STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

The PSNI’s Official Statistical Reports: 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017

The Police Service of Northern Ireland today (Wednesday 17th May 2017) published its Official Statistical reports for the financial year 2016/17 covering the following:

- Police recorded crime & crime outcomes (National Statistics)
- Police recorded domestic abuse incidents & crimes
- Police recorded hate incidents and crimes
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents
- Police recorded statistics on drug seizures and arrests
- Police recorded statistics relating to the security situation (National Statistics)

Northern Ireland 2016/17 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions (National Statistics) will be published on Friday 26th May 2017.

Key Findings

Annual PSNI recorded crime figures at lowest level since series commenced

- There were 98,076 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 2016/17, a fall of 6.6% on the previous year (105,023) and the lowest number recorded since 1998/99. Nine out of the 11 policing districts recorded a fall in crime (ranging from -12.6% in Antrim & Newtownabbey to -2.7% in Lisburn & Castlereagh City) while the remaining two districts recorded a rise (3.1% in Mid & East Antrim and 0.1% in Ards & North Down).

- Looking at the longer term trend, crime peaked in 2002/03 with 138,132 offences recorded and then generally followed a downward trend until 2012/13. Recorded crime levels then rose until 2015/16. The 2016/17 figure represents the first decline in levels since 2012/13 and a record low for the series.

Recorded crime down in all main crime types except sexual offences

- Crime fell in all but one of the main crime classifications. Offences of violence against the person fell by 6.6%, robbery by 10.8%, theft offences fell by 9.2%, criminal damage offences by 5.0%, drug offences by 2.6%, possession of weapons offences by 3.6%, public order offences by 17.3% and miscellaneous crimes against society fell by 0.8%.

- The number of recorded sexual offences rose by 4.0% from 3,037 in 2015/16 to 3,158 offences in 2016/17. While this rate of increase is less than that seen in the previous three years, the 2016/17 figure is the highest level recorded since 1998/99.
Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland by Financial Year 1998/99-2016/17

Annual fall in overall crime outcome\(^1\) rate
- The overall crime outcome\(^1\) rate fell by 0.4 percentage points from 28.7% in 2015/16 to 28.3% in 2016/17. Outcome rates fell in seven of the 11 policing districts while four achieved an increase.

- During 2016/17, there were falls in crime outcome rates across five of the main offence groups compared with 2015/16 (violence against the person offences, sexual offences, theft, drug offences and miscellaneous crimes against society offences). The outcome rates for three of the main offence types increased on the previous year (robbery offences, possession of weapons offences and public order offences), whilst the rate for criminal damage offences remained unchanged.

Domestic abuse motivation incidents\(^2\) rise while number of associated recorded crimes fall
- There were 29,166 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the PSNI in 2016/17, a 2.7% (774 incidents) increase on 2015/16 and the highest level recorded since the data series began in 2004/05.

- However, the number of crimes with a domestic abuse motivation fell by 140 offences (1.0%), from 14,073 in 2015/16 to 13,933 in 2016/17. This is the first fall in such levels since 2010/11. The associated crime outcome rate in 2016/17 fell by 2.4 percentage points to 29%.

Annual falls in four of the six hate incident\(^2\) categories
- In 2016/17 the PSNI recorded 1,054 racist incidents, 995 sectarian incidents, 278 homophobic incidents, 112 disability incidents, 44 faith/religion incidents and 20 transphobic incidents.

- Compared with the previous year there were decreases in all but two of the six hate incident types. Sectarian incidents fell by 357 (-26.4%), racist incidents fell by 167 (13.7%), homophobic incidents fell by 65 (-19.0%) and disability incidents were down by 22 (-16.4%). Increases occurred in faith/religion incidents, up by five incidents, whilst there was one more transphobic incident recorded than in the previous year.

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\(^1\) Crime Outcomes include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions, 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).

\(^2\) The PSNI reports the numbers of incidents and crimes that are perceived to have a domestic or hate motivation. Incidents relate to specified reports (see Notes for Editors section) regardless of whether an offence occurred. Crimes are a subset of these and relate to those where a notifiable offence occurred during the incident. Note: more than one crime may result from any one incident so occasionally more crimes may be recorded than number of incidents for a given motivation.
• Within these hate incidents, the number of crimes also fell in four of the six hate crime types: sectarian crimes were down by 307 (-30.7%), racist crimes fell by 193 (-22.6%), homophobic crimes fell by 48 (-22.9%) and disability motivated crimes were down by 14 (-18.9%). Faith/religion crimes, however, increased by seven offences to 26 in 2016/17 while the number of transphobic crimes remained unchanged at 12.

• Compared to 2015/16, crime outcome rates for racist, sectarian and homophobic crimes fell in 2016/17 while outcomes rates improved for disability, faith/religion and transphobic crimes.

**Annual increase in recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents**

• There were 59,703 ASB incidents recorded by the PSNI during 2016/17, a marginal increase of 0.3% on the 2015/16 total (59,502). However, this remains the second lowest level of recorded ASB since the measure was introduced in 2006/07. Six of the eleven policing districts showed an annual fall in ASB; the largest absolute fall was in Belfast City policing district (-402 incidents) while Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon policing district showed the largest absolute rise (494 incidents).

**Annual fall in number of drug seizure incidents**

• There were 5,546 drug seizure incidents during 2016/17, a fall of 0.9% on the 5,597 seizure incidents recorded in 2015/16. The latest figure is, however, the second highest recorded since 2006/07. As in previous years, the majority of these incidents related to seizures of Cannabis.

• There were 2,702 drug-related arrests in 2016/17, 251 fewer than in 2015/16.

**Annual rise in number of security related deaths and number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style attacks**

• There were five security related deaths during 2016/17, the largest number per year since 2008/09.

• There were 61 shooting incidents in 2016/17, up from 36 in 2015/16. The 29 bombing incidents in 2016/17 were, on the other hand, 23 fewer than in the previous financial year (52).

• There were 28 casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings in 2016/17, double the number recorded in the previous year. Republicans were deemed responsible for 25 of these with Loyalists responsible for the remaining three.

• The number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults in 2016/17 also showed an increase on the previous year from 58 to 66 and continues an upward trend evident since 2012/13. Loyalists were deemed responsible for 56 of these casualties with the remaining ten attributed to Republicans.

• There were 137 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act in 2016/17, 12 fewer than the 149 arrested in 2015/16. The number of persons subsequently charged following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act rose by one from 18 in 2015/16 to 19 in 2016/17.

**Notes for Editors**

The PSNI's statistics on recorded crime and the security situation are National Statistics. The remaining statistics on anti-social behaviour, incidents and crimes with a domestic or hate motivation and on drug seizures are Official Statistics. All are presented on a financial year basis. 2016/17 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions will be published on Friday 26th May 2017.

**Recorded Crime & Data Quality**

In 2014 the UK Statistics Authority cancelled the designation of police recorded crime statistics in England & Wales and Scotland (Scotland’s designation was subsequently confirmed in September 2016) due to concerns regarding the quality and integrity of the statistics.

The UK Statistics Authority reassessed the PSNI's recorded crime statistics at that time and Her
Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) conducted a separate crime data integrity audit within PSNI during September 2014. The outcome of the HMIC audit was published in March 2015. The main findings in relation to data quality were:
- a crime recording accuracy rate of 97 per cent with a confidence interval of +/- 2 per cent;
- 98 per cent of crimes correctly classified; and
- 84 per cent recorded within the 72-hour limit allowed under the Home Office Counting Rules.

The UK Statistics Authority assessment was subsequently published and judged that the PSNI’s recorded crime statistics could retain their National Statistics badging pending the achievement of two requirements by end 2015. The National Statistics designation was later confirmed by the UK Statistics Authority in February 2016.

**Definition of a Domestic abuse Incident**
The PSNI has adopted the definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Northern Ireland Government Strategy ‘Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland’ as: ‘threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former partner or family member’. For further details please see [https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/domestic_abuse_definition.pdf](https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/domestic_abuse_definition.pdf)

**Definition of Hate Crime and Incidents**
Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents. Within PSNI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transphobia. For further information please refer to [https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/documents/hate-motivations-definitions.pdf](https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/documents/hate-motivations-definitions.pdf)

**Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents**
The ASB statistics are derived from certain pre-defined incident types that are recorded on the PSNI’s command & control system in line with national guidance.

**Definition of a drug seizure incident:**
The definition of a drug seizure is a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) which is seized, recovered, found by the PSNI (including intercepted in the post), found on the person, in a vehicle etc. It also includes drugs found in a public open space or elsewhere and which are handed into the police. Please note that the drugs seized by the Border Force are reported by the Home Office and therefore are excluded from the PSNI figures in accordance with national guidance and also in order to avoid duplication of the statistics when collated at UK level.

**A drug-related arrest** is counted when a person is arrested and processed through custody for one or more drug-related offences. This is a count of custody records and not persons; a person may have been arrested on more than one occasion during the time periods presented in this section.

The various PSNI Statistical Bulletins for 2016/17 are available in PDF format from the PSNI website (www.psni.police.uk) or from Statistics Branch, PSNI Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD (Telephone: 028 90650222 Ext. 24135; Email: statistics@psni.police.uk).

Press queries about this publication should be directed to the PSNI’s Corporate Communications Department on 028 90700084/85.