

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland

Update to 30th June 2020

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Police recorded crime has shown an overall downwards trend over the last seventeen years.

In the 12 months from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020:

- There were 101,217 recorded offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 1,337 (-1.3%) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The level of crime was higher in each month from July 2019 to February 2020 compared with the same months in the previous year. Covid-19 lockdown measures were introduced on 23rd March 2020 and have had an impact on the lower crime levels seen in March 2020 through to June 2020.
- Six of the policing districts experienced a lower level of crime.
- Violence against the person offences, drug offences, possession of weapons, public order and miscellaneous crimes against society each showed higher levels.
- Lower crime levels were seen in theft offences, burglary, robbery and sexual offences.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe

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We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided on the cover page.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

Statistics on police recorded crime in Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). They are recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules and further details of recording practices are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#).

This release presents statistics relating to police recorded crime to 30 June 2020. Figures were compiled on 28 June 2020; as of that date 99.1% of records for April to June 2020 have been validated and 0.9% have not yet been given a crime classification.

Changes can be expected to in-year figures each time they are published, as all records from 1st April 2020 are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021.

All tables and charts in the bulletin, along with supplementary data, are available from the PSNI website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

The next update covering the 12 months to 31 July 2020 will be published on 27 August 2020. A full [publication schedule](#) is available on the PSNI website.

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

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

Police recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland retained designation as National Statistics in February 2016 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

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

- Moved away from shared oversight to the introduction of a dedicated Crime Registrar post to oversee adherence to and implementation of Home Office requirements on process and quality.
- Reviewed and enhanced the format of the monthly bulletins.
- Enhanced the amount of information available to users in our annual trends publication, for example more detailed analysis on victims of crime.
- Provided a greater range of tables, pivot tables and charts within in our publications to enhance presentation of the information in a more user friendly way.
- Increased the range of information available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service ([NINIS](#)), with data made available for the first time through [Open Data NI](#).
- Continued to conduct regular consultation with internal and external users, for example via a customer satisfaction survey to obtain feedback and suggestions for improvements, with [results](#) published on the PSNI statistics website.

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

While this update presents the level of crime recorded by the police, there is an alternative but complementary measure of crime, the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 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 NISCS can be found in the Technical Annex of the bulletin [Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey](#). Both of these measures of crime inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Unlike the NISCS, 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 2018/19 that around 39 per cent of NISCS 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.

Points to note in this bulletin

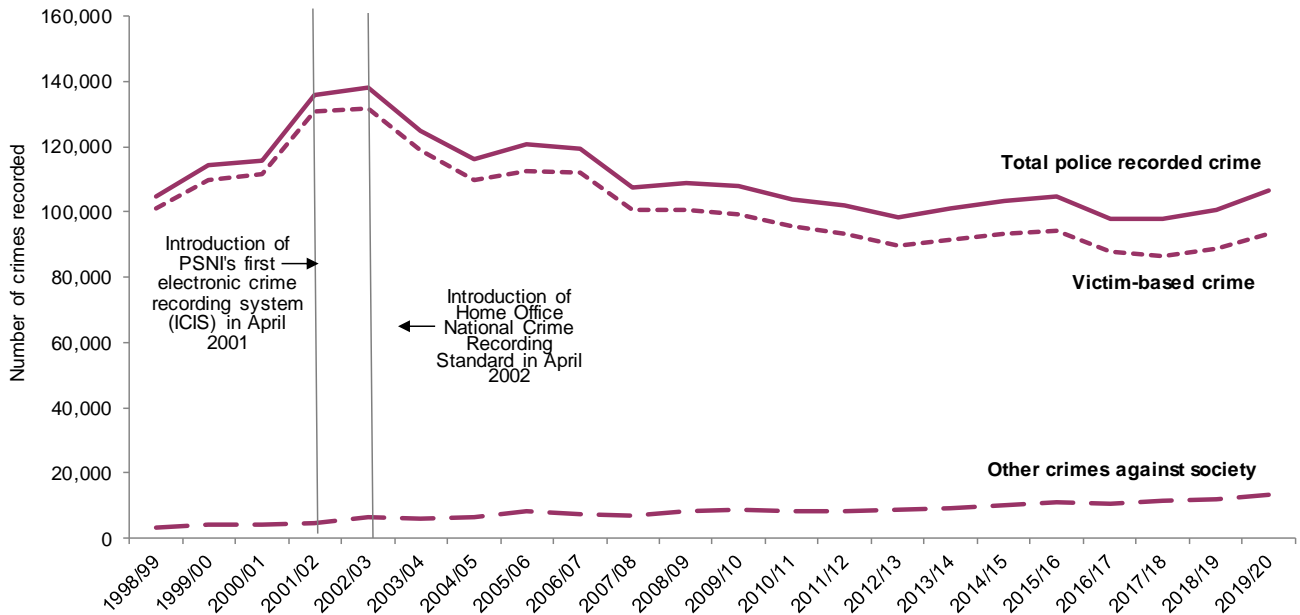
Harassment (including malicious communications): Recording of malicious communications started on 1st April 2017. A Home Office change introduced in April 2018 requires harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence. Both of these changes in recording practice, along with increasing awareness of the application of these rules in the recording process, have contributed to increased levels recorded in the overall harassment classification.

Action Fraud: Figures relating to fraud and cyber crime occurring in Northern Ireland and provided to PSNI are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

2. What is happening to levels of police recorded crime over the longer term?

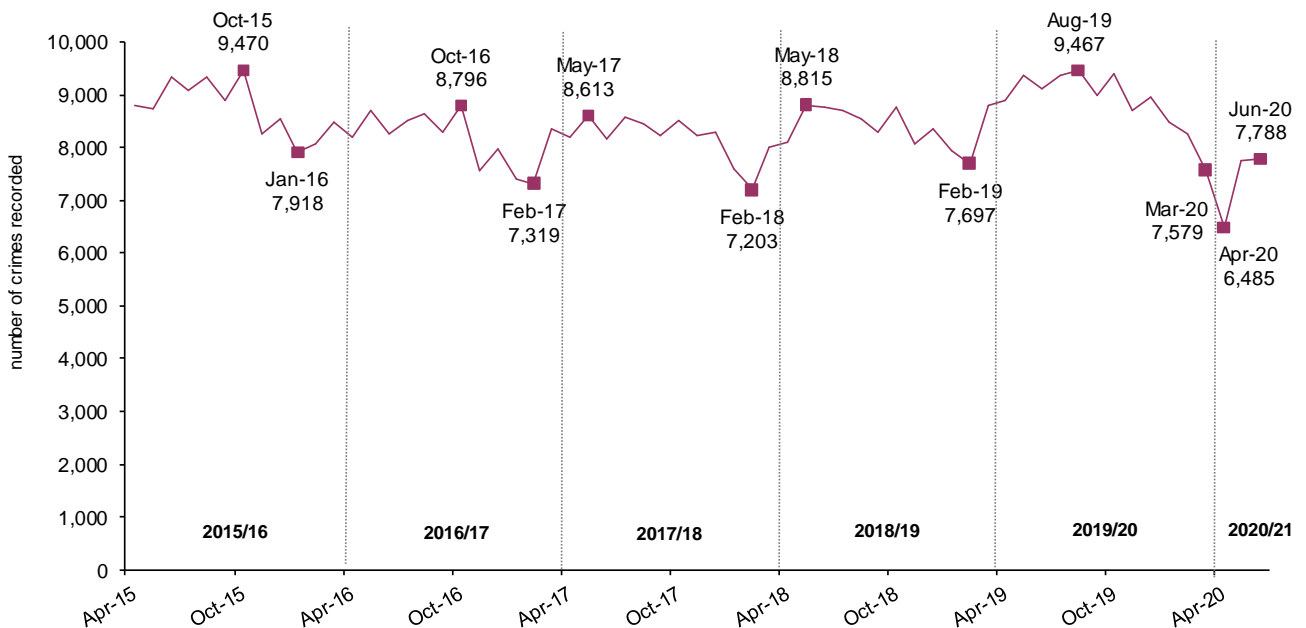
Police recorded crime has moved in a generally downwards direction between 2002/03 and 2016/17, falling by nearly 30 per cent. Increases have been seen over the last three years. When considering the overall reduction in crime, falls in property crimes such as burglary, robbery, criminal damage and vehicle offences have contributed to this. Other crimes against society have moved in an upwards direction, with drug offences contributing to the majority of this rise.

Figure 1 Trends in police recorded crime since 1998/99



Crime is generally higher in the months of March to September and lower in the November to February period. Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were introduced on 23rd March 2020 and have had an impact on the number of crimes recorded. For further information please refer to section 5 of this bulletin.

Figure 2 Police recorded crime each month April 2015 to June 2020, showing highest and lowest levels in each financial year



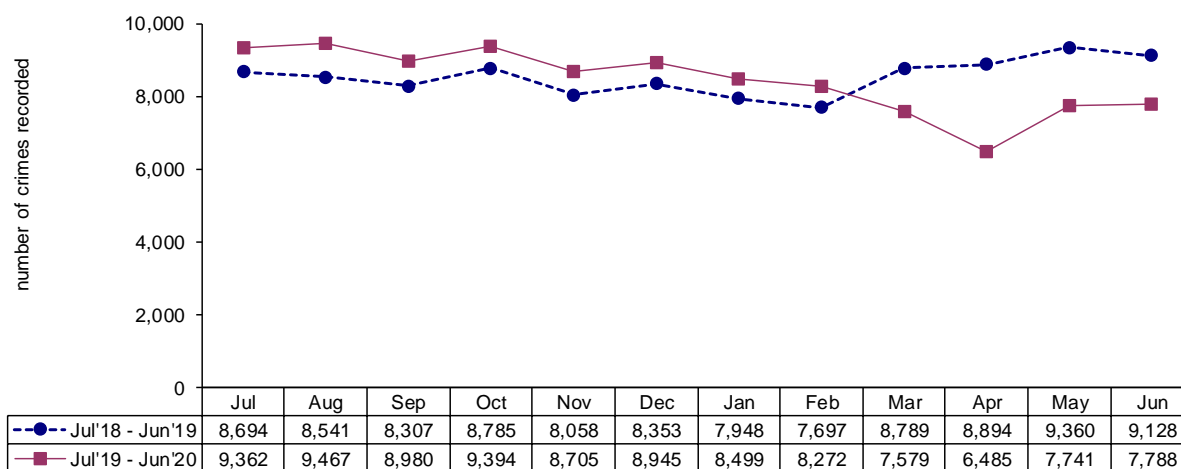
More detailed statistics are available through the publication [Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2018/19](#).

3. What has been happening to levels of police recorded crime more recently?

In the 12 months from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020:

- There were 101,217 crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 1,337 on the previous 12 months. [Table 1 and Figure 1]
- The level of crime was higher in each month from July 2019 to February 2020 compared with the same months in the previous year. Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were introduced on March 23rd 2020; when compared with the same months in 2019, figures for March, April, May and June 2020 were lower by 1,210, 2,409, 1,619 and 1,340 respectively. Please see Section 5 for further information on the impact of lockdown measures on crime levels.
- There were 53 police recorded crimes per 1,000 population¹ compared with 54 in the previous 12 months.
- Increases were seen across violence against the person and other crimes against society [Table 1]:
 - Violence against the person increased by 9.0 per cent (3,331 offences). Within this overall classification violence with injury and violence without injury fell by 9.4 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively. An increase of 79.9 per cent (4,774 offences) in the harassment classification accounted for the majority of the overall increase in violence against the person offences. This should be seen in light of changes in recording practice within the harassment classification, further details of which are provided in the Points to Note on page 3.
 - Drug offences showed an increase of 5.1 per cent (381 offences), the majority of which relates to an increase in drug possession offences.
- Falling crime levels were seen within sexual offences, robbery, burglary and theft offences [Table 1]:
 - Sexual offences decreased by 7.0 per cent (248 offences). Within this classification rape offences decreased by 14.7 per cent (159 offences) and other sexual offences decreased by 3.6 per cent (89 offences).
 - ‘All other theft offences’ decreased by 19.8 per cent ((2,587 offences) whilst vehicle offences fell by 18.4 per cent (670 offences). The level of shoplifting offences showed a fall of 14.4 per cent (951 offences) and burglary decreased by 10.0 per cent (619 offences).
 - Robbery decreased by 14.9 per cent (99 offences); both personal and business robbery fell by a similar number of offences (52 and 47 respectively).
- Criminal damage fell by 129 offences when compared with the previous 12 months. [Table 1]

Figure 3 Police recorded crime July 2018 to June 2020



¹ Crime per 1,000 population based on mid-year population estimate of 1,893,667 for 2019, the latest mid-year estimate available at time of compilation. Mid-year population estimates are available from the [NISRA website](#).

Figure 4 Percentage change in the main police recorded crime types, 12 months to June 2020 compared with the previous 12 months

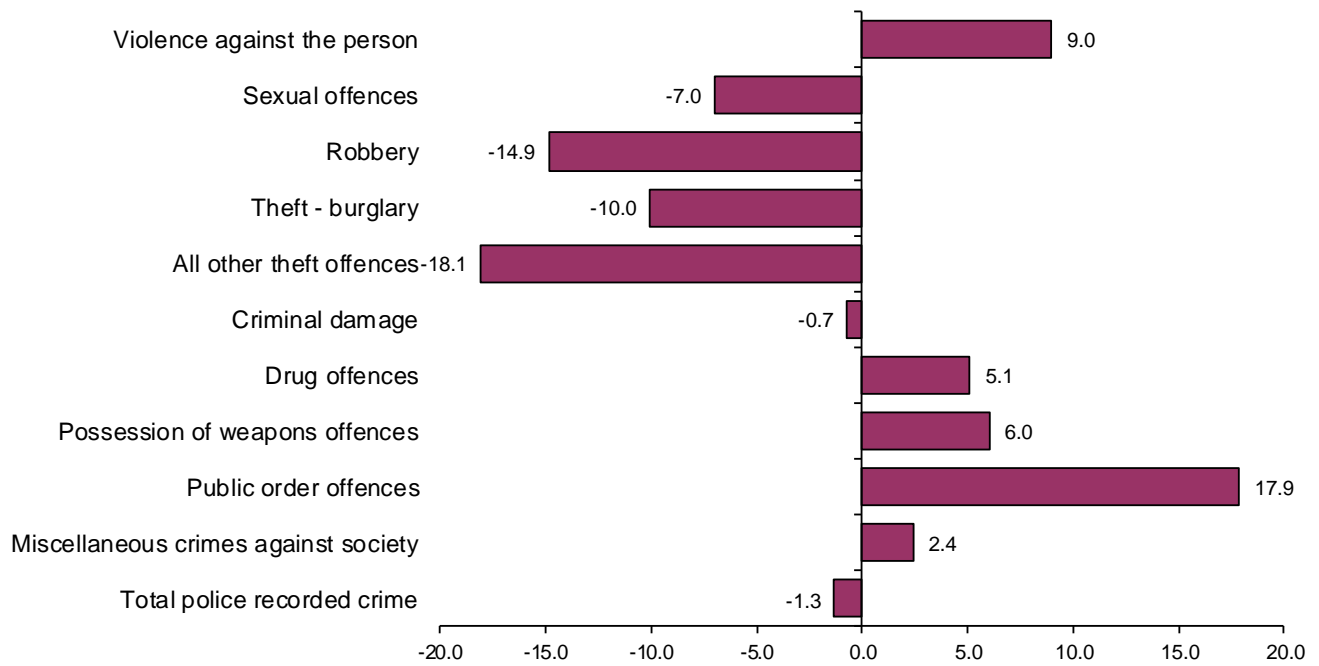


Figure 5 Police recorded crime by crime type, July 2019 to June 2020

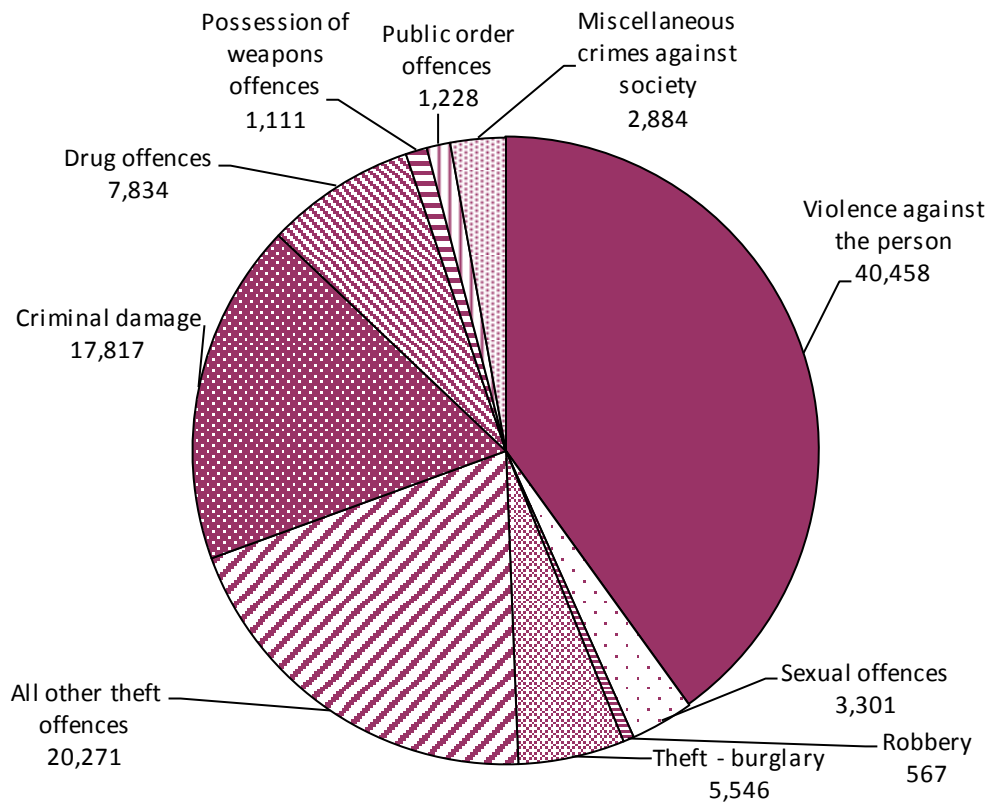


Table 1 Police recorded crime by crime type

Crime type	Numbers and percentages			
	Jul'18-Jun'19	Jul'19-Jun'20 ^{1,2}	change	% change ³
VICTIM-BASED CRIME				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	37,127	40,458	3,331	9.0
<i>Homicide</i>	30	23	-7	-
<i>Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving⁴</i>	146	138	-8	-5.5
<i>Violence with injury⁴</i>	14,028	12,712	-1,316	-9.4
<i>Violence without injury⁵</i>	16,947	16,835	-112	-0.7
<i>Harassment⁵</i>	5,976	10,750	4,774	79.9
SEXUAL OFFENCES	3,549	3,301	-248	-7.0
<i>Rape</i>	1,081	922	-159	-14.7
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	2,468	2,379	-89	-3.6
ROBBERY	666	567	-99	-14.9
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	516	464	-52	-10.1
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	150	103	-47	-31.3
THEFT OFFENCES	30,907	25,817	-5,090	-16.5
<i>Burglary</i>	6,165	5,546	-619	-10.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	528	377	-151	-28.6
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	3,647	2,977	-670	-18.4
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	923	811	-112	-12.1
<i>Shoplifting</i>	6,591	5,640	-951	-14.4
<i>All other theft offences</i>	13,053	10,466	-2,587	-19.8
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	17,946	17,817	-129	-0.7
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
DRUG OFFENCES	7,453	7,834	381	5.1
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	903	931	28	3.1
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	6,550	6,903	353	5.4
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	1,048	1,111	63	6.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,042	1,228	186	17.9
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,816	2,884	68	2.4
TOTAL POLICE RECORDED CRIME	102,554	101,217	-1,337	-1.3

¹ Changes can be expected to in-year figures each time they are published, as records from 1st April 2020 are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021.

² Individual crime types may not add to Total Police Recorded Crime as there will be some crimes yet to complete the validation process and be allocated to a crime classification.

³ '-' indicates that for offences recorded a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50. '.' indicates that data are not available.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 Home Office change introduced in April 2018 requires harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence. Both of these changes in recording practice should be considered in relation to increases in the overall harassment classification. [Points to note, page 3]

4. What has been happening in policing districts?

When comparing the current and previous 12 months, six of the policing districts showed an increase in the number of crimes recorded. [Table 2 and accompanying [spreadsheet](#)]

Figure 6 Percentage change in police recorded crime by policing district, 12 months to June 2020 compared with the previous 12 months

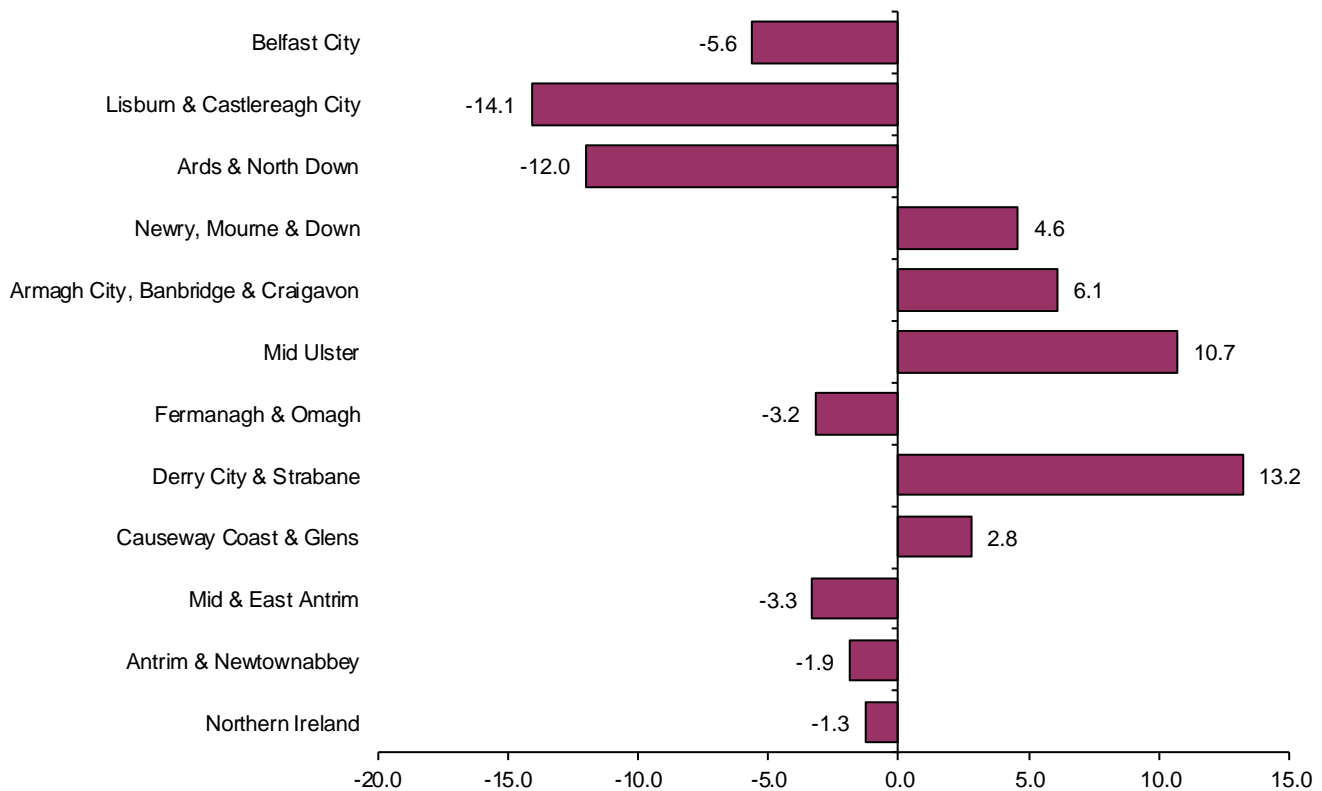


Table 2 Police recorded crime by policing district

Policing district	Numbers and percentages			
	Jul'18-Jun'19	Jul'19-Jun'20 ^{1,2}	change	% change
Belfast City	33,240	31,392	-1,848	-5.6
<i>East</i> ³	5,956	5,491	-465	-7.8
<i>North</i> ³	9,307	9,148	-159	-1.7
<i>South</i> ³	11,883	10,684	-1,199	-10.1
<i>West</i> ³	6,094	6,069	-25	-0.4
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	7,313	6,282	-1,031	-14.1
Ards & North Down	6,227	5,481	-746	-12.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	8,122	8,498	376	4.6
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	9,711	10,300	589	6.1
Mid Ulster	4,755	5,265	510	10.7
Fermanagh & Omagh	4,582	4,435	-147	-3.2
Derry City & Strabane	8,638	9,779	1,141	13.2
Causeway Coast & Glens	6,232	6,404	172	2.8
Mid & East Antrim	6,959	6,732	-227	-3.3
Antrim & Newtownabbey	6,775	6,647	-128	-1.9
Northern Ireland	102,554	101,217	-1,337	-1.3

¹ Changes can be expected to in-year figures each time they are published, as records from 1st April 2020 are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021.

² Individual policing districts may not add to Northern Ireland total as there will be some crimes yet to complete the validation process and be allocated to a policing district.

5. What has been happening to levels of police recorded crime since lockdown measures were introduced on 23rd March 2020?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown measures were introduced in Northern Ireland on 23rd March and these have had a substantial impact on levels of police recorded crime. This section has been temporarily added to the monthly update to allow the monitoring of crime levels since lockdown.

Figures 7 to 12 show the weekly totals since Monday 6th January 2020 for the main crime types. These are compared with the average weekly levels recorded in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020, i.e. prior to the introduction of the lockdown measures on March 23rd. Please note that these charts are not all shown to the same scale.

Falling crime levels can be seen from week beginning Monday 16th March, with the lowest level of overall crime recorded the following week. Easter fell between the 10th and 14th April and this may have had some influence on the slightly higher levels seen across some crime classifications in the week beginning 6th April compared with the following week.

In the seventeen weeks from 23rd March 2020 to 19th July 2020 compared with the same time period in 2019, overall police recorded crime has fallen by 18.6 per cent and levels have fallen across each of the main crime types.

The week beginning 25th May showed the highest weekly totals for violence against the person and drugs offences (Figures 8 and 12) since the lockdown measures were introduced; these levels were comparable with some of the weekly totals seen prior to lockdown. Since then levels for violence against the person, criminal damage and drugs are comparable with some of the weekly totals prior to lockdown. Level of theft offences including burglary remain much lower than the levels prior to lockdown.

In the first week of lockdown the overall crime level was three fifths (62 per cent) of the expected weekly average. The weeks beginning 6th July and 13th July have returned to levels which are around the expected weekly average.

For more information on how lockdown measures have affected crime levels by policing district, please see the Summary-financial year to date tables in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#).

Figure 7 Police recorded crime, weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020

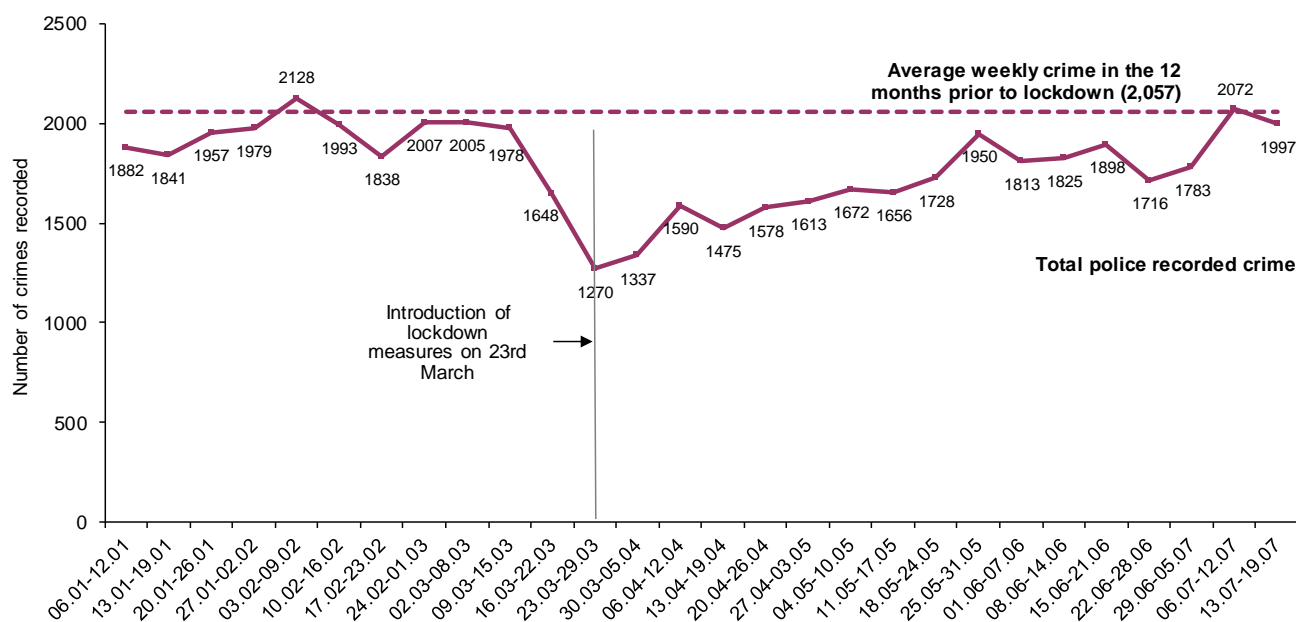


Figure 8 Violence against the person, weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020

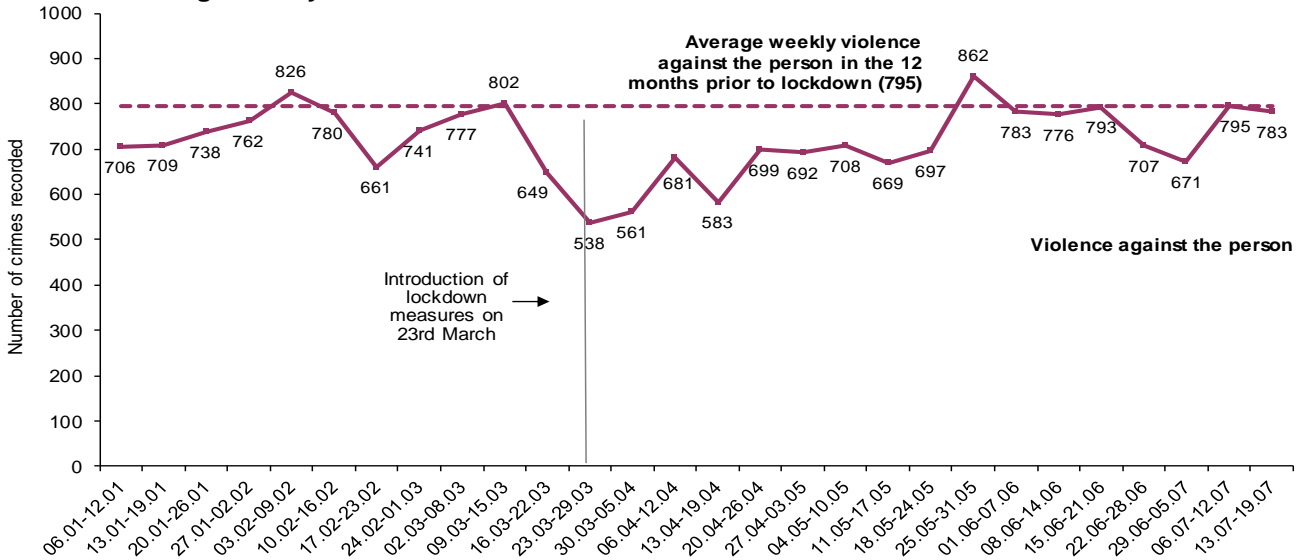


Figure 9 Burglary, weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020

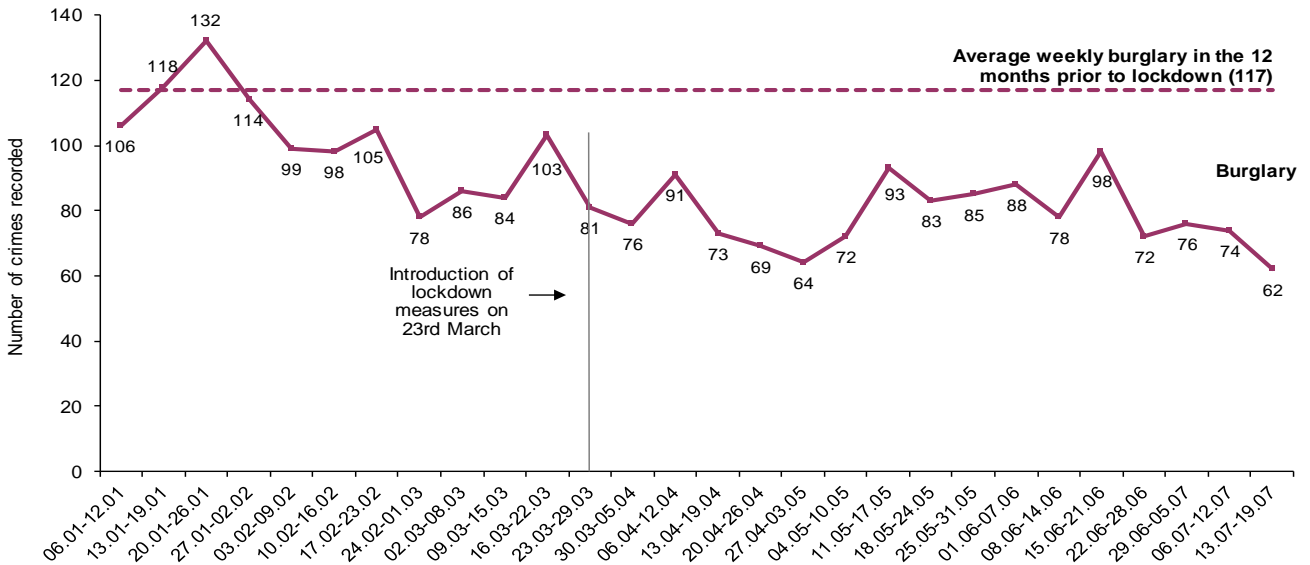


Figure 10 Theft (excluding burglary), weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020

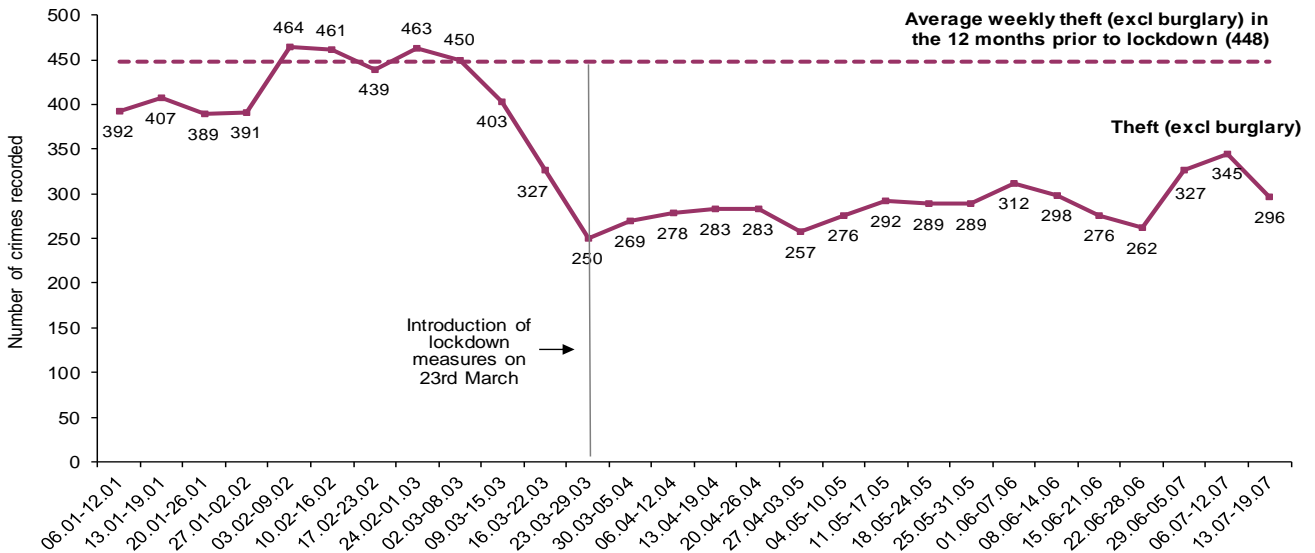


Figure 11 Criminal damage, weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020

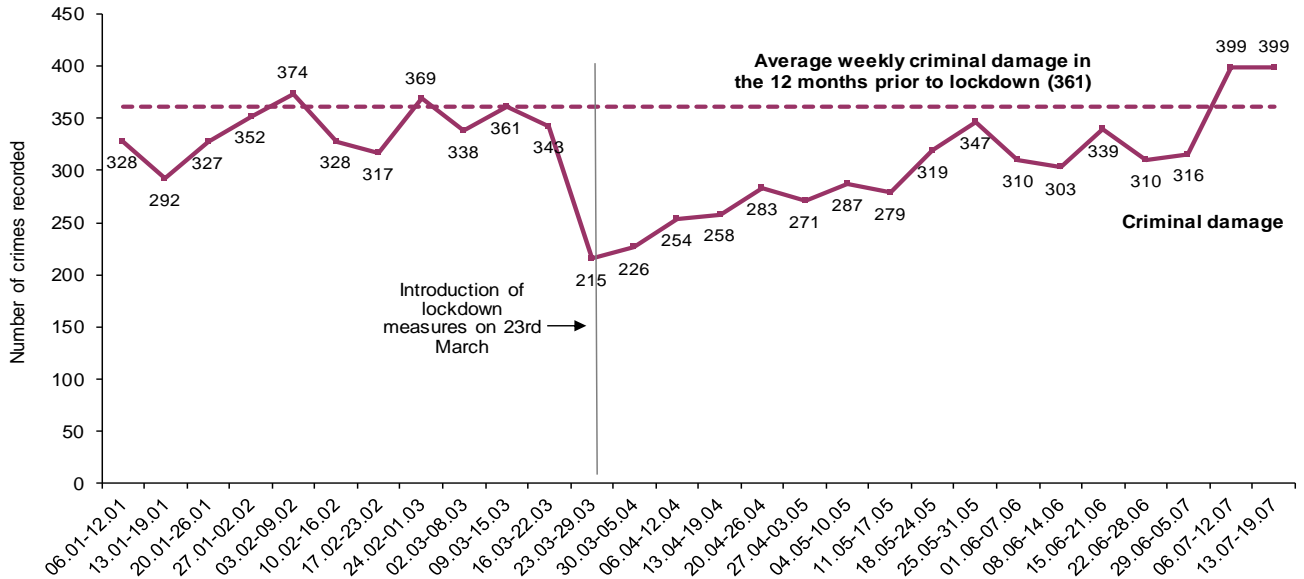
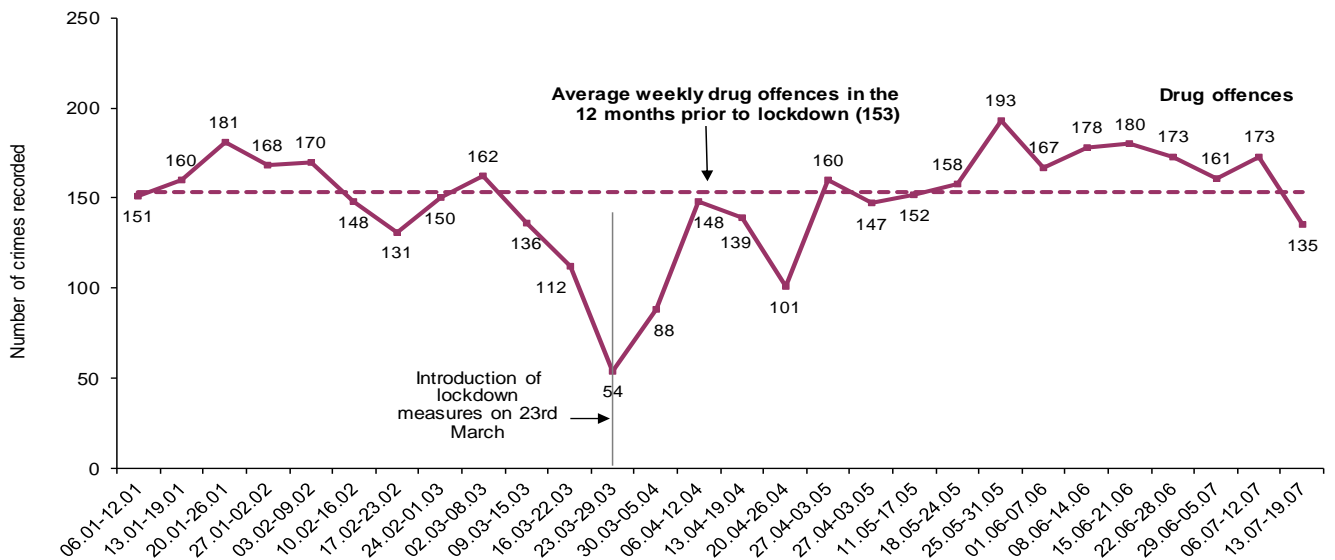


Figure 12 Drug offences, weekly totals from Monday 6th January 2020 compared with the average weekly crime in the 12 months to 22nd March 2020



6. Knife and sharp instrument crime recorded by the police in Northern Ireland

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 3 and 4 below.

Please note: the records used to provide the figures in tables 3 and 4 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.

Knife and sharp instrument crime figures are updated on a quarterly basis, with the latest figures published in July, October, January and May of each year. Comparable figures, published by England & Wales, are available through <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>.

Table 3 Selected violent and sexual offences involving knives or sharp instruments¹ by crime type, 2015/16 to 30 June 2020

Selected offence type	Numbers					
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument					
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	12 months to Jun '20
Homicide	8	3	7	7	7	10
Attempted murder	31	20	39	23	32	32
Threats to kill	65	60	49	65	45	55
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ²	538	484	534	515	495	513
Robbery	142	133	130	155	133	125
Rape / sexual assault ³	5	7	4	2	7	6
Total selected offences	789	707	763	767	719	741

Table 4 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2015/16 to 30 June 2020 (i.e. 43 per cent of the 20 homicides in the 12 months to 30 June 2020 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument ⁴					
	2015/16 (%)	2016/17 (%)	2017/18 (%)	2018/19 (%)	2019/20 (%)	12 months to Jun '20 (%)
Homicide	36	17	26	24	35	43
Attempted murder	31	24	41	36	36	33
Threats to kill	3	3	3	4	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ²	4	4	4	4	4	4
Robbery	19	20	23	24	21	22
Rape / sexual assaults ³	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total selected offences	4	4	4	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 Includes 5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm, 8N Assault with injury and 8S Assault with injury on a Constable.

³ 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.

⁴ The proportion of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument shown may differ from previously published figures as the total number of offences used for calculating the proportion may have been revised

7. Background and Data Quality

Data collection and data accuracy

Police recorded crime figures in Northern Ireland are recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules. A comprehensive validation and quality assurance process has been set in place to ensure that the numbers and types of crimes being recorded meet the standards set down in these rules. 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](#).

Completeness of in-year data: Within year, police recorded crime figures are subject to a validation and quality assurance process.

Validation – a crime has been recorded and allocated a crime classification.

Quality assurance – ongoing data quality checks to improve accuracy and completeness of records in respect of crime classification, victim details, dates, location, sanction outcomes.

The total police recorded crime figure at the Northern Ireland and Policing District levels cover all records identified as crimes, including those that have not yet been allocated a crime classification. However individual crime types may not add to the total police recorded crime figure because of those crimes yet to be allocated a crime classification.

For the financial year to date (April 2020 to June 2020) 99.1% of records have been validated and 0.9% have not yet been given a crime classification. For the latest complete month (June 2020) 98.4% of records are validated and 1.6% have not yet been given a crime classification.

Changes can be expected to in-year figures each time they are published, as all records from 1st April 2020 are subject to ongoing validation and quality assurance processes until publication in May 2021.

Extent of in-year changes to the police recorded crime figures in the update to 31 May 2020, which was first published 25 June 2020

	As published 25 Jun 2020	As published 30 Jul 2020	Numbers & Percentages			
			Scale of change		% change between years	
			Number	%	As published 25 Jun 2020	As published 30 Jul 2020
Financial Year to date: Apr 2020 to May 2020	14,190	14,226	36	0.3%	-22.3%	-22.1%
12 Months Jun 2020 to May 2020	102,521	102,557	36	0.04%	0.3%	0.3%

Annual Revisions: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature will next be applied in May 2021. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the [Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime](#).

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 (now called the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey) 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](#).

Data audit and 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.

Internal Audit 2018: A follow-up audit using the same methodology as HMIC was completed in December 2018. Results showed that the crime recording accuracy rate fell from 97 per cent in 2014 to 90 per cent in 2018, 97 per cent of crimes were correctly classified and 78 per cent were recorded within 72 hours. Following changes to the Home Office Counting Rules crimes should now be recorded within 24 hours; the audit showed that seven out of ten crimes were being recorded within 24 hours of reporting. Changes in the Home Office Counting Rules in respect of harassment recording accounted for some of the fall in overall compliance and it is anticipated that, as the awareness of the new rule increases, this cause of failure will diminish.

Changes to crime classifications

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 release 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 [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin.

Burglary Definitions from 1 April 2017

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.

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. Also included within malicious communications offences are those relating to 'revenge porn'; new legislation on disclosing private sexual photographs and film with intent to cause distress was introduced in June 2016.

Additional data available to accompany this release

This release provides an overview of police recorded crime in the 12 months to June 2020. A range of additional tables are available on the PSNI website to supplement the information contained in this bulletin. This data is available in both [excel spreadsheet](#) and [open document spreadsheet](#) formats.

A dataset providing monthly data since 2008/09 is available on the [OpenDataNI website](#) and is updated with in-year data on a quarterly basis (updates in late July, October, January and May).

Web links to other information you may be interested in

Police Recorded Crime Statistics Annual Trends: The latest publication covering financial years 1998/99 to 2018/19 was published on 8 November 2019 and can be accessed through:

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

Crime Outcomes: The latest publication presenting the wider outcomes framework within PSNI and summarising the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police between 2015/16 and 2018/19 was published on 29 November 2019. The publication can be accessed through:

<https://www.psnipolice.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.

Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey: Results from this survey are available on the Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/safe-community-survey-publications>

NINIS: 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.

Crime Mapper: Provisional management information drawn from police anti-social behaviour and 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 release as they have been extracted from the police administrative system on different dates, and also require a grid reference in order to be mapped.

Police Recorded Crime in England & Wales: Police recorded crime figures are included within the publications on Crime in England and Wales, which are available from the Crime and justice webpage:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI website:

<https://www.psnipolice.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>