

PSNI Statistics Branch - Data Developments log

As with any organisation, PSNI evolves in terms of its purpose, aims and objectives. While major changes are infrequent, subtle changes come about through changes to legislation, policy directives and implementation of new or more cost effective IT solutions. As producers of official statistics we have a responsibility to keep abreast of developments, both internal and external, that will impact on the analysis that we carry out and the information we disseminate to our users.

The accompanying table includes upcoming changes we are aware of that will impact on our role. This is a live document that will be updated on an ad-hoc basis as and when we become aware of proposed changes to data supply or identify a new source of data.

There are a number of issues that need to be taken into account when dealing with changes to our data supply. The list below should not be considered complete but will be used as a starting point. And not all issues will apply to all changes in data supply.

Engagement

- Liaison with our IT colleagues, project teams and any other stakeholders should happen at the earliest opportunity
- Identify and agree Single Point of Contact
- Agree feedback process with our IT colleagues
- Agree data specifications and format
- Discuss requirements and expectations with users
- Raise concerns through appropriate channels

Timings

- When will the system or legislative change occur?
- When will this impact on data supply?
- Ensure as far as possible that frequency and timing of supply meets requirements
- Agree supply of test data if appropriate

Code of Practice

- Assess quality implications for data and outputs
- Document quality improvements or limitations in user guides
- Determine impact in terms of coherence and comparability
- Check new data against other internal and external published data e.g. PSNI, Road Safety Partnership, Department of Justice
- Update relevant quality assurance documentation

Continuity

- Will new systems incorporate old data? (Migration of historic records)
- Will old & new sources be merged, appended or analysed separately

Ref	Data Source	Type of change - Legislative Change, System Change, Statistical Review or other change (specify)	Comments	Timings
001	Stop & Search	System	S&S recording moving to an in-house app and potentially linking to NICHE (the record management system specifically designed for police services to record and manage occurrences), as opposed to the current STOPS database.	In-house app currently under development, with no timeline for the move to NICHE.
002	Stop & Search	Implementation of legislation regarding retention	Removal of individual identifiers after 12 months.	The latest version of the PSNI Data Retention and Disposal Schedule is currently with the Public Record Office awaiting submission to the library of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly.
003	Use of Force	System	UoF recording moving to NICHE rather than the current standalone UoF database.	Initial testing may not take place until late 2020 at the earliest.
004	Motoring Offences (StarDome and Niche)	Legislative	Creation of a careless driving fixed penalty offence for Northern Ireland.	Dependent on the NI Assembly making required legislative change.
005	Motoring Offences (StarDome and Niche)	Legislative	Graduated Driver Licence - potential for new offences.	Intended to be introduced in 2020-21

006	Motoring Offences (StarDome and Niche)	Legislative	Reduction of drink drive limit will introduce new offences which will need to be added to Niche.	Date unknown due to delay within PSNI in the acquisition of new equipment required for implementation.
007	Road Safety Partnership (StarDome)	Review of RSP handbook	Changes to the handbook may require changes to statistical coding and analysis.	To follow RSP Strategy, which has been drafted.
008	All motoring and Injury Road Traffic Collisions data	Legislative	DFI Road Safety Strategy due to expire in 2020, potential for new data requirements from DfI.	Development of this has stalled due to COVID-19.
009	Injury Road Traffic Collisions (Niche)	Statistical Review	Stats19 review may result in changes to RTC recording practices in GB, which PSNI may implement for consistency.	2020-21
010	Custody Data	Development Work	Potential to acquire Custody Data to publish Official Stats from PSNI.	Scoping exercise due to take place 2020/2021.