

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

Monthly Update

Covering the 12 month period
1st March 2017 – 28th February 2018
Statistics by Police District and Area

Published 9th March 2018

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Security Situation Statistics in Northern Ireland

Monthly update to 28th February 2018

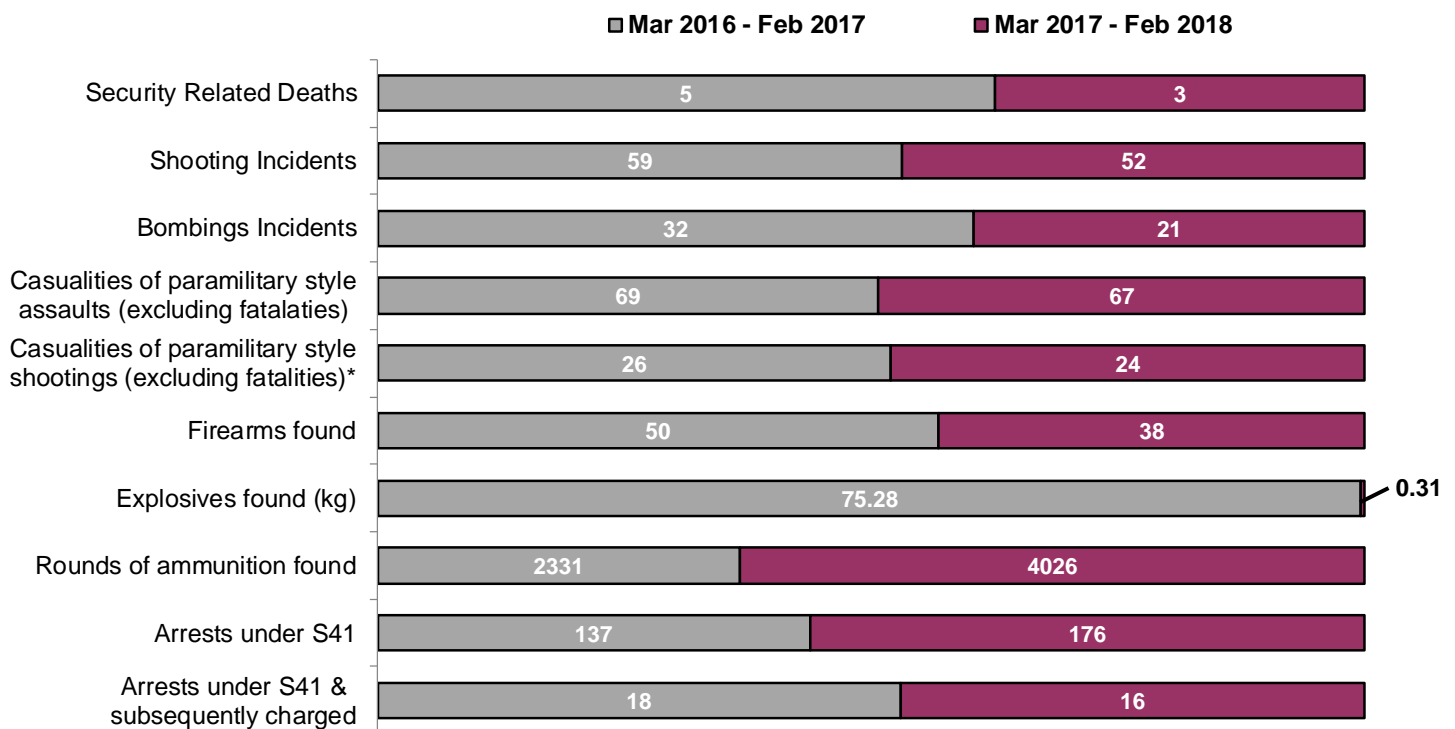
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This monthly bulletin presents the latest security situation statistics for Northern Ireland. Figures for the financial year 2017/2018 are provisional and subject to minor amendment. Further details on revisions as well as the strengths and limitations of the statistics are provided in the Notes section on page 9. The next report, which will be the finalised financial end of year report, will be published on Thursday 17th May 2018.

An accompanying [Excel Spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this bulletin and historic trends.

Summary Statistics

Figure 1: Comparison of security incidents between Mar 2016 – Feb 2017 and Mar 2017 – Feb 2018.



* In addition to the non-fatal casualties of paramilitary style shootings shown in Figure 1 there was an additional fatality as a result of a paramilitary style shooting during the 2 year period. This occurred in April 2016. Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths.

Trends – last 10 years (see charts in Annex 1)

Compared to the preceding ten years between 1997/98 and 2006/07, the level of security related incidents in Northern Ireland has been lower and has remained relatively consistent during the past decade. However, a significant threat still remains as evidenced by the increased number of security related deaths over the past 3 years, the increasing trend in the number of paramilitary style assaults since 2012/13 and the continued number of shooting and bombing incidents.

Security Related Deaths – last 24 months

There were three security related deaths during the most recent rolling 12 month period of 1st March 2017 to 28th February 2018, two fewer than occurred in the previous rolling 12 month period (1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017). One of the deaths in the past 12 months occurred in Mid and East Antrim policing district in March 2017, one occurred in Ards and North Down policing district in May 2017 and one occurred in Belfast in February 2018.

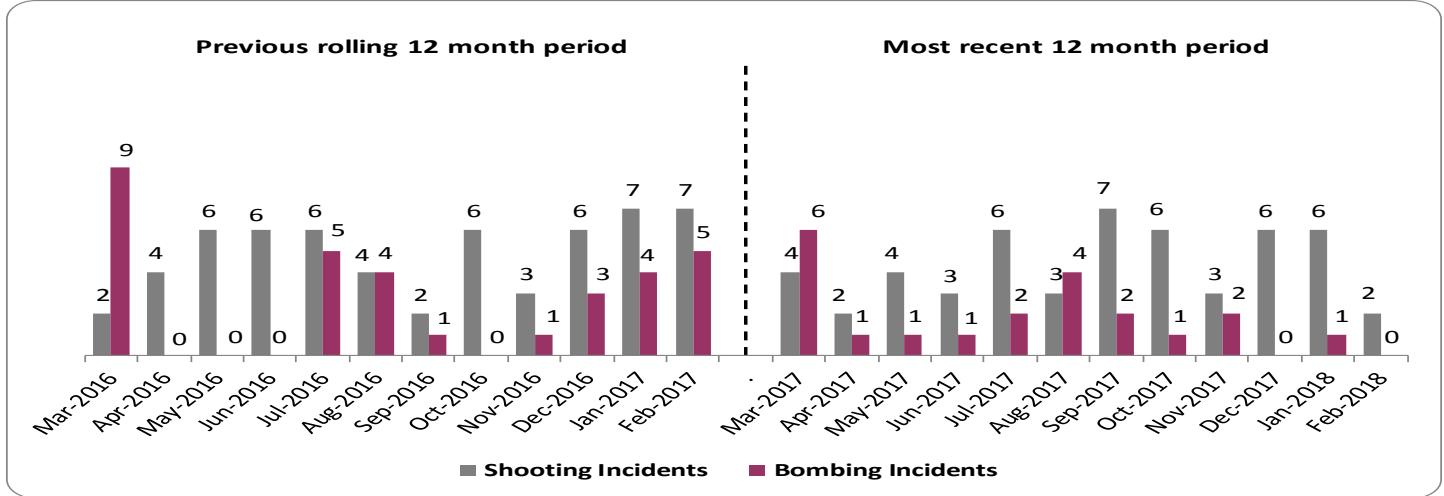
Shooting Incidents – last 24 months

The number of shooting incidents over the last 12 month period ending 28th February 2018 (52 incidents) was 7 fewer than in the previous 12 months, when there were 59 incidents.

Bombing Incidents – last 24 months

The number of bombing incidents in the most recent rolling 12 month period to 28th February 2018 (21 incidents) was 11 fewer than that recorded in the previous 12 month period (32 incidents). There was a two year monthly high of 9 in March 2016.

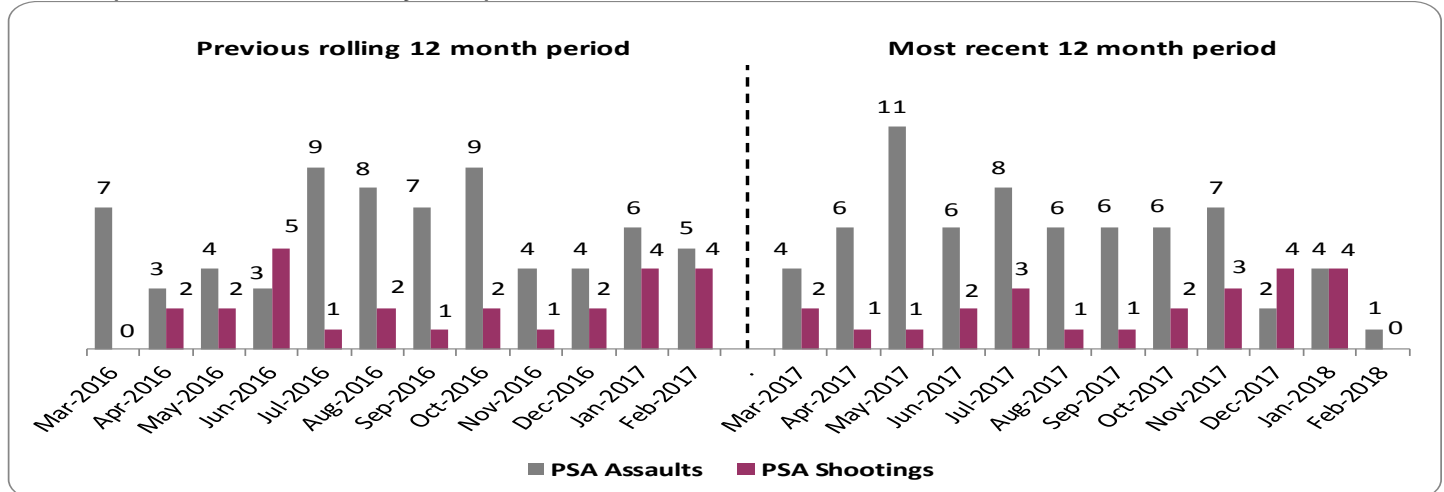
Figure 2: Number of Bombing and Shooting Incidents over the past 24 months (March 2016 to February 2018)



Paramilitary Style Assaults ⁽¹⁾ – last 24 months

The number of casualties from paramilitary style assaults over the past 12 month period has decreased from the previous 12 month period (Figure 3). For the 12 months ending 28th February 2017 there were 69 casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults compared with 67 casualties during the most recent period March 2017 to February 2018, a decrease of 2 casualties.

Figure 3: Number of Casualties resulting from Paramilitary Style Assaults and Shootings ⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (March 2016 to February 2018)



(1) In addition to the non-fatal casualties of paramilitary style shootings shown in Figure 3 there was an additional fatality as a result of a paramilitary style shooting during the 2 year period. This occurred in April 2016. Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths.

Paramilitary Style Shootings ⁽¹⁾ – last 24 months

In the 12 month period ending February 2018 there were 24 casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings, 2 fewer than the 26 recorded in the previous rolling 12 month period (March 2016 to February 2017), see Figure 3. In addition to the non-fatal casualties of paramilitary style shootings shown in Figure 3 there was an additional fatality as a result of a paramilitary style shooting during the 2 year period. This occurred in April 2016. Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths.

Firearms finds – last 24 months

The number of firearms seized has decreased, with 50 firearms found during the previous rolling 12 month period (March 2016 to February 2017) compared with 38 firearms seized in the most recent 12 month period. The numbers of firearms seized per month has ranged from a low of none (July 2017) to a high of 9 (October 2016) over the last 24 months, see Table 1. On average 3 firearms have been found per month during the past 12 month period.

Explosive finds – last 24 months

There has been a decrease in the amount of explosives seized during the last rolling 12 month period to 28th February 2018. During this period 0.31kg of explosives were recovered by the PSNI, compared to the 75.3kg seized in the previous rolling 12 month period. The majority of the 75.3kg of explosives seized during the previous 12 months was during a series of linked finds in Mid and East Antrim policing district during August 2016.

Ammunition Finds – last 24 months

The number of rounds of ammunition recovered by the PSNI has increased in the 12 month period ending in February 2018. In the most recent rolling 12 months 4,026 rounds of ammunition were seized, this is 1,695 rounds more than the previous rolling 12 month period (2,331 rounds). During the past 12 months the month of April saw the most rounds of ammunition found (Table 1).

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

	Previous rolling 12 month period			Most recent rolling 12 month period			
	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	
Mar-16	6	0.19	129	Mar-17	1	0.00	433
Apr-16	2	0.00	107	Apr-17	5	0.01	1,323
May-16	5	3.99	847	May-17	4	0.04	163
Jun-16	6	1.92	151	Jun-17	8	0.00	1,015
Jul-16	1	0.77	247	Jul-17	0	0.00	26
Aug-16	3	67.64	102	Aug-17	1	0.10	108
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	0.01	78
Jan-17	3	0.08	107	Jan-18	5	0.00	75
Feb-17	6	0.00	262	Feb-18	1	0.00	8
Total	50	75.28	2,331	Total	38	0.31	4,026

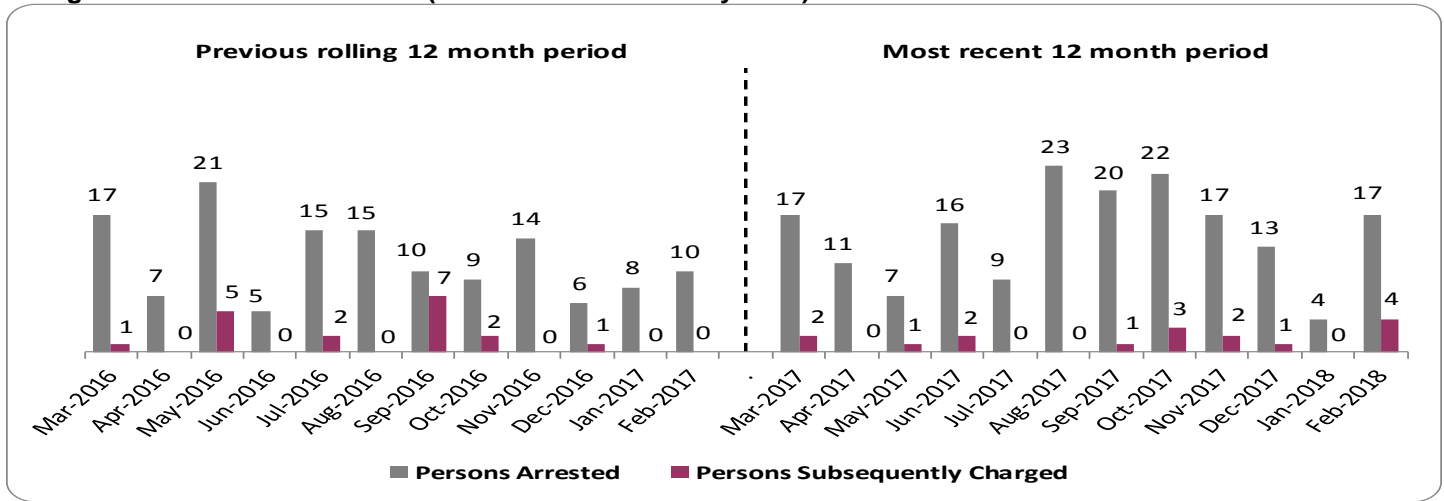
Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests – last 24 months

Over the 12 month period ending in February 2018 the number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act increased compared to the 12 months from 1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017. In the most recent rolling 12 month period 176 persons were arrested, which was 39 persons more than in the previous rolling 12 month period when 137 persons were arrested. January 2018 showed the lowest number of arrests (4) in any month of the past 2 years. This compares to a high of 23 in August 2017, see Figure 4.

Subsequent Charges – last 24 months

The number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and subsequently charged decreased from 18 in the previous 12 month period to 16 in the most recent 12 months to February 2018. There have been 10 months in the past 2 years in which no persons were charged, while September 2016 saw the highest number of persons charged in the past 2 years (7 people).

Figure 4: Number of Persons Arrested under S41 Terrorism Act and Number of Persons Subsequently Charged over the last 24 months (March 2016 to February 2018)



**Tabular Results: Most Recent Rolling 12 Month Period (1st March 2017 to 28th February 2018)
Compared with the previous Rolling 12 Month Period (1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017)**

Bombing and Shooting Incidents

	Bombing Incidents ¹		
	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
Belfast City Policing Area	12	6	-6
North Area Policing	16	13	-3
Antrim & Newtownabbey	3	1	-2
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	3	3
Derry City & Strabane	10	9	-1
Mid & East Antrim	3	0	-3
South Area Policing	4	2	-2
Ards & North Down	0	0	0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1	0	-1
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	1	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1	0	-1
Mid Ulster	2	0	-2
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	1	1
Northern Ireland	32	21	-11

Notes:

(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.

Shooting Incidents ²		
Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
32	19	-13
16	27	11
1	1	0
7	4	-3
7	20	13
1	2	1
11	6	-5
0	2	2
6	4	-2
3	0	-3
0	0	0
2	0	-2
0	0	0
59	52	-7

(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

	Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Shootings ³		
	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
Belfast City Policing Area	17	14	-3
North Area Policing	8	9	1
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	1	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	3	0	-3
Derry City & Strabane	4	8	4
Mid & East Antrim	1	0	-1
South Area Policing	1	1	0
Ards & North Down	0	1	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	0	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	1	0	-1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	26	24	-2

Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Assaults ³		
Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
36	19	-17
20	27	7
1	6	5
5	3	-2
2	6	4
12	12	0
13	21	8
8	18	10
1	1	0
0	0	0
2	2	0
1	0	-1
1	0	-1
69	67	-2

(3) In addition to the non-fatal casualties of paramilitary style shootings shown in this table there was an additional fatality as a result of a paramilitary style shooting during the 2 year period. This occurred in April 2016. Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths.

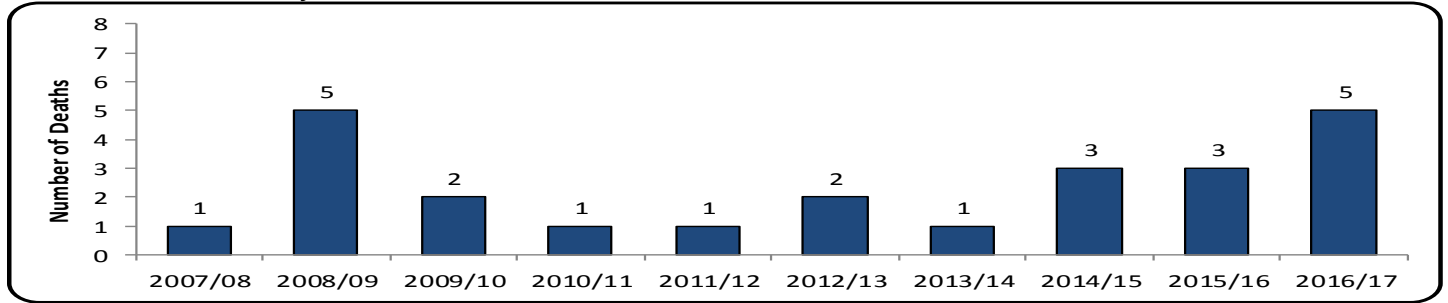
Arrests under Section 41 TACT and subsequent charges

	Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests		
	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
Belfast City Policing Area	68	74	6
North Area Policing	52	84	32
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4	8	4
Causeway Coast & Glens	5	7	2
Derry City & Strabane	32	51	19
Mid & East Antrim	11	18	7
South Area Policing	17	18	1
Ards & North Down	0	7	7
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	10	6	-4
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	2	2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	4	2	-2
Mid Ulster	1	1	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	2	0	-2
Northern Ireland	137	176	39

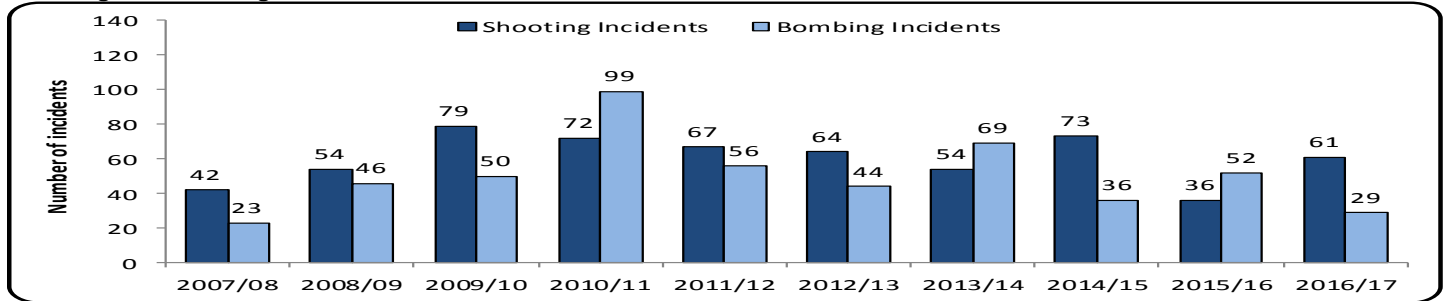
Persons Charged subsequent to S41 Arrest		
Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2016 to 28th Feb 2017	Rolling 12 months 1st Mar 2017 to 28th Feb 2018	Change
9	9	0
4	3	-1
0	1	1
0	0	0
3	1	-2
1	1	0
5	4	-1
0	3	3
4	1	-3
0	0	0
0	0	0
1	0	-1
0	0	0
18	16	-2

Annex 1: PSNI Security Statistics: Trends over the last 10 years by financial year

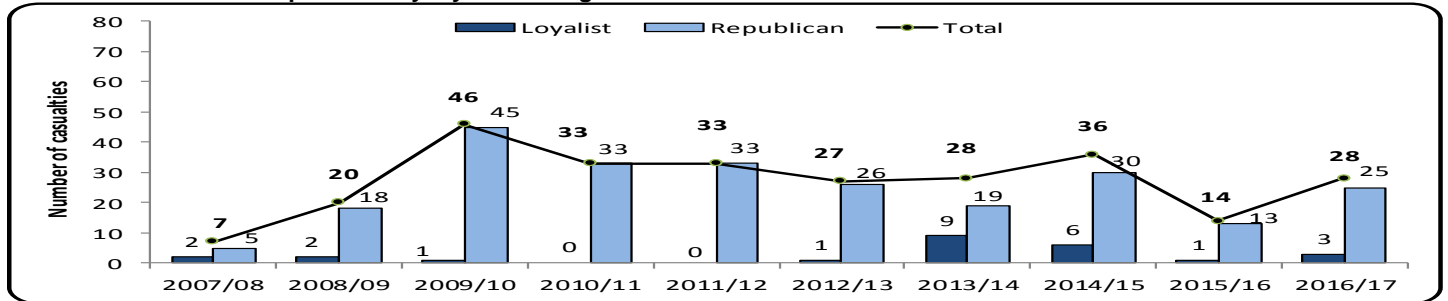
Deaths Due to the Security Situation 2007/08 – 2016/17



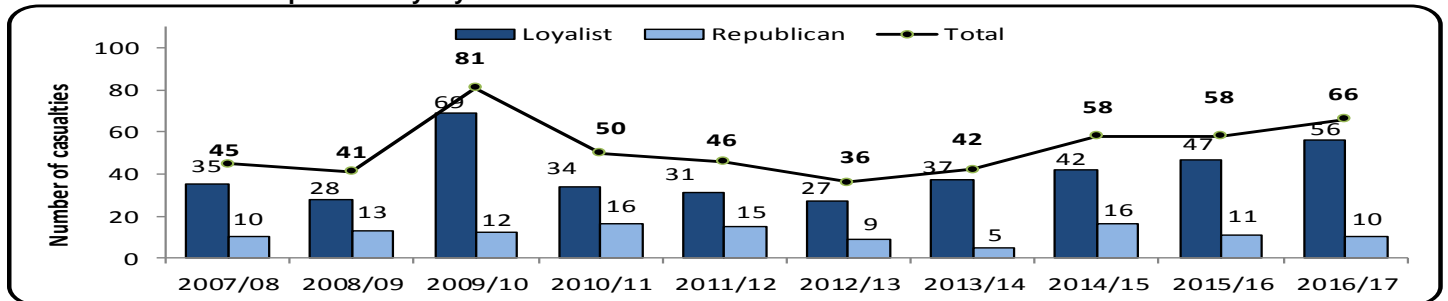
Shooting and Bombing Incidents 2007/08 – 2016/17



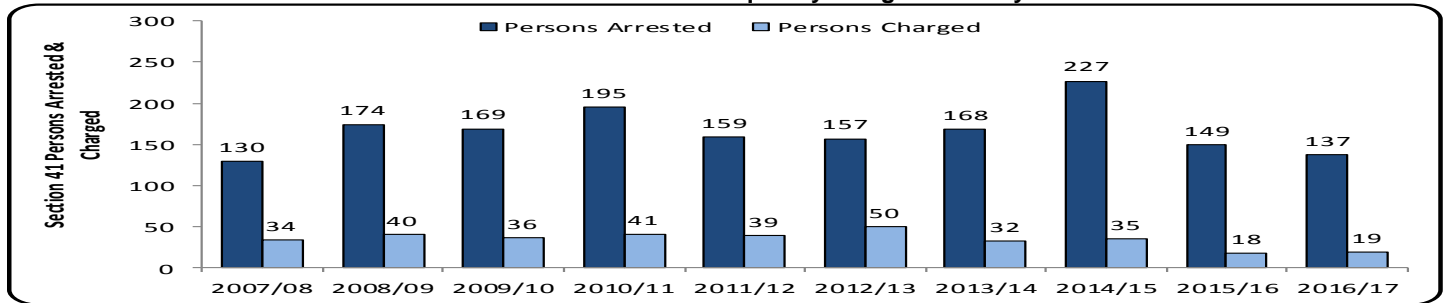
Casualties as a result of paramilitary style shootings⁽¹⁾ 2007/08 – 2016/17



Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults⁽¹⁾ 2007/08 – 2016/17



Persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act & subsequently charged with any offence 2007/08 – 2016/17



(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.

NOTES

Further information on how these statistics are collated and reported are included in the [Security Situation Statistics User Guide](#) available on the [PSNI website](#).

Strengths and Limitations of the data

Strengths

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. They were initially established by the police to provide much needed facts and figures on widespread civil unrest during the late 1960s and early 1970s and then were developed further through the 1980s and 1990s with computerisation. They are a key source of information on the security situation in Northern Ireland since 1969 and are used widely within PSNI and also by colleagues in government departments as well as by the media, academics and members of the public. These statistics were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and awarded the National Statistics designation in 2012.

Limitations

As 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. The PSNI's Security Statistics are collated and reported by a small number of experienced staff who manually trawl through PSNI systems on a daily basis to identify all such security related incidents. The reliance on these key individuals means that an element of human error could be involved and that a small proportion of incidents could be missed or incorrectly classified as a result. However, various internal checks and validation processes are in place to ensure that this is kept to a minimum.

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 2016 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 February 2018, there have been 4 revisions made to the data, as detailed below.

- The number of bombing incidents recorded by the PSNI in January 2018 increased by 1 from none to 1.
- The number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults recorded by the PSNI in November 2017 decreased by 1 from 8 to 7.
- The number of firearms seized by the PSNI during December 2017 increased by 1 (from 4 to 5) and the number of rounds of ammunition seized increased by 50 (from 28 to 78).

Additional Data

Additional data are available on the Security Situation Statistics section of the PSNI website. The accompanying spreadsheet for the security situation data provides trend information back to 1968 where available, subject to statistical disclosure policies.

Descriptions of the main security statistics collated

Security statistics generally relate to terrorist and public order type incidents that occur within Northern Ireland and which are recorded on the PSNI's IT systems. The main security related statistics that are collated and reported are as follows:

a) Security related deaths

Each security related death is checked with the investigating officer to ensure that the circumstances fit in with the standard definition adopted by the PSNI's Statistics Branch guidelines i.e. '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'. At the end of each year, all security related deaths for that period are checked with the PSNI's Crime Operations Department to ensure that the list is complete and accurate before the finalised figures are published. Furthermore, not all security related deaths involve offences of murder as they also include deaths resulting from the use of force by the security forces or could involve persons being killed while planting a bomb which detonated prematurely.

b) Bombings incidents

These include all incidents where a bombing device explodes or is defused. A bombing incident can also relate to more than one device - for example a mortar attack with four devices would be recorded as one bombing incident with four devices. When a device partially explodes (i.e. usually only the detonator or fuse) it is recorded as an explosion. However, if a device is found that is not complete or armed, then it is recorded as a 'find' and not as a bombing.

c) 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). They exclude the firing of blank rounds.

d) Paramilitary style shooting casualties

Any such paramilitary style shooting incident can have one or more casualties (i.e. two or more persons could be shot in the same incident). The injured party is usually 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. The attribution of such shootings is generally recorded as 'Loyalist' or 'Republican' depending on the investigating officer's view on which groups had conducted the shooting. Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not reflected in the paramilitary style shooting figures.

e) Paramilitary style assaults

As with the paramilitary style shootings, these 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. Multiple casualties may result from a single incident. Confirmation of the paramilitary style assault is generally sought from the investigating officer. Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

f) Finds of ammunition or explosives

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.

g) Incendiaries

These are different from bombings in that they are used to start fires and not to cause an explosion. They normally consist of a cassette, timer battery and material to cause fire (i.e. petrol, gas or other accelerant) and are usually targeted at commercial property.

h) Persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act who are subsequently charged

Section 41 of the Terrorism Act enables police officers to arrest persons for the prevention of terrorism. Within the PSNI, weekly returns of all persons arrested under Section 41 are sent to Statistics Branch along with details of any subsequent charges. The charge can relate to any offence (e.g. attempted murder) and does not necessarily need to be an offence listed under the Terrorism Act.

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.