

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.

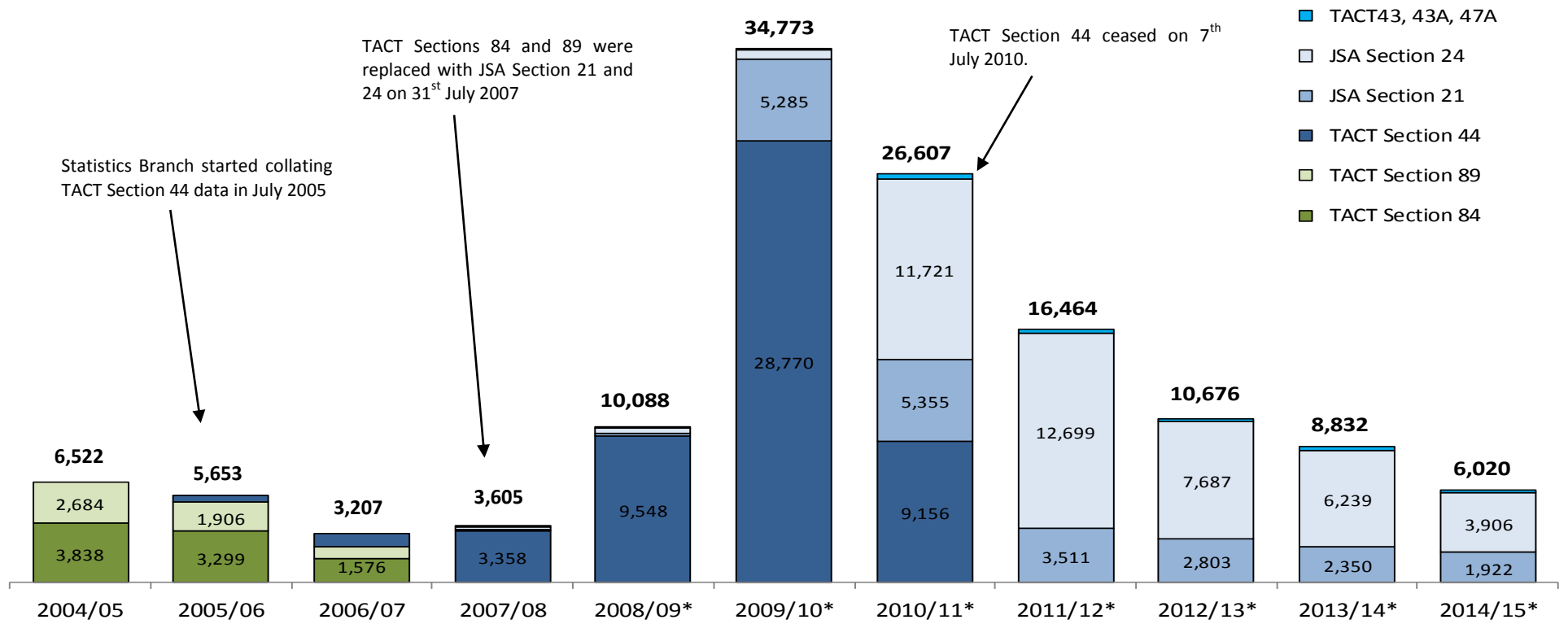
Section 3 Table 1

| 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

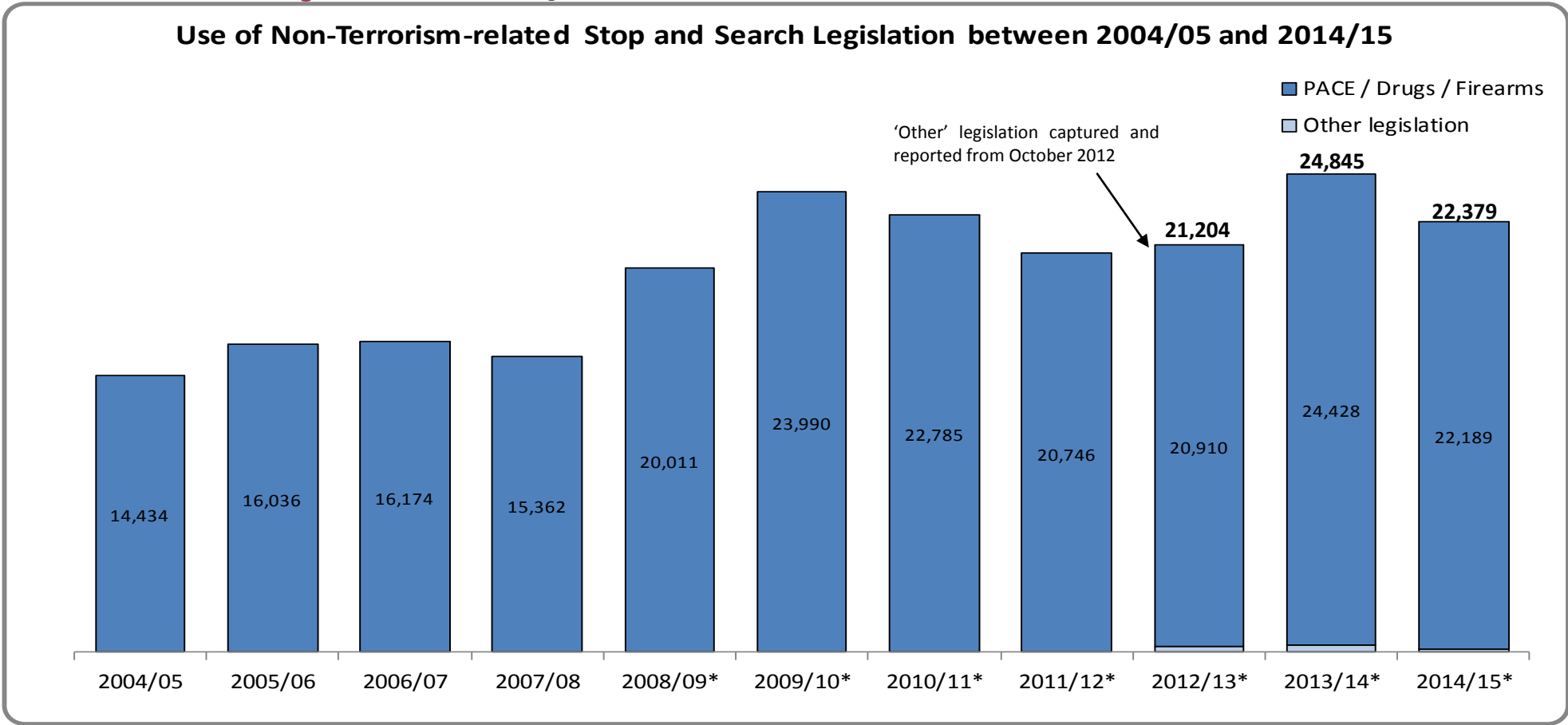
Use of Terrorism-related Stop and Search/Stop and Question Legislation between 2004/05 and 2014/15



* 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.