

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2015

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015)

Published 12 May 2015

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This monthly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2014/15, which runs from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. Knife and sharp instrument crime figures for each financial year 2007/08 to 2014/15 are also included in this bulletin.

A range of more detailed tables are available in the [summary tables](#) and [pivot table data](#) which accompany this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES section, on [pages 17 and 18](#) of this bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2014/15 will be available in early July 2015. The next monthly update covering the 12 months to 30th April 2015 will be published on 4th June 2015.

Crime data integrity audit: 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 19th 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.

National Statistics Designation: The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) removed the National Statistics designation from the police recorded crime statistics in England & Wales in January 2014, and in July 2014 suspended the designation for the same set of statistics in Scotland. 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. While the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland remain designated as National Statistics, they are currently being re-assessed by UKSA.

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[Comparison of 2014/15 with 2013/14: violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery](#)

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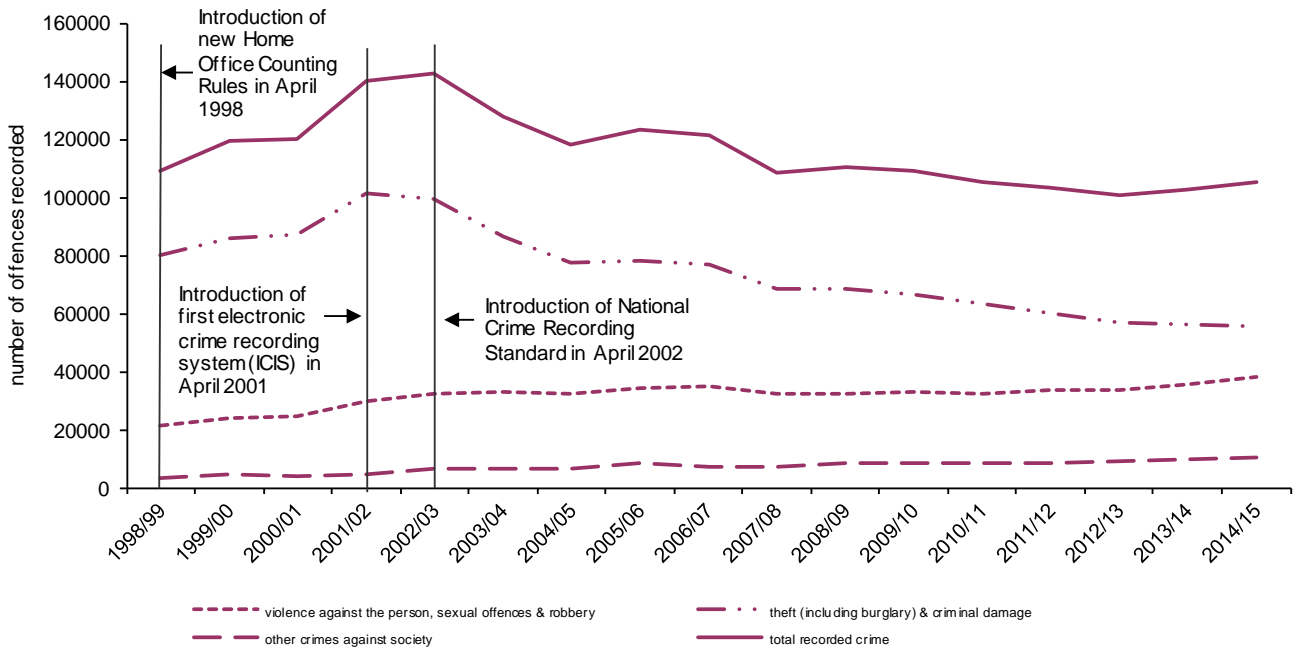
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OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2014/15

- Crime has shown an overall downwards trend over the last twelve 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 risen over the last two years to 102,746 in 2013/14 and again to 105,072 in 2014/15. The level of crime recorded in 2014/15 shows an increase of 2.3 per cent on the previous year and is the fifth lowest crime figure recorded since 1998/99. This represents 57 crimes 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 2014/15



- The overall downwards trend in crime over the last twelve years has generally been experienced within the main crime types of robbery, burglary, vehicle offences and criminal damage, each of which have fallen to their lowest levels recorded in 2014/15. Robbery and burglary levels have more than halved since they reached a peak in 2002/03 while the level of criminal damage in 2014/15 is around half of that recorded in 2001/02. Vehicle offences have fallen by 76 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 2012/13. Levels have since risen in each of the last two financial years, with 2014/15 showing a 5.7 per cent increase on 2013/14 to become the highest level recorded since 1998/99.
- Sexual offences have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01. The figure for 2014/15 is the highest level recorded since 1998/99 and is more than 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 2014/15 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 has continued during 2014/15.
- Possession of weapons offences showed an upwards trend between 1998/99 (351 recorded) and 2009/10 (804 recorded) before falling each year to a level of 651 in 2012/13. Levels have increased again in each of the last two financial years, reaching 772 in 2014/15.

- Public order offences were at their highest during 2005/06, reaching a level of 2,007. Levels have fluctuated since then with a mainly downwards trend since 2009/10; at 1,447 the figure for 2014/15 is the lowest since the peak in 2005/06.
- The number of miscellaneous crimes against society has tended to fluctuate over the years with no real trend emerging. The latest figure of 2,765 is the highest seen since 1998/99, when 1,498 offences were recorded, and is similar to the levels recorded in 2002/03, 2005/06 and 2009/10.
- 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 the police recorded crime statistics for England & Wales. However in Northern Ireland, during 2014/15, these offences were still being reported to the police and so continue to be included in the PSNI recorded crime statistics for this time period. Other fraud showed an overall downwards trend between 1998/99 (when 4,406 offences were recorded) and 2007/08 (978 offences), followed by a slight upwards trend; the level recorded in 2014/15 was 1,896.

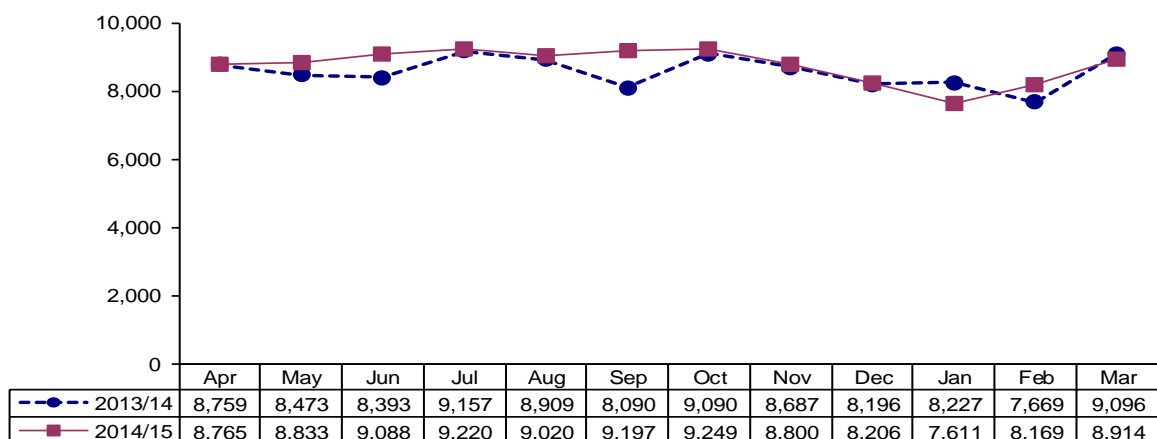
OVERALL CRIME TRENDS 1998/99 TO 2014/15: POLICING AREAS

- Most policing districts showed peaks in crime levels around 2001/02 and 2002/03 (A, B, C, D, E and H Districts) with F and G Districts showing their highest crime levels in 2005/06. Rising trends have been seen again in A, B, C, D and E Districts in the last year or so. Crime in F District reached its lowest level in 2014/15, levels fell in H District between 2013/14 and 2014/15 and G District saw no change in crime levels over the same time period.
- Looking at those policing districts that have shown more recent upwards trends in crime (A, B, C, D and E Districts), the majority of policing areas in these districts have experienced increases over the last year or two. In particular the level seen in East Belfast during 2014/15 was the highest in the last eleven years, while those seen in South Belfast and West Belfast were each the highest in the last eight years. Only three policing areas (Antrim, Banbridge and Newry & Mourne) within this group of districts showed a fall in crime levels between 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- In those policing districts that have seen little change in crime or falling crime, the following policing areas experienced their lowest crime levels since 1998/99; Cookstown, Dungannon & South Tyrone, Limavady, Ballymena and Moyle. The level of crime during 2014/15 in both Ballymoney and Coleraine policing areas was the second lowest level seen since 1998/99.

COMPARISON OF 2014/15 WITH 2013/14: OVERALL CRIME

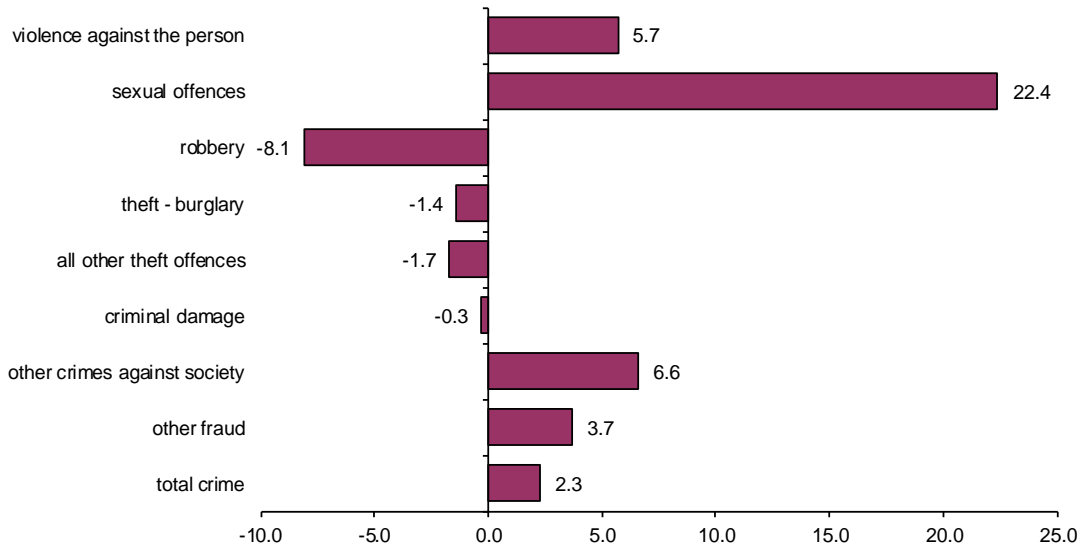
- Crime rose by 2.3 per cent between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Crime levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2014/15 with the same month in 2013/14, albeit at a higher level in ten of the months during 2014/15. The exceptions were January 2015 and March 2015. The largest monthly difference was seen in September, with the level in 2015 being 13.7 per cent higher than that during 2014.

Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, 2013/14 and 2014/15



As can be seen in figure 3 below, four of the main crime types showed an increase in the number of crimes recorded when comparing 2014/15 with 2013/14 with four showing decreases.

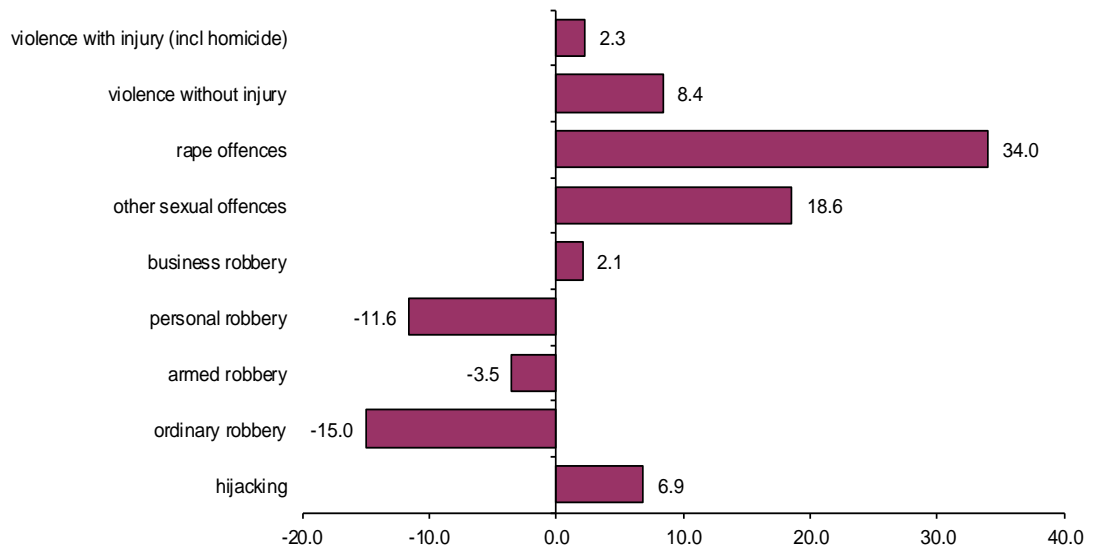
Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14



COMPARISON OF 2014/15 WITH 2013/14: 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, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14

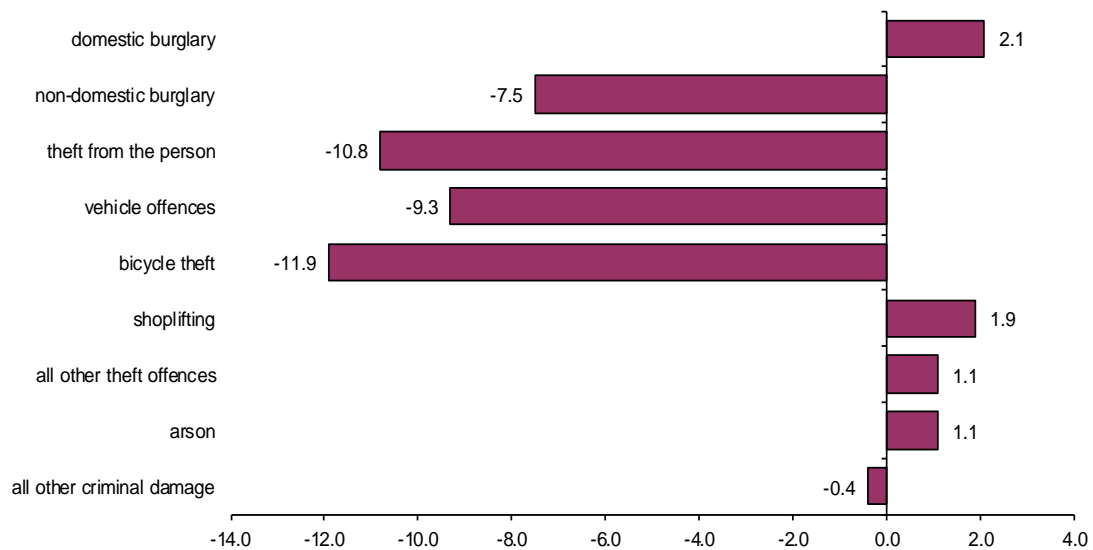


- In 2014/15 there were 16 murders, one fewer than the level recorded in 2013/14. There were five offences of manslaughter, two more than were recorded in 2013/14 and three offences of corporate manslaughter. The number of offences of violence against the person with injury increased by 319 when comparing 2014/15 with 2013/14.
- There was an increase of 1,528 in the number of offences of violence against the person without injury, primarily made up of an increase of 773 in offences of assault without injury, an increase of 500 in harassment (which includes both harassment and intimidation offences) and an increase of 408 in threats to kill.
- There were decreases in the number of offences of assault on police, both with injury (-65) and without injury (-137).

- Offences of rape increased by 187 to 737, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series. The increase in the number of rape offences recorded during 2014/15 may in part be due to clarification received from the Home Office in relation to the issue of consent. This is an area that has been the subject of considerable debate from a crime recording perspective. [Crown Prosecution Service guidance](#) on the subject was issued to police forces which assisted with the application of the rules for recording rape offences set out by the Home Office.
- There were 160 more sexual assault offences and sexual activity offences rose by 151. Further detail on the reporting of historic abuse will be available in early July when the more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2014/15 will be published.
- While business robbery showed an increase of 5 when compared with 2013/14, personal robbery fell by 83 to a level of 632 offences, the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 and a fall of 42.2 per cent when compared with the peak recorded in 2002/03. While armed robbery fell by 13 and ordinary robbery fell by 72, hijacking offences rose by 7.

COMPARISON OF 2014/15 WITH 2013/14: THEFT (INCLUDING BURGLARY) AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Figure 5 Percentage change in theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14

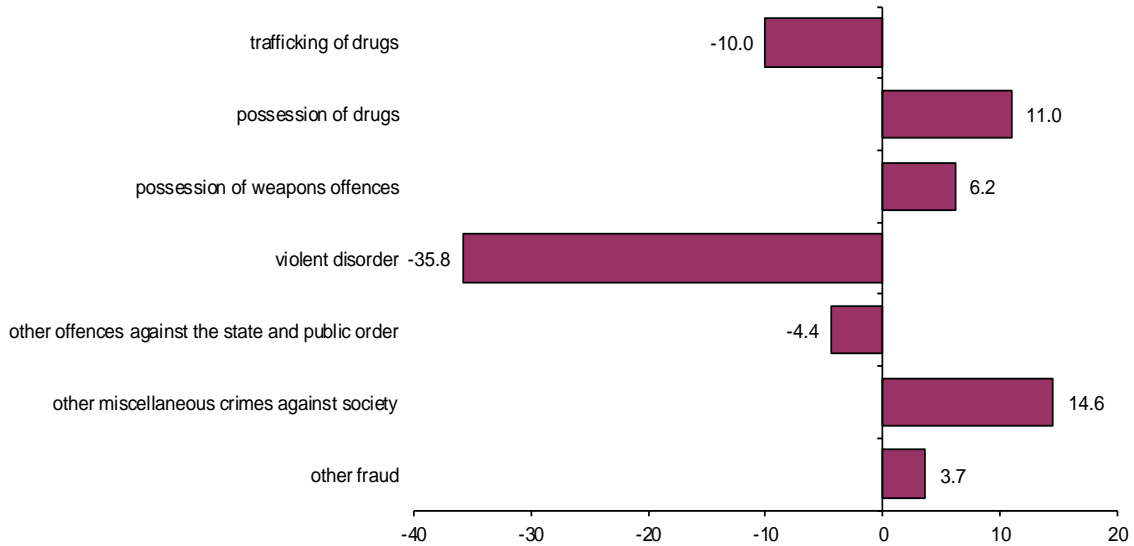


- While non-domestic burglary fell by 250 to its lowest recorded level of 3,064, domestic burglary increased by 120 to a level of 5,873.
- Overall, vehicle offences decreased between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Within vehicle offences, theft from a vehicle fell by 362 to 2,708 while theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle fell by 259 to 1,684. However offences of aggravated vehicle taking rose by 26 and interfering with a motor vehicle rose by 75.
- Theft from the person showed a decrease when comparing 2014/15 with 2013/14, from 576 offences to 514. Bicycle theft also fell by 131 to 966.
- Shoplifting rose by 123 to a level of 6,495, the second highest level recorded since the start of the data series in 1998/99.
- The category containing all other theft offences showed an increase of 141, from 13,302 recorded in 2013/14 to 13,443 in 2014/15. Within this category there was an increase of 718 in offences of making off without payment with the level rising to 1,675, similar to levels seen prior to 2010/11. A factor which may have contributed to this rise is a change in the Home Office Counting Rules, introduced in April 2014, which has made it more difficult for crimes of making off without payment to meet the criteria which allow offences to be removed from the crime figures (no crime'd). There was also an increase of 175 in relation to dishonest use of electricity to reach 333, the highest level recorded since 1998/99 and more than twice the level recorded during 2013/14. These increases were partially offset by a fall of 689 in the classification of Other theft.

- Arson offences rose by 17 to a level slightly higher than was recorded in the previous two financial years. Within all other criminal damage offences, criminal damage to a vehicle decreased by 292 and criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling decreased by 232, both falling to their lowest levels since the start of the data series. Increases were seen in criminal damage to a dwelling which rose by 344 and in offences of other criminal damage which rose by 104.

COMPARISON OF 2014/15 WITH 2013/14: OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY AND OTHER FRAUD

Figure 6 Percentage change in other crimes against society and other fraud, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14



- Possession of drugs rose by 413 to 4,177, the highest level recorded since the start of the data series. However trafficking of drugs fell by 97 to 871, a level lower than was recorded in either 2012/13 or 2013/14.
- Possession of weapons offences rose by 45 from 727 to 772. Public order offences fell overall with both offences of violent disorder (including riots) falling by 24 and other offences against the state and public order falling by 65. Within other offences against the state and public order, breach of non-molestation orders recorded rose by 13. However bomb hoax related offences fell by 55 to 147 (only 1998/99 was lower with 101 such offences recorded).
- Miscellaneous crimes against society showed an increase of 353 offences. There were increases of 159 in offences of threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage and of 88 in offences relating to obscene publications and protected sexual material. There was also an increase of 106 in the 'Other offences' classification, reflecting the recording of 22 offences in relation to forced or compulsory labour and an increase of 39 offences relating to endangering the safety of aircraft (through shining 'laser pens' at aircraft).

OUTCOME RATES

Figure 7 Trends in Outcome Rates, 1998/99 to 2014/15

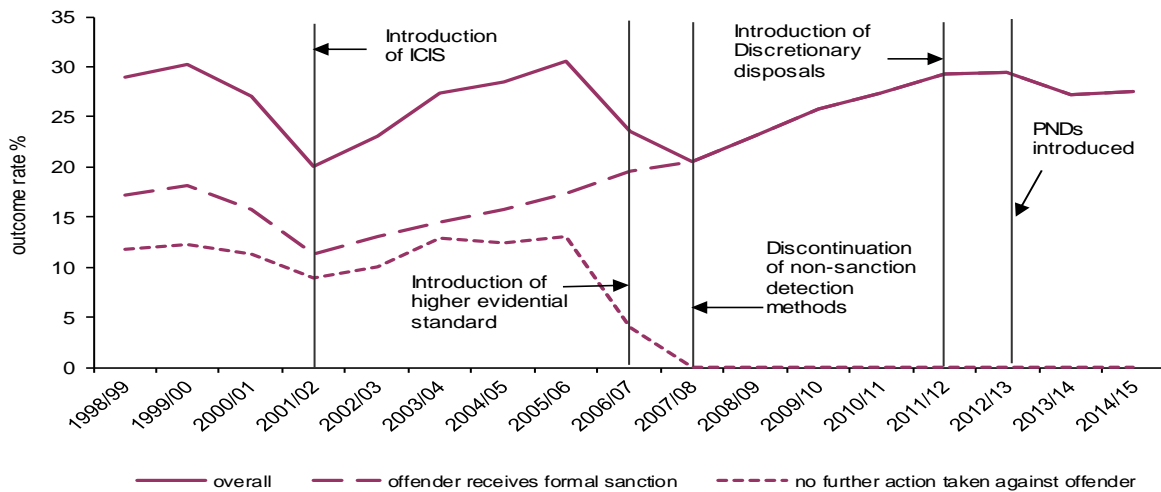


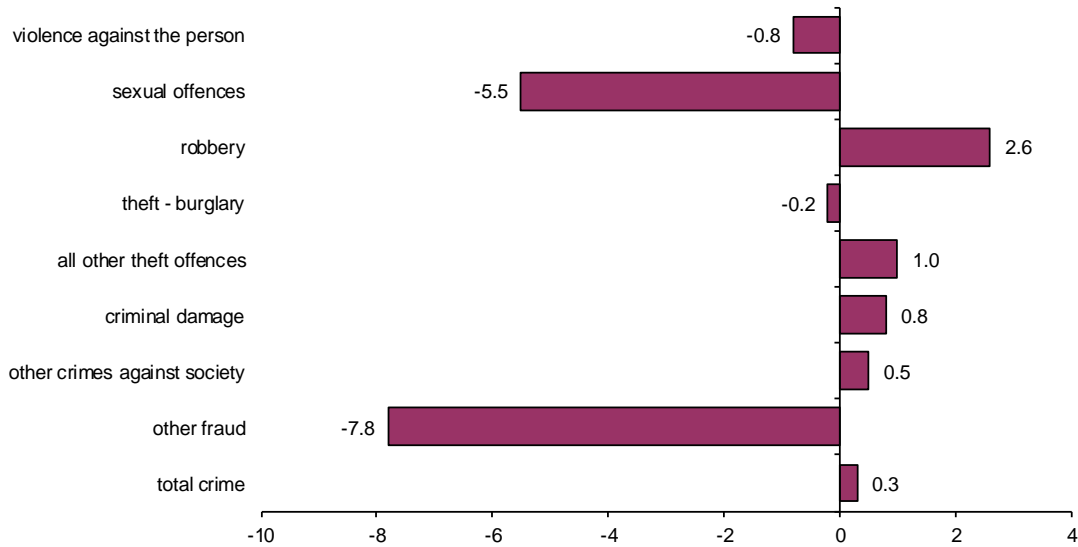
Figure 7 shows the trend in the overall outcome rate since 1998/99, split by those outcomes where the offender receives a formal sanction (including discretionary disposals) and those where no further action is taken against the offender. Northern Ireland experienced a drop in the outcome rate of 7 percentage 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 rates 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%. The rate then fell to 27.2% in 2013/14 before increasing again by 0.3 percentage points to 27.5% in 2014/15. PSNI introduced discretionary disposals during 2011/12; these contributed 2.9% to the outcome rate in 2011/12, 3.1% in 2012/13, 2.6% in 2013/14 and 3.1% in 2014/15. Penalty notices for disorder, introduced in June 2012, contributed 0.4% to the outcome rate in 2012/13, 0.8% in 2013/14 and 0.9% in 2014/15.

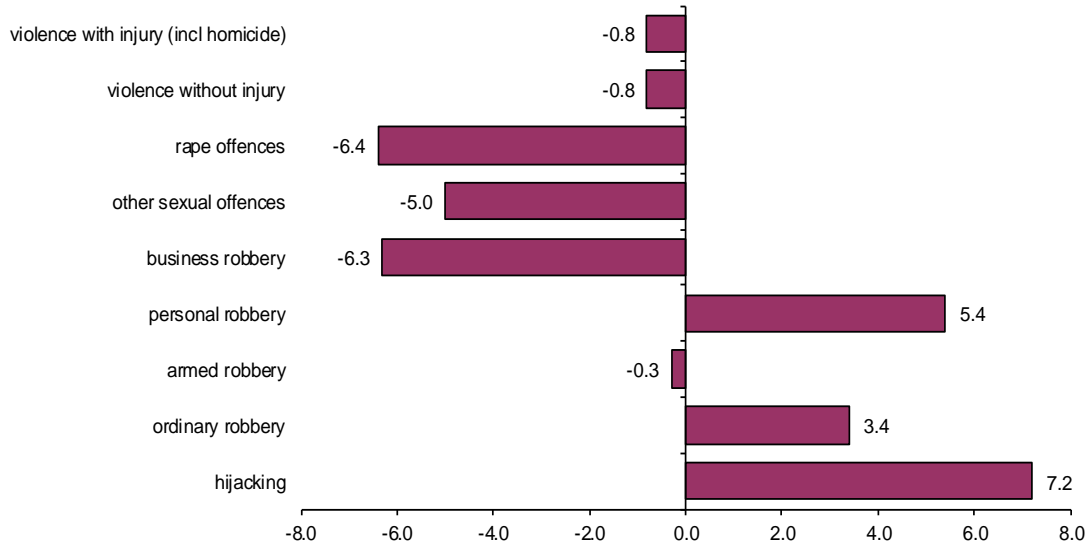
There were four offences during 2014/15 where no further action was taken against the offender, as the offender died before proceedings.

Figure 8 Percentage point change in the main recorded crime type outcome rates, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14



- At 27.5% the outcome rate for 2014/15 is 0.3 percentage points higher than 2013/14. The outcome rate has increased slightly in respect of charge/summons (from 20.7% to 20.9%), discretionary disposals (from 2.6% to 3.1%) and penalty notices for disorder (from 0.8% to 0.9%). The outcome rate for adult cautions fell from 2.3% to 1.9%) and juvenile cautions fell from 0.8% to 0.7%.
- Outcome rates increased in four of the main crime categories between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

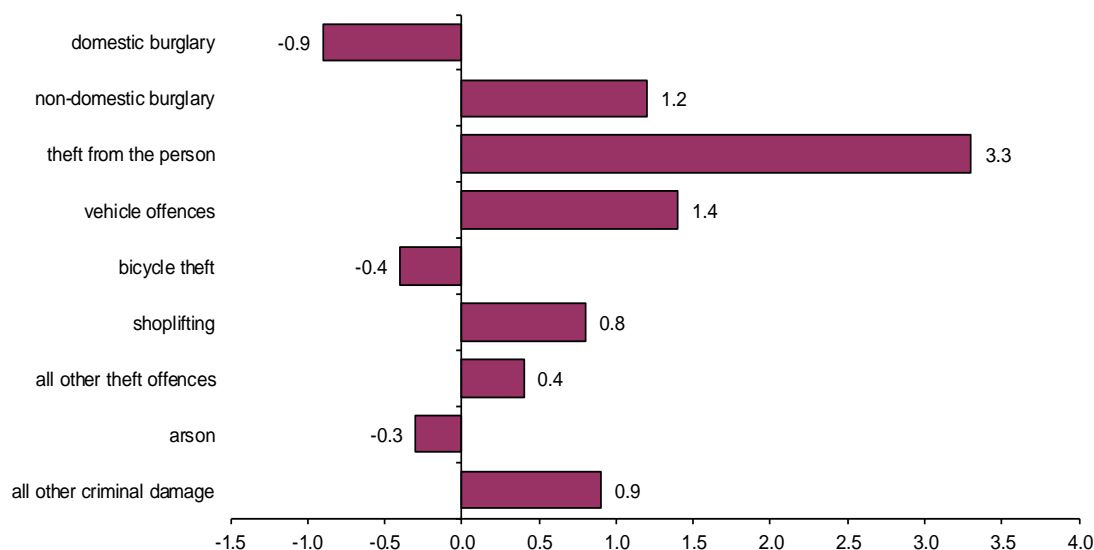
Figure 9 Percentage point change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery outcome rates, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14



- 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 32.2% in 2014/15. 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 28.7% in 2014/15.
- The outcome rate for rape offences fell to 10.2% in 2014/15, the lowest level since 2007/08. 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 each year to the current level of 17.2% in 2014/15.
- While robbery of personal property showed its third highest outcome rate in 2014/15 (17.2%, an increase of 5.4 percentage points on the previous year), the outcome rate for robbery of business property for 2014/15 (23.8%) fell by 6.3 percentage points when compared with 2013/14. The outcome rate for armed robbery fell from 21.6% to 21.3% and for ordinary robbery the outcome rate rose from 12.5% to 15.9%. The outcome

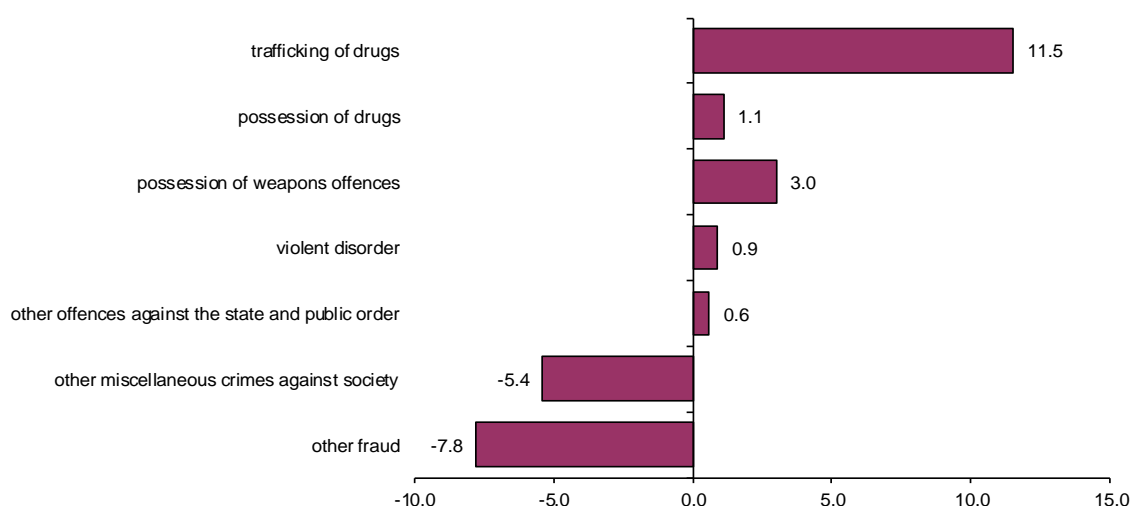
rate achieved in relation to hijacking in 2014/15 was 23.9%, the highest level since 2007/08 and 7.2 percentage points higher than 2013/14.

Figure 10 Percentage point change in outcome rates for theft (including burglary) and criminal damage offences, 2014/15 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 8.8% in 2014/15, the lowest since 2007/08. The outcome rate for non-domestic burglary reached 13.9% in 2011/12. The outcome rate for 2014/15 is 13.3%, the same level as achieved in 2012/13 and an increase of 1.2 percentage points on 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 before increasing again to 18.1% in 2014/15. The outcome rates for theft from the person and shoplifting both increased between 2013/14 and 2014/15, reaching the second highest rates achieved since 2007/08. During the same time period the outcome rate for all other theft offences increased by 0.4 percentage points while the bicycle theft outcome rate fell by 0.4 percentage points.
- 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. The outcome rate fell again to 6.1% in 2014/15. 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. The outcome rate increased again to 17.3% in 2014/15, the highest rate achieved since 2007/08.

Figure 11 Percentage point change in outcome rates for crimes against society and other fraud, 2014/15 compared with 2013/14



- The outcome rate for trafficking of drugs reached its highest level in 2014/15 (82.7%), an increase of 11.5 percentage points on the 2013/14 outcome rate of 71.2%, the lowest rate 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 84.2% in 2014/15, an increase of 1.1 percentage points on 2013/14.
- The outcome rate for possession of weapons offences was at its highest in 2010/11 (72.9%) and then fell each year to 62.7% in 2013/14, the lowest outcome rate recorded since 2007/08. The outcome rate for 2014/15 is 65.7%, 3.0 percentage points higher than 2013/14.
- Public order offences showed their highest outcome rate in 2012/13 (64.5%) and, in 2013/14, the lowest outcome rate since 2007/08. The outcome rate increased by 0.5 percentage points between 2013/14 (55.0%) and 2014/15 (55.5%).
- The outcome rate for miscellaneous crimes against society has been falling since 2010/11 (66.5%) and is currently 54.3%. The trend for other fraud is the same, falling from 39.9% in 2010/11 to 24.9% in 2014/15.

OUTCOME RATES BY POLICING AREA

- Outcome rates increased in fifteen policing areas between 2013/14 and 2014/15, and fell in fourteen. The change in outcome rates ranged from a fall of 9.9 percentage points in Magherafelt policing area to an increase of 11.5 percentage points in Banbridge policing area.
- Of those that showed an increase in outcome rate over this time period, nine achieved their highest outcome rate since the start of the comparable data series in 2007/08. These policing areas were Antrim (28.4%), Armagh (33.5%), Banbridge (38.7%), Carrickfergus (27.6%), Castlereagh (29.8%), Down (31.5%), Larne (25.8%), Lisburn (30.6%) and Moyle (27.4%). The other policing areas that showed a higher outcome rate in 2014/15 when compared with 2013/14 were Ards, Cookstown, Newtownabbey, North Down, South Belfast and Strabane.
- Craigavon, Foyle, Limavady, Magherafelt and Newry & Mourne policing areas reached their highest outcome rates in 2013/14 before falling again in 2014/15.
- Ballymena, Ballymoney, Dungannon & South Tyrone, Fermanagh and Omagh policing areas each reached their highest outcome rates in 2012/13 before falling in each of the last two financial years.
- The outcome rates for Coleraine and West Belfast policing areas peaked in 2011/12 and have fallen in each financial year since.
- The outcome rate for North Belfast reached its highest level in 2010/11 and has fallen in each financial year since then. The outcome rate for East Belfast peaked in the same year and has since shown a downwards trend, with the rate in 2014/15 the lowest seen since 2007/08.

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 2014/15

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument							
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Homicide ²	5	8	7	8	7	7	3	3
Attempted murder	50	44	31	33	40	28	27	41
Threats to kill	100	102	105	67	74	84	72	80
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	569	521	600	520	492	558	574	573
Robbery	207	236	228	215	249	238	200	216
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	3	9	7	8	7	13	13	11
Total selected offences	934	920	978	851	869	928	889	924

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 2014/15 (i.e. 13 per cent of all homicides in 2014/15 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument							
	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (%)	2012/13 (%)	2013/14 (%)	2014/15 (%)
Homicide ²	17	31	32	29	29	35	14	13
Attempted murder	37	35	27	30	35	27	24	35
Threats to kill	5	5	5	3	3	5	4	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
Robbery	18	18	18	16	20	23	21	25
Rape / sexual assaults ⁴	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total selected offences	5	5	5	4	4	5	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, infanticide and corporate manslaughter. The proportion of homicides involving a knife or sharp instrument shown in table 2 for 2011/12 and 2013/14 have been revised to include the offences of corporate manslaughter recorded in each of those years in the base for calculating the proportions.

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

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

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 2014/15 indicate that alcohol is a contributory factor in 19 per cent of all crimes recorded, slightly less than the 20 per cent identified in 2013/14. For offences of violence against the person the proportion in which alcohol was a contributory factor has fallen from 45 per cent in 2013/14 to 43 per cent in 2014/15.

Table 3 Number of recorded crimes 2013/14 and 2014/15

Offence group	Number and percentage changes			
	2013/14	2014/15	change between years	% change between years ¹
VICTIM-BASED CRIME				
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	32,403	34,253	1,850	5.7
<i>Homicide</i>	21	24	3	-
<i>Violence with injury</i>	14,136	14,455	319	2.3
<i>Violence without injury</i>	18,246	19,774	1,528	8.4
SEXUAL OFFENCES	2,234	2,734	500	22.4
<i>Rape</i>	550	737	187	34.0
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	1,684	1,997	313	18.6
ROBBERY	958	880	-78	-8.1
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	715	632	-83	-11.6
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	243	248	5	2.1
THEFT OFFENCES	36,023	35,444	-579	-1.6
<i>Burglary</i>	9,067	8,937	-130	-1.4
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	5,753	5,873	120	2.1
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	3,314	3,064	-250	-7.5
<i>Theft from the person</i>	576	514	-62	-10.8
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	5,609	5,089	-520	-9.3
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	1,097	966	-131	-11.9
<i>Shoplifting</i>	6,372	6,495	123	1.9
<i>All other theft offences</i>	13,302	13,443	141	1.1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	19,889	19,830	-59	-0.3
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
DRUG OFFENCES	4,732	5,048	316	6.7
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	968	871	-97	-10.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	3,764	4,177	413	11.0
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	727	772	45	6.2
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1,536	1,447	-89	-5.8
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,415	2,768	353	14.6
OTHER FRAUD ²	1,829	1,896	67	3.7
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	102,746	105,072	2,326	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 2013/14 and 2014/15, rates (%)

Offence group	Percentages		
	Crime Outcomes ¹ (rate %)		% point change
	2013/14	2014/15	
VICTIM-BASED CRIME			
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	31.0	30.2	-0.8
<i>Homicide</i>	85.7	54.2	-31.5
<i>Violence with injury</i>	32.9	32.2	-0.8
<i>Violence without injury</i>	29.4	28.7	-0.8
SEXUAL OFFENCES	20.8	15.3	-5.5
<i>Rape</i>	16.5	10.2	-6.4
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	22.1	17.2	-5.0
ROBBERY	16.5	19.1	2.6
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	11.9	17.2	5.4
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	30.0	23.8	-6.3
THEFT OFFENCES	19.6	20.3	0.7
<i>Burglary</i>	10.5	10.4	-0.2
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	9.7	8.8	-0.9
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	12.1	13.3	1.2
<i>Theft from the person</i>	4.7	8.0	3.3
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	16.7	18.1	1.4
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	4.5	4.0	-0.4
<i>Shoplifting</i>	59.6	60.4	0.8
<i>All other theft offences</i>	9.7	10.0	0.4
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	15.6	16.4	0.8
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY			
DRUG OFFENCES	80.7	84.0	3.2
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	71.2	82.7	11.5
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	83.2	84.2	1.1
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	62.7	65.7	3.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	55.0	55.5	0.5
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	59.7	54.3	-5.4
OTHER FRAUD ²	32.8	24.9	-7.8
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	27.2	27.5	0.3

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 2013/14 and 2014/15, rates (%)

Offence group	Charge/summons		Caution		Discretionary disposal		Penalty notice for disorder ²		Taken into consideration		Percentages No action taken against the offender ³	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
VICTIM-BASED CRIME												
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	26.0	25.5	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Homicide</i>	81.0	54.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0
<i>Violence with injury</i>	28.1	27.7	3.0	2.4	1.7	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	24.2	23.8	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SEXUAL OFFENCES	18.8	14.1	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Rape</i>	16.2	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	19.7	15.6	1.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
ROBBERY	16.4	18.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	11.7	16.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	30.0	23.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
THEFT OFFENCES	13.1	13.3	1.9	1.5	2.6	3.0	1.9	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Burglary</i>	9.6	9.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	9.2	8.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	10.4	12.1	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Theft from the person</i>	3.8	6.0	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	15.8	17.2	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	3.2	3.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	32.1	32.3	7.0	5.2	9.9	9.4	10.6	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>All other theft offences</i>	6.4	6.3	1.2	0.8	2.0	2.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	10.9	11.7	1.3	1.2	3.0	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY												
DRUG OFFENCES	48.7	51.4	23.6	22.1	8.4	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	63.7	75.7	6.8	6.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	44.8	46.4	27.9	25.4	10.4	12.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	53.0	54.3	7.6	6.6	2.2	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	51.6	53.9	3.1	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	56.8	50.7	1.8	1.6	1.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER FRAUD	27.7	20.5	2.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES	20.7	20.9	3.1	2.7	2.6	3.1	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

² 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, 2013/14 and 2014/15

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime ¹			Outcomes rate (%) ²		
	2013/14	2014/15	% change 2013/14 to 2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	% point change 2013/14 to 2014/15 ³
A District	13,305	13,759	3.4	22.5	22.0	-0.6
North Belfast	7,949	8,064	1.4	22.3	22.2	-0.1
West Belfast	5,356	5,695	6.3	22.9	21.7	-1.2
B District	18,675	19,362	3.7	22.0	21.2	-0.8
East Belfast	5,743	6,204	8.0	20.9	16.7	-4.2
South Belfast	12,932	13,158	1.7	22.4	23.3	0.9
C District	11,894	12,271	3.2	25.0	30.2	5.2
Ards	2,686	2,911	8.4	23.3	27.5	4.2
Castlereagh	2,238	2,279	1.8	23.6	29.8	6.2
Down	3,613	3,656	1.2	26.2	31.5	5.2
North Down	3,357	3,425	2.0	26.2	31.4	5.3
D District	13,245	13,856	4.6	25.1	28.9	3.7
Antrim	3,373	3,333	-1.2	22.0	28.4	6.5
Carrickfergus	1,294	1,448	11.9	23.6	27.6	3.9
Lisburn	5,205	5,493	5.5	26.4	30.6	4.2
Newtownabbey	3,373	3,582	6.2	26.9	27.1	0.2
E District	14,708	15,119	2.8	32.5	33.8	1.3
Armagh	2,190	2,383	8.8	29.6	33.5	3.9
Banbridge	2,145	2,050	-4.4	27.3	38.7	11.5
Craigavon	5,187	5,685	9.6	34.0	32.0	-2.0
Newry & Mourne	5,186	5,001	-3.6	34.5	34.0	-0.5
F District	8,608	8,594	-0.2	30.8	30.0	-0.8
Cookstown	1,575	1,495	-5.1	30.3	33.6	3.4
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,206	2,051	-7.0	29.6	28.3	-1.3
Fermanagh	2,921	2,983	2.1	31.2	29.0	-2.2
Omagh	1,906	2,065	8.3	32.3	30.5	-1.8
G District	12,786	12,786	0.0	34.3	29.9	-4.4
Foyle	8,028	7,909	-1.5	33.2	29.6	-3.6
Limavady	1,758	1,650	-6.1	38.9	30.7	-8.2
Magherafelt	1,497	1,617	8.0	36.7	26.8	-9.9
Strabane	1,503	1,610	7.1	32.3	33.5	1.1
H District	9,525	9,325	-2.1	28.7	27.3	-1.5
Ballymena	3,165	2,972	-6.1	31.8	29.7	-2.0
Ballymoney	936	883	-5.7	24.1	23.4	-0.7
Coleraine	3,441	3,494	1.5	30.2	26.7	-3.4
Larne	1,297	1,389	7.1	24.1	25.8	1.6
Moyle	686	587	-14.4	22.6	27.4	4.8
Northern Ireland	102,746	105,072	2.3	27.2	27.5	0.3

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 2013/14 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 2013/14 that around 46 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. Updated analysis for England and Wales was made available in the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) in July 2014. 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. [Please note that the NICS was not conducted in 2002/03 and so comparisons were made instead with 2003/04. In addition, while NICS figures for 2013/14 are currently available, additional analysis has yet to be conducted for this time period to identify the comparable sub-set of crimes required to update the Northern Ireland figures below]. Further details can be found on page 5 of the [Police Recorded Crime Statistics User Guide](#).

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2002/03 to 2013/14 (England and Wales)

	Percentage change 2002/03-2007/08	Percentage change 2007/08-2012/13	Percentage change 2012/13-2013/14	Percentage change 2002/03-2013/14
Police recorded crime	-20	-32	-2	-47
CSEW	-16	-19	-14	-42

Percentage reduction in comparable crime categories 2003/04 to 2012/13 (Northern Ireland)

	Percentage change 2003/04-2006/07	Percentage change 2006/07-2011/12	Percentage change 2011/12-2012/13	Percentage change 2003/04-2012/13
Police recorded crime	-7	-20	-3	-27
NICS	-28	-28	4	-46

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. 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](#).

As mentioned previously in this bulletin, 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 19th 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.

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 2015, which were first published in March 2015.

Table 7 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 28 February 2015, which was first published 26th March 2015

	As published in March 2015	As published in May 2015	Numbers & Percentages			
			Scale of revision		% change between years	
			number	%	As published Mar'15	As published May'15
Financial Year to date: Apr 2014 to Feb 2015	96,138	96,158	+20	0.02	2.7	2.7
12 Months Mar 2014 to Feb 2015	105,234	105,254	+20	0.02	3.1	3.1

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 2014/15 financial year. Accompanying this bulletin are additional data in the form of [summary tables](#) and [pivot table data](#), both of which are available in excel spreadsheets. The data is also available in open data format.

- a detailed breakdown of recorded crimes at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 1998/99 to 2014/15;
- 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 2014/15;
- the number of outcomes and outcome rate (%) by method of outcome at a Northern Ireland level for each year from 1998/99 to 2014/15;
- summary tables for Northern Ireland, each policing district and each policing area comparing recorded crimes and outcome rates for 2014/15 with 2013/14 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 (2013/14, 2014/15 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, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

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 2013/14](#) provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2014/15 will be available in early July 2015.

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](#).

Provisional management information drawn from police recorded crime figures, published at street level each month, is available through the [police crime mapping website](#). The figures on the crime mapping website will differ from those provided in this bulletin as they have been extracted from the police administrative system on different dates, and also require a grid reference in order to be mapped.

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. While the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland remain designated as National Statistics, they are currently being re-assessed by UKSA.

Contact details

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

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

Telephone: 029 9065 0222 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998