

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Stop and Search Statistics

Quarter 3 2015/16

1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015

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Key Statistics

- During the period 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015, 9,069 persons were stopped and searched/questioned. This is 1,275 more persons (16%) than the previous quarter (1st July 2015 to 30th September 2015) and 1,460 more persons (19%) than the same quarter of the previous year.
- Of those 9,069 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 586 were subsequently arrested (6%).
- There were 2,224 persons stopped and searched under PACE (including a combination of PACE and other powers) of whom 295 (13%) were subsequently arrested.
- Of all 9,069 persons stopped and searched, over half (4,859 or 54%) were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers), a similar proportion to the previous quarters. Of the 4,859 persons stopped during the most recent quarter, 1,244 were in Belfast City policing district. After Belfast City, the policing district with the greatest number of stops was Lisburn and Castlereagh (678 stops).
- Of those 9,069 persons stopped and searched or stopped and questioned, 17% (1,481 persons) were aged 17 and under (where age is known). Of those 1,481 persons aged 17 and under, 54% stopped and searched were 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 (*Pages 4 to 6*)

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 (*Pages 7 to 8*)

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.

Section Three: Trend Information (*Pages 9 to 11*)

This section includes longer term trend information on the use of all legislative powers from 2004/2005.

Figures for the year 2015/16 are provisional and subject to minor amendment. Finalised data will be published in the 2015/16 end of year report.

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. While previously published figures for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 were based on a best approximation to the new boundaries, figures for Quarter 3 in this bulletin are based on the fully implemented boundaries.

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

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.

Section One – Persons stopped and searched**Section 1 Table 1 – Number of persons stopped and searched/stopped and questioned by each legislative power: 2014/15 and 2015/16**

Persons stopped under:	2014/15					2015/16			
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	TOTAL
PACE	1,536	1,516	1,692	1,537	6,281	1,468	1,635	2,192	5,295
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	23	19	18	23	83	22	33	25	80
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PACE & Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
PACE & Firearms Order S53	1	0	3	1	5	2	2	0	4
PACE & JSA 21	5	13	0	6	24	0	0	4	4
PACE & JSA 24	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	0	4
PACE & TACT S43	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3
PACE & Other legislative power	6	2	2	1	11	4	0	0	4
Misuse of Drugs Act S23	3,816	3,428	3,860	4,421	15,525	3,892	4,219	4,813	12,924
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & Other legislative power	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	2
Firearms Order S53	21	23	42	23	109	58	38	38	134
Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	1	0	1	0	2	4	0	2	6
Firearms Order S53 & other legislative power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Firearms Order S53 & JSA S24	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Firearms Order S53 & TACT S43A	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
TACT S43	25	18	27	22	92	19	36	28	83
TACT S43A	1	1	1	3	6	6	2	2	10
TACT S47A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A	5	4	4	14	27	9	20	35	64
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21	1	0	0	4	5	2	0	0	2
TACT S43A & JSA S21	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
JSA 21	199	207	583	261	1,250	375	323	346	1,044
JSA S21 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	4	11	7	5	27	5	0	7	12
JSA S21 & JSA S24	84	112	232	162	590	100	159	198	457
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & PACE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
JSA S21 & other legislative power	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
JSA S24	899	523	1,088	762	3,272	983	1,291	1,336	3,610
JSA S24 & other legislative power	3	1	5	2	11	0	1	5	6
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	5	2	4	3	14	1	2	11	14
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & other legislative power	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
JSA S24 & TACT S43A	1	2	0	2	5	1	0	1	2
JSA S24 & JSA S21 & other legislative power	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & JSA S21	0	4	3	8	15	4	3	0	7
TACT S43 & JSA S24 & JSA S21	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
TACT S43 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S24	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
TACT S43A & JSA S21 & JSA S24	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other legislative powers	76	28	35	20	159	21	24	21	66
Total Persons stopped and searched/questioned	6,725	5,919	7,609	7,286	27,539	6,984	7,794	9,069	23,847

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, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.

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

Section 1 Table 2

	Persons Stopped	Persons Subsequently Arrested
	Total Persons	Total Persons
Belfast City Policing	2,416	199
North Area Policing	3,086	171
Antrim & Newtownabbey	697	44
Causeway Coast & Glens	740	56
Derry City & Strabane	1,160	52
Mid & East Antrim	489	19
South Area Policing	3,567	216
Ards & North Down	244	18
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	848	57
Fermanagh & Omagh	229	24
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1,243	69
Mid Ulster	314	20
Newry, Mourne & Down	689	28
Northern Ireland	9,069	586

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers by Police Area and District by age group:
1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015**

Section 1 Table 3

Persons Stopped	Total Persons	Not Specified	Aged 17 and under	Aged 18 to 25	Aged 26 to 35	Aged 36 to 45	Aged 46 to 55	Aged 56 to 65	Aged over 65
Belfast City Policing	2,416	34	275	878	701	336	146	40	6
North Area Policing	3,086	71	548	1,197	580	377	227	68	18
Antrim & Newtownabbey	697	7	156	342	103	59	24	4	2
Causeway Coast & Glens	740	22	94	285	183	75	53	20	8
Derry City & Strabane	1,160	2	212	381	203	196	128	32	6
Mid & East Antrim	489	40	86	189	91	47	22	12	2
South Area Policing	3,567	73	658	1,571	715	329	155	60	6
Ards & North Down	244	3	57	118	37	18	8	3	0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	848	12	158	375	162	85	47	8	1
Fermanagh & Omagh	229	6	35	104	55	17	7	4	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1,243	32	242	523	249	107	55	31	4
Mid Ulster	314	6	38	145	77	35	9	4	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	689	14	128	306	135	67	29	10	0
Northern Ireland	9,069	178	1,481	3,646	1,996	1,042	528	168	30

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: 2014/15 – 2015/16

Section 2 Table 1

	2014/15										2015/16							
	Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		Oct-Dec		Jan-Mar		TOTAL		Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		Oct-Dec		TOTAL	
	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests
Stolen property / articles	928	142	865	132	867	136	815	147	3,475	557	789	151	910	143	1,104	130	2,803	424
Offensive weapon / Blade or point	235	69	225	69	242	56	283	81	985	275	316	90	322	90	302	84	940	264
Going equipped / Prohibited articles	407	46	409	47	422	75	469	67	1,707	235	393	54	409	74	557	77	1,359	205
Fireworks	4	0	53	0	184	2	2	0	243	2	1	0	31	2	261	4	293	6
Drugs	3,855	210	3,462	238	3,891	280	4,452	253	15,660	981	3,926	249	4,256	301	4,859	273	13,041	823
Firearms	23	4	24	4	47	12	25	4	119	24	64	19	42	8	41	9	147	36

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

Number of persons stopped/searched under PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order by reason for search by Police Area and District: 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015

Section 2 Table 2

	PACE				Non-PACE	
	Stolen Articles	Articles With Blade or Point	Prohibited Articles	Fireworks	Misuse of Drugs Act S23	Firearms Order
Belfast City Policing	343	128	173	12	1,244	16
North Area Policing	298	85	177	99	1,401	11
Antrim & Newtownabbey	78	22	81	38	358	3
Causeway Coast & Glens	57	8	13	27	391	7
Derry City & Strabane	116	34	65	25	380	1
Mid & East Antrim	47	21	18	9	272	0
South Area Policing	463	89	207	150	2,214	14
Ards & North Down	34	7	11	1	184	0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	82	18	46	35	578	3
Fermanagh & Omagh	33	10	12	18	137	2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	209	25	99	28	678	3
Mid Ulster	21	16	12	16	199	4
Newry, Mourne & Down	84	13	27	52	438	2
Northern Ireland	1,104	302	557	261	4,859	41

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

Section Three – Trend Information

The following table and figures illustrate longer-term trend information for the number of stop and searches/stop and questions carried out since 2004/2005.

Number of persons stopped/searched or stopped/questioned under each legislation between 1st April 2004 and 31st March 2015 by financial year.

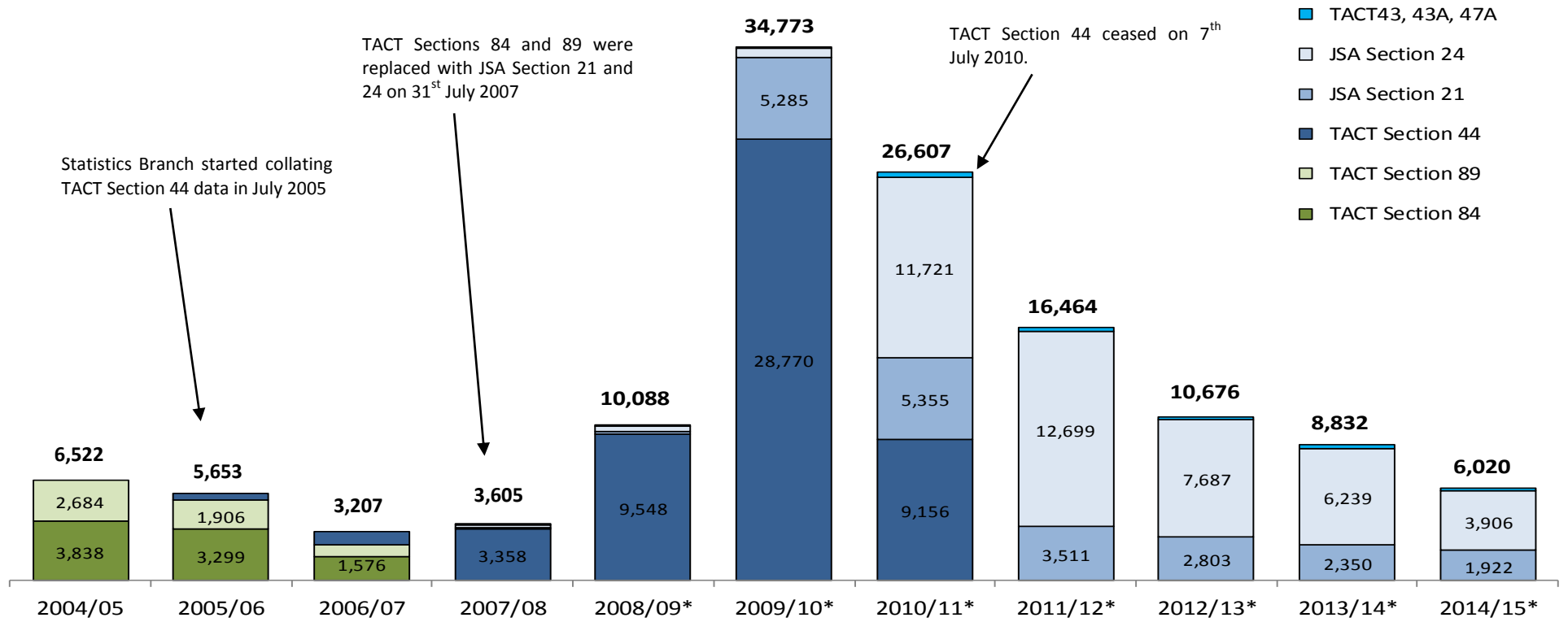
Section 3 Table 1

Legislation	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 ⁽¹⁾	2009/10 ⁽¹⁾	2010/11 ⁽¹⁾	2011/12 ⁽¹⁾	2012/13 ⁽¹⁾	2013/14 ⁽¹⁾	2014/15 ⁽¹⁾
PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order	14,434	16,036	16,174	15,362	20,011	23,990	22,785	20,746	20,910	24,428	22,189
TACT - Section 84 ⁽²⁾	3,838	3,299	1,576								
- Section 89 ⁽²⁾	2,684	1,906	718								
- Section 44 ⁽³⁾		448	913	3,358	9,548	28,770	9,156				
- Section 43/43A ⁽⁴⁾				13	56	97	375	254	186	173	192
- Section 47A ⁽⁵⁾								0	0	70	0
JSA - Section 21 ⁽²⁾				28	112	5,285	5,355	3,511	2,803	2,350	1,922
- Section 24 ⁽²⁾				251	372	621	11,721	12,699	7,687	6,239	3,906
Other legislative powers ⁽⁶⁾									294	417	190
Total uses of each legislative power	20,956	21,689	19,381	19,012	30,099	58,763	49,392	37,210	31,880	33,677	28,399
Total no. of persons stopped/searched⁽⁷⁾	20,956	21,689	19,381	19,012	30,099	53,885	45,394	35,268	30,502	32,590	27,539
PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order	69%	74%	83%	81%	66%	41%	46%	56%	66%	73%	78%
All Terrorism Act Powers	31%	26%	17%	18%	32%	49%	19%	1%	1%	1%	1%
All JSA Powers	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	10%	35%	44%	33%	26%	21%
Other legislative powers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
All Powers⁽⁸⁾	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- (1) Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.
- (2) Part VII of the Terrorism Act lapsed from midnight on the 31st July 2007. As a result Section 84 of TACT was replaced by Section 24 of the Justice and Security Act (JSA) and Section 89 of TACT was replaced by JSA Section 21 (power to stop and question).
- (3) Statistics Branch started collating TACT Section 44 data in July 2005. TACT Section 44 ceased on 7th July 2010.
- (4) Statistics Branch started collating TACT Section 43 and 43A during quarter 3 of 2007/08.
- (5) TACT Section 47A has been in place since March 2011 although the power has only been authorised for use during one period in May 2013.
- (6) On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the PSNI's STOPS database to ensure that stop/searches conducted under less frequently used powers would be captured under an 'Other legislative powers' category. '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, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.
- (7) The difference between total use of each power and total no. of persons stopped/searched will be due to persons stopped under combinations of powers being counted under each legislation used (i.e. someone stopped under JSA S21 and JSA S24 will have a count of one under each of these powers).
- (8) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Terrorism related legislation - Section 3 Figure 1

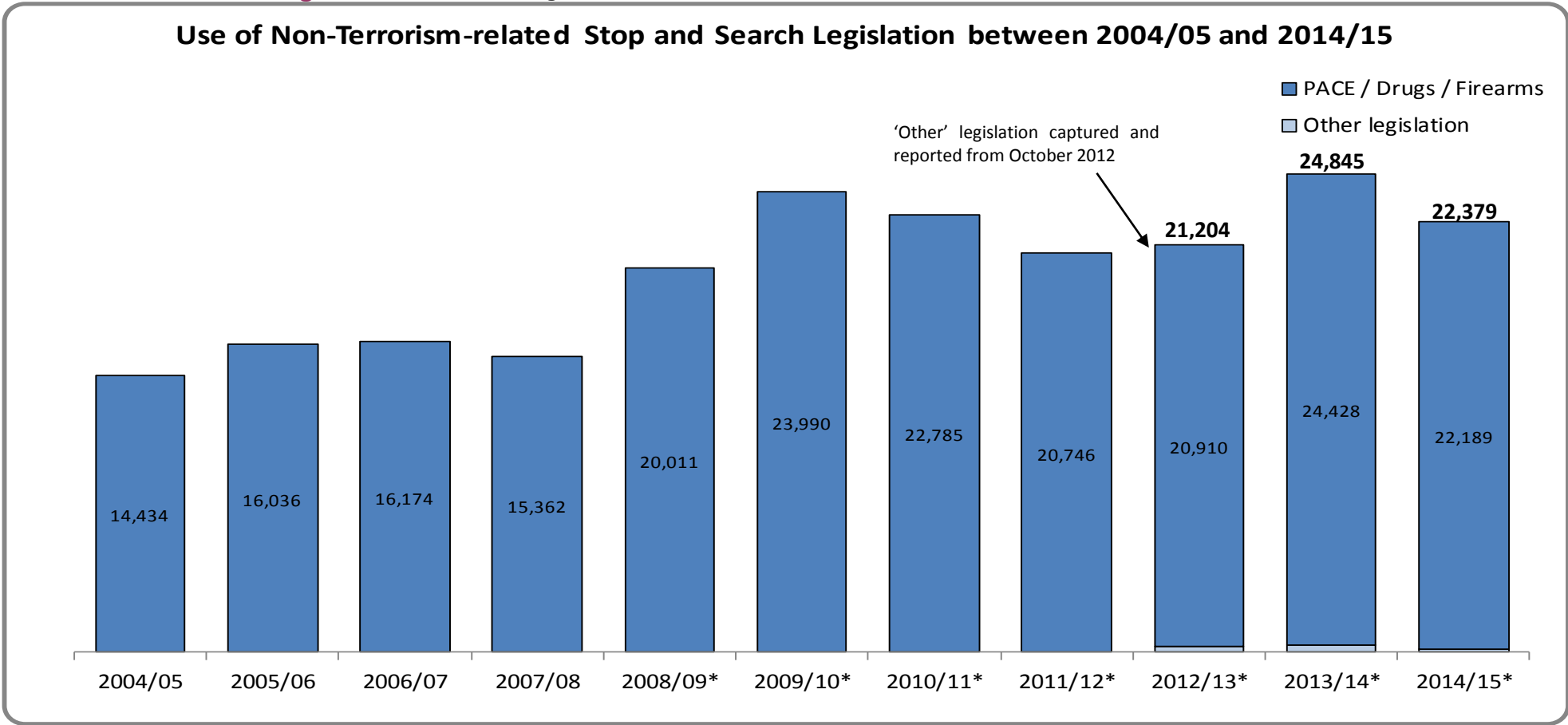
Use of Terrorism-related Stop and Search/Stop and Question Legislation between 2004/05 and 2014/15



* Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.

** For presentational purposes the count of less frequently used powers are not displayed in the graph above (e.g. TACT S44 in 2005/2006) but are included in the overall totals at the top of each bar. For a count of those less frequently used powers refer to Section 3 Table 1.

Non-Terrorism related legislation - Section 3 Figure 2



* Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.

** On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the PSNI's STOPS database to ensure that stop/searches conducted under less frequently used powers would be captured under an 'Other legislative powers' category. '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, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.

*** For presentational purposes the count of 'Other legislation' (recorded from October 2012) is not displayed in the graph above but is included in the overall totals at the top of each bar. For a count of 'Other legislation' refer to Section 3 Table 1.