

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

Annual Report covering the period  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Published 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Contact:  
Security Statistician  
PSNI Statistics Branch  
Lisnasharragh  
42 Montgomery Road  
Belfast  
BT6 9LD  
Tel 02890 650222 Ext. 24135  
Email: [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk)

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing



The PSNI is required to report on its performance on a financial year basis and hence this report covers the financial year period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. These security statistics relate solely to incidents that occurred within the jurisdiction of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Further information on context and background is provided in the Notes section of this bulletin and in the [Security Situation Statistics User Guide](#) on the [PSNI website](#). A further breakdown of the information provided in this report can be found in the [accompanying excel spreadsheet](#) which is also published on the PSNI website, it provides a breakdown of the information at Police Area and Police District levels as well as providing historical trends.

## CONTENTS

	Page
Section 1 - Security Statistics Summary.....	2
Section 2 - Deaths due to the Security Situation.....	3
Section 3 - Shooting and bombing incidents.....	4
Section 4 - Paramilitary-style attacks (shootings & assaults).....	5
Section 5 - Firearms, ammunition and explosives finds.....	7
Section 6 - Persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and subsequently charged.....	8
Annex 1 - PSNI Security Statistics: Longer Term Trends.....	9
Notes	10

### **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. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

## Section 1: Security Statistics Summary

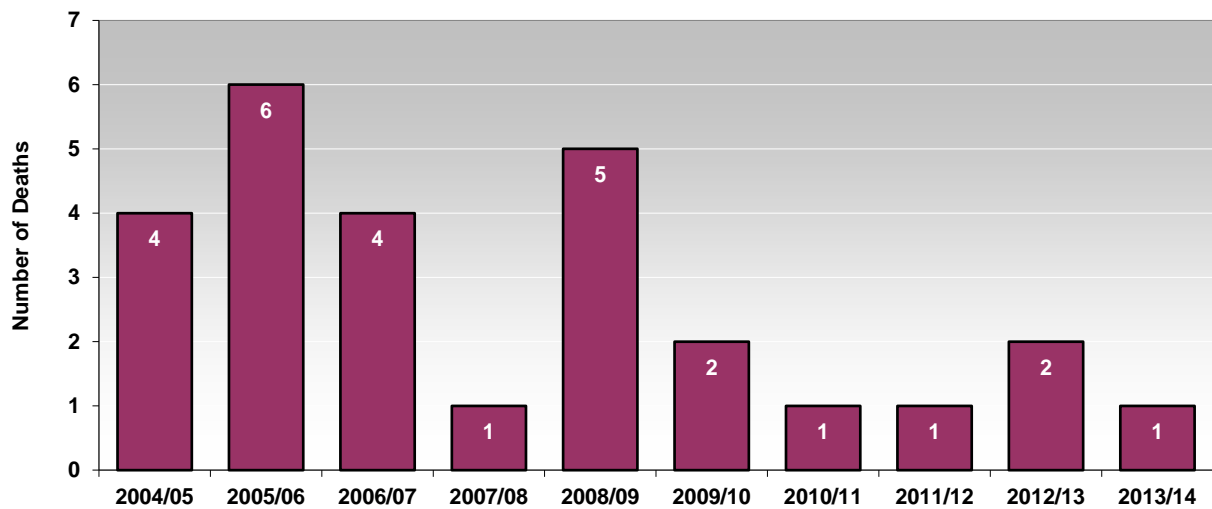
The security situation in Northern Ireland has notably improved over the last decade. There have been fewer security related deaths in 2013/14 than ten years ago in 2004/05 and the number of shooting incidents and casualties as a result of paramilitary style attacks in 2013/14 is approximately a third of the number recorded in 2004/05. However, a significant level of threat remains as evidenced by the one security related death in 2013/14, an increase in the number of bombing incidents in 2013/14 compared with 2004/05 and the continued use of paramilitary style shootings and assaults.

- Compared with the previous year (2012/13), whilst there was one less security related death in 2013/14 and fewer shooting incidents, there were more bombing incidents and more casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings and assaults.
- During 2013/14 there was one security related death, in October 2013. This is one less than in 2012/13 and three fewer than the four security related deaths recorded in 2004/05.
- In 2013/14 the police recorded 54 shooting incidents and 69 bombing incidents. This is ten fewer shooting incidents and 25 more bombing incidents than in the previous year (2012/13). The combined numbers of shooting and bombing incidents have decreased in the last ten years with the lowest levels recorded during 2006/07 and 2007/08 before increasing again in subsequent years.
- During 2013/14 there were 28 casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings, one more than the previous year (2012/13) and 65 fewer than ten years ago in 2004/05. Of the 28 casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings recorded in 2013/14, 19 were attributed to Republicans and nine were attributed to Loyalists.
- There were 42 casualties as a result of paramilitary style assaults in 2013/14, this is six more than in 2012/13 and 74 fewer than the 116 recorded ten years ago in 2004/05. Of the 42 recorded in 2013/14, 37 were attributed to Loyalists and 5 were attributed to Republicans.
- There were 101 firearms seized by the PSNI during 2013/14 compared to 57 seized during the previous year. The number of firearms seized each year has fluctuated over the last ten years with a peak of 365 firearms seized in 2005/06.
- During 2013/14, 23.1kg of explosives was seized compared with 11.4kg in 2012/13.
- In 2013/14, 168 people were arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act of which 32 were subsequently charged. The number of persons arrested was 11 more than the previous year (2012/13) however the number of persons subsequently charged decreased from 50 to 32. Over the last ten years there has been a decrease in the numbers of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and in subsequent charges. In 2004/05, 231 persons were arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act of which 77 subsequently charged.

## Section 2 – Deaths due to the Security Situation

During 2013/14 there was one security related death in Northern Ireland, occurring in October 2013. The overall trend shows that there has been a decline in the number of security related deaths since 2004/05, however there has been one security related death per year in three of the last five years and two security related deaths per year in the other 2 years (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Deaths due to the Security Situation 2004/05 – 2013/14<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Includes all deaths considered 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.

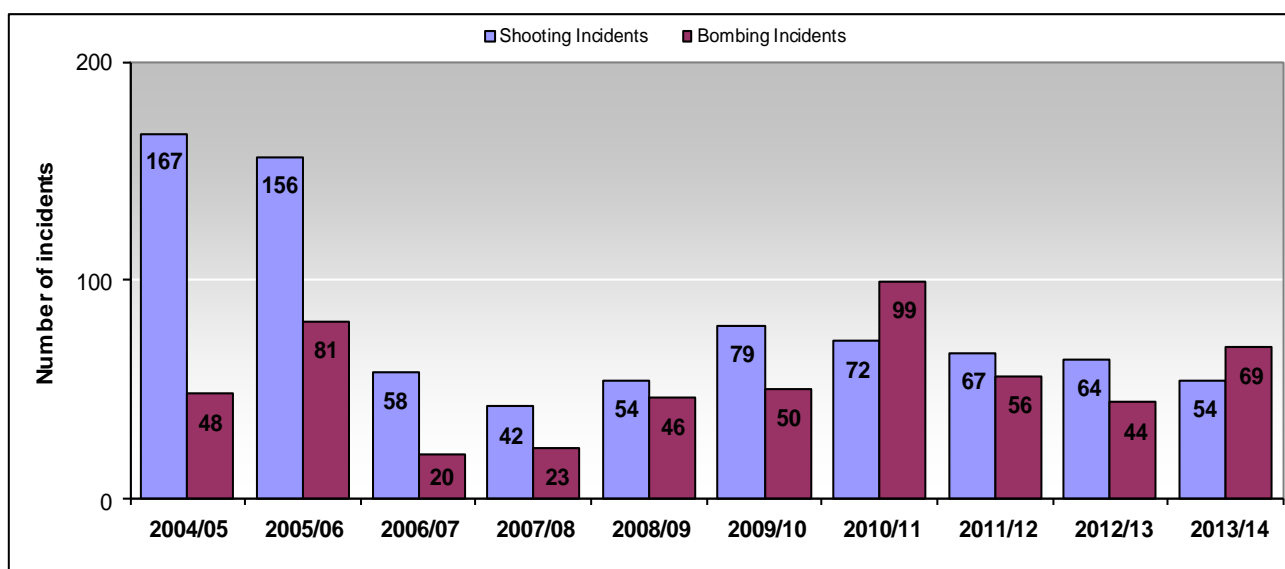
### Section 3 – Shooting and bombing incidents

There were 54 shooting incidents in Northern Ireland during 2013/14, ten fewer than the 64 recorded in 2012/13 and approximately a third of the 167 shooting incidents that occurred ten years ago in 2004/05. West Belfast had the most shooting incidents in 2013/14 (15 shooting incidents) followed by North Belfast (9 shooting incidents) and Foyle and Coleraine (both with 4 shooting incidents).

During 2013/14 there were 69 bombing incidents, 25 more than in 2012/13 and 21 more than ten years ago in 2004/05. Foyle had the most bombing incidents in 2013/14 (10 bombing incidents) followed by North Belfast (9 bombing incidents) and Lisburn (7 bombing incidents).

More detailed information on shooting and bombing incidents across Police Districts and Areas is available from the accompanying spreadsheet [on our website](#).

**Figure 2: Shooting and bombing incidents 2004/05 – 2013/14<sup>1,2</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> The following types of shooting incidents are included:

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

<sup>2</sup> An individual bombing incident may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents recorded include explosions and defusings (devices used). Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

## Section 4 – Paramilitary-style attacks (shootings & assaults)

Paramilitary style attacks are usually carried out by Loyalist or Republican groups on members of their own community as a so-called punishment and tend to be in the form of either paramilitary style shootings or paramilitary style assaults. The attribution of each paramilitary style attack as Loyalist or Republican is based on the investigating officer's perception.

The number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks has generally decreased over the last ten years with the exception of a peak four years ago in 2009/10. During 2013/14 there were 70 casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks. This is seven more than the previous year and under half the number that occurred in 2009/10 (127 casualties). Twenty eight of the 70 casualties were the victim of paramilitary-style shootings while the remaining 42 were the victims of paramilitary-style assaults (Table 1).

**Table 1: Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks 2004/05 – 2013/14**

	Shootings			Assaults			Total Casualties (Shootings and Assaults)
	Total	By Loyalist Groups *	By Republican Groups *	Total	By Loyalist Groups *	By Republican Groups *	
2004/05	93	76	17	116	71	45	209
2005/06	76	70	6	76	57	19	152
2006/07	26	14	12	48	36	12	74
2007/08	7	2	5	45	35	10	52
2008/09	20	2	18	41	28	13	61
2009/10	46	1	45	81	69	12	127
2010/11	33	0	33	50	34	16	83
2011/12	33	0	33	46	31	15	79
2012/13	27	1	26	36	27	9	63
2013/14	28	9	19	42	37	5	70

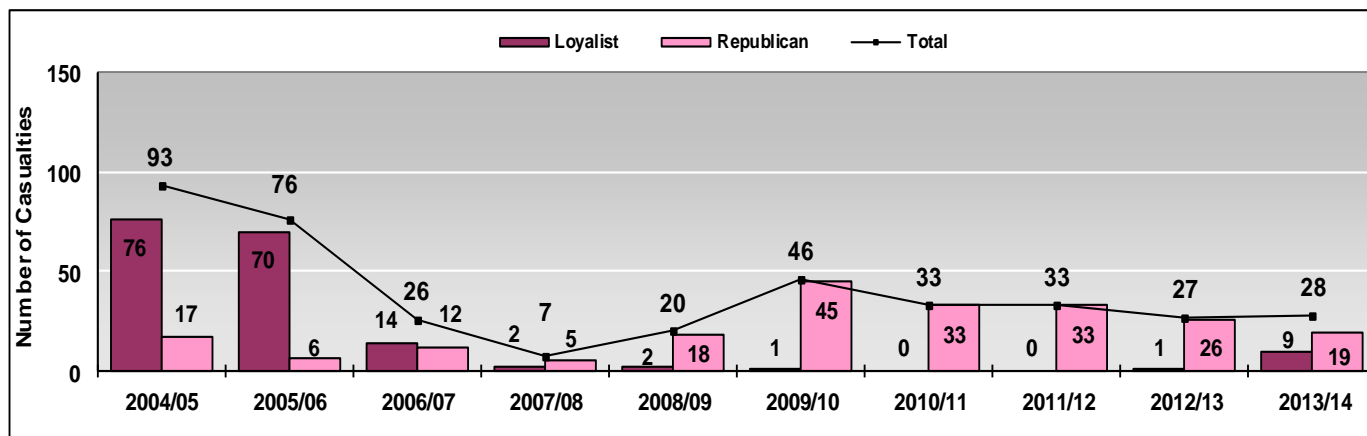
\* Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available.

### Paramilitary-style shootings

The majority of paramilitary style shootings carried out in recent years have been attributed to Republican groups whereas before that, during 2004/05 and 2005/06 the majority were then attributed to Loyalist groups (Figure 3). The 28 casualties recorded in 2013/14 is less than a third of the 93 recorded ten years ago in 2004/05 and is one more than the figure recorded in the previous year (2012/13). Just under half of the paramilitary style shootings in 2013/14 were carried out in West Belfast (12 casualties), followed by Newtownabbey and Coleraine (each having 3 casualties).

More detailed information on paramilitary-style attacks across Police Districts and Areas is available from the accompanying spreadsheet [on our website](#).

**Figure 3: Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style shootings 2004/05 – 2013/14\***

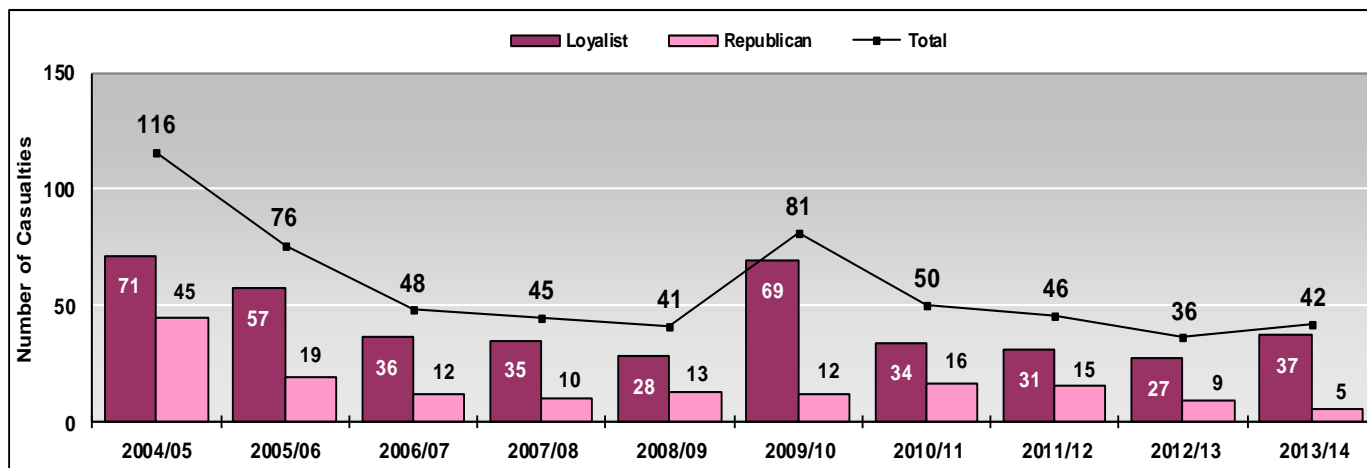


\* Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available.

### Paramilitary-style assaults

Responsibility for the majority of paramilitary style assaults conducted in the last ten years has been attributed to Loyalists (Figure 4). In 2013/14, the majority (88%) of the 42 casualties resulting from paramilitary assaults were attributed to Loyalists while the remaining 12% were attributed to Republicans. The policing areas with the greatest number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults in 2013/14 were East Belfast and Carrickfergus (each with five casualties) and North Belfast, North Down and Newtownabbey (each with four casualties).

**Figure 4: Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults 2004/05 – 2013/14\***



\* Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available.



## Section 5 – Firearms, ammunition and explosives finds

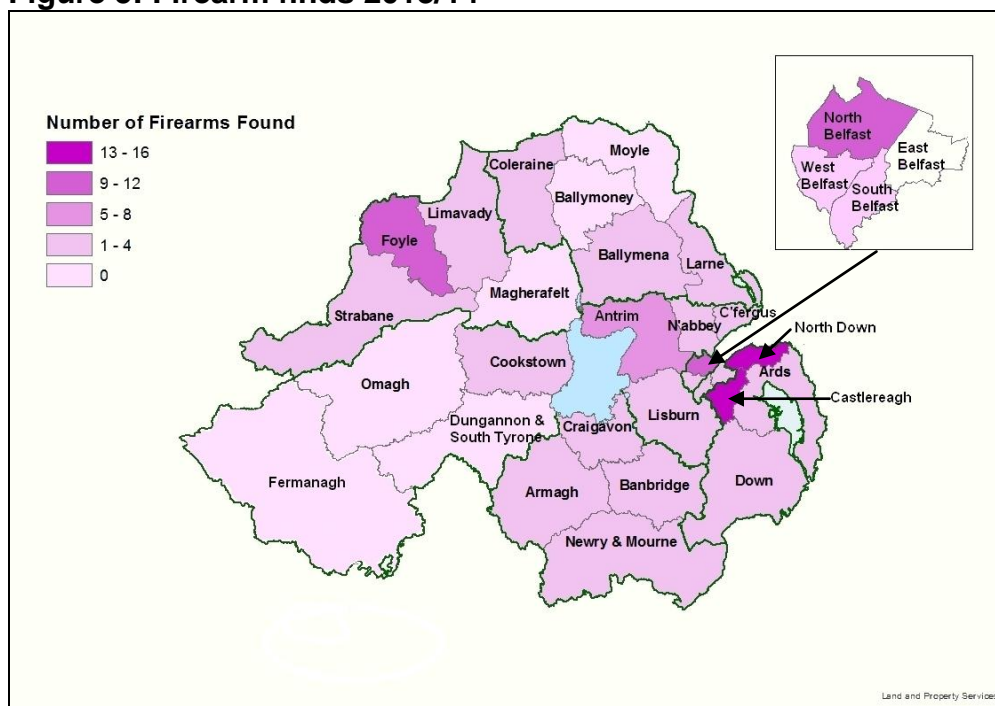
PSNI Officers seized 101 firearms, 5,057 rounds of ammunition and 23.1 kg of explosives during 2013/14. This is more than was seized in the previous year for all types of finds. Compared to the previous year (2012/13) the number of firearms found in the past year (2013/14) has increased by 44 firearms (from 57 firearms to 101 firearms), the number of rounds of ammunition has nearly doubled (an increase of 2,468 rounds to 5,057 rounds) and the amount of explosives has just over doubled (an increase of 11.7kg to 23.1kg).

Castlereagh had the largest number of firearms seizures (16 firearms). This relates to one recovery by the PSNI on the 23th August 2013 in which 16 firearms were found buried in a forested area in Castlereagh. The next two areas with the greatest number of firearm finds were North Down (15 firearms) and North Belfast (12 firearms) (Figure 5). The three Police Areas that recovered the largest number of rounds of ammunition were North Down (1,042), Castlereagh (1,018) and Larne (577). The vast majority of explosives were seized in West Belfast (20.27kg).

**Table 2: Firearms, ammunition and explosives finds 2004/05 – 2013/14**

Financial Year	Firearms	Ammunition (rounds)	Explosives (kgs)
2004/05	81	23,822	26.5
2005/06	365	112,748	35.0
2006/07	55	5,086	132.2
2007/08	62	22,010	208.4
2008/09	113	4,420	30.6
2009/10	77	34,962	2.2
2010/11	86	2,574	2.9
2011/12	176	4,064	43.8
2012/13	57	2,589	11.4
2013/14	101	5,057	23.1

**Figure 5: Firearm finds 2013/14**





## Section 6 – Persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and subsequently charged

In 2013/14, 168 persons were arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and of these 32 were subsequently charged (Table 3). This is a higher number of arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act than the previous two years (2011/12 and 2012/13), however is the lowest number of persons subsequently charged in the past 10 years. Of the 168 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act in 2013/14 across the 29 police areas, the greatest number of arrests took place in West Belfast (29 arrests) followed by North Belfast (28 arrests).

**Table 3: Persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act (TACT) and subsequently charged 2004/05 – 2013/14\***

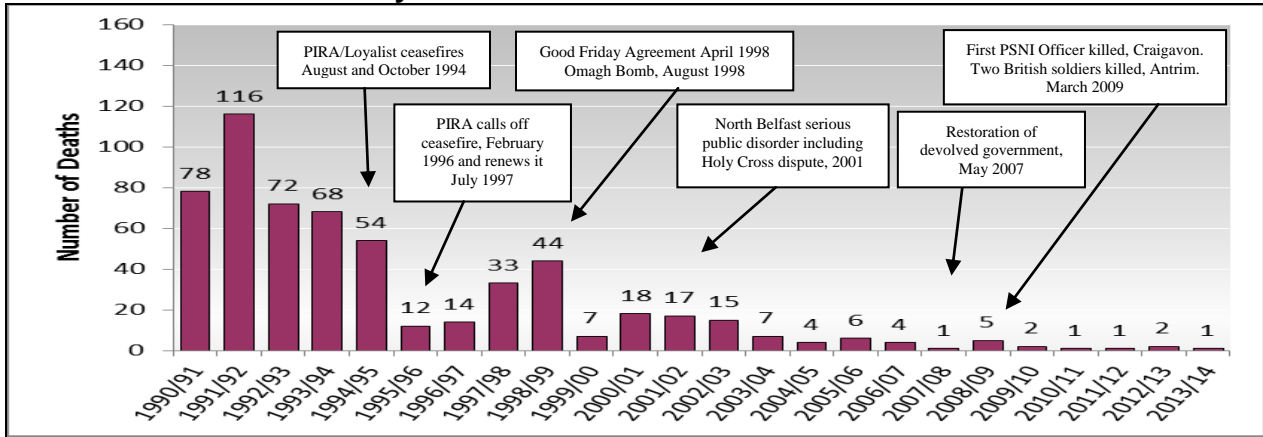
	<i>Persons Arrested under Section 41 of TACT</i>	<i>Persons subsequently Charged<sup>1,2</sup></i>
2004/05	231	77
2005/06	273	72
2006/07	177	57
2007/08	130	34
2008/09	174	40
2009/10	169	36
2010/11*	195	41
2011/12	159	39
2012/13	157	50
2013/14	168	32

*\*Revised figure to that previously published: The 2010/11 figures were previously reported as 188 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and 40 persons subsequently charged. However, this did not include persons produced from prison for interview and so these figures have been revised accordingly to 195 arrested and 41 charged.*

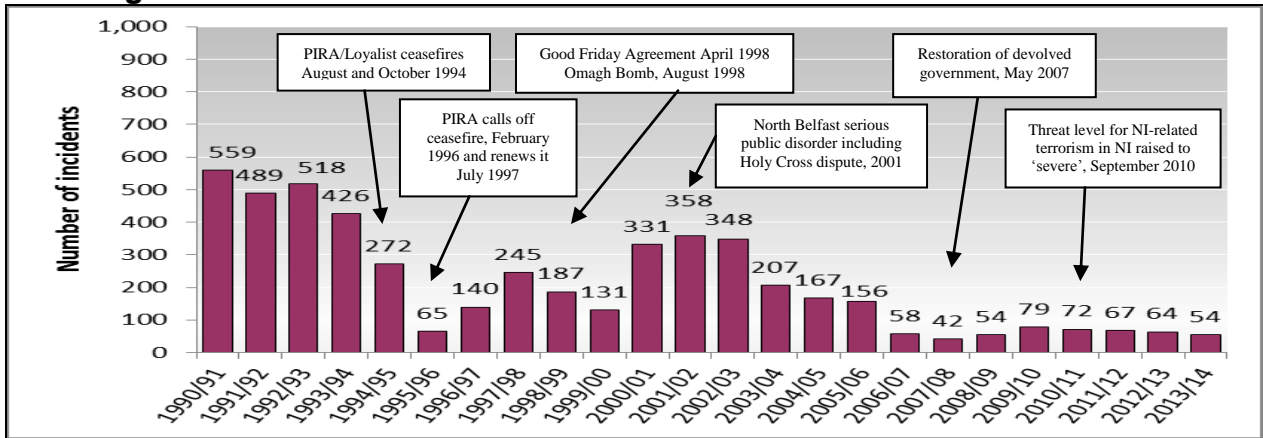
<sup>1</sup> Statistics refer to charges brought against a person after the original period of detention (including extensions). Any subsequent charges, additions, deletions to the original charges are not included.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that persons can be charged under legislation other than the Terrorism Act. Persons may also be charged in a different financial year from which they were arrested e.g. those persons detained at the end of March and charged in April.

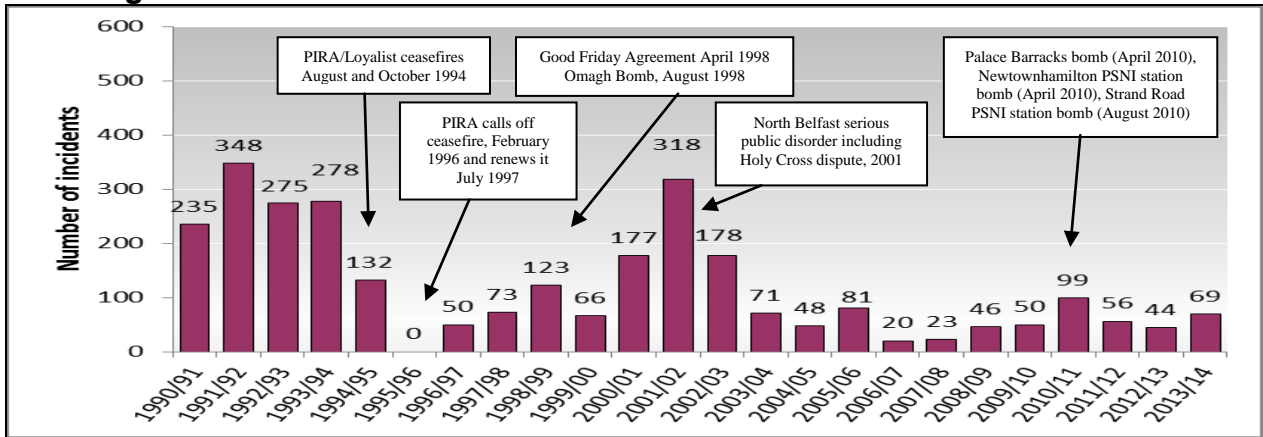
### Annex 1: PSNI Security Statistics: Trends over the last 24 Years Deaths Due to the Security Situation 1990/91 – 2013/14



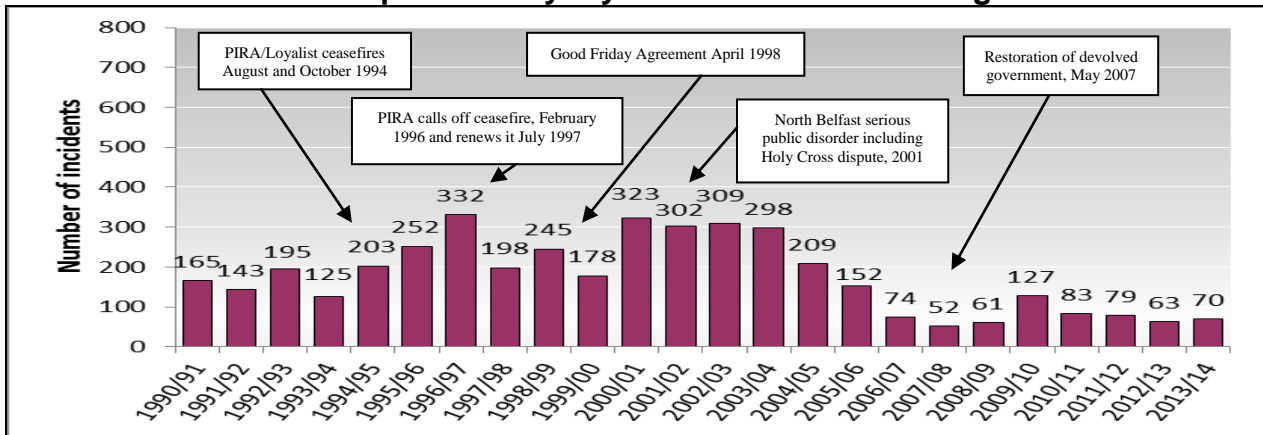
### Shooting Incidents 1990/91 – 2013/14



### Bombing Incidents 1990/91 – 2013/14



### Casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults and shootings 1990/91 – 2013/14



## 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](#).

### 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. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

### 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.

#### Limitations

As the security situation figures relate to those incidents that took place within Northern Ireland, they do not include any 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 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.

## Availability of 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.

**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.

**Further Research**

Research into the history of the security situation in Northern Ireland is available from a number of different areas including academics, media and charities. Included below are a few websites which users may find interesting. This list is not exhaustive.

[www.community-relations.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Sense-of-Safety.pdf](http://www.community-relations.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/The-Sense-of-Safety.pdf)  
[www.cain.ulst.ac.uk](http://www.cain.ulst.ac.uk)  
[www.conflictresearch.org.uk](http://www.conflictresearch.org.uk)  
[www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk](http://www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk)