

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Stop and Search Statistics

Financial Year 2013/14

1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

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Key Statistics

- During the last financial year (1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014), 32,590 persons were stopped and searched. This is 2,088 more persons (7%) than the previous financial year (1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013).
- Of those 32,590 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 2,199 were subsequently arrested (7%).
- Over half (52%) of all those stopped and searched during the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 were under the Misuse of Drugs Act, compared to 46% for the previous financial year. There were 17,000 persons searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act, of which 1,577 were in South Belfast police area and 1,531 were in Newry and Mourne.
- Of those 32,590 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 17% were aged 17 and under (where age details are available).
- Persons can be stopped and searched or stopped and questioned under a number of legislative powers in Northern Ireland, or combinations of those powers. These powers include PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act, Firearms Order, Justice and Security Act and the Terrorism Act.

Contents

Section One: Persons stopped and searched (*Page 2 to 5*)

This section highlights the numbers of persons stopped / searched by each legislative power (or combination of powers) and the total number of persons stopped / searched by Police Area and District and age.

Section Two: PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order stops and searches (*Page 6 to 7*)

This section focuses on the number of persons stopped and searched under PACE, the Misuse of Drugs Act S23 and the Firearms Order S53. Tables in this section include a breakdown of the reason for the PACE stop and search (stolen articles, articles with blade of point, prohibited articles or fireworks), and a breakdown by Police Area and District of the persons stopped and searched.

Data Quality: This report uses information extracted from the PSNI's integrated database designed to capture stop & search information. Officers can either populate this database directly by using their mobile data device when performing a stop & search or complete a hard copy form to be input by local police districts. Validation checks are performed on the information before publishing this data and duplicate entries are removed.

Tables in this publication are available in Excel format for ease of reuse from PSNI Statistics Branch upon request to the address above.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Section One – Persons stopped and searched

Number of persons stopped and searched/stopped and questioned by each legislative power: 2012/13 to 2013/14

Section 1 Table 1

Persons stopped under:	2012/13					2013/14				
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL
PACE	2,011	1,908	2,261	1,370	7,550	2,021	1,456	2,062	1,596	7,135
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	19	31	23	16	89	27	21	24	23	95
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
PACE & Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
PACE & Firearms Order S53	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	4	8
PACE & JSA 21	8	8	5	4	25	13	8	5	5	31
PACE & JSA 24	1	5	4	0	10	2	1	0	2	5
PACE & JSA 21 & Drugs	1	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
PACE & TACT S43	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PACE & Other legislative power	2	1	4	1	8	4	5	8	7	24
Misuse of Drugs Act S23	2,847	3,788	3,675	2,679	12,989	3,889	3,894	4,717	4,353	16,853
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & JSA S21	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & JSA S24	1	2	5	2	10	2	1	3	0	6
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & Other legislative power	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	2	9
Firearms Order S53	0	0	19	42	61	31	23	32	27	113
Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	4
Firearms Order S53 & other legislative power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TACT S43	36	25	26	14	101	38	16	9	7	70
TACT S43A	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	1	1	10
TACT S47A	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	70
TACT S43 & TACT S43A	0	0	10	3	13	13	9	4	2	28
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21	0	0	3	0	3	2	2	1	0	5
TACT S43A & JSA S21	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
JSA 21	457	279	549	318	1,603	472	247	460	312	1,491
JSA S21 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	18	27	4	4	53	2	6	3	0	11
JSA S21 & JSA S24	377	216	261	221	1,075	301	141	200	135	777
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & PACE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	3	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	5
JSA S24	1,906	1,245	2,066	1,347	6,564	1,767	1,027	1,468	1,150	5,412
JSA S24 & other legislative power	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	7	1	13
JSA S21 & other legislative power	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	1	3
JSA S24 & JSA S21 & other legislative power	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	2
TACT S43 & JSA S21	9	9	8	1	27	4	2	2	1	9
TACT S43 & JSA S24 & JSA S21	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	3	1	9
TACT S43 & JSA S24	5	4	5	1	15	0	2	1	1	4
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S24	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other legislative powers	16	19	98	145	278	77	104	105	89	375
Total Persons stopped and searched/questioned*	7,715	7,574	9,036	6,177	30,502	8,758	6,981	9,126	7,725	32,590

Notes: In 2012/13 information on persons stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act S23 and the Firearms Order S53 were presented under PACE. From 1st April 2013 this information has been presented separately. On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the PSNI Stop and Search database to ensure that stops / searches conducted under less frequently used powers such as the Wildlife Order would be captured under an 'other' legislative powers category. This report has been amended to reflect these changes and now also includes figures on persons stopped under Article 23B Public Order within this 'other' legislative power category. The Article 23B Public Order stops whilst captured separately on the database were not previously reported.

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Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and persons subsequently arrested under all legislative powers by Police Area and District: 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

Section 1 Table 2

	Persons Stopped	Persons Subsequently Arrested
Persons Stopped	Total Persons	Total Persons
North Belfast	1,742	179
West Belfast	1,740	102
A District	3,482	281
East Belfast	1,012	78
South Belfast	3,329	326
B District	4,341	404
Ards	549	43
Castlereagh	1,067	72
Down	1,253	69
North Down	293	27
C District	3,162	211
Antrim	790	46
Carrickfergus	243	15
Lisburn	1,791	150
Newtownabbey	968	79
D District	3,792	290
Armagh	744	25
Banbridge	840	52
Craigavon	2,055	99
Newry & Mourne	2,070	91
E District	5,709	267
Cookstown	479	24
Dungannon & S. Tyrone	451	35
Fermanagh	972	66
Omagh	459	32
F District	2,361	157
Foyle	4,371	264
Limavady	850	42
Magherafelt	777	28
Strabane	926	46
G District	6,924	380
Ballymena	1,127	74
Ballymoney	246	13
Coleraine	1,052	84
Larne	207	15
Moyle	187	23
H District	2,819	209
NI Overall	32,590	2,199

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers by District by age group:
1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014**

Section 1 Table 3

Persons Stopped	Total Persons	Not Specified	Aged 17 or under	Aged 18 to 25	Aged 26 to 35	Aged 35 to 45	Aged 46 to 55	Aged 56 to 65	Aged over 65
A District	3,482	12	684	1,324	730	419	232	77	4
B District	4,341	25	905	1,659	999	442	218	79	14
C District	3,162	26	603	1,185	656	330	238	95	29
D District	3,792	25	690	1,573	854	357	215	55	23
E District	5,709	25	813	2,692	1,131	645	300	84	19
F District	2,361	7	359	1,056	511	260	109	49	10
G District	6,924	21	888	2,610	1,525	1,136	595	127	22
H District	2,819	26	540	1,193	596	280	142	33	9
NI Overall	32,590	167	5,482	13,292	7,002	3,869	2,049	599	130

Of all those persons stopped and searched/questioned the age range with the highest frequency was 18 to 25 year olds. They accounted for 13,292 (41%) of the 32,590 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned. The age group stopped less frequently were the over 65 year olds, who accounted for 130 (0.4%) of all stops.

Section 1 Table 2 highlights that 4,371 people were stopped in Foyle in the twelve months to March 2014, more than any other area with 3,329 people stopped in South Belfast and 2,070 in Newry and Mourne.

Over half of all those people stopped (52%) were under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 17,000 in total for 2013/14.

Section Two – Police and Criminal Evidence legislation (PACE) / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order

Number of persons stopped/searched under PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order and persons subsequently arrested by reason for search: 2012/13 – 2013/14

Section 2 Table 1

	2012/13										2013/14									
	Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		Oct-Dec		Jan-Mar		TOTAL		Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		Oct-Dec		Jan-Mar		TOTAL	
	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests
Stolen property / articles	405	80	422	59	801	102	819	96	2,447	337	1,256	143	848	121	1,101	141	934	111	4,139	516
Offensive weapon / Blade or point	245	54	263	62	210	40	172	48	890	204	232	53	205	69	227	62	211	58	875	242
Going equipped / Prohibited articles	665	68	552	40	646	46	397	56	2,260	210	574	49	434	52	555	64	492	62	2,055	227
Fireworks	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	134	3	4	0	138	3	6	0	7	0	219	4	0	0	232	4
Others	293	42	294	48	368*	10*	0	0	955	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drugs	3,263	204	4,210	251	3,827	206	2,704	166	14,004	827	3,932	241	3,926	238	4,761	297	4,381	289	17,000	1,065
Firearms	38	4	36	2	42	7	44	8	160	21	33	5	26	4	35	6	33	7	127	22

Note: On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the Stop and Search database. These included changing the search objective categories from stolen property, offence weapons, going equipped to stolen articles, articles with blade or point, prohibited articles and fireworks. Also on this date, due to the changes made multiple reasons for some of the PACE searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched and arrested will not equal the sum of all reasons.

* These figures have been amended since the last report as they included a duplicate count of fireworks, which was previously reported within 'Others'.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Number of persons stopped/searched under PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order by reason for search by Police Area and District: 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

Section 2 Table 2

	Stolen Articles	Articles With Blade or Point	Prohibited Articles	Fireworks	Misuse of Drugs Act S23	Firearms
North Belfast	198	92	164	4	739	14
West Belfast	199	53	125	10	797	14
A District	397	145	289	14	1,536	28
East Belfast	180	64	128	13	370	12
South Belfast	711	178	342	5	1,577	12
B District	891	242	470	18	1,947	24
Ards	99	16	64	2	287	4
Castlereagh	131	13	51	10	357	3
Down	141	37	64	1	778	9
North Down	70	13	38	8	139	0
C District	441	79	217	21	1,561	16
Antrim	104	24	63	11	474	3
Carrickfergus	39	15	19	1	129	0
Lisburn	207	44	101	22	892	2
Newtownabbey	164	24	94	4	520	3
D District	514	107	277	38	2,015	8
Armagh	111	15	22	10	373	1
Banbridge	67	11	41	12	615	0
Craigavon	173	53	103	8	1,209	8
Newry and Mourne	137	38	77	16	1,531	9
E District	488	117	243	46	3,728	18
Cookstown	24	10	14	17	324	3
Dungannon	32	12	13	13	283	1
Fermanagh	84	11	56	11	560	0
Omagh	49	3	10	1	358	0
F District	189	36	93	42	1,525	4
Foyle	668	58	245	12	1,525	7
Limavady	98	4	27	10	673	1
Magherafelt	62	5	15	18	555	0
Strabane	137	15	19	4	197	4
G District	965	82	306	44	2,950	12
Ballymena	119	19	56	0	777	9
Ballymoney	26	1	6	1	106	0
Coleraine	76	29	54	0	624	7
Larne	19	18	35	2	89	0
Moyle	14	0	9	6	142	1
H District	254	67	160	9	1,738	17
NI Overall	4,139	875	2,055	232	17,000	127

Note: On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the Stop and Search Database. These included changing the search objective categories from stolen property, offence weapons, going equipped to stolen articles, articles with blade or point, prohibited articles and fireworks. Also on this date, due to the changes made multiple reasons for some of the PACE searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched and arrested will not equal the sum of all reasons.