Strabane policing districts have seen a lower level of crime recorded in 2017/18 when compared with 2016/17, with decreases of 833, 363, 123, 46 and 10 respectively. The remaining six districts saw increases ranging from 43 in Mid Ulster to 578 in Lisburn & Castlereagh City.
- Belfast City has shown a downwards trend over the past two years, though continues to account for around a third of all crimes recorded. The number of offences recorded in each month of 2017/18 has been lower than the corresponding months in 2016/17 (with the exception of May 2017, November 2017 and January 2018). In both twelve month periods the level has shown a general increase between April and October and fall between October and February.

Figure 4 Percentage change in recorded crime by policing district, 2016/17 compared with 2017/18



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 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2017/18. For offences of violence against the person the proportion in which alcohol was a contributory factor has fallen from 47 per cent in 2012/13 to 40 per cent in 2015/16, 2016/17 and in 2017/18.

ONLINE CRIME

Online crime (excluding Action Fraud) continues to rise. It accounted for 0.6 per cent of all crimes in 2014/15, 0.8 per cent in 2015/16, 1.0 per cent in 2016/17 and 1.3 per cent in 2017/18. 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, 6 per 10,000 population in 2016/17 and 7 per 10,000 population.

RECORDING OF FRAUD

From 1 April 2015 Action Fraud became responsible for the central recording of fraud and cyber crime previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1 April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and cyber crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud and cyber offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to fraud and cyber crime occurring in Northern Ireland are provided to PSNI on a monthly basis. As a result, the figures within this bulletin are presented on a comparable basis that excludes crimes recorded by Action Fraud, unless otherwise specified.

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 during 2016/17 and 2017/18. Figures received from Action Fraud at the end of April 2018 showed that in 2017/18 Action Fraud recorded 3,581 offences compared with 3,170 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 Instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Selected offence type	Numbers				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Homicide ²	3	3	8	3	7
Attempted murder	27	41	31	20	39
Threats to kill	72	80	65	60	49
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	574	573	538	484	534
Robbery	200	216	142	133	130
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	13	11	5	7	4
Total selected offences	889	924	789	707	763

Table 2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2013/14 to 2017/18 (i.e. 26 per cent of all homicides in 2017/18 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Selected offence type	Percentages				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2013/14 (%)	2014/15 (%)	2015/16 (%)	2016/17 (%)	2017/18 (%)
Homicide ²	14	12	38	18	26
Attempted murder	24	35	31	24	41
Threats to kill	4	3	3	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	4	4	4	4	4
Robbery	21	25	19	20	23
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	1	1	0	0	0
Total selected offences	5	5	4	4	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.

Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2016/17 and 2017/18

Offence group	Number and percentage changes			
	2016/17 ⁵	2017/18	change between years	% change between years ¹
VICTIM-BASED CRIME				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	33,357	34,162	805	2.4
<i>Homicide</i>	17	27	10	-
<i>Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving²</i>	141	136	-5	-3.5
<i>Violence with injury²</i>	13,825	13,583	-242	-1.8
<i>Violence without injury³</i>	16,370	16,755	385	2.4
<i>Harassment³</i>	3,004	3,661	657	21.9
SEXUAL OFFENCES	3,150	3,443	293	9.3
<i>Rape</i>	821	967	146	17.8
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	2,329	2,476	147	6.3
ROBBERY	653	577	-76	-11.6
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	515	436	-79	-15.3
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	138	141	3	2.2
THEFT OFFENCES	31,001	30,262	-739	-2.4
<i>Burglary⁴</i>	7,125	6,826	-299	-4.2
<i>Theft from the person</i>	413	439	26	6.3
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	4,419	3,885	-534	-12.1
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	844	863	19	2.3
<i>Shoplifting</i>	6,162	6,279	117	1.9
<i>All other theft offences</i>	12,038	11,970	-68	-0.6
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	19,487	18,290	-1,197	-6.1
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
DRUG OFFENCES	5,416	6,502	1,086	20.1
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	828	854	26	3.1
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	4,588	5,648	1,060	23.1
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	890	1,000	110	12.4
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,215	1,107	-108	-8.9
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,845	2,958	113	4.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding Action Fraud)	98,014	98,301	287	0.3

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

² Offences relating to causing death or serious injury by unlawful driving were previously included in the Violence with injury classification. These offences are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules.

³ Offences relating to Harassment were previously included in the Violence without injury classification and are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules. The Harassment classification includes malicious communications offences, the recording of which started for the first time in Northern Ireland from 1st April 2017. A more detailed breakdown of the offences within Harassment can be found in Table 7 in the [summary tables](#).

⁴ From 1 April 2017 the classifications within burglary have been changed from *domestic burglary* and *non-domestic burglary* to *burglary-residential* and *burglary-business & community*. This reflects a revised approach within the Home Office Counting Rules. What constitutes a burglary does not change; however burglary-residential and burglary-business & community represent a new data series. A detailed breakdown of the burglary classifications is available in the [pivot table data](#) which accompany this bulletin.

⁵ Revisions to previously published police recorded crime and outcome figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17: The Home Office introduced a wider outcomes framework for police recorded crime which was adopted within PSNI in April 2015; this approach means that every crime record should eventually be assigned an outcome. In a small number of cases changes to crimes, such as crime cancellation or identification of an outcome, occur after the figures have been published. To take account of such changes, revisions have been made for the first time to crimes recorded since 2015/16 which have since been cancelled or which have since had a sanction outcome identified. This has resulted in slight changes to the police recorded crime, outcome and outcome rate figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17, when compared with previous publications. Revisions of this nature will be routinely applied to future annual publications.

Table 4 Crime outcomes¹ 2016/17 and 2017/18, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages		
	Crime Outcomes ¹ (rate %)		% point change ²
	2016/17 ⁵	2017/18	
VICTIM-BASED CRIME			
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	30.2	28.6	-1.5
<i>Homicide</i>	111.8	74.1	-37.7
<i>Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving³</i>	100.0	100.0	0.0
<i>Violence with injury³</i>	31.9	29.8	-2.0
<i>Violence without injury⁴</i>	30.9	29.8	-1.0
<i>Harassment⁴</i>	14.7	15.6	0.8
SEXUAL OFFENCES	13.0	11.6	-1.4
<i>Rape</i>	8.5	5.9	-2.6
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	14.6	13.8	-0.8
ROBBERY	23.7	28.6	4.9
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	15.5	23.2	7.6
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	54.3	45.4	-9.0
THEFT OFFENCES	21.3	20.9	-0.4
<i>Burglary</i>	10.9	11.6	0.8
<i>Theft from the person</i>	6.3	7.7	1.4
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	20.2	20.8	0.6
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	4.4	5.2	0.8
<i>Shoplifting</i>	61.0	57.0	-4.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	9.2	8.8	-0.4
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	16.4	16.0	-0.4
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY			
DRUG OFFENCES	87.5	87.6	0.1
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	75.2	78.0	2.7
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	89.8	89.1	-0.7
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	68.0	57.7	-10.3
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	56.5	59.8	3.3
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	48.7	49.7	1.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding Action Fraud)	28.4	28.5	0.1

¹ 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).

² Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

³ Offences relating to causing death or serious injury by unlawful driving were previously included in the Violence with injury classification. These offences are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules.

⁴ Offences relating to Harassment were previously included in the Violence without injury classification and are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules.

⁵ Revisions to previously published police recorded crime and outcome figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17: The Home Office introduced a wider outcomes framework for police recorded crime which was adopted within PSNI in April 2015; this approach means that every crime record should eventually be assigned an outcome. In a small number of cases changes to crimes, such as crime cancellation or identification of an outcome, occur after the figures have been published. To take account of such changes, revisions have been made for the first time to crimes recorded since 2015/16 which have since been cancelled or which have since had a sanction outcome identified. This has resulted in slight changes to the police recorded crime, outcome and outcome rate figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17, when compared with previous publications. Revisions of this nature will be routinely applied to future annual publications.

Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal¹ 2016/17 and 2017/18, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages											
	Charge/summons		Caution		Community resolution ²		Penalty notice for disorder ³		Taken into consideration		No action taken against the offender ⁴	
	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18	2016/17 ⁷	2017/18
VICTIM-BASED CRIME												
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	24.9	23.8	2.1	1.9	3.2	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Homicide</i>	105.9	70.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	3.7
<i>Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving⁵</i>	99.3	99.3	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence with injury⁵</i>	26.6	25.0	2.4	2.0	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence without injury⁶</i>	25.2	24.7	1.9	1.9	3.8	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Harassment⁶</i>	11.2	12.0	1.3	1.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	11.3	10.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
<i>Rape</i>	8.3	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	12.4	12.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
ROBBERY	23.4	27.9	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	15.3	22.5	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	53.6	44.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
THEFT OFFENCES	13.7	14.1	1.5	1.1	3.7	4.3	2.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Burglary</i>	10.3	11.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	5.6	6.2	0.0	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	18.5	19.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	3.2	3.2	0.1	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	31.9	31.8	4.8	3.4	12.4	15.1	11.9	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	5.6	5.7	0.7	0.5	2.7	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	11.5	11.7	1.5	1.2	3.2	2.9	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY												
DRUG OFFENCES	49.2	45.3	16.7	13.0	21.6	29.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	68.5	69.8	6.2	6.3	0.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	45.7	41.6	18.7	14.0	25.4	33.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	57.0	50.2	8.8	6.8	2.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	51.8	58.1	2.1	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	45.8	47.1	1.8	1.9	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES (excluding Action Fraud)	20.8	20.9	2.6	2.2	4.1	4.9	0.8	0.5	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 Community Resolutions were introduced as an outcome during 2011/12 and termed Discretionary disposals, they were subsequently rebranded as Community Resolutions on 30 June 2016.

³ Penalty notices for disorder were introduced in June 2012.

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

⁵ Offences relating to causing death or serious injury by unlawful driving were previously included in the Violence with injury classification. These offences are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules.

⁶ Offences relating to Harassment were previously included in the Violence without injury classification and are now presented in their own classification within the Home Office Counting Rules.

⁷ Please see footnote 5 in table 4, revisions to previously published police recorded crime and outcome figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcomes by policing district, 2016/17 and 2017/18, rates (%)

Policing district	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime			Crime Outcomes (rate, %) ¹		
	2016/17 ⁴	2017/18	% change 2016/17 to 2017/18	2016/17 ⁴	2017/18	% point change 2016/17 to 2017/18 ²
Belfast City: of which	33,174	32,341	-2.5	23.8	24.0	0.2
<i>East</i> ³	6,273	6,108	-2.6	20.8	20.9	0.1
<i>North</i> ³	8,987	8,835	-1.7	23.6	23.9	0.2
<i>South</i> ³	11,452	11,216	-2.1	26.2	26.8	0.7
<i>West</i> ³	6,462	6,182	-4.3	22.5	22.2	-0.4
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	5,793	6,371	10.0	34.9	33.0	-1.9
Ards & North Down	6,259	6,136	-2.0	29.8	27.6	-2.2
Newry, Mourne & Down	8,069	8,170	1.3	29.3	30.5	1.1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	9,370	9,695	3.5	31.2	29.5	-1.6
Mid Ulster	4,610	4,653	0.9	29.8	32.6	2.8
Fermanagh & Omagh	4,635	4,272	-7.8	33.8	32.8	-0.9
Derry City & Strabane	8,504	8,494	-0.1	31.7	32.3	0.5
Causeway Coast & Glens	5,844	5,798	-0.8	30.7	30.8	0.1
Mid & East Antrim	5,725	6,044	5.6	28.7	30.5	1.9
Antrim & Newtownabbey	6,031	6,327	4.9	28.1	28.3	0.1
Northern Ireland	98,014	98,301	0.3	28.4	28.5	0.1

¹ 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).

² Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

³ Belfast City has four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West).

⁴ Revisions to previously published police recorded crime and outcome figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17: The Home Office introduced a wider outcomes framework for police recorded crime which was adopted within PSNI in April 2015; this approach means that every crime record should eventually be assigned an outcome. In a small number of cases changes to crimes, such as crime cancellation or identification of an outcome, occur after the figures have been published. To take account of such changes, revisions have been made for the first time to crimes recorded since 2015/16 which have since been cancelled or which have since had a sanction outcome identified. This has resulted in slight changes to the police recorded crime, outcome and outcome rate figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17, when compared with previous publications. Revisions of this nature will be routinely applied to future annual publications.

NOTES

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. Further details of the Northern Ireland analysis can be found on page 6 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#).

Assessment of police recorded crime in Northern Ireland

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 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.

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 May 2015. 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 in February 2016.

Data Quality and Auditing

A validation and quality assurance process has 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](#).

Revisions

Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision. This means that the totals for each month, crime type and policing district for each month from April 2017 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 1 November 2016 and it is fully processed on the crime recording system by 15 November 2016. As figures for the bulletin covering the latest 12 months to 30 November 2016 were 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 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 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 28 February 2018, which was first published 29 March 2018

	As published 29 Mar 2018	As published 17 May 2018	Scale of revision		Numbers & Percentages	
			Number	%	% change between years	
					As published 29 Mar 2018	As published 17 May 2018
Financial Year to date: April -February 2018	90,519	90,234	-285	-0.31%	1.0%	0.6%
12 Months March to February 2018	98,868	98,583	-285	-0.29%	0.7%	0.4%

Introduction of Action Fraud within Northern Ireland

From 1 April 2015 Action Fraud became responsible for the central recording of fraud and cyber crime previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1 April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and cyber crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. While this means that these fraud and cyber offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, Action Fraud figures relating to fraud and cyber crime occurring 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 crimes recorded by Action Fraud, unless otherwise specified.

Recent Changes to Home Office Counting Rules for Burglary

From 1 April 2017 the classifications within burglary have been changed from *domestic burglary* and *non-domestic burglary* to *burglary-residential* and *burglary-business & community*. This reflects a revised approach within the Home Office Counting Rules. What constitutes a burglary does not change; however burglary-residential and burglary-business & community represent a new data series. For example sheds, garages, outhouses etc within the boundary of a dwelling are recorded under burglary-residential, while previously they may have been recorded as non-domestic burglary. Where such a building is used solely for business purposes, it will be recorded as burglary-business & community. The individual series for domestic burglary and burglary-residential cannot be added together to create an overall figure. The same applies to non-domestic burglary and burglary-business & community. A detailed breakdown of the burglary classifications is available in the [pivot table data](#) which accompany this bulletin.

Burglary Classification Residential: The classification of residential burglary includes all buildings or parts of buildings that are within the boundary of, or form a part of, a dwelling and includes the dwelling itself, vacant dwellings, sheds, garages, outhouses, summer houses and any other structure that meets the definition of a building. It also includes other premises used for residential purposes such as houseboats, residential care homes and hostels. Where an outbuilding **within such a boundary but not forming part of the dwelling building**, such as a garage or workshop is used solely for business purposes this should be recorded as burglary – business and community. Where both a dwelling house and an outbuilding used for business purposes (**belonging to the same victim**) are subject of a burglary at the same time, then only the residential burglary is to be recorded.

Burglary Classification Business & Community: The classification of business and community burglary includes all buildings or parts of buildings that are used **solely and exclusively for business purposes** or are otherwise entirely outside the classification of residential burglary such as a place of worship. Where an outbuilding is **within the boundary of a dwelling, but not forming part of the dwelling building**, such as a garage or workshop and is used solely for business purposes this should be recorded as burglary – business and community. Where both a dwelling house and an outbuilding used for business purposes (**belonging to the same victim**) are subject of a burglary at the same time then only the residential burglary is to be recorded.

Community Resolutions

Discretionary Disposals were revised and rebranded as Community Resolutions on 30 June 2016.

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 2016/17](#) was published on 12 January 2018 and provides detailed trend information covering this time period.

Crime Outcomes: This is a new bulletin published for the first time on 12 January 2018, presenting the wider outcomes framework within PSNI and summarising the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police during 2015/16 and 2016/17. The publication can be accessed through:
<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

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;

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

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135