

Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018

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Key Statistics

During 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018:

- there was a decrease in the numbers of security related deaths, bombings, shootings and paramilitary style attacks compared to the previous 12 months.
- there was 1 security related death compared to 3 in the previous 12 months.
- there were 19 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, a decrease of 5 from the previous 12 month period. Other than the past month, when there were 3 such shootings, there has been a notable decrease in this type of attack since February 2018.
- there were 54 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, a decrease of 22 from the previous 12 month period.
- the number of paramilitary style assaults fell significantly in Belfast (from 32 to 19) and Mid and East Antrim (from 16 to 6) compared to the previous 12 months, while Antrim and Newtownabbey saw the largest increase (from 1 to 11).
- there were 155 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, up from 140 during the previous 12 months. There were 14 persons subsequently charged, the same number as during the previous 12 months.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe

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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

Police Recorded Statistics on the Security Situation for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).

Police recorded statistics relating to the security situation in Northern Ireland are the main source of official information on trends and statistics relating to the security situation throughout the Troubles and up to the present day. The PSNI produces statistics on incidents relating to the security situation that are reported to the police, including security related deaths, shooting and bombing incidents, paramilitary style attacks and arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

This monthly bulletin presents the most recent security situation statistics for the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018. Figures for the financial year 2018/19 are provisional and subject to minor amendment. An accompanying [Spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this bulletin and historic trends. Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Security Situation Statistics User Guide](#) available on the [PSNI website](#). The next monthly update will be published on 5 October 2018.

The security situation figures relate to those incidents that took place within Northern Ireland, they do not include any security related incidents that may have happened either in the Republic of Ireland or in Great Britain.

These statistics only include those incidents that are brought to the attention of the police and some such incidents may not have been reported. Therefore a level of under-reporting may exist and users of the statistics should exercise caution when examining trends based on these police statistics.

National Statistics

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.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

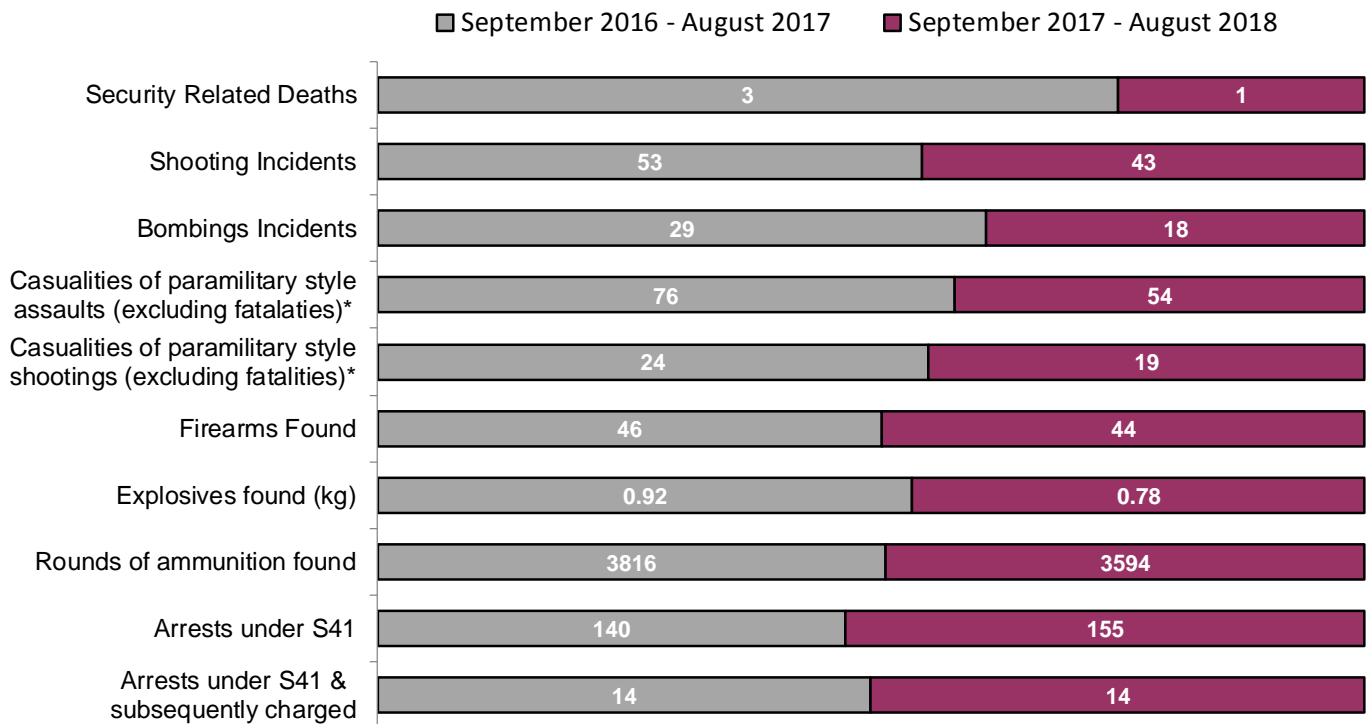
All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

2. Summary statistics

Figure 1 summarises the number of security related incidents during the past 12 months compared to the previous 12 months.

Figure 1: Comparison of security incidents between September 2016 – August 2017 and September 2017 – August 2018.



* Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

3. Ten year trends

Figure 2: Number of deaths due to the security situation 2008/09 – 2017/18

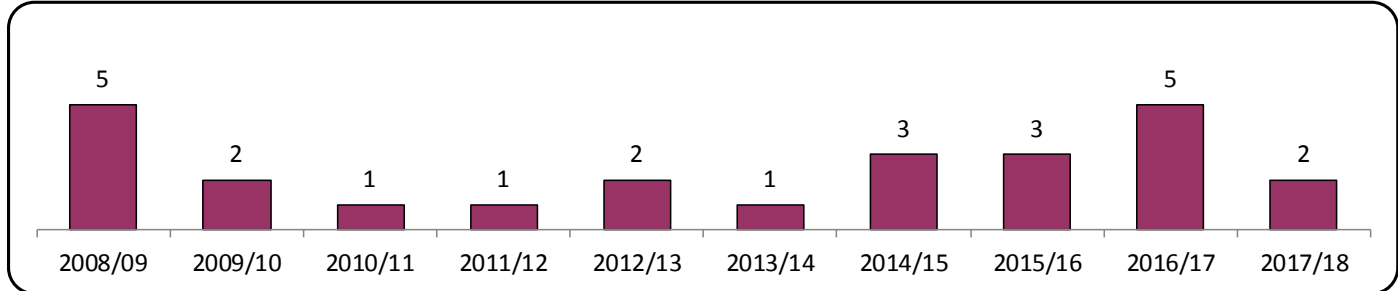


Figure 3: Number of shooting and bombing incidents 2008/09 – 2017/18

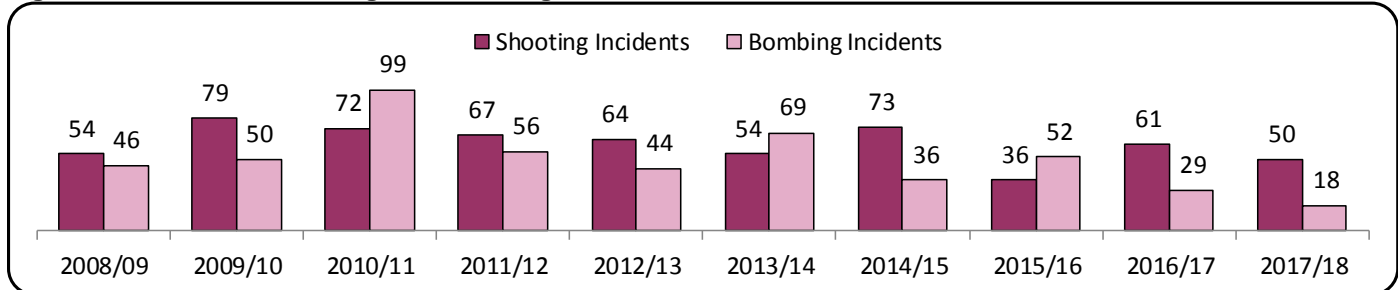


Figure 4: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style shootings^(1,2) 2008/09 – 2017/18

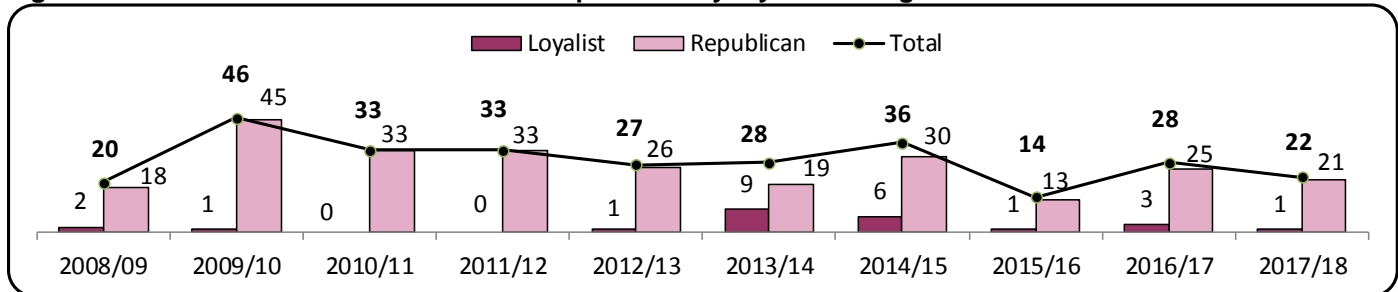


Figure 5: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults^(1,2) 2008/09 – 2017/18

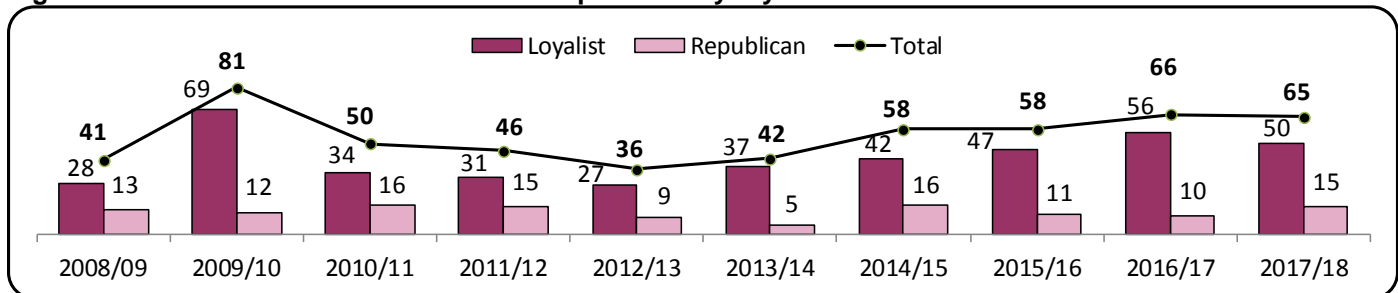
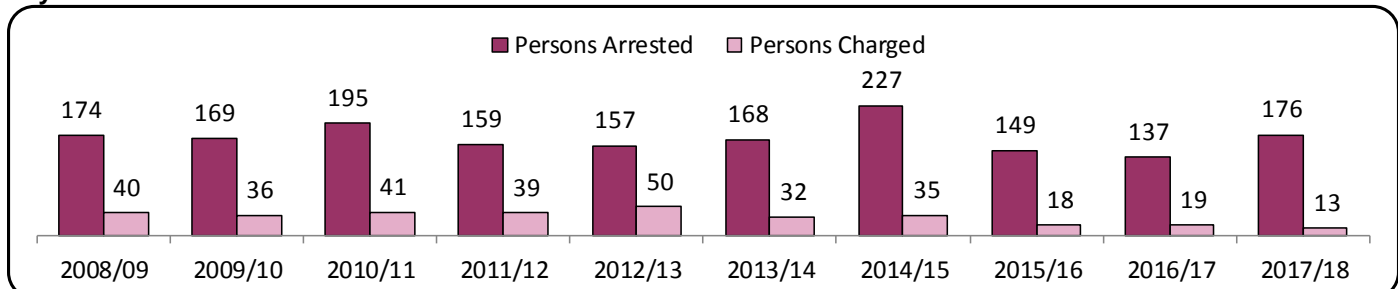


Figure 6: Number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act & subsequently charged with any offence 2008/09 – 2017/18



(1) Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault/shooting figures. (2) Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of the incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

4. Commentary

4.1 Security Related Deaths

Security related deaths are those which are considered at the time of the incident to be directly attributed to terrorism, where the cause has a direct or proximate link to subversive / sectarian strife or where the death is attributable to security force activity.

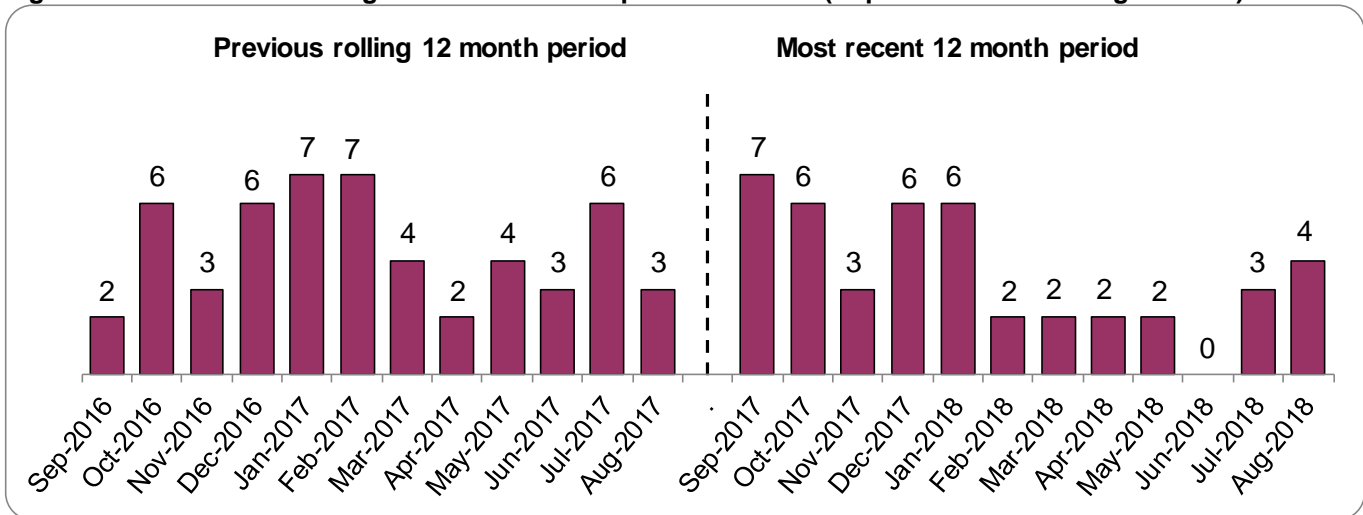
- There was one security related death during the last 12 month period, which occurred in Belfast in February 2018. This was 2 fewer deaths than occurred during the previous 12 months.

4.2 Shooting Incidents

These include any shooting incident relating to the security situation and include shots fired by terrorists, shots fired by the security forces, paramilitary style attacks involving shootings and shots heard (and later confirmed by other sources).

- There were 43 shooting incidents during the last 12 months compared to 53 during the previous 12 months. See Figure 7 for a monthly breakdown. All policing districts saw no change or a decrease, except Derry City and Strabane where the number of shooting incidents increased from 12 to 16 and Newry, Mourne and Down which saw 1 shooting incident in the past 12 months compared to none in the previous 12 months (see Section 5).

Figure 7: Number of shooting incidents over the past 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)

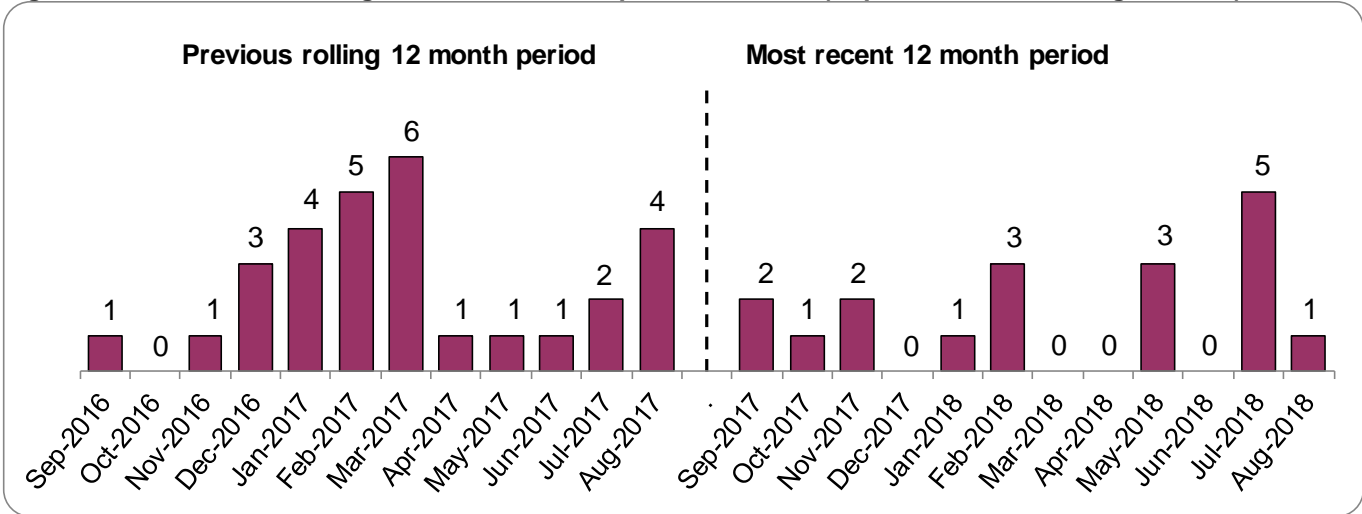


4.3 Bombing Incidents

These include all incidents where a bombing device explodes or is defused. If a device is found that is not complete or armed, then it is recorded as a 'find' and not as a bombing.

- There were 18 bombing incidents during the last 12 months compared to 29 during the previous 12 months. See Figure 8 for a monthly breakdown. Although Derry City and Strabane saw an increase in number of shooting incidents year-on-year, the number of bombing incidents fell from 14 to 4 (see Section 5).

Figure 8: Number of bombing incidents over the past 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)

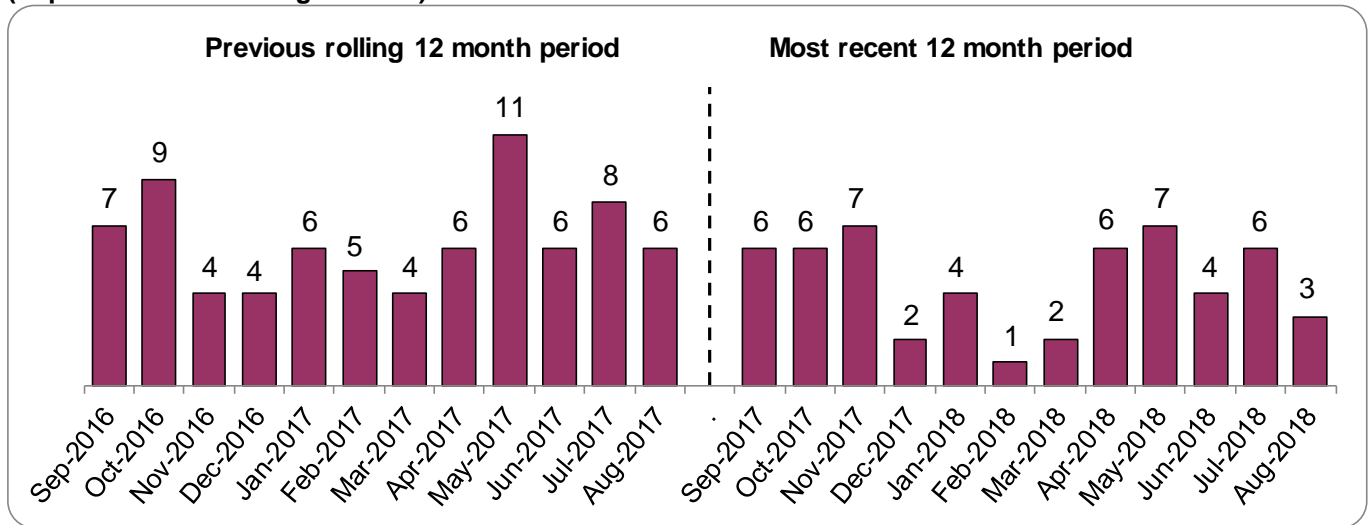


4.4 Paramilitary Style Assaults

Paramilitary style assaults are usually carried out by Loyalist or Republican groups on members of their own community as a so-called punishment. The assault will involve major or minor physical injury to the injured party typically involving a group of assailants armed with, for example, iron bars or baseball bats. Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault figures.

- There were 54 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the last 12 months compared to 76 during the previous 12 months. Figure 9 displays the number of casualties from paramilitary style assaults by month. The number of assaults fell significantly in Belfast (from 32 to 19) and Mid and East Antrim (from 16 to 6) while Antrim and Newtownabbey saw the largest increase (from 1 to 11). See Section 5 for District figures.

Figure 9: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)



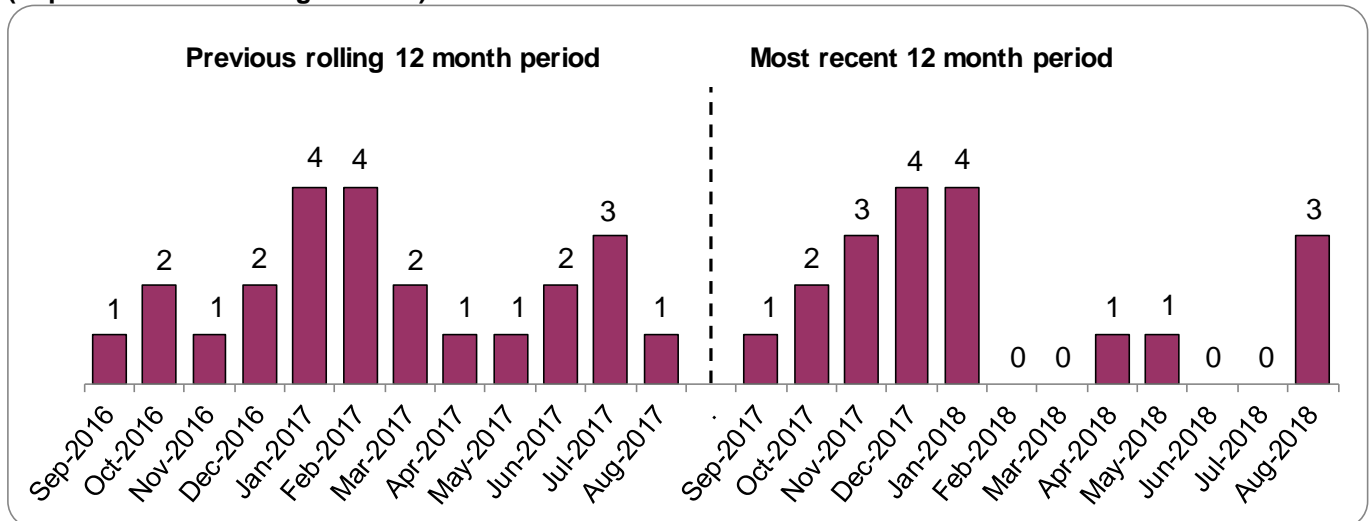
(1) Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults figures.

4.5 Paramilitary Style Shootings

Paramilitary style shootings usually result in the injured party being shot in the knees, elbows, feet, ankles or thighs and the motive is supposedly to punish the person for anti-social activities. These paramilitary style shootings are generally conducted by Loyalist or Republican paramilitary groups on members of their own community. Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style shooting figures.

- There were 19 casualties from paramilitary style shootings during the last 12 months compared to 24 during the previous 12 months. There were 3 casualties of shootings in August 2018, the most that have occurred in any of the past 7 months, see Figure 10.

Figure 10: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)



(1) Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style shootings figures.

4.6 Finds of Firearms, Explosives and Ammunition

These refer to the seizure or recovery of all illegal firearms, ammunition, explosives, rocket/mortar launchers, detonators and bomb making material/equipment. Replica/blank firing firearms, petrol bombs and petrol bomb making materials, grenades and munitions from World War 1 or World War 2 found on the beach or in attics etc. are not recorded as finds.

Firearms Finds

- There was a similar number of firearms found during the past 12 months (44) compared to the previous 12 months (46).
- The numbers of firearms seized per month has ranged from a low of none (July 2017) to a high of 9 (October 2016 and May 2018) over the last 24 months, see Table 1. On average 4 firearms have been found per month during the past 12 month period.

Explosive Finds

- There was a similar quantity of explosives found during the past 12 months (0.8kg) compared to the previous 12 months (0.9kg).

Ammunition Finds

- There were fewer rounds of ammunition found during the past 12 months (3,594 rounds) compared to during the previous 12 months (3,816 rounds).
- During the past 12 months the month of March saw the most rounds of ammunition found (see Table 1) of which the vast majority related to a single recovery in Belfast City policing district.

Table 1: Number of firearms, explosives and rounds of ammunition seized by PSNI over the last 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)

	Previous 12 month period			Most recent 12 month period			
	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	
Sep-16	2	0.48	97	Sep-17	3	0.00	484
Oct-16	9	0.00	60	Oct-17	4	0.12	128
Nov-16	5	0.20	163	Nov-17	1	0.03	185
Dec-16	2	0.01	59	Dec-17	5	0.03	78
Jan-17	3	0.08	107	Jan-18	5	0.00	75
Feb-17	6	0.00	262	Feb-18	2	0.00	20
Mar-17	1	0.00	433	Mar-18	2	0.10	2,153
Apr-17	5	0.01	1,323	Apr-18	1	0.01	171
May-17	4	0.04	163	May-18	9	0.30	67
Jun-17	8	0.00	1015	Jun-18	1	0.09	35
Jul-17	0	0.00	26	Jul-18	6	0.00	183
Aug-17	1	0.10	108	Aug-18	5	0.10	15
Total	46	0.92	3,816	Total	44	0.78	3,594

4.7 Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests and Subsequent Charges

Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 enables police officers to arrest persons whom they reasonably suspect to be a terrorist. Following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act an individual may be charged with any offence (e.g. attempted murder) and not necessarily an offence listed under the Terrorism Act.

- There were 155 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 during the past 12 months compared to 140 during the previous 12 months. Derry City and Strabane and Belfast accounted for the majority of the increase with 19 and 13 more arrests, respectively, in the past 12 months than the same period one year earlier. Conversely, Mid and East Antrim saw a year-on-year decrease of 16 arrests.
- Over the last 24 month period the number of persons arrested fluctuated from a low of 4 in January 2018 to a high of 23 in August 2017 (see Figure 11).
- There were 14 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently charged (with any offence) during the past 12 months, the same number as during the previous 12 months (see Figure 12).

Figure 11: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act over the last 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)

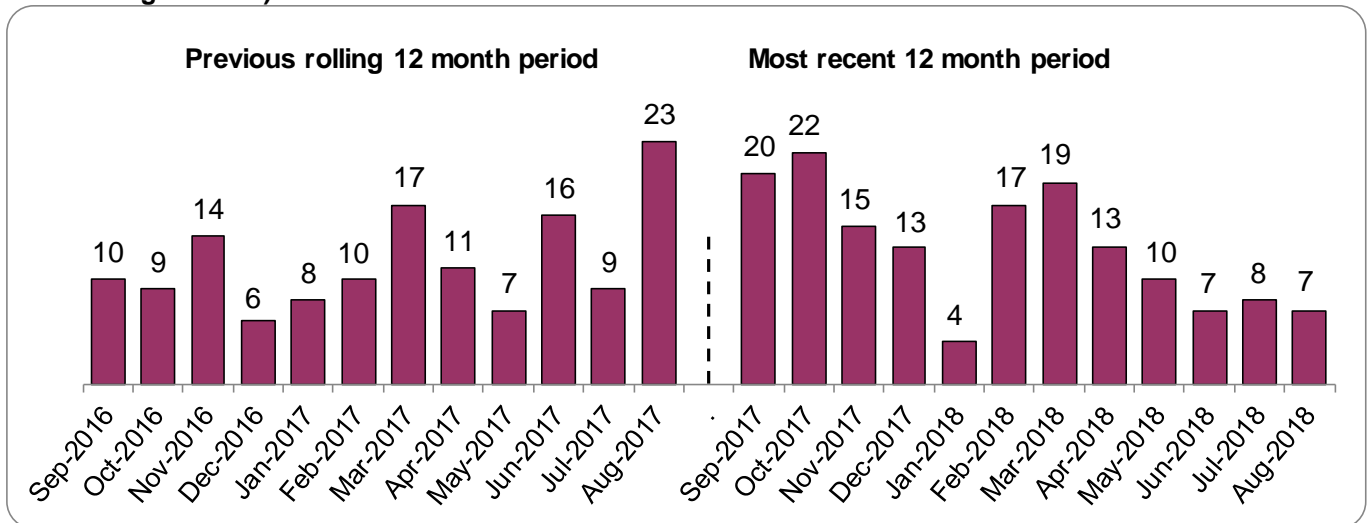
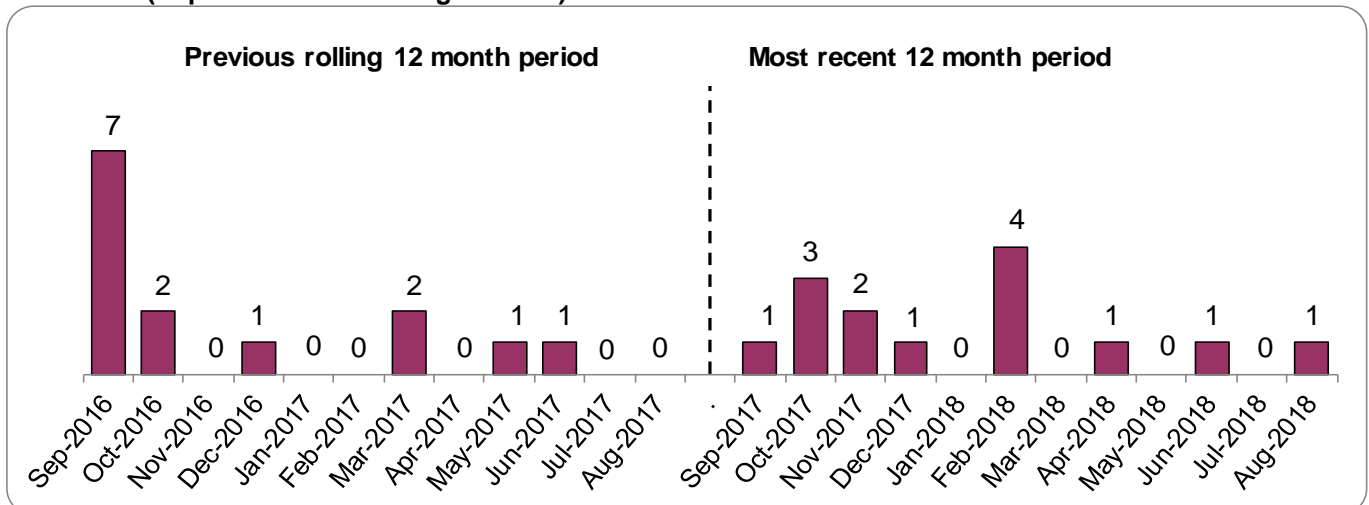


Figure 12: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act and subsequently charged over the last 24 months (September 2016 to August 2018)



5. District level tables

Bombing and Shooting Incidents

	Bombing Incidents ¹			Shooting Incidents ²		
	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change
Belfast City	7	8	1	22	18	-4
North Area	18	7	-11	21	22	1
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	2	1	1	1	0
Causeway Coast & Glens	3	0	-3	7	4	-3
Derry City & Strabane	14	4	-10	12	16	4
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	1	1	1	0
South Area	4	3	-1	10	3	-7
Ards & North Down	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1	0	-1	7	2	-5
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	1	1	1	0	-1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	2	1	-1	0	0	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	1	0	-1	0	1	1
Northern Ireland	29	18	-11	53	43	-10

(1) Individual bombing incidents may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents include explosions and defusings. Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

(2) The following types of incidents are included:

- Shots fired by terrorists
- Shots fired by the security forces
- Paramilitary-style attacks involving shootings
- Shots heard (and later confirmed).

Casualties of Paramilitary-Style Attacks

Policing Area/District	Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Shootings ³			Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Assaults ³		
	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change
Belfast City	16	13	-3	32	19	-13
North Area	7	6	-1	27	21	-6
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	1	1	1	11	10
Causeway Coast & Glens	3	0	-3	5	3	-2
Derry City & Strabane	4	5	1	5	1	-4
Mid & East Antrim	0	0	0	16	6	-10
South Area	1	0	-1	17	14	-3
Ards & North Down	1	0	-1	14	11	-3
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0	2	1	-1
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	0	2	2
Northern Ireland	24	19	-5	76	54	-22

(3) Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

Arrests under Section 41 TACT and subsequent charges

Policing Area/District	Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests			Persons Charged subsequent to S41 Arrest		
	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change	12 months to August 17	12 months to August 18	Change
Belfast City	63	76	13	7	8	1
North Area	62	64	2	1	3	2
Antrim & Newtownabbey	7	4	-3	0	1	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	5	7	2	0	0	0
Derry City & Strabane	28	47	19	0	1	1
Mid & East Antrim	22	6	-16	1	1	0
South Area	15	15	0	6	3	-3
Ards & North Down	5	4	-1	2	1	-1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	5	6	1	3	1	-2
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2	0	-2	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	1	4	3	1	1	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	1	0	-1	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	140	155	15	14	14	0

5. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website. Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until figures for the full financial year are published. This means that the totals for each month from April 2018 can change each time the figures are published during the financial year. These amendments can happen for a number of reasons, such as an incident being included or excluded following further investigation by an officer.

Since the publication of the previous bulletin in July 2018, 4 revisions have been made to the data as detailed below;

- The number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults recorded by the PSNI in April 2018 was reduced from 7 to 6 and in May 2018 was reduced from 8 to 7.
- The quantity of explosives seized by the PSNI in May 2018 was reduced from 0.39kg to 0.30kg and in June 2018 was increased from 0.05kg to 0.09kg.