



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Recorded Crime

Summary

Figure 1.1 Recorded Crime 1998/99 – 2004/05

Table 1.2 Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2003/04 and 2004/05

Table 1.3 Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by District Command Unit 2003/04 and 2004/05

Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

The Following as an Extract from the Main Financial Year Document 2004/05

Recorded Crime

Summary

Overall Crime

- Crime is at its lowest level for six years. A total of 118,124 offences were recorded during 2004/05 compared with 127,953 in 2003/04. This represents a decrease of 7.7%.
- The overall clearance rate was 28.2%, 0.8 percentage points higher than that achieved in the previous year.

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

- There was a slight decrease of 223 (-0.7%) in the number of violent crimes recorded during 2004/05. Offences against the person rose by 357 (+1.2%) while sexual offences fell by 94 (-5.3%).
- Robbery showed an overall decrease of 486 (-24.6%), with ordinary robbery falling by 190 (-25.4%) and armed robbery falling by 230 (-22.1%).
- The violent crime clearance rate fell from 54.1% to 51.1%.

Burglary

- Overall, burglary offences fell by 3,001 (-18.3%). Domestic burglary fell by 1,642 (-18.4%) while non-domestic burglary fell by 1,352 (-18.5%).
- The clearance rate for domestic burglary increased from 11.1% to 13.4%, with a similar increase for non-domestic burglary from 12.1% to 15.2%.

Theft

- Theft offences fell by 4,594 (-12.9%). Within this class there were decreases across the majority of categories. In particular there were large decreases in the number of thefts associated with motor vehicles.
- There was a decrease of 3,048 (-23.7%) in the number of vehicle crimes recorded. Vehicle crime is comprised of theft from motor vehicles, which fell by 2,135 (-28.4%) and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, which fell by 913 (-17.0%). Similarly, vehicle tampering /interference showed a decrease of 582 (-18.9%).
- The clearance rate for all theft offences increased from 15.9% to 17.4%.
- Vehicle crime clearance rates rose from 9.3% to 10.1%.

Criminal Damage

- Offences of criminal damage fell by 970 (-3.0%).
- Within criminal damage the number of criminal damage/malicious damage offences fell by 914 (-3.1%) and the number of arson offences fell by 125 (-5.9%).
- The clearance rate for all criminal damage offences fell from 15.2% to 14.4%.

Fraud and Forgery

- Fraud and forgery offences fell by 1,075 (-17.1%).
- Within fraud and forgery there were decreases of 809 (-27.3%) in deception offences and 283 (-11.6%) in making off without payment, however forgery and counterfeiting offences showed a slight increase of 31 (+8.3%).
- The clearance rate for fraud and forgery offences increased from 32.4% to 36.0%.

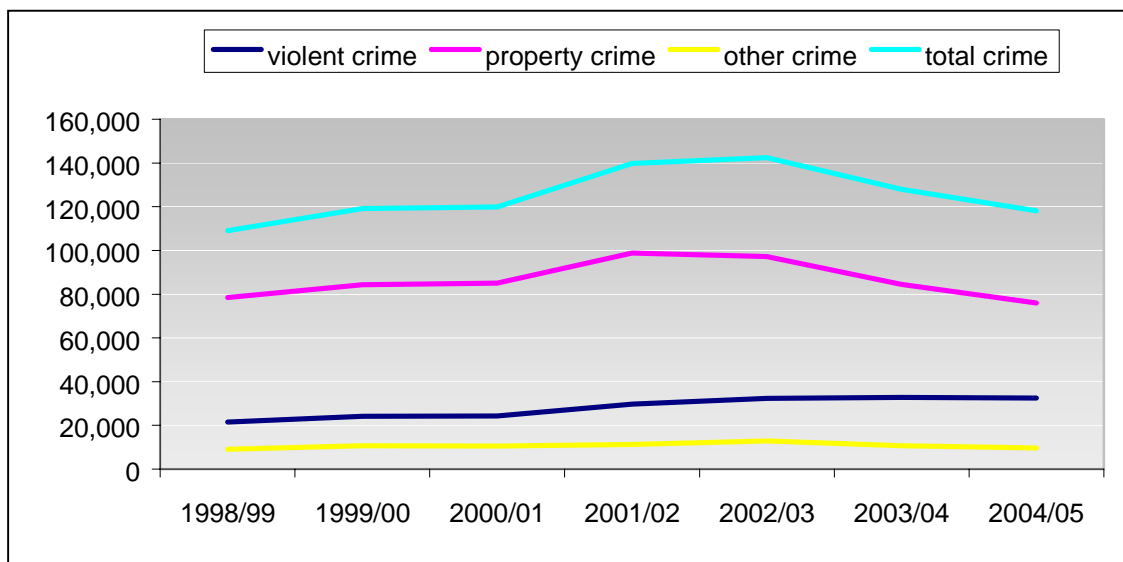
Offences Against the State

- Offences against the State showed a decrease of 107 (-8.3%).
- There was an increase of 4.3 percentage points in the clearance rate, from 41.6% to 45.9%.

Other Notifiable Offences

- Other notifiable offences showed an increase of 141 (+4.4%), mainly due to a rise of 154 (+38.9%) in the number of dangerous driving offences.
- The clearance rate for all drug offences rose from 71.6% to 73.5%.
- The overall clearance rate for other notifiable offences rose from 71.0% to 72.8%.

Figure 1.1: Recorded Crime 1998/99¹ - 2004/05



¹ On the 1st April 1998 the Home Office introduced a number of major revisions in the counting rules under which crime is recorded. Figures prior to this date are not comparable.

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2003/04 and 2004/05

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2003/04	2004/05	change	% change	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	Change in % pts ²
Offences against the person (class 1)									
Murder	26	34	+8	+30.8	21	27	80.8	79.4	-1.4
Manslaughter	6	6	0	0.0	4	5	66.7	83.3	+16.7
Infanticide	1	1	0	0.0	0	1	0.0	100.0	+100.0
Attempted murder	121	129	+8	+6.6	67	67	55.4	51.9	-3.4
Threat or conspiracy to murder	986	1,371	+385	+39.0	626	834	63.5	60.8	-2.7
Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking	88	79	-9	-10.2	84	72	95.5	91.1	-4.3
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	402	403	+1	+0.2	157	164	39.1	40.7	+1.6
Wounding/GBH	734	768	+34	+4.6	275	249	37.5	32.4	-5.0
AOABH	15,187	14,820	-367	-2.4	7,459	7,009	49.1	47.3	-1.8
Common assault	6,253	6,427	+174	+2.8	4,488	3,800	71.8	59.1	-12.6
Aggravated assault	1,092	1,036	-56	-5.1	830	701	76.0	67.7	-8.3
Assault on police	1,951	2,118	+167	+8.6	1,756	1,894	90.0	89.4	-0.6
Obstructing police ¹	0	0	0	0	50	1	-	-	-
Intimidation	1,184	1,038	-146	-12.3	154	130	13.0	12.5	-0.5
Harassment	701	947	+246	+35.1	425	551	60.6	58.2	-2.4
Explosives offences endangering life	42	25	-17	-40.5	19	3	45.2	12.0	-33.2
Firearms offences endangering life	80	49	-31	-38.8	36	33	45.0	67.3	22.3
Other offences against the person	128	88	-40	-31.3	57	44	44.5	50.0	+5.5
Totals	28,982	29,339	+357	+1.2	16,508	15,585	57.0	53.1	-3.8
Sexual offences (class 2)									
Rape	354	347	-7	-2.0	182	156	51.4	45.0	-6.5
Attempted rape	41	33	-8	-19.5	28	16	68.3	48.5	-19.8
Buggery	34	17	-17	-50.0	20	12	58.8	70.6	+11.8
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	10	13	+3	+30.0	2	7	20.0	53.8	+33.8
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl 14 years and under 17 years	58	52	-6	-10.3	34	16	58.6	30.8	-27.9
Indecent assault on a female	287	283	-4	-1.4	130	131	45.3	46.3	+1.0
Indecent assault on a female child	351	331	-20	-5.7	215	200	61.3	60.4	-0.8
Indecent assault on a male	46	36	-10	-21.7	17	18	37.0	50.0	+13.0
Indecent assault on a male child	150	96	-54	-36.0	91	63	60.7	65.6	+5.0
Indecency between males	17	13	-4	-23.5	15	11	88.2	84.6	-3.6
Indecent exposure	360	393	+33	+9.2	136	114	37.8	29.0	-8.8
Indecent conduct towards a child	24	15	-9	-37.5	16	9	66.7	60.0	-6.7
Other sexual offences	48	57	+9	+18.8	18	23	37.5	40.4	+2.9
Totals	1,780	1,686	-94	-5.3	904	776	50.8	46.0	-4.8

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2003/04 and 2004/05 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2003/04	2004/05	change	% change	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	Change in % pts ²
Burglary (class 3)									
Domestic Burglary (Total)	8,944	7,302	-1,642	-18.4	995	981	11.1	13.4	+2.3
Burglary in a dwelling	8,899	7,245	-1,654	-18.6	976	954	11.0	13.2	+2.2
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	45	57	+12	+26.7	19	27	42.2	47.4	+5.1
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	7,317	5,965	-1,352	-18.5	882	904	12.1	15.2	+3.1
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	7,313	5,963	-1,350	-18.5	881	903	12.0	15.1	+3.1
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	4	2	-2	-50.0	1	1	25.0	50.0	+25.0
Going equipped	128	121	-7	-5.5	115	103	89.8	85.1	-4.7
Totals	16,389	13,388	-3,001	-18.3	1,992	1,988	12.2	14.8	+2.7
Robbery (class 4)									
Robbery	749	559	-190	-25.4	100	72	13.4	12.9	-0.5
Armed robbery	1,042	812	-230	-22.1	156	157	15.0	19.3	+4.3
Hijacking	182	116	-66	-36.3	29	19	15.9	16.4	+0.4
Totals	1,973	1,487	-486	-24.6	285	248	14.4	16.7	+2.2
Theft (class 5)									
Theft, one person from another	1,288	1,162	-126	-9.8	63	65	4.9	5.6	+0.7
Theft in a dwelling	846	868	+22	+2.6	230	207	27.2	23.8	-3.3
Theft by an employee	323	316	-7	-2.2	172	188	53.3	59.5	+6.2
Theft of pedal cycles	860	912	+52	+6.0	45	49	5.2	5.4	+0.1
Shoplifting	4,743	4,967	+224	+4.7	2,461	2,682	51.9	54.0	+2.1
Vehicle Crime	12,875	9,827	-3,048	-23.7	1,195	988	9.3	10.1	+0.8
Comprised of:									
Theft from motor vehicles	7,506	5,371	-2,135	-28.4	347	234	4.6	4.4	-0.2
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	5,369	4,456	-913	-17.0	848	754	15.8	16.9	+1.1
Vehicle tampering/interference	3,087	2,505	-582	-18.9	226	206	7.3	8.2	+0.9
Handling of stolen goods	360	311	-49	-13.6	295	258	81.9	83.0	+1.0
Other thefts	11,309	10,229	-1,080	-9.5	972	758	8.6	7.4	-1.2
Totals	35,691	31,097	-4,594	-12.9	5,659	5,401	15.9	17.4	+1.5
Fraud and forgery (class 6)									
Deception	2,960	2,151	-809	-27.3	960	792	32.4	36.8	+4.4
Forgery and counterfeiting	372	403	+31	+8.3	121	185	32.5	45.9	+13.4
Making off without payment	2,434	2,151	-283	-11.6	558	540	22.9	25.1	+2.2
Other frauds	507	493	-14	-2.8	391	354	77.1	71.8	-5.3
Totals	6,273	5,198	-1,075	-17.1	2,030	1,871	32.4	36.0	+3.6

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2003/04 and 2004/05 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2003/04	2004/05	change	% change	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	change in % pts ²
Criminal damage (class 7)									
Arson	2,136	2,011	-125	-5.9	200	177	9.4	8.8	-0.6
Petrol bombing offences	93	107	+14	+15.1	5	15	5.4	14.0	+8.6
Explosives offences	42	35	-7	-16.7	5	10	11.9	28.6	+16.7
Criminal damage / Malicious damage offences	29,838	28,924	-914	-3.1	4,530	4,117	15.2	14.2	-0.9
Other criminal damage offences	293	355	+62	+21.2	186	202	63.5	56.9	-6.6
Totals	32,402	31,432	-970	-3.0	4,926	4,521	15.2	14.4	-0.8
Offences against the state (class 8)									
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	26	24	-2	-7.7	21	10	80.8	41.7	-39.1
Firearms offences	162	149	-13	-8.0	51	47	31.5	31.5	+0.1
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	429	486	+57	+13.3	361	385	84.1	79.2	-4.9
Other offences against the public order	675	526	-149	-22.1	105	102	15.6	19.4	+3.8
Totals	1,292	1,185	-107	-8.3	538	544	41.6	45.9	+4.3
Other notifiable offences (class 9)									
Blackmail	51	34	-17	-33.3	16	4	31.4	11.8	-19.6
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	80	68	-12	-15.0	21	18	26.3	26.5	+0.2
Drug offences (Total)	2,589	2,622	+33	+1.3	1,853	1,927	71.6	73.5	+1.9
Trafficking offences	405	375	-30	-7.4	314	313	77.5	83.5	+5.9
Non-Trafficking offences	2,184	2,247	+63	+2.9	1,539	1,614	70.5	71.8	+1.4
Dangerous driving	396	550	+154	+38.9	320	435	80.8	79.1	-1.7
Other notifiable offences	55	38	-17	-30.9	41	26	74.5	68.4	-6.1
Totals	3,171	3,312	+141	+4.4	2,251	2,410	71.0	72.8	+1.8
Violent Crime (classes 1, 2 and 4)	32,735	32,512	-223	-0.7	17,697	16,609	54.1	51.1	-3.0
Grand Total (all classes)	127,953	118,124	-9,829	-7.7	35,093	33,344	27.4	28.2	+0.8

¹ From April 2003 the offence of obstructing police is no longer recordable. While there have been 50 offences cleared during 2003/04 and 1 offence cleared during 2004/05 for obstructing police offences recorded prior to April 2003, it is not considered appropriate to provide clearance rates.

² 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 Command Unit 2003/04 and 2004/05

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2003/04	2004/05	change	% change	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	Change in % pts ¹
Antrim	3,495	3,209	-286	-8.2	652	802	18.7	25.0	+6.3
Ards	4,310	3,718	-592	-13.7	1,201	1,020	27.9	27.4	-0.4
East Belfast	6,351	5,455	-896	-14.1	1,767	1,493	27.8	27.4	-0.5
North Belfast	9,698	8,637	-1,061	-10.9	1,942	1,769	20.0	20.5	+0.5
South Belfast	15,267	14,500	-767	-5.0	3,034	3,183	19.9	22.0	+2.1
West Belfast	5,431	5,337	-94	-1.7	1,072	1,219	19.7	22.8	+3.1
Carrickfergus	1,822	1,760	-62	-3.4	604	640	33.2	36.4	+3.2
Castlereagh	3,561	2,917	-644	-18.1	771	725	21.7	24.9	+3.2
Larne	1,722	1,569	-153	-8.9	699	557	40.6	35.5	-5.1
Lisburn	8,675	8,009	-666	-7.7	1,934	2,082	22.3	26.0	+3.7
Newtownabbey	6,259	5,275	-984	-15.7	1,384	1,116	22.1	21.2	-1.0
North Down	5,060	4,372	-688	-13.6	1,419	1,337	28.0	30.6	+2.5
Urban Region	71,651	64,758	-6,893	-9.6	16,479	15,943	23.0	24.6	+1.6
Armagh	2,712	2,594	-118	-4.4	1,070	1,064	39.5	41.0	+1.6
Ballymena	4,328	4,231	-97	-2.2	1,588	1,589	36.7	37.6	+0.9
Ballymoney	953	1,062	+109	+11.4	351	361	36.8	34.0	-2.8
Banbridge	2,465	2,187	-278	-11.3	915	805	37.1	36.8	-0.3
Coleraine	4,813	4,822	+9	+0.2	1,443	1,580	30.0	32.8	+2.8
Cookstown	1,892	1,996	+104	+5.5	849	847	44.9	42.4	-2.4
Craigavon	6,386	5,594	-792	-12.4	1,474	1,478	23.1	26.4	+3.3
Down	4,568	3,758	-810	-17.7	1,344	1,191	29.4	31.7	+2.3
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,536	2,591	+55	+2.2	1,055	854	41.6	33.0	-8.6
Fermanagh	2,625	2,503	-122	-4.6	725	598	27.6	23.9	-3.7
Foyle	7,902	7,796	-106	-1.3	2,302	2,152	29.1	27.6	-1.5
Limavady	2,075	2,226	+151	+7.3	692	770	33.3	34.6	+1.2
Magherafelt	1,710	1,338	-372	-21.8	632	580	37.0	43.3	+6.4
Moyle	1,005	821	-184	-18.3	316	231	31.4	28.1	-3.3
Newry & Mourne	5,074	5,362	+288	+5.7	1,403	1,395	27.7	26.0	-1.6
Omagh	2,798	2,462	-336	-12.0	1,249	1,052	44.6	42.7	-1.9
Strabane	2,460	2,023	-437	-17.8	1,206	854	49.0	42.2	-6.8
Rural Region	56,302	53,366	-2,936	-5.2	18,614	17,401	33.1	32.6	-0.5
Grand Total	127,953	118,124	-9,829	-7.7	35,093	33,344	27.4	28.2	+0.8

¹ 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.

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. Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and go free, this also counts as one clearance. In this respect clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while clearance data counts crimes.

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 or restorative caution.

Offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' are those where the police take no further action for the following reasons:

- Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
- Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
- Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
- Police or DPP decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;
- Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

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.