

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2014

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014)

Published 8 May 2014

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This monthly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2013/14, which runs from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. Knife and sharp instrument crime figures for each financial year 2007/08 to 2013/14 are also included in this bulletin.

A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES section, on [page 17](#) of this bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2013/14 will be available in early July 2014. The next monthly update covering the latest 12 months to 30th April 2014 will be published on 5th June 2014.

PSNI's Statistics Branch conducted a data quality audit during December 2013 and January 2014, the main emphasis of this audit being to check that incidents where a crime should have been recorded did indeed contain a crime. Compliance in relation to this aspect of the audit was 93%. Further details are available in the NOTES section on [pages 15 and 16](#) of this bulletin.

While the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) removed the National Statistics designation from the police recorded crime statistics in England & Wales in January 2014, the recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland remain designated as National Statistics. In February 2014 UKSA approached PSNI seeking reassurance on the quality of the recorded crime statistics that are produced for Northern Ireland. A detailed account of the various quality assurance processes in place was provided and we are currently awaiting a decision from UKSA as to whether or not they intend to reassess these statistics in the near future.

Statistics in this bulletin are presented under the following headings:

[Overall crime trends 1998/99 to 2013/14](#)

[Overall crime trends 1998/99 to 2013/14: policing areas](#)

[Comparison of 2013/14 with 2012/13: overall crime](#)

[Comparison of 2013/14 with 2012/13: violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery](#)

[Comparison of 2013/14 with 2012/13: theft \(including burglary\) and criminal damage](#)

[Comparison of 2013/14 with 2012/13: other crimes against society and other fraud](#)

[Outcome rates](#)

[Outcome rates by policing area](#)

[Knife and Sharp Instrument Crime](#)

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[Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2012/13 and 2013/14](#)

[Table 4 Crime outcomes 2012/13 and 2013/14, rates \(%\)](#)

[Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal 2012/13 and 2013/14, rates \(%\)](#)

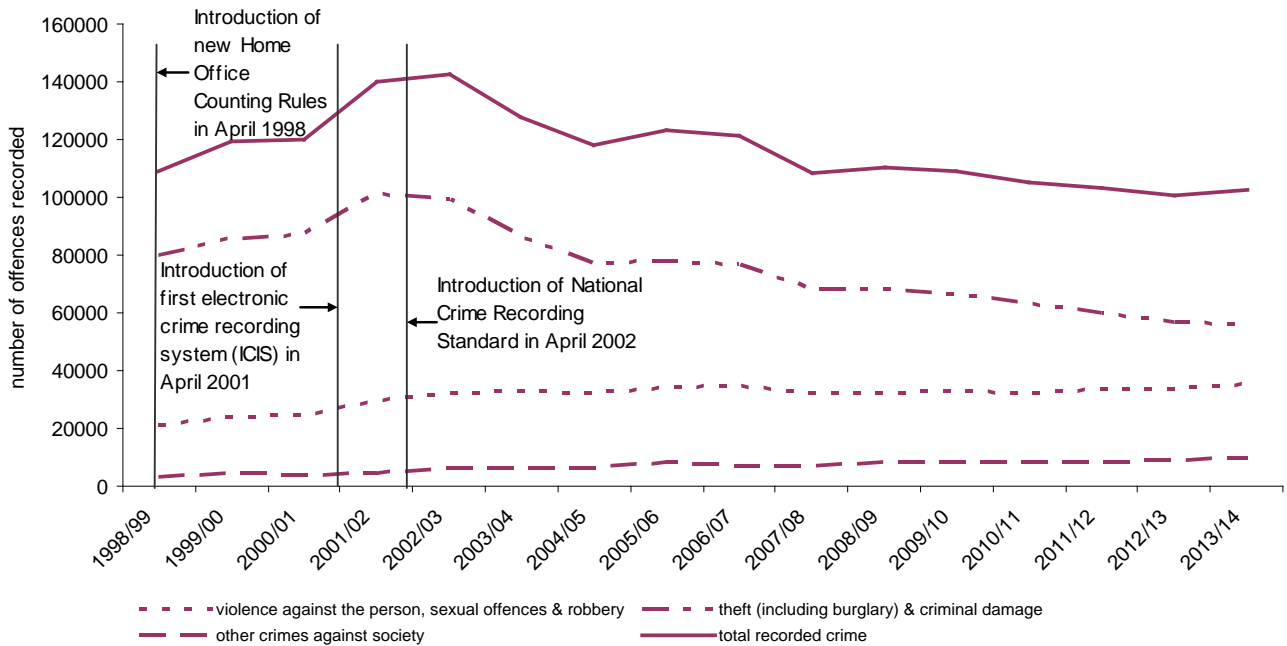
[Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcome rates by policing district and policing area, 2012/13 and 2013/14](#)

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OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2013/14

- Crime has shown a downwards trend over the last eleven years. It reached a peak of 142,496 in 2002/03 and fell to 100,389 in 2012/13, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 (the first year for which crime data comparable under the revised Home Office Counting Rules is available). Crime has since risen to 102,746 in 2013/14. While this shows an increase of 2.3 per cent on the previous year, the level recorded in 2013/14 is the second lowest crime figure recorded since 1998/99. The 2013/14 figure represents 56 crimes recorded per 1,000 population, compared with a level of 84 crimes per 1,000 population when crime was at its highest level in 2002/03.

Figure 1 Trends in recorded crime, 1998/99 to 2013/14



- The downwards trend in crime over the last eleven years has generally been experienced within the main crime types of robbery, burglary and criminal damage, each of which have fallen to their lowest levels recorded in 2013/14, while vehicle offences were lower only in 2012/13. Robbery and burglary levels have more than halved since they reached a peak in 2002/03, while the level of criminal damage in 2013/14 has fallen to half of that recorded in 2001/02. Vehicle offences have fallen by 73 per cent when compared with the peak in 2002/03.
- Offences of violence against the person showed a general upwards trend between 1998/99 and 2006/07. The level fell again in 2007/08 and figures remained fairly constant until 2013/14 which shows an increase of 6.9 per cent on 2012/13 and is the highest level recorded since 1998/99.
- Sexual offences have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01. The figure for 2013/14 is the highest level recorded since 1998/99 and is nearly twice the level recorded in 2000/01.
- Theft offences (including theft from person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and other theft) reached a peak in 2001/02 before falling to the lowest level recorded in 2007/08. Since then there has been a general upwards trend with the number of such theft offences recorded in 2013/14 being the fifth highest.
- Drug offences are at their highest level since 1998/99. The number of such offences has increased year on year since 2006/07. Offences of this nature can be influenced by police activities (see Section 2.1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#)), for example Operation Torus, a high profile operation specifically targeted at 'street level drug dealing' which started during 2012 continued during 2013/14.
- Possession of weapons offences showed an upwards trend between 1998/99 and 2009/10 before falling each year to 2012/13. Levels increased again in 2013/14.
- Public order offences were at their highest during 2005/06, reaching a level of 2,007. Levels have fluctuated since then; the figure for 2013/14 is the second lowest since 2005/06.
- The number of miscellaneous crimes against society has tended to fluctuate over the years with no real trend emerging. The latest figure is the highest seen in the last four years.

- In England & Wales offences such as fraud by false representation (deception) are reported to Action Fraud and from April 2013 these figures are no longer included in their police recorded crime statistics. However in Northern Ireland these offences are still reported to the police and so continue to be included in the PSNI recorded crime statistics. Other fraud showed an overall downwards trend between 1998/99 and 2007/08 and has been slightly upwards in direction since then.

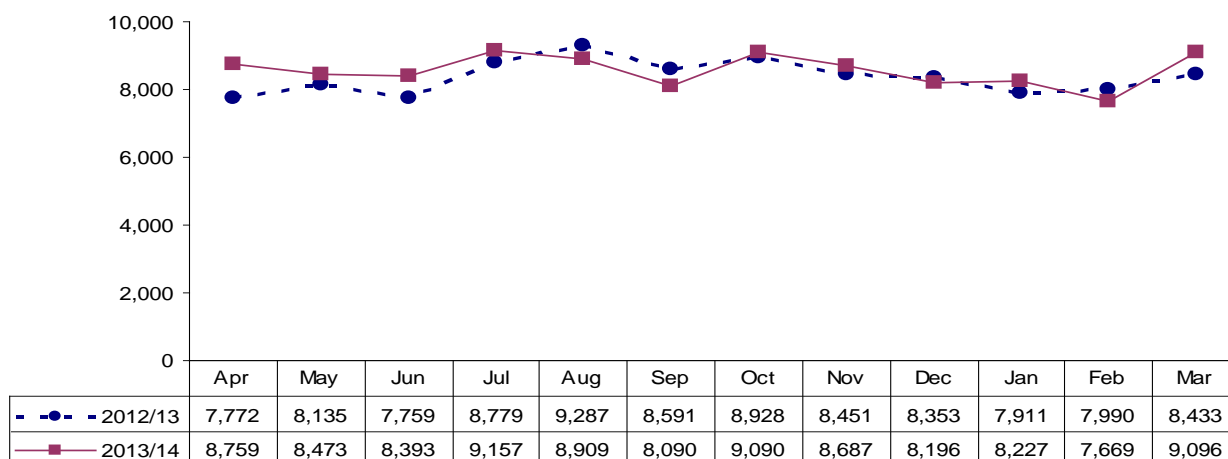
OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2013/14: POLICING AREAS

- Many policing areas have been showing falling crime trends over the last number of years, with Ards, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Dungannon & South Tyrone, Omagh, Strabane and Coleraine showing their lowest crime levels since 1998/99.
- Armagh and Limavady continue to show falling trends, although the level recorded in 2013/14 is not the lowest recorded in the data series.
- A number of policing areas show trends which are generally downwards in nature but which have started to increase again in the last year or so: Castlereagh, Down, North Down, Lisburn, Banbridge, Newry & Mourne, Cookstown, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Larne and Moyle.
- Fermanagh policing area recorded its highest crime level in 2011/12. The level for 2013/14 shows an increase on 2012/13.
- Antrim policing area showed an upwards trend between 2008/09 and 2012/13, before showing a fall in 2013/14. Magherafelt showed a decrease in each of the last two financial years after year on year increases since 2008/09. Foyle showed little change between 2007/08 and 2010/11 and then experienced increased levels to 2012/13; the crime level for 2013/14 is lower than 2012/13.
- Craigavon has shown a stable trend in recent years, with the level recorded in 2013/14 being the third lowest since 1998/99.
- Crime levels Belfast have remained relatively stable in recent years; East Belfast is showing its highest level of crime in the last 10 years while South Belfast is showing its highest level of crime in the last seven years. Levels in North Belfast have not shown much change over the last ten years, although they have increased slightly in each of the last two years. In West Belfast crime levels have been fairly stable over the last five years, showing only a slight increase between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2012/13: OVERALL CRIME

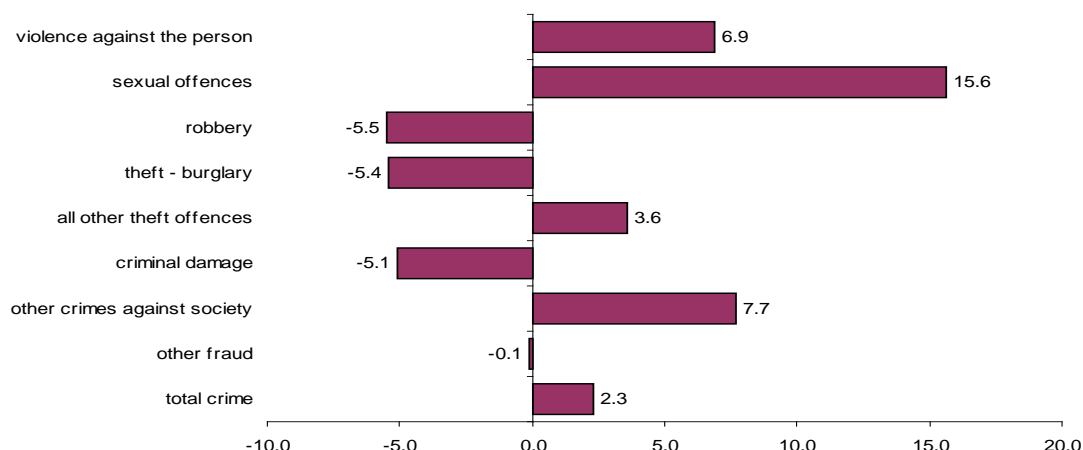
- Crime rose by 2.3 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14. While crime levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2013/14 with the same month in 2012/13, the number of crimes recorded was higher in eight of the months during 2013/14. The exceptions were August 2013, September 2013, December 2013 and February 2014 which were all lower than the same months the previous year.

Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, 2012/13 and 2013/14



As can be seen in figure 3 below, most of the main crime types showed an increase in the number of crimes recorded when comparing 2013/14 with 2012/13.

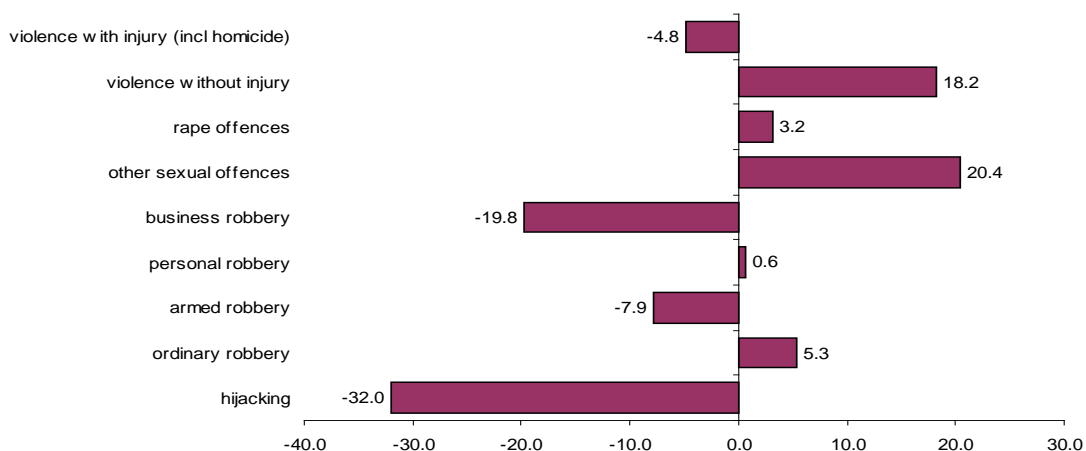
Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13



COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2012/13: VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON, SEXUAL OFFENCES AND ROBBERY

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

Figure 4 Percentage change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13

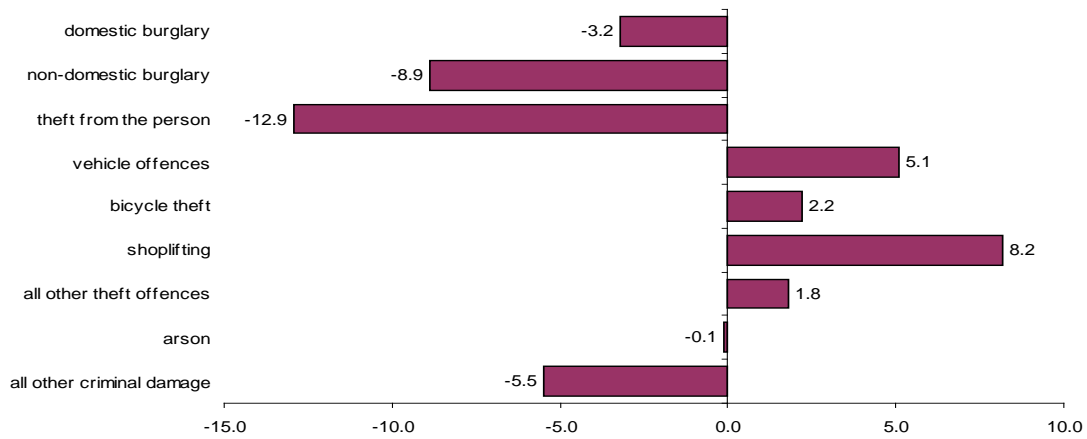


- The number of offences of violence against the person with injury fell by 718 when comparing 2013/14 with 2012/13. In 2013/14 there were 17 murders, the same as the level recorded in 2012/13. There were 3 manslaughter offences, also the same as the level recorded in 2012/13, and there was one offence of corporate manslaughter.
- There was an increase of 2,815 in the number of offences of violence against the person without injury, primarily made up of an increase of 1,693 in offences of assault without injury and an increase of 1,141 in harassment (which includes both harassment and intimidation offences). Smaller increases were seen in threats to kill (+209) and cruelty to children/young persons (+52).
- There were falls in the number of offences of assault on police, for offences with injury (-207) and also offences without injury (-276).
- Offences of rape increased by 17 to 550, the same as the level recorded in 2010/11 but less than the 553 offences recorded in 2011/12. There were 148 more sexual assault offences and sexual activity offences (including causing sexual activity without consent and sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder) rose by 91. Detail on the reporting of historic abuse will be available in early July when the more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2013/14 will be published.

- While personal robbery showed an increase of 4 when compared with 2012/13, business robbery fell by 60 to a level of 243 offences, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 and a fall of 82.7 per cent when compared with the peak recorded in 2002/03. While ordinary robbery increased by 24, armed robbery fell by 32 and there were 48 fewer hijacking offences.

COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2012/13: THEFT (INCLUDING BURGLARY) AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

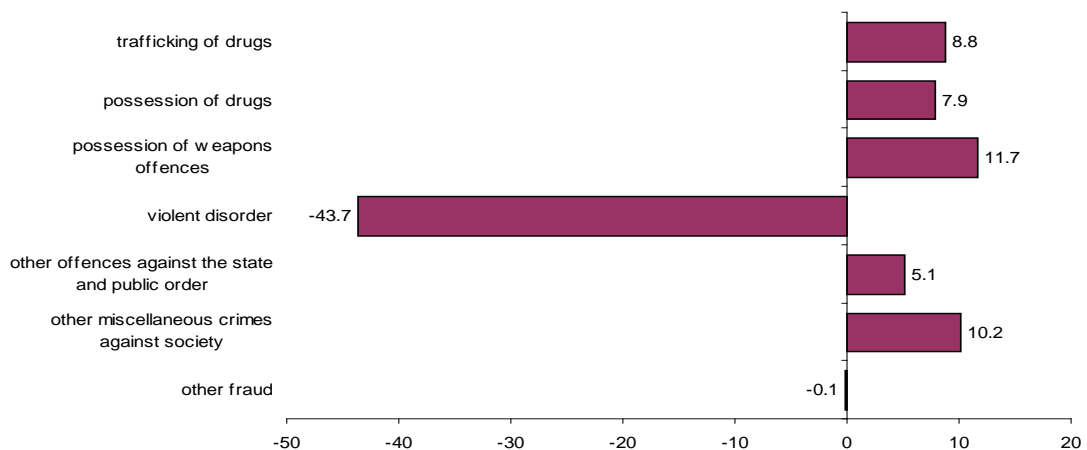
Figure 5 Percentage change in theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13



- Domestic burglary fell by 192 to a level of 5,753 while non-domestic burglary fell by 322 to a level of 3,314; the levels recorded during 2013/14 remain the lowest recorded since 1998/99.
- Theft from the person also showed a decrease when comparing 2013/14 with 2012/13, from 661 offences to 576.
- Overall, vehicle offences increased between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Within vehicle offences, theft from a vehicle increased by 300 to 3,070 while theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle rose by 43 to 1,943. Offences of aggravated vehicle taking fell by 60 and interfering with a motor vehicle fell by 13.
- Shoplifting rose by 482 to a level of 6,372, the second highest level recorded since the start of the data series in 1998/99. Bicycle theft also increased by 24 to 1,097, a level not reached since 2000/01. The category containing all other theft offences showed an increase of 235, from 13,067 recorded in 2012/13 to 13,302 in 2013/14.
- Arson offences fell by 2 to the lowest level recorded since 1998/99. Within all other criminal damage offences, criminal damage to a vehicle fell by 821, criminal damage to a dwelling fell by 288 and criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling fell by 140. Other criminal damage rose by 181.

COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2012/13: OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY AND OTHER FRAUD

Figure 6 Percentage change in other crimes against society and other fraud, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13



- Trafficking of drugs increased by 78 and possession of drugs rose by 276 with both remaining the highest levels recorded since the start of the data series.
- Possession of weapons offences rose by 76 from 651 to 727. While public order offences rose overall, offences of violent disorder (including riots) fell by 52. The increase occurred in other offences against the state and public order, mainly due to higher numbers of breach of non-molestation orders recorded.
- Miscellaneous crimes against society showed an increase of 224 offences, reflecting small increases and decreases across the range of categories contained within this classification.

OUTCOME RATES

Figure 7 Trends in Outcome Rates, 1998/99 to 2013/14

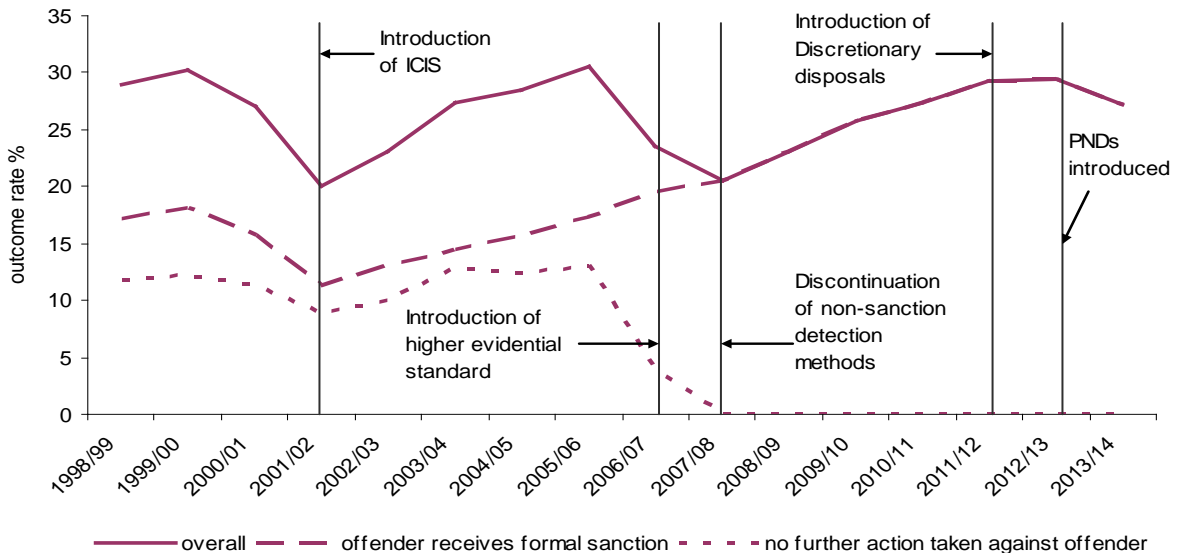


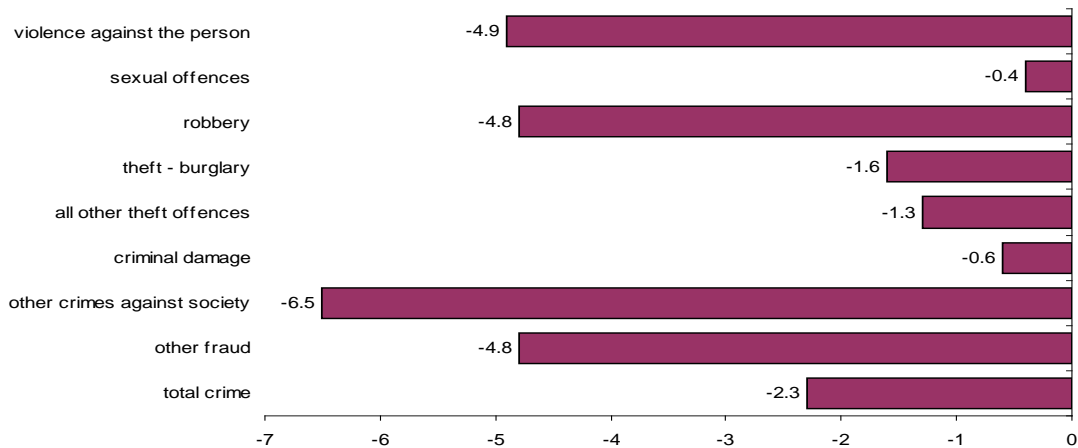
Figure 7 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate since 1998/99, split by those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction (including discretionary disposals) and those where no further action is taken against the offender. Northern Ireland experienced a drop in the outcome rate of 7 percentage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

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. This resulted in a fall in the outcome rate, from 30.6% in 2005/06 to 23.6% in 2006/07. From April 2007 some of the methods allowed for claiming outcomes where no further action was taken against the offender were discontinued altogether, and the overall outcome rate within Northern Ireland fell further, from 23.6% in 2006/07 to 20.5% in 2007/08. Since this date the overall outcome rate and the outcome rate for offences where the offender receives a formal sanction have essentially been the same. For this reason detailed outcome rates are now being compared from 2007/08 onwards.

The outcome rate rose each year from 2007/08 to 2012/13 when it reached 29.5%, before falling by 2.3 percentage points to 27.2% in 2013/14. PSNI introduced discretionary disposals during 2011/12; these contributed 2.9% to the outcome rate in 2011/12, 3.1% in 2012/13 and 2.6% in 2013/14. Penalty notices for disorder, introduced in June 2012, contributed 0.4% to the outcome rate in 2012/13 and 0.8% in 2013/14.

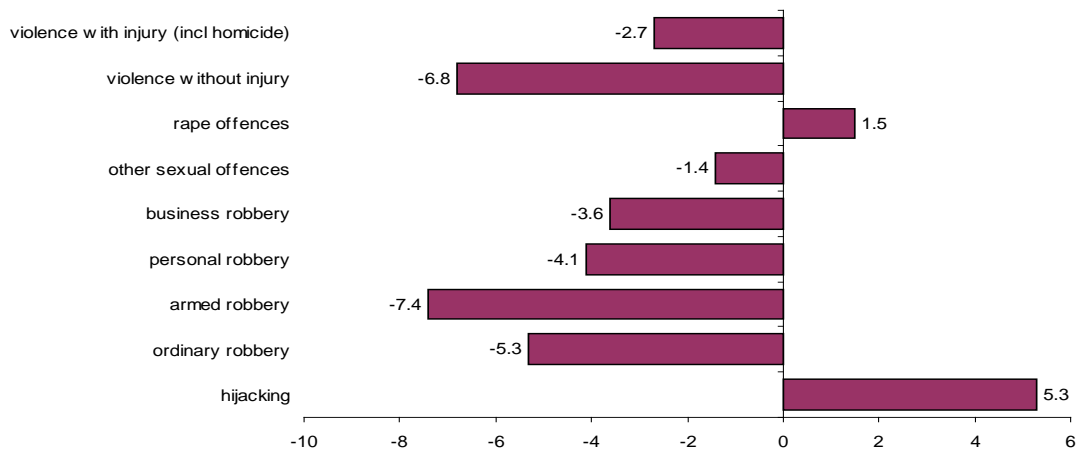
There were four offences during 2013/14 where no further action was taken against the offender, three of 'no prosecution directed' and one where 'offender died before proceedings'.

Figure 8 Percentage point change in the main recorded crime type outcome rates, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13



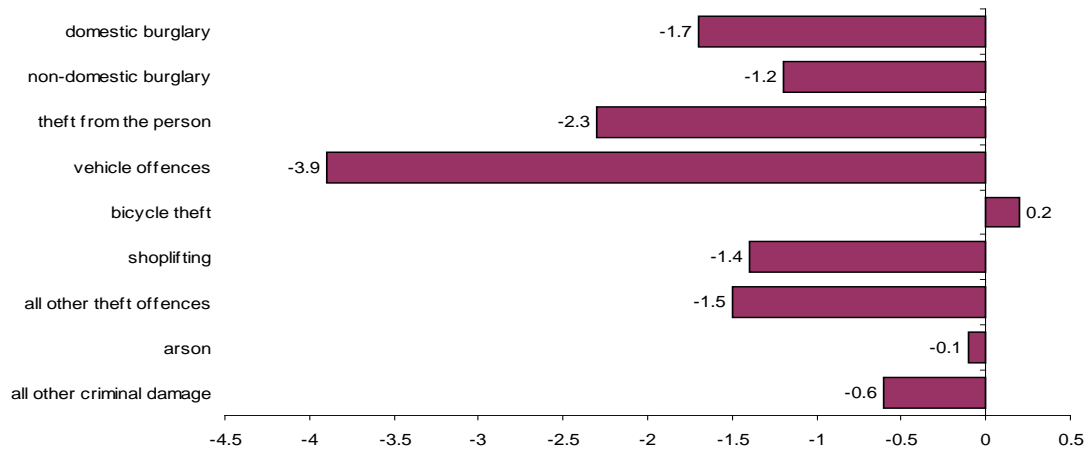
- At 27.2% the outcome rate for 2013/14 is 2.3 percentage points lower than 2012/13. The outcome rate has fallen in respect of charge/summons (from 22.5% to 20.7%), adult cautions (from 2.5% to 2.3%), juvenile cautions (from 1.0% to 0.8%) and discretionary disposals (from 3.1% to 2.6%). The outcome rate for penalty notices for disorder (which were introduced in June 2012) rose from 0.4% to 0.8%.
- Outcome rates fell between 2012/13 and 2013/14 in each of the main crime categories.

Figure 9 Percentage point change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery outcome rates, 2013/14 compared with 2012/13



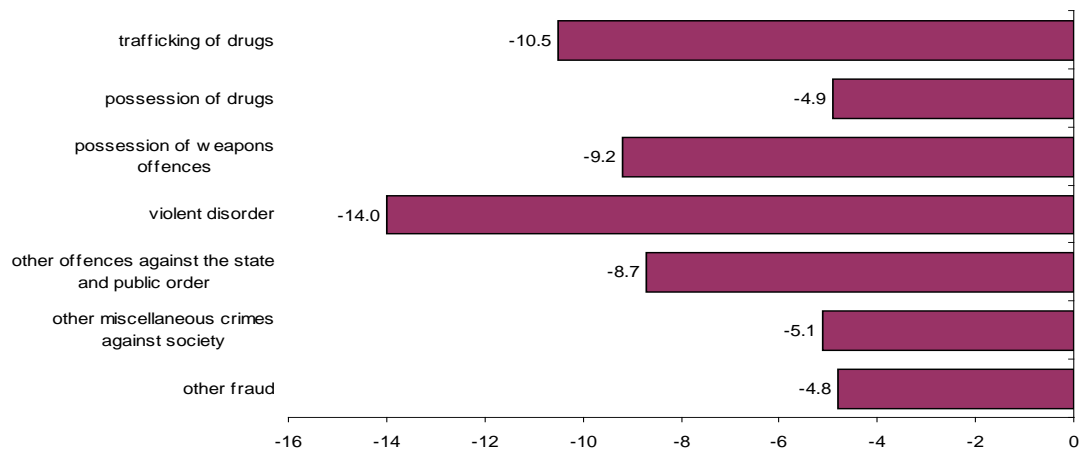
- The outcome rate for violence against the person with injury (including homicide) increased year on year from 28.3% in 2007/08 to 37.1% in 2010/11, before falling each year to the current level of 33.0% in 2013/14. Violence against the person without injury shows a similar trend, increasing year on year from 27.3% in 2007/08 to 40.7% in 2011/12 before falling to 29.4% in 2013/14.
- The outcome rate for rape offences increased between 2012/13 and 2013/14 to 16.5%; rates were higher in 2008/09 (21.0%) and 2011/12 (18.1%). The outcome rate for other sexual offences increased each year from 2007/08 to 2011/12 when it reached 30.5%. Since then the outcome rate has fallen to 22.1% in 2013/14.
- While robbery of business property showed the second highest outcome rate in 2013/14 (30.0%, a fall of 3.6 percentage points on the previous year), the outcome rate for robbery of personal property for 2013/14 (11.9%) is the lowest recorded since 2007/08. The outcome rate for armed robbery fell from 29.0% in 2012/13 to 21.6% in 2013/14 and for ordinary robbery the outcome rate for the same time period fell from 17.7% to 12.5% (the lowest level recorded since 2007/08). The outcome rate for hijacking reached its highest level in 2010/11 (22.1%) before falling to its lowest level in 2012/13 (11.3%); the outcome rate for hijacking has since increased to 16.7% in 2013/14.

Figure 10 Percentage point change in outcome rates for theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2012/13 compared with 2013/14



- The domestic burglary outcome rate showed little change between 2007/08 (10.0%) and 2010/11 (9.7%) before rising to 12.1% in 2011/12. The outcome rate has since fallen back to 9.7% in 2013/14. The outcome rate for non-domestic burglary reached 13.9% in 2011/12 but has since fallen to 12.1% in 2013/14.
- The outcome rate for vehicle offences rose year on year between 2007/08 (11.9%) and 2012/13 (20.6%). The rate then fell to 16.7% in 2013/14. The outcome rate for shoplifting offences reached 61.0% in 2012/13 before falling slightly to 59.6% in 2013/14.
- All other theft offences showed a year on year increase in outcome rates between 2007/08 (6.9%) and 2012/13 (11.1%). The outcome rate then fell to 9.7% in 2013/14.
- The outcome rate for arson offences reached its highest level in 2011/12 (7.8%) before falling to 6.4% in 2012/13 and remaining at this level in 2013/14. For all other criminal damage offences the outcome rate increased year on year between 2007/08 (9.8%) and 2012/13 (16.9%) before falling slightly to 16.3% in 2013/14.

Figure 11 Percentage point change in outcome rates for crimes against society and other fraud, 2012/13 compared with 2013/14



- The outcome rate for trafficking of drugs was at its highest level in 2007/08 (81.9%) before falling to 74.3% in 2008/09. The outcome rate then rose year on year to reach 81.7% in 2012/13 before falling to 71.2% in 2013/14, the lowest level recorded since 2007/08.
- The outcome rate for possession of drugs was 74.4% in 2007/08 and rose to 83.8% in 2008/09. Levels then fluctuated between 2008/09 and 2011/12 (82.8%) before increasing to 88.1% 2012/13. The outcome rate has since fallen to 83.2% in 2013/14.
- The outcome rate for possession of weapons offences was at its highest in 2010/11 (72.9%) and has since fallen each year to the current level of 62.7%, the lowest outcome rate recorded since 2007/08.

- Public order offences showed their highest outcome rate in 2012/13 (64.5%) before falling to 55.0% in 2013/14, the lowest outcome rate since 2007/08.
- Outcome rates for miscellaneous crimes against society have been falling since 2010/11 (66.5%) and are currently 59.7%. The trend for other fraud is the same, falling from 39.9% in 2010/11 to 32.8% in 2013/14.

OUTCOME RATES BY POLICING AREA

- Outcome rates have fallen between 2012/13 and 2013/14 in the majority of policing areas.
- Those that showed an increase in outcome rate over this time period were Armagh, Craigavon, Newry & Mourne, Foyle, Limavady and Magherafelt, each of which achieved their highest outcome rates since 2007/08. Banbridge also showed a higher outcome rate in 2013/14 when compared with 2012/13, although the highest outcome rate was achieved in 2011/12.
- Many policing areas achieved their highest outcome rate in 2012/13 before falling again in 2013/14: Down, Carrickfergus, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, Cookstown, Dungannon & South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Omagh, Strabane, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Larne and Moyle.
- The remaining policing areas achieved their highest outcome rates prior to 2012/13 and have shown falling levels since: North Belfast, West Belfast, East Belfast, South Belfast, Ards, Castlereagh, North Down, Antrim and Coleraine.

KNIFE AND SHARP INSTRUMENT CRIME

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

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

Table 1 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp Instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2013/14

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

Table 2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments¹ by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2013/14 (i.e. 15 per cent of all homicides in 2013/14 involved knives or sharp instruments)

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

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 and infanticide.

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

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

CRIMES WHERE ALCOHOL IS A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR

During 2012/13 a baseline was established relating to those crimes where alcohol was a contributory factor. This identified that alcohol was a contributory factor in 20 per cent of all crimes recorded, while for offences of violence against the person alcohol was a contributory factor in 47 per cent of crimes of this nature. Figures for 2013/14 indicate that alcohol continues to be a contributory factor in 20 per cent of all crimes recorded, while for offences of violence against the person this has fallen to 45 per cent.

Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2012/13 and 2013/14

Offence group	Number and percentage changes			
	2012/13	2013/14	change between years	% change between years ¹
VICTIM-BASED CRIME				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	30,305	32,403	2,098	6.9
<i>Homicide</i>	20	21	1	-
<i>Violence with injury</i>	14,854	14,136	-718	-4.8
<i>Violence without injury</i>	15,431	18,246	2,815	18.2
SEXUAL OFFENCES	1,932	2,234	302	15.6
<i>Rape</i>	533	550	17	3.2
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	1,399	1,684	285	20.4
ROBBERY	1,014	958	-56	-5.5
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	711	715	4	0.6
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	303	243	-60	-19.8
THEFT OFFENCES	35,611	36,023	412	1.2
<i>Burglary</i>	9,581	9,067	-514	-5.4
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	5,945	5,753	-192	-3.2
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	3,636	3,314	-322	-8.9
<i>Theft from the person</i>	661	576	-85	-12.9
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	5,339	5,609	270	5.1
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	1,073	1,097	24	2.2
<i>Shoplifting</i>	5,890	6,372	482	8.2
<i>All other theft offences</i>	13,067	13,302	235	1.8
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	20,959	19,889	-1,070	-5.1
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
DRUG OFFENCES	4,378	4,732	354	8.1
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	890	968	78	8.8
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	3,488	3,764	276	7.9
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	651	727	76	11.7
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,517	1,536	19	1.3
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,191	2,415	224	10.2
OTHER FRAUD ²	1,831	1,829	-2	-0.1
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	100,389	102,746	2,357	2.3

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

² In England & Wales offences such as fraud by false representation (deception) are reported to Action Fraud and from April 2013 these figures are no longer included in police recorded crime statistics. However in Northern Ireland these offences are still reported to the police and so continue to be included in the PSNI recorded crime statistics.

Table 4 Crime outcomes¹ 2012/13 and 2013/14, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages		
	Crime outcomes ¹ (rate %)		% point change
	2012/13	2013/14	
VICTIM-BASED CRIME			
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	35.9	31.0	-4.9
<i>Homicide</i>	85.0	81.0	-4.0
<i>Violence with injury</i>	35.6	32.9	-2.6
<i>Violence without injury</i>	36.2	29.4	-6.8
SEXUAL OFFENCES	21.2	20.8	-0.4
<i>Rape</i>	15.0	16.5	1.5
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	23.5	22.1	-1.4
ROBBERY	21.3	16.5	-4.8
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	16.0	11.9	-4.1
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	33.7	30.0	-3.6
THEFT OFFENCES	20.8	19.6	-1.2
<i>Burglary</i>	12.1	10.5	-1.6
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	11.4	9.7	-1.7
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	13.3	12.1	-1.2
<i>Theft from the person</i>	7.0	4.7	-2.3
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	20.6	16.7	-3.9
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	4.3	4.5	0.2
<i>Shoplifting</i>	61.0	59.6	-1.4
<i>All other theft offences</i>	11.1	9.7	-1.5
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	16.2	15.6	-0.6
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY			
DRUG OFFENCES	86.8	80.7	-6.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	81.7	71.2	-10.5
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	88.1	83.2	-4.9
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	71.9	62.7	-9.2
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	64.5	55.0	-9.5
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	64.8	59.7	-5.1
OTHER FRAUD ²	37.5	32.8	-4.8
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	29.5	27.2	-2.3

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

² In England & Wales offences such as fraud by false representation (deception) are reported to Action Fraud and from April 2013 these figures are no longer included in police recorded crime statistics. However in Northern Ireland these offences are still reported to the police and so continue to be included in the PSNI recorded crime statistics.

Table 5 Crime outcomes by type of disposal¹ 2012/13 and 2013/14, rates (%)

Offence group	Charge/summons		Caution		Discretionary disposal		Penalty notice for disorder ²		Taken into consideration		Percentages No action taken against the offender ³	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
	VICTIM-BASED CRIME											
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	29.7	26.0	3.2	2.7	3.0	2.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Homicide</i>	85.0	76.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
<i>Violence with injury</i>	30.1	28.1	3.3	3.0	2.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	29.2	24.2	3.2	2.5	3.7	2.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	19.4	18.8	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Rape</i>	14.6	16.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	21.2	19.7	1.5	1.8	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
ROBBERY	21.2	16.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	15.9	11.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	33.7	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
THEFT OFFENCES	14.4	13.1	2.2	1.9	3.1	2.6	0.9	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Burglary</i>	10.3	9.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	9.4	9.2	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	11.9	10.4	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	5.7	3.8	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	18.9	15.8	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	2.4	3.2	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	35.6	32.1	8.8	7.0	11.4	9.9	5.1	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	7.3	6.4	1.0	1.2	2.7	2.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	11.0	10.9	1.5	1.3	3.4	3.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY												
DRUG OFFENCES	54.1	48.7	26.5	23.6	6.2	8.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	73.5	63.7	7.9	6.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	49.1	44.8	31.2	27.9	7.7	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	58.7	53.0	9.2	7.6	4.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	61.3	51.6	2.8	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	60.3	56.8	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER FRAUD	30.5	27.7	3.6	2.6	3.4	2.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	22.5	20.7	3.5	3.1	3.1	2.6	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

² Penalty notices for disorder were introduced in June 2012.

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

Table 6 Recorded crime and crime outcome rates by policing district and policing area, 2012/13 and 2013/14

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime ¹			Crime outcomes (rate %) ²		
	2012/13	2013/14	% change 2012/13 to 2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	% point change 2012/13 to 2013/14 ³
A District	12,844	13,305	3.6	25.6	22.5	-3.1
North Belfast	7,524	7,949	5.6	24.0	22.3	-1.7
West Belfast	5,320	5,356	0.7	28.0	22.9	-5.1
B District	17,159	18,675	8.8	26.1	22.0	-4.2
East Belfast	5,364	5,743	7.1	24.9	20.9	-3.9
South Belfast	11,795	12,932	9.6	26.7	22.4	-4.3
C District	11,125	11,894	6.9	28.5	25.0	-3.5
Ards	2,844	2,686	-5.6	26.9	23.3	-3.6
Castlereagh	2,186	2,238	2.4	26.3	23.6	-2.7
Down	3,177	3,613	13.7	29.6	26.2	-3.3
North Down	2,918	3,357	15.0	30.7	26.2	-4.6
D District	13,487	13,245	-1.8	27.7	25.1	-2.6
Antrim	3,515	3,373	-4.0	24.4	22.0	-2.5
Carrickfergus	1,338	1,294	-3.3	26.1	23.6	-2.4
Lisburn	5,140	5,205	1.3	30.5	26.4	-4.1
Newtownabbey	3,494	3,373	-3.5	27.4	26.9	-0.6
E District	14,046	14,708	4.7	31.6	32.5	1.0
Armagh	2,298	2,190	-4.7	26.8	29.6	2.8
Banbridge	1,961	2,145	9.4	27.0	27.3	0.3
Craigavon	5,049	5,187	2.7	32.8	34.0	1.2
Newry & Mourne	4,738	5,186	9.5	34.4	34.5	0.0
F District	9,067	8,608	-5.1	35.9	30.8	-5.0
Cookstown	1,552	1,575	1.5	37.0	30.3	-6.8
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,421	2,206	-8.9	32.1	29.6	-2.5
Fermanagh	2,894	2,921	0.9	34.9	31.2	-3.7
Omagh	2,200	1,906	-13.4	40.5	32.3	-8.2
G District	13,338	12,786	-4.1	31.4	34.3	2.9
Foyle	8,177	8,028	-1.8	29.8	33.2	3.4
Limavady	2,001	1,758	-12.1	33.4	38.9	5.4
Magherafelt	1,545	1,497	-3.1	35.3	36.7	1.4
Strabane	1,615	1,503	-6.9	33.3	32.3	-1.0
H District	9,323	9,525	2.2	32.9	28.7	-4.2
Ballymena	3,070	3,165	3.1	39.4	31.8	-7.7
Ballymoney	857	936	9.2	34.8	24.1	-10.6
Coleraine	3,622	3,441	-5.0	30.5	30.2	-0.4
Larne	1,151	1,297	12.7	24.9	24.1	-0.8
Moyle	623	686	10.1	27.1	22.6	-4.5
Northern Ireland	100,389	102,746	2.3	29.5	27.2	-2.3

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

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

3. Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

NOTES

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

While this monthly update presents the level of crime recorded by the police, there is an alternative but complementary measure of crime, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) which is published by the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland. Each source of crime information has different strengths and limitations but can be looked at together to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. Details around the need for both recorded crime figures and the NICS can be found in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the bulletin [Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2012/13 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#). Both of these measures of crime inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs). It was estimated in 2012/13 that around 52 per cent of NICS comparable crime was reported to the police in Northern Ireland although this varied for individual offence types.

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

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

An analysis of variation in crime trends looking at comparable crime categories between the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the police recorded crime series for England and Wales was conducted by the Office for National Statistics and published in January 2013. This study identified that, while both sets of figures showed crime to be falling, after 2006/07 the rate of reduction for police recorded crime was around twice the rate of the CSEW. 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. In Northern Ireland the police recorded crime figures did not show the same rate of decrease as either the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) or the police recorded crime figures in England and Wales. [The NICS was not conducted in 2002/03 and so comparisons were made instead with 2003/04].

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2002/03 to 2011/12 (England and Wales)

	Percentage change 2002/03-2006/07	Percentage change 2006/07-2011/12	Percentage change 2002/03-2011/12
Police recorded crime	-11	-33	-41
CSEW	-11	-17	-26

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2003/04 to 2011/12 (Northern Ireland)

	Percentage change 2003/04-2006/07	Percentage change 2006/07-2011/12	Percentage change 2003/04-2011/12
Police recorded crime	-7	-20	-25
NICS	-28	-28	-48

Data Accuracy

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

Data Quality and Auditing

The quality assurance processes mentioned above have been set in place to ensure that the numbers and types of crimes being recorded are, as far as is possible, recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules. In addition to this, PSNI's Statistics Branch has carries out audits of incidents to identify those that do not result in a

crime being recorded, or where the crime is not recorded correctly. The resulting compliance gives an indication of how much crime might be missed from the crime figures.

An audit of this nature was conducted during December 2013 and January 2014 in order to assess compliance in relation to missed crimes, the accuracy of crime classification, whether or not the correct number of victims is being recorded and whether crimes are being recorded within 72 hours of initial report. The compliance rates for each aspect of the audit are shown in the table below.

Audit December 2013 to January 2014	number	%
Crime recording overall compliance (base = 1,327)	1,229	93%
Crime classified correctly (base = 1,229)	1,220	97%
Correct number of victims recorded (base = 1,229)	1,231	98%
Crime'd within 72 hours (base = 1,229)	898	73%

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

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

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

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

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

Table 7 below shows the extent of revisions to the figures contained in the monthly update to 28 February 2014, which were first published in March 2014.

Table 7 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 28 February 2014, which was first published 27th March 2014

	Numbers & Percentages					
	As published in March 2014	As published in May 2014	Scale of revision		% change between years	
			number	%	As published Mar'14	As published May'14
Financial Year to date: Apr 2013 to Feb 2014	93,656	93,650	-6	-0.0	1.8	1.8
12 Months Mar 2013 to Feb 2014	102,089	102,083	-6	-0.0	1.7	1.7

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 2013/14 financial year. Tables within this bulletin are also published in a separate [spreadsheet](#) which additionally provides:

- a detailed breakdown of recorded crimes at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 1998/99 to 2013/14;
- a detailed breakdown of outcomes (numbers) and outcome rates (%) at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 2007/08 to 2013/14;
- the number of outcomes and outcome rate (%) by method of outcome at a Northern Ireland level for each year from 1998/99 to 2013/14;
- summary tables for Northern Ireland, each policing district and each policing area comparing recorded crimes and outcome rates for 2013/14 with 2012/13 by a range of crime types;
- a pivot table providing statistics on recorded crime, outcomes (numbers) and outcome rates (%) with each data measure available:
 - at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
 - for a range of crime types;
 - for a range of time periods (2012/13, 2013/14 and each of the last 24 months);
- two pivot tables, one by age and one by gender providing statistics on recorded crime, outcomes (numbers), outcome rates (%) and population rate (per 1,000 population) with each data measure available:
 - at Northern Ireland level;
 - for a range of crime types;
 - by age range or gender;
 - for the latest two financial years, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

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

Further information

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2012/13](#) provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2013/14 will be available in early July 2014.

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

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

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, Fax: 028 9092 2998