The Police Service of Northern Ireland today (Friday 17th May 2019) published its Official Statistical reports for the financial year 2018/19 covering:

- Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland (National Statistics)
- Domestic Abuse incidents & crimes recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland
- Incidents and crimes with a Hate Motivation recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland
- Anti-Social Behaviour incidents recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland
- Police recorded security situation Statistics (National Statistics)

Northern Ireland 2018/19 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions (National Statistics) will be published on Friday 24th May 2019. Provisional statistics on drug seizures and arrests for 2018/19 will be published on Thursday 30th May 2019 with finalised figures published in September 2019.

**Key Findings**

**Annual PSNI recorded crime level rises by 2.9 per cent**

- There were 100,995 crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, an increase of 2,875 (2.9 per cent) when compared with the previous 12 months (2017/18). Belfast City policing district accounts for around a third of all crime recorded by the police.

- Looking at the longer term trend, recorded crime has shown a general fall since 2002/03 (138,132 recorded offences). However the statistics showed a marginal increase in 2017/18 followed by a 2.9 per cent increase in 2018/19.
Annual change in main recorded crime types showing mixed findings

- Recorded Crime rose in six of the nine main crime classifications:
  - The largest proportional increase was in robbery, up by 10.7 per cent to 639 in 2018/19, however this number is just over a quarter of the level seen in the series high of 2002/03.
  - The next largest proportional increase of 10.3 per cent was for Drug Offences which has continued the general upwards trend since the start of the series in 1998/99.
  - There were also increases in Violence against the person (6.8 per cent), Possession of Weapons Offences (6.5 per cent), Sexual offences (3.3 per cent) and Theft offences (1.5 per cent).

- Recorded Crime fell in the remaining three main classifications; Public Order Offences (down 8.1 per cent), Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society (down 3.6 per cent) and Criminal Damage (down 3.4 per cent).

Incidents and Crimes with a Domestic Abuse motivation continue to rise

In the 12 months from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

- There were 31,682 domestic abuse incidents in Northern Ireland, an increase of 1,769 (5.9 per cent) on the previous 12 months and the highest financial year figure recorded since the start of the data series in 2004/05.

- The number of domestic abuse crimes reached 16,182, an increase of 1,652 (11.4 per cent) on the previous 12 months and the highest financial year figure recorded since 2004/05.

- There were 17 domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 population and 9 domestic abuse crimes.

- Increases were seen across all main offence types, except for breach of non-molestation order.

- All policing districts showed an increase in both domestic abuse incidents and domestic abuse crimes.

Annual falls in four of the six hate incident\(^1\) categories

In the 12 months from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

- There were 1,124 racist incidents, an increase of 99 on the previous year. This resulted in the recording of 702 Racist crimes, an increase of 93 on the previous year.

- Homophobic incidents increased by 14 to 281 and homophobic crimes increased by 38 to 201 from the previous year.

- The number of sectarian incidents fell by 14 to 865, while the number of sectarian crimes increased by 46 to 622. The level of sectarian incidents is the lowest of any financial year since the start of the data series in 2005/06 while the level of sectarian crimes is the second lowest.

---
\(^1\) 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.
• Faith/religion incidents saw the largest proportional falls across the hate motivation strands. The number of incidents was 56 and the number of crimes was 23 (reductions of 34 and 17 respectively on the previous year).

**Current levels of anti-social behaviour are the lowest seen since the start of the series in 2006/07.**

In the 12 months from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

• There were 56,503 anti-social behaviour incidents in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 4,704 (7.7 per cent) on the previous 12 months.

• Nine of the eleven policing districts showed lower levels of anti-social behaviour.

**Security Situation Statistics show decreases in the number of bombings, shootings and paramilitary style attacks compared to the previous year**

In the 12 months from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

• There were 2 security related deaths, the same number as the previous year.

• The number of bombing incidents was the lowest number recorded in 23 years. There were 15 bombing incidents compared to 18 in the previous year.

• The number of shooting incidents was the second lowest number recorded since records began in 1969. There were 38 shooting incidents compared to 50 in the previous year.

• There were 19 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, compared to 22 in the previous year. This was the second lowest number in the past 11 years. Of the 19, 17 were carried out by republicans. All 19 casualties were aged 18 years or older.

• There were 59 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, compared to 65 in the previous year. After 4 years in which the number of such attacks generally increased, the last two years have seen a small reversal in this trend. Loyalists were responsible for 3 out of every 4 assaults and of the 59 casualties, 3 were under 18 years old.

• There were 146 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 176 during the previous year. The number of persons subsequently charged increased slightly from 13 to 16 over the same period.
The PSNI’s statistics on Recorded Crime and the Security Situation are National Statistics. The statistics on anti-social behaviour and incidents and crimes with a domestic or hate motivation are Official Statistics. All are presented on a financial year basis.

2018/19 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions will be published on Friday 24th May 2019. Provisional drug seizure and arrest statistics for 2018/19 will be published on Thursday 30th May 2019.

**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 intimate partner or family member’. For further details please see [https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/](https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/)

**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/crime/hate-crime/disability-related-hate-crime2/](https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/hate-crime/disability-related-hate-crime2/)

**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.

The various PSNI statistical bulletins for 2018/19 are available in PDF format from the PSNI website ([www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/](http://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/)) 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 these publications should be directed to the PSNI's Corporate Communications Department on 028 90700084/85.