

Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019

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Key Statistics

During 1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019:

- there were 2 security related deaths, compared to 3 in the previous 12 months. There was a decrease in the numbers of bombings, shootings and paramilitary style attacks compared to the previous 12 months.
- there were 16 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, compared to 24 in the previous 12 months. All but 2 of these shootings occurred in Belfast or Derry City and Strabane. Of the 16, 14 were carried out by republicans. All 16 casualties were aged 18 years or older.
- there were 56 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, compared to 67 in the previous 12 months. Most assaults occurred in Belfast, Antrim and Newtownabbey and Ards and North Down and were much more likely to be carried out by loyalists. Of the 56 casualties 3 were under 18 years old.
- there were 15 bombing incidents compared to 24 in the previous year and 37 shooting incidents compared to 52 in the previous year.
- there were 159 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 174 during the previous 12 months. The majority of arrests took place in Belfast and Derry City and Strabane, the two policing districts that saw the greatest number of bombings and shootings.
- The number of persons subsequently charged increased slightly from 15 to 16 over the same period.



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 March 2018 to 28 February 2019. 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 report, which will be the finalised financial end of year report, will be published on 17 May 2019.

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.

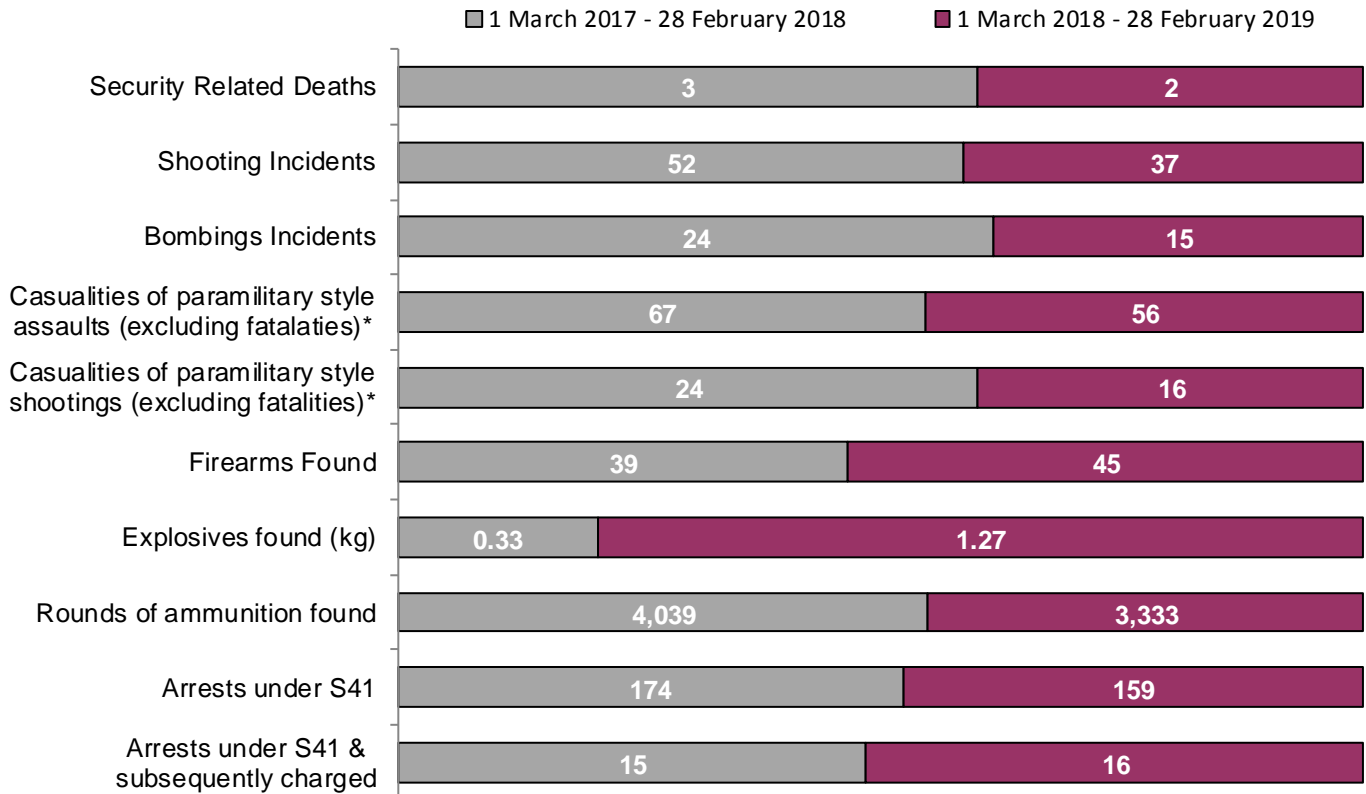
All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, 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 1 March 2017 – 28 February 2018 and 1 March 2018 – 28 February 2019.



* 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

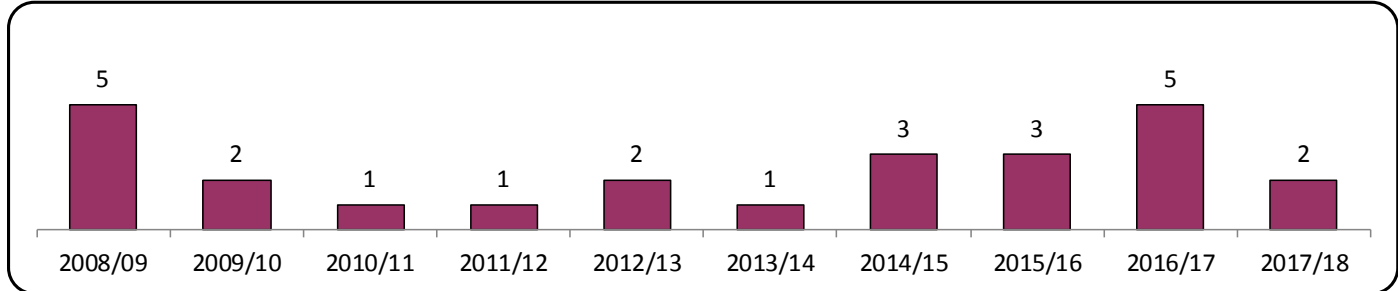


Figure 3: Number of shooting and bombing incidents 2008/09 – 2017/18

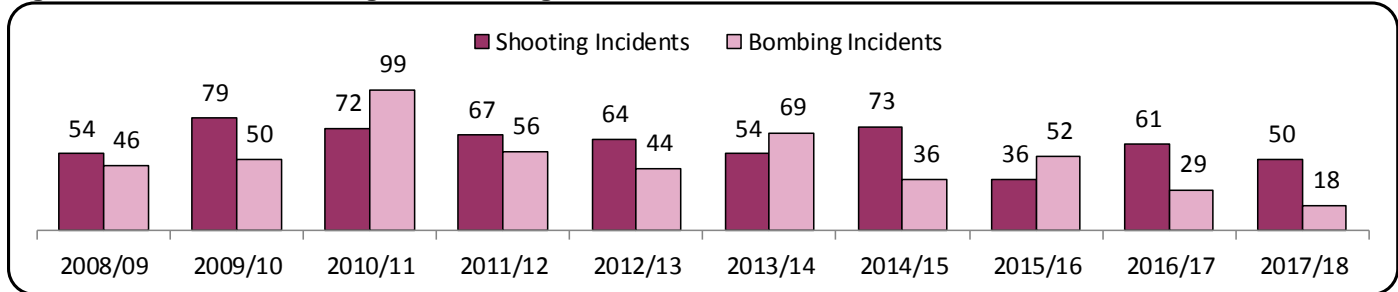


Figure 4: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style shootings^(1,2) 2008/09 – 2017/18

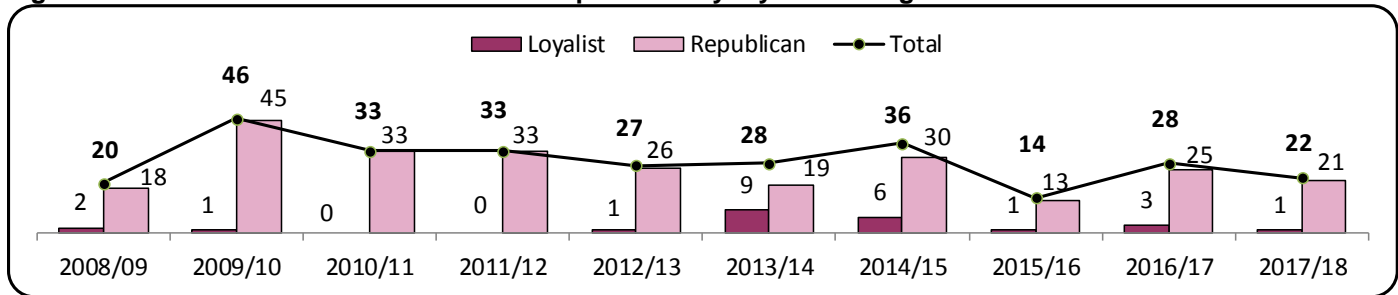


Figure 5: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults^(1,2) 2008/09 – 2017/18

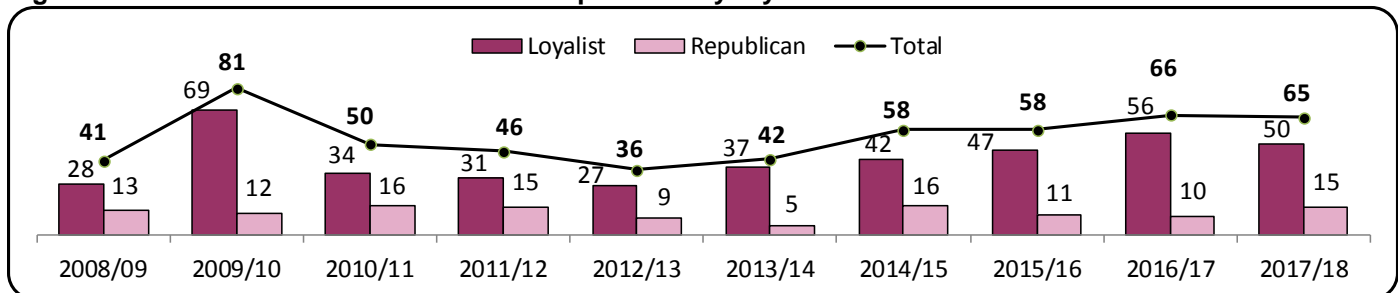
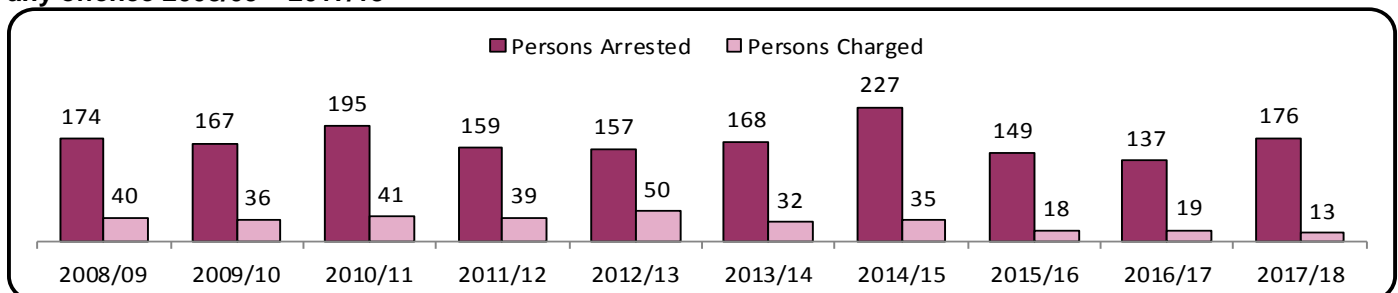


Figure 6: Number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act & subsequently charged with any offence 2008/09 – 2017/18⁽³⁾



(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. (3) Following examination of pre 2017/18 data in October 2018, the number of persons arrested under S41 TACT in 2009/10 was revised from 169 to 167.

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.

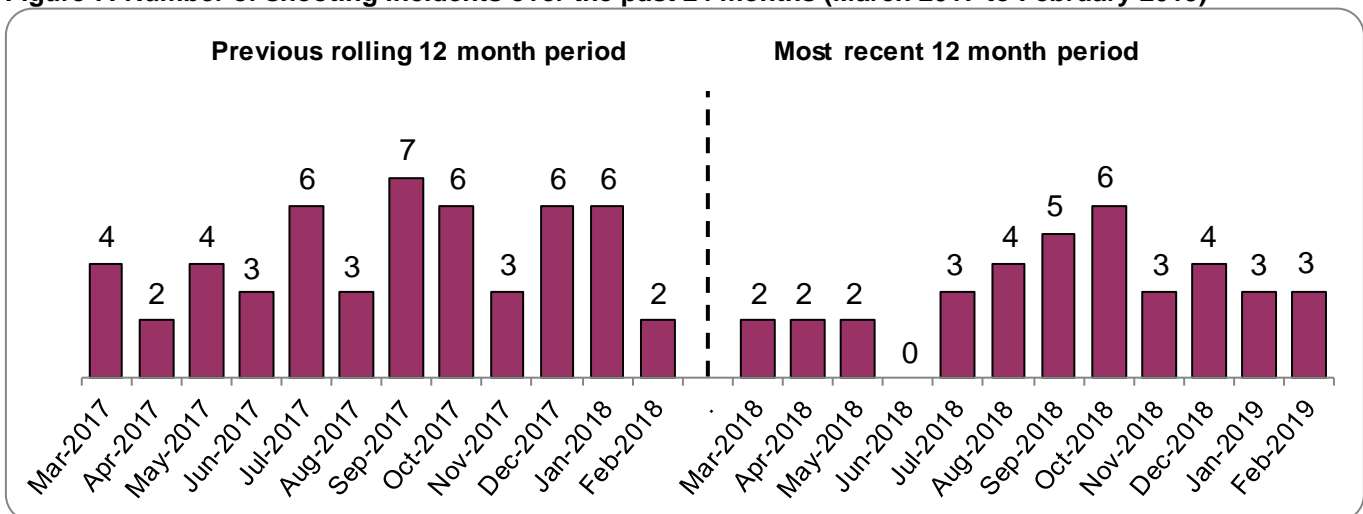
- There were two security related deaths during the last 12 month period, compared to three in the previous 12 months. Both of these deaths occurred in Belfast, one in December 2018 and one in January 2019.

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 37 shooting incidents during the last 12 months compared to 52 during the previous 12 months. See Figure 7 for a monthly breakdown. Belfast and Derry City and Strabane continue to experience the majority of shootings that occur; approximately 8 out of every 10 shootings occur in these districts.
- Of the 11 policing districts, 7 saw a decrease in such incidents compared to the previous 12 months, 2 districts have continued to experience no shootings and 2 districts saw slight increases; Newry, Mourne and Down recorded 1 shooting incident compared to none in the previous 12 months and Fermanagh and Omagh recorded 2 shootings compared to none in the previous 12 months (see Section 5).

Figure 7: Number of shooting incidents over the past 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)

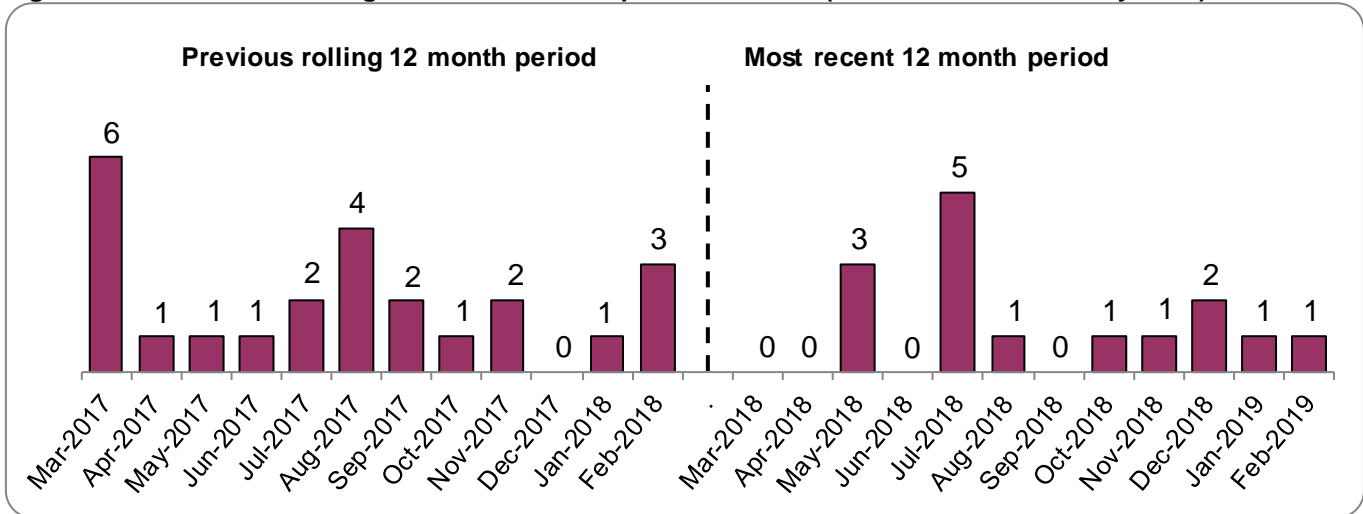


4.3 Bombing Incidents

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 15 bombing incidents during the last 12 months compared to 24 during the previous 12 months. See Figure 8 for a monthly breakdown. Derry City and Strabane, although experiencing the car bomb outside the courthouse in January past, saw the largest decrease in the number of bombing incidents year-on-year, falling from 9 to 4 (see Section 5).

Figure 8: Number of bombing incidents over the past 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)

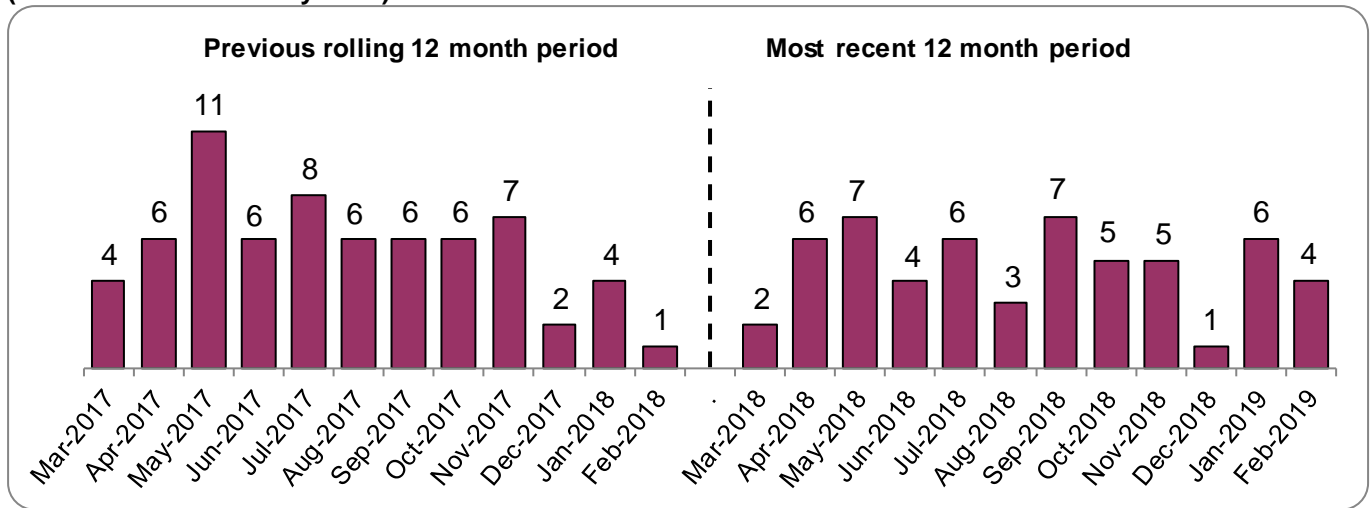


4.4 Paramilitary Style Assaults

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 56 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the last 12 months compared to 67 during the previous 12 months. Figure 9 displays the number of casualties from paramilitary style assaults by month. Of the 56 casualties, the majority were assaulted in Belfast (23), Antrim and Newtownabbey (12) and Ards and North Down (7). However, Ards and North Down also saw the largest fall year-on-year (from 18 to 7). See Section 5 for District figures.
- Of the 56 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the last 12 months 3 were aged under 18 years old, the same number as the previous year.

Figure 9: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)



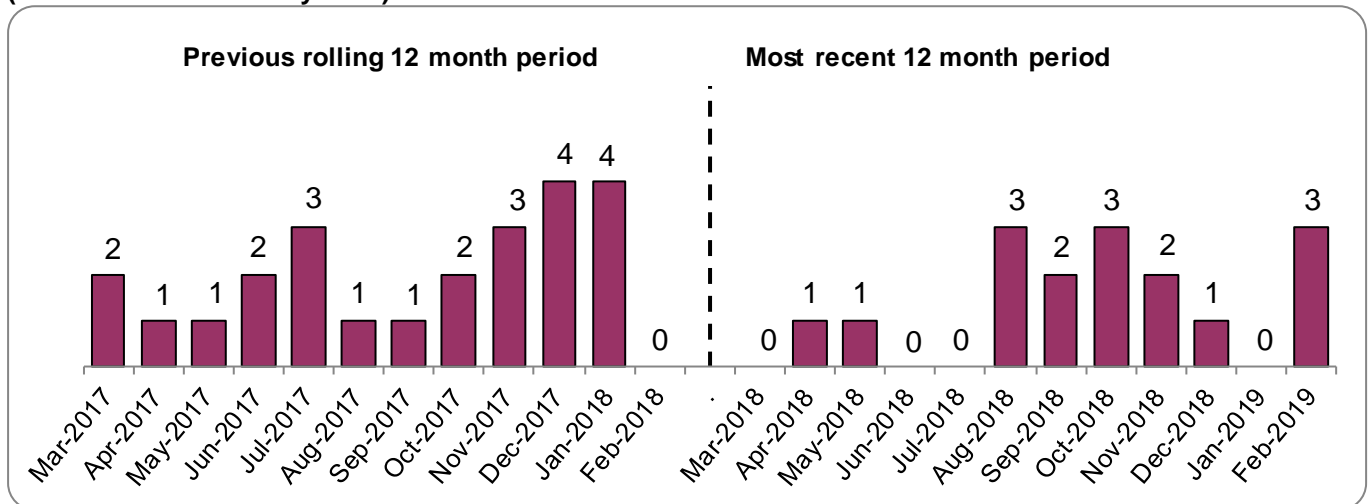
(1) Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults figures.

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 16 casualties from paramilitary style shootings during the last 12 months compared to 24 during the previous 12 months. Figure 10 shows that although there has been a decrease year-on-year, this type of attack has become more prevalent again in recent months, compared to the notable decrease between February 2018 and July 2018.
- Of the 16 casualties of paramilitary style shootings during the last 12 months, all were aged 18 years and above. During the previous year, 22 of the 24 casualties were aged 18 years and above while 2 were aged under 18 years old.

Figure 10: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)



(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 were more firearms found during the past 12 months (45) compared to the previous 12 months (39).
- The numbers of firearms seized per month has ranged from a low of none (July 2017) to a high of 9 (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 small increase in the quantity of explosives found during the past 12 months (1.3kg) compared to the previous 12 months (0.3kg).

Ammunition Finds

- There were fewer rounds of ammunition found during the past 12 months (3,333 rounds) compared to during the previous 12 months (4,039 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 (March 2017 to February 2019)

	Previous 12 month period			Most recent 12 month period			
	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	
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	1,015	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	0.05	15
Sep-17	3	0.00	484	Sep-18	4	0.10	48
Oct-17	4	0.12	128	Oct-18	2	0.00	386
Nov-17	1	0.03	185	Nov-18	1	0.61	89
Dec-17	5	0.03	78	Dec-18	1	0.00	47
Jan-18	5	0.00	76	Jan-19	7	0.00	34
Feb-18	2	0.00	20	Feb-19	6	0.01	105
Total	39	0.33	4,039	Total	45	1.27	3,333

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 159 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 during the past 12 months compared to 174 during the previous 12 months.
- Of the 159 arrests, 135 of them occurred in Belfast or Derry City and Strabane.
- There were 16 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently charged (with any offence) during the past 12 months compared to 15 during the previous 12 months (see Figure 12).

Figure 11: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act over the last 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)

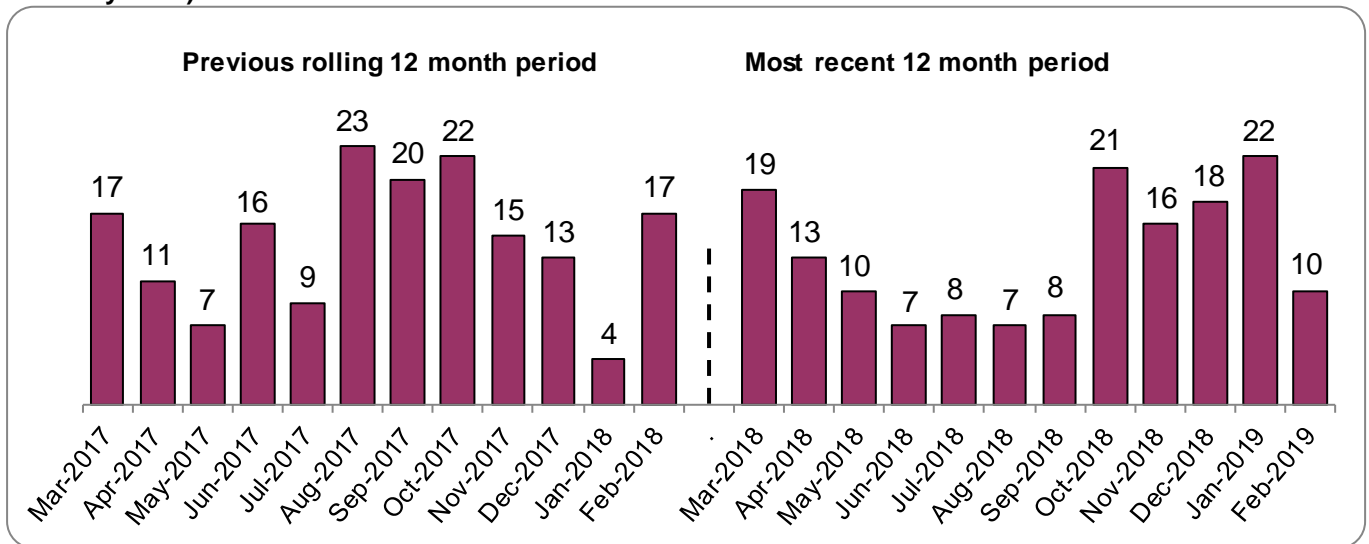
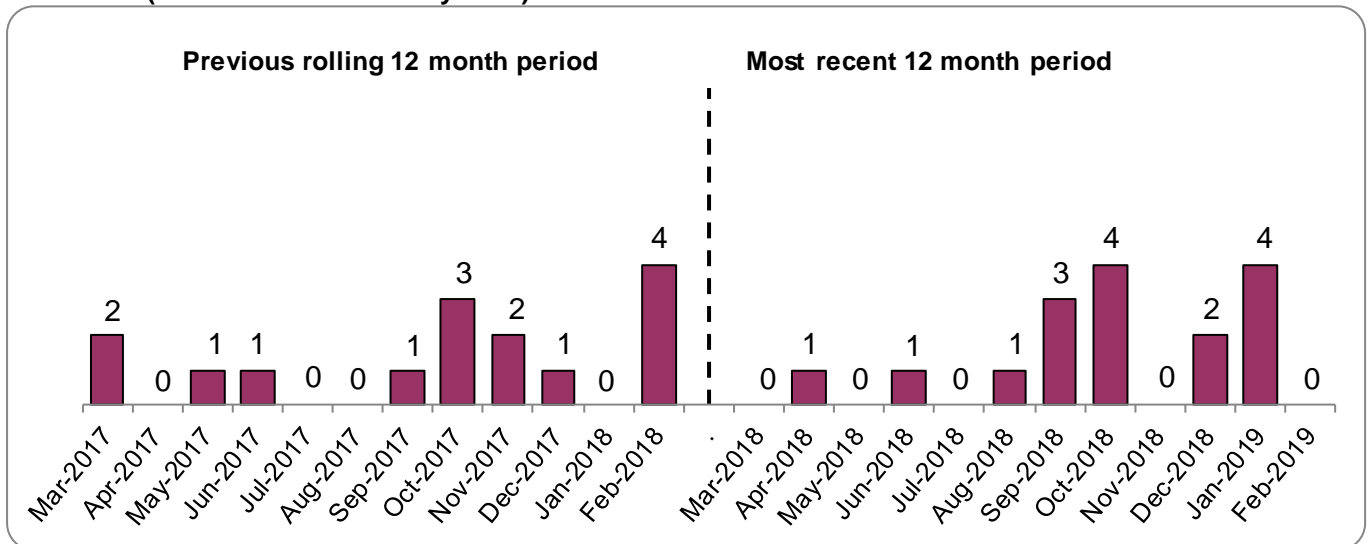


Figure 12: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act and subsequently charged over the last 24 months (March 2017 to February 2019)



5. District level tables

Bombing and Shooting Incidents

	Bombing Incidents ¹			Shooting Incidents ²		
	12 months to February 18	12 months to February 19	Change	12 months to February 18	12 months to February 19	Change
Belfast City	8	6	-2	19	16	-3
North Area	13	6	-7	27	17	-10
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	1	0	1	0	-1
Causeway Coast & Glens	3	0	-3	4	3	-1
Derry City & Strabane	9	4	-5	20	14	-6
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	1	2	0	-2
South Area	3	3	0	6	4	-2
Ards & North Down	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	1	1	4	1	-3
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	1	0	0	2	2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1	0	-1	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	0	1	1	0	0	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	1	0	-1	0	1	1
Northern Ireland	24	15	-9	52	37	-15

(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 February 18	12 months to February 19	Change	12 months to February 18	12 months to February 19	Change
Belfast City	14	5	-9	19	23	4
North Area	9	11	2	27	22	-5
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	0	-1	6	12	6
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	2	2	3	2	-1
Derry City & Strabane	8	9	1	6	2	-4
Mid & East Antrim	0	0	0	12	6	-6
South Area	1	0	-1	21	11	-10
Ards & North Down	1	0	-1	18	7	-11
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	0	-2
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	2	2
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	0	2	2
Northern Ireland	24	16	-8	67	56	-11

(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 February 18	12 months to February 19	Change	12 months to February 18	12 months to February 19	Change
Belfast City	72	79	7	9	12	3
North Area	84	65	-19	2	3	1
Antrim & Newtownabbey	8	1	-7	0	1	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	7	6	-1	0	1	1
Derry City & Strabane	51	56	5	1	1	0
Mid & East Antrim	18	2	-16	1	0	-1
South Area	18	15	-3	4	1	-3
Ards & North Down	7	2	-5	3	0	-3
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	6	6	0	1	0	-1
Fermanagh & Omagh	2	1	-1	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2	1	-1	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	1	5	4	0	1	1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	174	159	-15	15	16	1

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 January 2019 there have been no revisions made to the data.