

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Stop and Search Statistics

**Financial Year 2014/15**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

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## Key Statistics

- During the last financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015), 27,539 persons were stopped and searched. This is 5,051 fewer persons (15%) than the previous financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014) when 32,590 were stopped.
- Of those 27,539 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 2,194 were subsequently arrested (8%).
- Of all 27,539 persons stopped and searched, over half (15,660 or 57%) were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers), a higher proportion than the previous year, when 52% of all stops were under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Of the 15,660 persons stopped, 2,296 were in South Belfast and 1,271 were in Foyle police area.
- Of those 27,539 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 16% (4,330 persons) were aged 17 and under (where age is known). Of those 4,330 persons aged 17 and under, nearly two-thirds (64%) were stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers).
- 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 the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) (Northern Ireland) Order, 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. Figures are provisional and subject to minor amendment.*

*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: 2013/14 and 2014/15**

**Section 1 Table 1**

	2013/14					2014/15				
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL
Persons stopped under:										
PACE	2,021	1,456	2,062	1,596	7,135	1,536	1,516	1,692	1,537	6,281
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	27	21	24	23	95	23	19	18	23	83
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & JSA S24	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PACE & Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
PACE & Firearms Order S53	0	3	1	4	8	1	0	3	1	5
PACE & JSA 21	13	8	5	5	31	5	13	0	6	24
PACE & JSA 24	2	1	0	2	5	2	1	0	1	4
PACE & TACT S43	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
PACE & Other legislative power	4	5	8	7	24	6	2	2	1	11
Misuse of Drugs Act S23	3,889	3,894	4,717	4,353	16,853	3,816	3,428	3,860	4,421	15,525
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & Other legislative power	1	1	5	2	9	3	1	0	0	4
Firearms Order S53	31	23	32	27	113	21	23	42	23	109
Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	2	0	1	1	4	1	0	1	0	2
Firearms Order S53 & other legislative power	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Order S53 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Firearms Order S53 & TACT S43A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TACT S43	38	16	9	7	70	25	18	27	22	92
TACT S43A	7	1	1	1	10	1	1	1	3	6
TACT S47A	70	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A	13	9	4	2	28	5	4	4	14	27
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21	2	2	1	0	5	1	0	0	4	5
TACT S43A & JSA S21	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	2
JSA 21	472	247	460	312	1,491	199	207	583	261	1,250
JSA S21 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	2	7	3	1	13	4	11	7	5	27
JSA S21 & JSA S24	301	141	200	135	777	84	112	232	162	590
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & PACE	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	5	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	3
JSA S21 & other legislative power	0	2	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	3
JSA S24	1,767	1,027	1,468	1,150	5,412	899	523	1,088	762	3,272
JSA S24 & other legislative power	0	1	1	1	3	3	1	5	2	11
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	5	3	10	1	19	5	2	4	3	14
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & other legislative power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
JSA S24 & TACT S43A	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	5
JSA S24 & JSA S21 & other legislative power	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1
TACT S43 & JSA S21	4	2	2	1	9	0	4	3	8	15
TACT S43 & JSA S24 & JSA S21	0	5	3	1	9	1	0	0	0	1
TACT S43 & JSA S24	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other legislative powers	77	104	105	89	375	76	28	35	20	159
<b>Total Persons stopped and searched/questioned</b>	<b>8,758</b>	<b>6,981</b>	<b>9,126</b>	<b>7,725</b>	<b>32,590</b>	<b>6,725</b>	<b>5,919</b>	<b>7,609</b>	<b>7,286</b>	<b>27,539</b>

Notes: 'Other legislative powers' captures stops / searches conducted under the following less frequently used powers: Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, Section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, Article 6 Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Figures on persons stopped under Article 23B Public Order are also within the 'Other legislative powers' category. Note, the number of persons stopped and searched under Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000 and Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 were not reported in 2013/14.

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and persons subsequently arrested under all legislative powers by Police Area and District: 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015**

**Section 1 Table 2**

	Persons Stopped	Persons Subsequently Arrested
<b>Persons Stopped</b>	Total Persons	Total Persons
North Belfast	1,991	178
West Belfast	1,580	124
<b>A District</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>302</b>
East Belfast	787	90
South Belfast	3,956	403
<b>B District</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>493</b>
Ards	491	57
Castlereagh	696	45
Down	808	51
North Down	528	21
<b>C District</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>174</b>
Antrim	653	51
Carrickfergus	171	14
Lisburn	1,989	182
Newtownabbey	747	64
<b>D District</b>	<b>3,560</b>	<b>311</b>
Armagh	873	62
Banbridge	746	48
Craigavon	1,395	108
Newry & Mourne	1,680	92
<b>E District</b>	<b>4,694</b>	<b>310</b>
Cookstown	508	27
Dungannon & S. Tyrone	370	20
Fermanagh	700	64
Omagh	383	23
<b>F District</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>134</b>
Foyle	2,813	206
Limavady	720	31
Magherafelt	535	17
Strabane	517	20
<b>G District</b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>274</b>
Ballymena	584	63
Ballymoney	210	13
Coleraine	755	79
Larne	189	20
Moyle	164	21
<b>H District</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>NI Overall</b>	<b>27,539</b>	<b>2,194</b>

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers by District by age group:  
1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015**

**Section 1 Table 3**

<b>Persons Stopped</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>Aged 17 or under</b>	<b>Aged 18 to 25</b>	<b>Aged 26 to 35</b>	<b>Aged 35 to 45</b>	<b>Aged 46 to 55</b>	<b>Aged 56 to 65</b>	<b>Aged over 65</b>
<b>A District</b>	3,571	26	579	1,253	927	455	269	53	9
<b>B District</b>	4,743	27	645	1,893	1260	598	238	73	9
<b>C District</b>	2,523	50	503	889	492	284	189	86	30
<b>D District</b>	3,560	16	685	1,555	752	316	181	40	15
<b>E District</b>	4,694	51	613	2,189	1,052	486	210	76	17
<b>F District</b>	1,961	20	316	933	405	168	82	31	6
<b>G District</b>	4,585	19	642	1,928	1,011	573	321	76	15
<b>H District</b>	1,902	35	347	850	409	167	68	21	5
<b>NI Overall</b>	<b>27,539</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>11,490</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>3,047</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>106</b>

Of all those persons stopped and searched/questioned the most frequently stopped age range was 18 to 25 year olds. They accounted for 11,490 (42%) of the 27,539 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned. The age group stopped less frequently were the over 65 year olds, who accounted for 106 (0.4%) of all stops.

Section 1 Table 2 highlights that 3,956 people were stopped in South Belfast in the 12 months to March 2015, more than any other area; with 2,813 people stopped in Foyle and 1,991 in North Belfast.

Over half (57%) of those stopped and searched during the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 were under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers), 15,660 in total for this period.

**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: 2013/14 – 2014/15**

**Section 2 Table 1**

	2013/14										2014/15									
	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	1,256	143	848	121	1,101	141	934	111	<b>4,139</b>	<b>516</b>	928	142	865	132	867	136	815	147	<b>3,475</b>	<b>557</b>
Offensive weapon / Blade or point	232	53	205	69	227	62	211	58	<b>875</b>	<b>242</b>	235	69	225	69	242	56	283	81	<b>985</b>	<b>275</b>
Going equipped / Prohibited articles	574	49	434	52	555	64	492	62	<b>2,055</b>	<b>227</b>	407	46	409	47	422	75	469	67	<b>1,707</b>	<b>235</b>
Fireworks	6	0	7	0	219	4	0	0	<b>232</b>	<b>4</b>	4	0	53	0	184	2	2	0	<b>243</b>	<b>2</b>
Drugs	3,932	241	3,926	238	4,761	297	4,381	289	<b>17,000</b>	<b>1,065</b>	3,855	210	3,462	238	3,891	280	4,452	253	<b>15,660</b>	<b>981</b>
Firearms	33	5	26	4	35	6	33	7	<b>127</b>	<b>22</b>	23	4	24	4	47	12	25	4	<b>119</b>	<b>24</b>

Note: Multiple reasons for some of the PACE searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched and arrested may not equal the sum of all reasons.

**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 2014 to 31st March 2015**

**Section 2 Table 2**

	PACE				Misuse of Drugs Act S23	Firearms Order
	Stolen Articles	Articles With Blade or Point	Prohibited Articles	Fireworks		
North Belfast	176	121	177	2	826	13
West Belfast	188	78	126	0	678	24
<b>A District</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>37</b>
East Belfast	146	50	89	18	349	2
South Belfast	674	209	311	9	2,296	9
<b>B District</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>11</b>
Ards	82	23	49	0	285	3
Castlereagh	109	39	53	0	216	1
Down	88	31	41	5	496	5
North Down	64	11	29	0	174	1
<b>C District</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>10</b>
Antrim	76	30	45	11	417	2
Carrickfergus	16	4	15	1	95	0
Lisburn	306	65	101	16	1,137	6
Newtownabbey	120	26	63	30	410	7
<b>D District</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>15</b>
Armagh	198	12	65	4	431	2
Banbridge	54	13	33	5	608	4
Craigavon	112	56	88	13	920	4
Newry and Mourne	148	41	55	20	1,209	7
<b>E District</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3,168</b>	<b>17</b>
Cookstown	38	12	18	12	379	0
Dungannon	40	2	12	15	229	1
Fermanagh	89	17	47	18	426	2
Omagh	16	7	9	11	304	6
<b>F District</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>9</b>
Foyle	407	66	151	7	1,271	6
Limavady	68	4	17	9	591	0
Magherafelt	34	2	27	8	367	5
Strabane	63	11	18	21	146	0
<b>G District</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>11</b>
Ballymena	51	28	23	0	432	4
Ballymoney	15	1	6	0	118	0
Coleraine	60	16	32	7	595	5
Larne	35	9	4	0	102	0
Moyle	2	1	3	1	153	0
<b>H District</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>NI Overall</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>15,660</b>	<b>119</b>

Note: Multiple reasons for some of the PACE searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched may not equal the sum of all reasons.