



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## **PSNI Annual Statistical Report**

**Report No. 1**

# **RECORDED CRIME & CLEARANCES**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2008 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**



**Central Statistics Branch, Operational Support Department**

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# 1. Recorded Crime

Summary

Figure 1.1 Recorded Crime 1999/2000 – 2008/09

Table 1.2 Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2007/08 and 2008/09

Table 1.3 Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by District 2007/08 and 2008/09

Table 1.4 Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by Area 2007/08 and 2008/09

Table 1.5 Recorded Crime: Offences Cleared by Method of Clearance 2007/08 and 2008/09

Figure 1.6 Recorded Crime and Clearance Rate 1999/2000 - 2008/09

Police Recording of Crime – Definitions

Map of PSNI Policing Districts as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007

Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on recorded crime and clearances are individually checked for compliance with Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch. In addition, audits are conducted to ensure that crimes reported to the police are accurately recorded (i.e. to minimise the level of under or over recording of crime).

# 1. Recorded Crime

## Summary

### Overall Crime – Number Recorded

- A total of 110,094 offences were recorded during 2008/09 compared with 108,468 in 2007/08. This represents an increase of 1,626 (+1.5%).

### Overall Crime – Clearance Rate

- The overall clearance rate during 2008/09 was 23.0%, 2.5 percentage points higher than that achieved in 2007/08.

### Violent Crime (i.e. offences against the person, sexual offences & robbery)

- There was an increase of 149 (+0.5%) in the number of violent crimes recorded during 2008/09.
- Offences against the person fell by 112 (-0.4%). While offences of wounding with intent/GBH with intent and also wounding/GBH rose by 424 (+32.5%), AOABH offences decreased by 743 (-5.5%) and common assault/aggravated assault fell by 304 (-3.8%).
- Sexual offences rose by 121 (+6.6%). Within this category, rape offences (attempts included) fell by 16 (-3.8%), however sexual assault/sexual activity offences increased by 141 (+14.2%).
- Robbery showed an overall increase of 140 (+12.2%), with increases in all categories. Armed robbery rose by 64 (+14.4%), ordinary robbery by 43 (+7.1%) and hijacking rose by 33 (+35.9%).
- The violent crime clearance rate increased from 27.1% to 30.3%.

### Burglary

- Overall, burglary offences increased by 776 (+6.6%). Domestic burglary rose by 639 (+9.5%) with non-domestic burglary increasing by 107 (+2.2%).
- The clearance rate for domestic burglary decreased slightly from 10.0% to 9.9%, while the clearance rate for non-domestic burglary increased from 10.9% to 13.6%.

### Theft

- Theft offences rose by 1,508 (+6.1%), with increases across the majority of categories. The largest increases were in the other thefts category, which rose by 958 (+11.4%), and in shoplifting, which rose by 957 (+18.2%). Vehicle crime rose only slightly (+0.7%), however within this category theft from motor vehicles rose by 428 (+12.6%) whilst theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle fell by 382 (-11.5%). Theft of pedal cycles increased by 135 (+15.7%). Vehicle tampering/ interference showed a decrease of 443 (-28.2%).
- The clearance rate for all theft offences increased from 18.3% to 19.6%.
- The clearance rate for vehicle crime also increased from 12.2% to 12.8%.

### Criminal Damage

- Offences of criminal damage fell by 2,474 (-8.0%).
- Within this class the fall in the number of criminal damage/malicious damage offences contributed most to this decrease with 2,261 fewer offences recorded during 2008/09, a fall of 8.0%. The number of arson offences also dropped by 242 (-10.8%).
- The clearance rate for all criminal damage offences rose from 9.7% to 10.7%.

### Fraud and Forgery

- Fraud and forgery offences rose by 793 (+28.4%).
- There were increases across all fraud & forgery categories: making off without payment rose by 285 (+18.7%), deception by 230 (+23.8%), forgery & counterfeiting by 191 (+154.0%) and other frauds by 87 (+48.3%).
- The clearance rate for fraud and forgery offences increased from 21.1% to 23.1%.

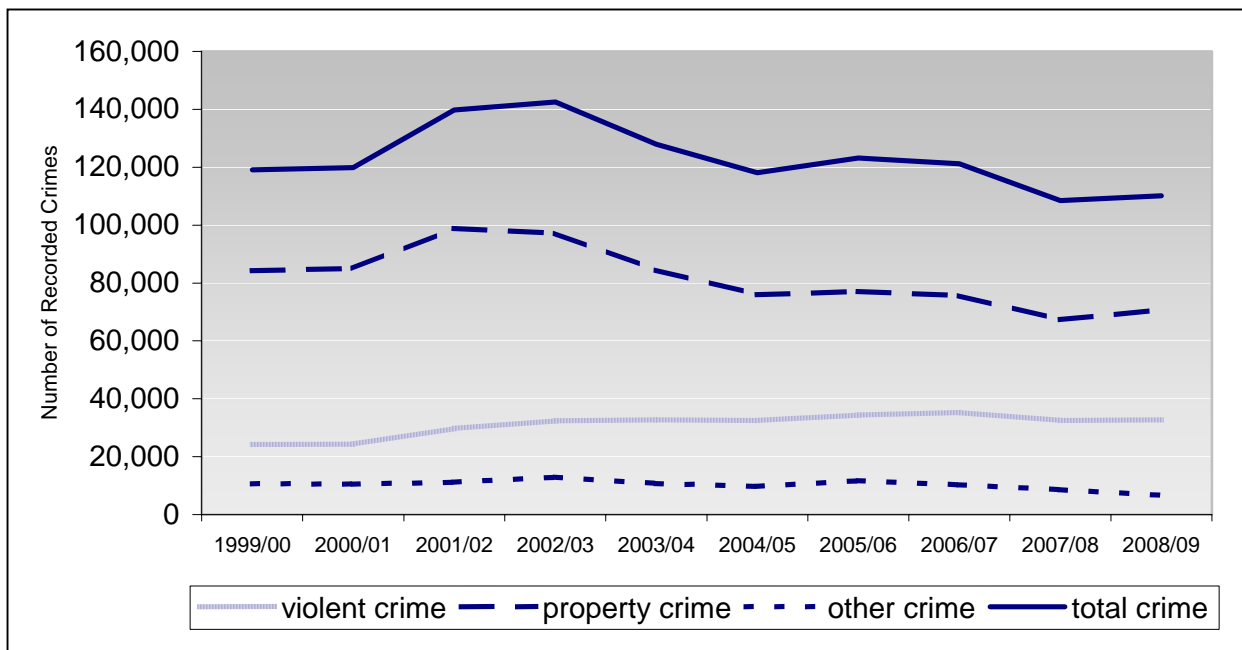
### Offences Against the State

- Offences against the State increased by 275 (+24.3%).
- Other offences against the public order accounted for most of this increase, increasing by 248 (75.2%). In particular, this can largely be explained by a rise in offences relating to bomb hoaxes.
- The clearance rate for offences against the state fell from 53.8% to 50.2%.

### Other Notifiable Offences

- Other notifiable offences showed an increase of 599 (+12.8%).
- Dangerous driving offences increased by 233 (+45.4%). Within drug offences, non trafficking offences showed a rise of 176 (+8.0%), while trafficking offences increased by 78 (+14.7%), giving an overall increase of 254 (+9.3%).
- The clearance rate for other notifiable offences rose from 72.5% to 79.2%.

Figure 1.1: Recorded Crime 1999/00 - 2008/09



**Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2007/08 and 2008/09**

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>2</sup>
<b>Offences against the person (class 1)</b>									
Murder	25	24	-1	-4.0	16	20	64.0	83.3	+19.3
Manslaughter	5	2	-3	-60.0	6	1	120.0	50.0	-70.0
Infanticide	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
Causing/allowing death of vulnerable person	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted murder	134	124	-10	-7.5	68	61	50.7	49.2	-1.6
Threat or conspiracy to murder	1,828	2,104	+276	+15.1	591	766	32.3	36.4	+4.1
Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking	52	67	+15	+28.8	42	67	80.8	100.0	+19.2
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	546	791	+245	+44.9	235	314	43.0	39.7	-3.3
Wounding/GBH	756	935	+179	+23.7	159	236	21.0	25.2	+4.2
AOABH	13,439	12,696	-743	-5.5	3,181	3,258	23.7	25.7	+2.0
Common assault/aggravated assault	7,993	7,689	-304	-3.8	1,474	1,598	18.4	20.8	+2.3
Assault on police	2,827	2,856	+29	+1.0	2,253	2,652	79.7	92.9	+13.2
Intimidation	566	543	-23	-4.1	43	53	7.6	9.8	+2.2
Harassment	1,269	1,456	+187	+14.7	147	166	11.6	11.4	-0.2
Explosives offences endangering life	6	17	+11	+183.3	2	2	33.3	11.8	-21.6
Firearms offences endangering life	49	38	-11	-22.4	25	15	51.0	39.5	-11.5
Other offences against the person	84	125	+41	+48.8	16	24	19.0	19.2	+0.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29,580</b>	<b>29,468</b>	<b>-112</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>8,258</b>	<b>9,233</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>+3.4</b>
<b>Sexual offences<sup>1</sup> (class 2)</b>									
Rape	382	381	-1	-0.3	60	77	15.7	20.2	+4.5
Attempted rape	38	23	-15	-39.5	10	8	26.3	34.8	+8.5
Sexual assault/Sexual activity	993	1,134	+141	+14.2	147	223	14.8	19.7	+4.9
Exposure	299	270	-29	-9.7	84	76	28.1	28.1	+0.1
Other sexual offences	110	135	+25	+22.7	56	78	50.9	57.8	+6.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>+121</b>	<b>+6.6</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>+4.2</b>
<b>Burglary (class 3)</b>									
Domestic Burglary (Total)	6,712	7,351	+639	+9.5	673	729	10.0	9.9	-0.1
Burglary in a dwelling	6,638	7,279	+641	+9.7	655	708	9.9	9.7	-0.1
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	74	72	-2	-2.7	18	21	24.3	29.2	+4.8
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	4,874	4,981	+107	+2.2	529	679	10.9	13.6	+2.8
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	4,866	4,970	+104	+2.1	526	678	10.8	13.6	+2.8
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	8	11	+3	+37.5	3	1	37.5	9.1	-28.4
Going equipped	112	142	+30	+26.8	80	84	71.4	59.2	-12.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,698</b>	<b>12,474</b>	<b>+776</b>	<b>+6.6</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>+1.0</b>

**Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2007/08 and 2008/09 continued**

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>2</sup>
<b>Robbery (class 4)</b>									
Robbery	607	650	+43	+7.1	85	85	14.0	13.1	-0.9
Armed robbery	444	508	+64	+14.4	100	106	22.5	20.9	-1.7
Hijacking	92	125	+33	+35.9	20	19	21.7	15.2	-6.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>+140</b>	<b>+12.2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>Theft (class 5)</b>									
Theft, one person from another	791	637	-154	-19.5	27	39	3.4	6.1	+2.7
Theft in a dwelling	565	531	-34	-6.0	66	45	11.7	8.5	-3.2
Theft by an employee	328	342	+14	+4.3	154	138	47.0	40.4	-6.6
Theft of pedal cycles	861	996	+135	+15.7	23	29	2.7	2.9	+0.2
Shoplifting	5,257	6,214	+957	+18.2	2,704	3,169	51.4	51.0	-0.4
Vehicle Crime (Total)	6,731	6,777	+46	+0.7	818	869	12.2	12.8	+0.7
Theft from motor vehicles	3,395	3,823	+428	+12.6	165	155	4.9	4.1	-0.8
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	3,336	2,954	-382	-11.5	653	714	19.6	24.2	+4.6
Vehicle tampering/interference	1,570	1,127	-443	-28.2	170	146	10.8	13.0	+2.1
Handling of stolen goods	191	220	+29	+15.2	127	135	66.5	61.4	-5.1
Other thefts	8,439	9,397	+958	+11.4	446	575	5.3	6.1	+0.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,733</b>	<b>26,241</b>	<b>+1,508</b>	<b>+6.1</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>+1.3</b>
<b>Fraud and forgery (class 6)</b>									
Deception	968	1,198	+230	+23.8	325	371	33.6	31.0	-2.6
Forgery and counterfeiting	124	315	+191	+154.0	61	121	49.2	38.4	-10.8
Making off without payment	1,524	1,809	+285	+18.7	88	208	5.8	11.5	+5.7
Other frauds	180	267	+87	+48.3	116	129	64.4	48.3	-16.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>3,589</b>	<b>+793</b>	<b>+28.4</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>+2.0</b>
<b>Criminal damage (class 7)</b>									
Arson	2,244	2,002	-242	-10.8	149	120	6.6	6.0	-0.6
Petrol bombing offences	63	32	-31	-49.2	10	9	15.9	28.1	+12.3
Explosives offences	13	13	0	0.0	2	2	15.4	15.4	0.0
Criminal damage/malicious damage offences	28,127	25,866	-2,261	-8.0	2,744	2,751	9.8	10.6	+0.9
Other criminal damage offences	448	508	+60	+13.4	98	149	21.9	29.3	+7.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30,895</b>	<b>28,421</b>	<b>-2,474</b>	<b>-8.0</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>+0.9</b>

**Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2007/08 and 2008/09 continued**

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>2</sup>
<b>Offences against the state (class 8)</b>									
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	5	7	+2	+40.0	2	3	40.0	42.9	+2.9
Firearms offences	100	107	+7	+7.0	62	64	62.0	59.8	-2.2
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	695	713	+18	+2.6	457	524	65.8	73.5	+7.7
Other offences against the public order	330	578	+248	+75.2	87	115	26.4	19.9	-6.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>+275</b>	<b>+24.3</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
<b>Other notifiable offences (class 9)</b>									
Blackmail	52	49	-3	-5.8	10	8	19.2	16.3	-2.9
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	69	91	+22	+31.9	10	23	14.5	25.3	+10.8
Drug offences (Total)	2,720	2,974	+254	+9.3	2,064	2,435	75.9	81.9	+6.0
Trafficking offences	529	607	+78	+14.7	433	451	81.9	74.3	-7.6
Non-Trafficking offences	2,191	2,367	+176	+8.0	1,631	1,984	74.4	83.8	+9.4
Dangerous driving	513	746	+233	+45.4	476	746	92.8	100.0	+7.2
Breach of orders	1,241	1,245	+4	+0.3	789	877	63.6	70.4	+6.9
Other notifiable offences	76	165	+89	+117.1	38	84	50.0	50.9	+0.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>+599</b>	<b>+12.8</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>+6.7</b>
<b>Violent Crime (classes 1, 2 and 4)</b>	<b>32,545</b>	<b>32,694</b>	<b>+149</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>9,905</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>+3.2</b>
<b>Grand Total (all classes)</b>	<b>108,468</b>	<b>110,094</b>	<b>+1,626</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>22,225</b>	<b>25,281</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>+2.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> New sexual offence legislation was introduced to Northern Ireland on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009. The sexual offence categories have now been revised to enable comparability of the new offences with those recorded under the previous legislation. The categories of rape and attempted rape remain unaffected.

<sup>2</sup> While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

**Table 1.3: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by District<sup>1</sup> 2007/08 and 2008/09**

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>2</sup>
A District	13,893	13,588	-305	-2.2	2,571	3,118	18.5	22.9	+4.4
B District	16,696	17,746	+1,050	+6.3	3,371	3,715	20.2	20.9	+0.7
C District	13,155	12,690	-465	-3.5	2,911	2,572	22.1	20.3	-1.9
D District	15,521	15,101	-420	-2.7	3,017	3,234	19.4	21.4	+2.0
E District	15,229	15,991	+762	+5.0	3,060	3,776	20.1	23.6	+3.5
F District	9,947	9,838	-109	-1.1	2,411	2,836	24.2	28.8	+4.6
G District	13,329	13,394	+65	+0.5	2,228	3,258	16.7	24.3	+7.6
H District	10,698	11,746	+1,048	+9.8	2,656	2,772	24.8	23.6	-1.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>108,468</b>	<b>110,094</b>	<b>+1,626</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>22,225</b>	<b>25,281</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>+2.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

<sup>2</sup> While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.



**Table 1.4: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by Area 2007/08 and 2008/09**

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		Clearance rate (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	change	% change	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>1</sup>
Antrim	2,917	2,878	-39	-1.3	567	732	19.4	25.4	+6.0
Ards	3,073	2,780	-293	-9.5	655	636	21.3	22.9	+1.6
East Belfast	5,031	5,503	+472	+9.4	989	1,006	19.7	18.3	-1.4
North Belfast	8,361	8,424	+63	+0.8	1,712	2,075	20.5	24.6	+4.2
South Belfast	11,665	12,243	+578	+5.0	2,382	2,709	20.4	22.1	+1.7
West Belfast	5,532	5,164	-368	-6.7	859	1,043	15.5	20.2	+4.7
Carrickfergus	1,872	1,890	+18	+1.0	382	414	20.4	21.9	+1.5
Castlereagh	2,112	2,448	+336	+15.9	468	434	22.2	17.7	-4.4
Down	4,219	3,986	-233	-5.5	993	705	23.5	17.7	-5.8
Lisburn	6,335	6,001	-334	-5.3	1,291	1,386	20.4	23.1	+2.7
Newtownabbey	4,397	4,332	-65	-1.5	777	702	17.7	16.2	-1.5
North Down	3,751	3,476	-275	-7.3	795	797	21.2	22.9	+1.7
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>59,265</b>	<b>59,125</b>	<b>-140</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>11,870</b>	<b>12,639</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>+1.3</b>
Armagh	2,364	2,655	+291	+12.3	608	643	25.7	24.2	-1.5
Ballymena	3,507	3,616	+109	+3.1	827	1,032	23.6	28.5	+5.0
Ballymoney	956	1,134	+178	+18.6	188	189	19.7	16.7	-3.0
Banbridge	2,154	2,010	-144	-6.7	388	435	18.0	21.6	+3.6
Coleraine	3,946	4,588	+642	+16.3	1,127	1,083	28.6	23.6	-5.0
Cookstown	1,829	1,852	+23	+1.3	494	560	27.0	30.2	+3.2
Craigavon	5,407	5,766	+359	+6.6	1,013	1,292	18.7	22.4	+3.7
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,545	2,721	+176	+6.9	544	644	21.4	23.7	+2.3
Fermanagh	3,104	2,808	-296	-9.5	688	739	22.2	26.3	+4.2
Foyle	7,402	7,657	+255	+3.4	1,055	1,675	14.3	21.9	+7.6
Larne	1,562	1,635	+73	+4.7	384	360	24.6	22.0	-2.6
Limavady	2,519	2,588	+69	+2.7	547	760	21.7	29.4	+7.7
Magherafelt	1,712	1,453	-259	-15.1	275	427	16.1	29.4	+13.3
Moyle	727	773	+46	+6.3	130	108	17.9	14.0	-3.9
Newry & Mourne	5,304	5,560	+256	+4.8	1,051	1,406	19.8	25.3	+5.5
Omagh	2,469	2,457	-12	-0.5	685	893	27.7	36.3	+8.6
Strabane	1,696	1,696	0	0.0	351	396	20.7	23.3	+2.7
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>49,203</b>	<b>50,969</b>	<b>+1,766</b>	<b>+3.6</b>	<b>10,355</b>	<b>12,642</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>+3.8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>108,468</b>	<b>110,094</b>	<b>+1,626</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>22,225</b>	<b>25,281</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>+2.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

**Table 1.5: Recorded Crime: Offences Cleared by Method of Clearance 2007/08 and 2008/09**

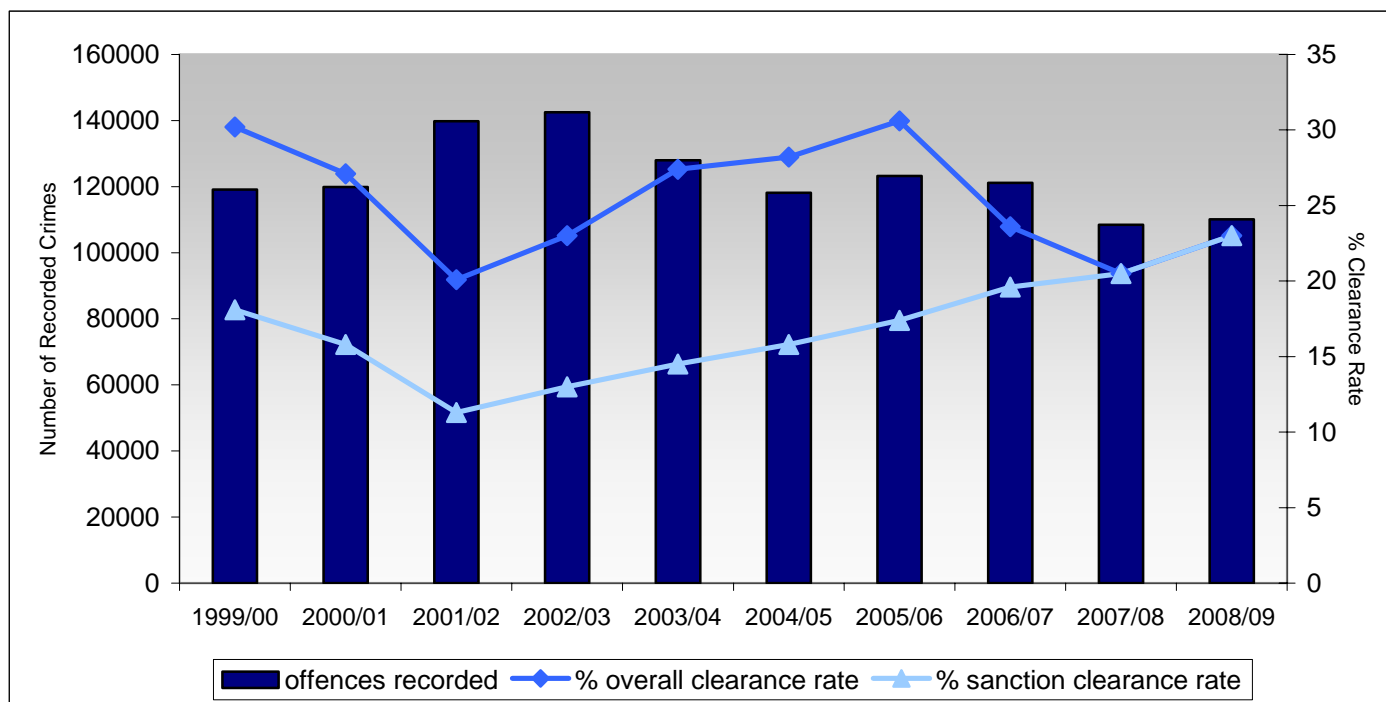
	Number		Rates (%)		
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	change in % pts <sup>3</sup>
Total offences recorded	108,468	110,094	-	-	-
Total offences cleared	22,225	25,281	20.5	23.0	+2.5
<b>Sanction clearances</b>					
Charge / summons	17,750	20,385	16.4	18.5	+2.2
Caution – adults <sup>1</sup>	2,303	2,613	2.1	2.4	+0.3
Caution – juveniles <sup>2</sup>	2,022	1,904	1.9	1.7	-0.1
Taken into consideration	125	371	0.1	0.3	+0.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>25,273</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>+2.5</b>
<b>Non sanction clearances</b>					
No prosecution directed	22	5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Offender died before proceedings	3	3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

<sup>2</sup> Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

<sup>3</sup> While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

**Figure 1.6: Recorded Crime and Clearance Rate<sup>1</sup> 1999/00 - 2008/09**



<sup>1</sup> An explanation of the change in clearance rates when comparing 2006/07 onwards with previous years is provided in the Police Recording of Crime – Definitions page.

## Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

### Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

**Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;

**Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;

**Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

### Clearances

Clearances (or detections as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'cleared or detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one clearance (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'cleared'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'cleared'.

The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction clearance can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

### Recent Changes in the Recording of Clearances

Prior to April 2006 a variety non sanction clearances could be claimed where police took no further action, the main one being where the victim declined to prosecute. At that time these clearance types accounted for around 50% of the PSNI's total clearance rate. However, since then some major changes have been introduced which have substantially limited the clearance options open to the PSNI.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. Then in April 2007 the Home Office significantly restricted the clearance types available to the police, which meant that virtually all non sanction clearances could no longer be claimed as a valid clearance. Both of these changes had the impact of greatly reducing the number of non sanction clearances to such an extent that the PSNI overall clearance rate and its sanction clearance rate and now virtually one and the same (only a very small proportion of non sanction clearances are now claimed each year).

### Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2007

