



STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

The PSNI's Statistical Reports: 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015

The Police Service of Northern Ireland today (Tuesday 12th May 2015) published its Statistical Bulletins covering the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. These bulletins cover the following topics;

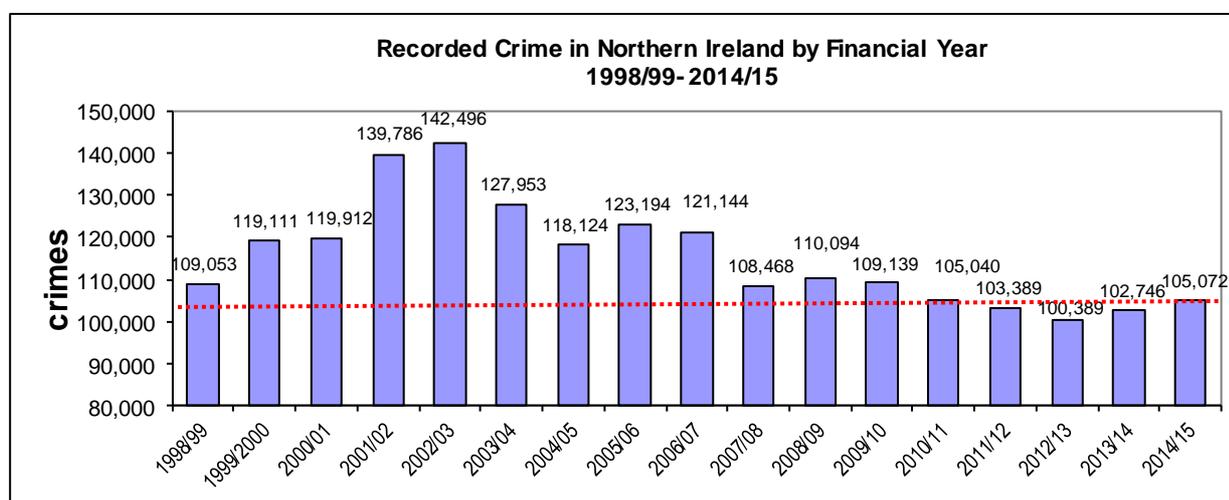
- Police recorded crime & crime outcomes (National Statistics)
- Police recorded domestic abuse incidents & crimes
- Police recorded hate incidents and crimes
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents
- Police recorded statistics on drug seizures and arrests
- Police recorded statistics relating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

Statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions (National Statistics) for 2014/15 will be published separately on Friday 22nd May 2015.

Key Findings

1. Recorded Crime & Crime Outcomes¹

- There were 105,072 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 2014/15 compared with 102,746 in 2013/14, an increase of 2,326 (2.3%). Across the 8 policing districts, 5 recorded increases in crime (A, B, C, D & E Districts) with D District showing the largest rise of 4.6%. Two Districts had decreases in crime (F & H Districts) whereas in G District the level of crime was identical to that recorded in the previous year.
- Over the last seventeen years, crime peaked in 2002/03 with 142,496 offences recorded and then has generally followed a downward trend until it reached a low of 100,389 offences recorded in 2012/13. Since then crime has increased in each of the last two years bringing it back to the level of crime recorded five years ago in 2010/11. The level of crime in 2014/15 is now the 5th lowest annual level recorded in Northern Ireland since the new Home Office counting rules were introduced in 1998/99.



¹ Crime outcomes 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).

- Crime increased in 6 of the 10 main crime classifications. Offences of violence against the person increased by 5.7%, sexual offences increased by 22.4%, drug offences were up by 6.7%, possession of weapons offences were up by 6.2%, miscellaneous crimes against society were up by 14.6% and offences of other fraud were up by 3.7%.
- There were decreases in the remaining 4 crime classifications. Robberies decreased by -8.1%, theft offences were down by -1.6%, criminal damage offences by -0.3% and public order offences' decreased by -5.8%.
- The overall crime outcome rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point from 27.2% in 2013/14 to 27.5% in 2014/15. Across the 8 policing districts, 3 achieved an increase in their crime outcome rates (C, D, & E Districts) whilst the remaining 5 Districts recorded a decrease (A, B, F, G & H Districts).
- During 2014/15, there were increases in crime outcome rates across 6 of the 10 main offence groups compared with 2013/14 (robbery, theft offences, criminal damage, drug offences, possession of weapons offences and public order offences). The outcome rates for the remaining 4 main offence types were down on the previous year (violence against the person, sexual offences, miscellaneous crimes against society and offences of other fraud.)

2. Incidents² & Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

- There were 28,287 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the PSNI in 2014/15, an increase of 659 (2.4%) on the level recorded in 2013/14.
- There was a greater increase in the number of crimes having a domestic abuse motivation with 13,426 recorded in 2014/15 compared with 12,720 in 2013/14, an increase of 706 (5.6%). The associated crime outcome rate fell by 0.5 of a percentage point from 31.7% in 2013/14 to 31.3% in 2014/15.

3. Incidents² & Crimes with a Hate Motivation

- In 2014/15 the PSNI recorded 1,517 sectarian incidents, 1,356 racist incidents, 334 homophobic incidents, 138 disability incidents, 53 faith/religion incidents and 21 transphobic incidents.
- Compared with the previous year there were increases in all but one of the 6 hate incident types. Racist incidents increased by 374 (38.1%), sectarian incidents increased by 233 (18.1%), homophobic incidents by 54 (19.3%) and disability incidents were up by 31 (29.0%). In addition, there 29 more faith/religion incidents than were recorded in the previous year. The one decrease was in transphobic incidents of which there were 21 recorded in 2014/15, 2 fewer than in the previous year.
- Within these hate incidents, the number of crimes with a hate motivation in 2014/15 also increased within five of the six hate crime types. Racist crimes were up by 230 (33.3%), sectarian crimes were up by 82 (8.5%), disability crimes were up by 6 (8.6%) and homophobic crimes were up by 30 (16.8%). The levels of transphobic crimes remained unchanged at 8 in 2014/15.
- The crime outcome rate was 21.1% for homophobic crimes, 14.1% for racist crimes and 14.5% for sectarian crimes. The outcome rates for the other hate motivations are based on relatively small numbers and varied from 11.1% for crimes with a faith/religion motivation to 12.5% for those with a transphobic motivation. Compared to the previous year, there were increases in the outcome rates for disability crimes and for homophobic crimes whereas all the other hate crime types had lower outcome rates in 14/15.

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 at the end of this Press Release) 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 a given incident so occasionally more crimes are recorded than incidents for any given motivation.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents

- During 2014/15, 60,982 incidents of ASB were recorded by the police, an increase of 276 (0.5%) on the 60,706 incidents recorded by the police in 2013/14. This is the second lowest level of ASB recorded by PSNI in a financial year period since this measure was introduced in April 2006 with the lowest being in 2013/14.
- Five of the 8 police Districts recorded a decrease in ASB during 2014/15 (A,B,F,G & H Districts) with the remaining 3 Districts (C, D & E Districts) recording an increase.

5. Drug Seizures and Arrests

- During 2014/15 there were 5,104 drug seizure incidents, an increase of 279 (5.8%) on the 4,825 drug seizure incidents recorded in 2013/14. As in previous years, the majority of these incidents related to seizures of Cannabis.
- There were 2,831 persons arrested for drug offences in 2014/15, 36 fewer than in 2013/14 when there were 2,867 arrests.

6. Statistics Relating to the Security Situation

- There were three security related deaths recorded during 2014/15, two more than in the previous year.
- The number of bombing incidents decreased by 33 from 69 in 2013/14 to 36 in 2014/15. Conversely, the number of shooting incidents increased by 19 from 54 in 2013/14 to 73 in 2014/15.
- There were 36 casualties resulting from paramilitary style **shootings** in 2014/15, 8 more than in the previous year. Republicans were deemed responsible for 30 of these with Loyalists responsible for the remaining 6.
- The number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style **assaults** also increased from 42 in 2013/14 to 58 in 2014/15. Loyalists were deemed responsible for 42 of these with a further 16 casualties attributed to Republicans.
- The numbers of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act increased by 59 from 168 in 2013/14 to 227 in 2014/15. The number of persons subsequently charged following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act also increased from 32 in 2013/14 to 35 in 2014/15.

Notes for Editors

The PSNI reports its performance on a financial year basis and this is the 12th annual publication of the current series of statistical bulletins, the first relating to 2003/04. Prior to this the PSNI's statistics were published in the Chief Constable's Annual Report. Statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions will be published separately on Friday 22nd May 2015.

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.

Recorded Crime & Data Quality

PSNI records its crimes and crime outcomes in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) the same as all police services in England & Wales. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) audited PSNI crime recording data quality in September 2014 and published its findings on 19th March 2015 ([HMIC crime data integrity audit of PSNI](#)). 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
- 84 percent recorded within the 72-hour limit allowed under HOCR

The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) removed the National Statistics designation from the police recorded crime statistics for England & Wales in January 2014 and then in July 2014 they suspended the National Statistics designation of recorded crime statistics in Scotland. The recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland remain designated as National Statistics. The UKSA have recently reassessed the PSNI's crime statistics and are due to publish their findings in late May or early June 2015.

Definition of a Domestic abuse Incident

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) by one family member against another or adults who are or who have been intimate partners, regardless of gender, and whether a crime has occurred or not, will be recorded as domestic abuse. http://www.psni.police.uk/domestic_abuse_definition.pdf

Definition of Hate Incidents

Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate (ACPO definition)
http://www.psni.police.uk/hate_motivation_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.

The various PSNI Statistical Bulletins for 2014/15 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).

New Policing Districts

The new policing districts came into effect within PSNI on 1st April 2015 and PSNI statistics will be reported on that basis during 2015/16. The statistics published today relate to the 2014/15 financial year and therefore are reported based on the old policing district structure. Whilst A & B Districts merged during 2014/15 to form Belfast City Policing District, these reports present the figures for the old A & B Districts as there was insufficient time available to convert all the numerous tables and associated Excel files to reflect this change by the publication deadline.

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