

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

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- In the 12 months from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, there were 3,709 stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, of which the greatest number (42%) were in relation to stolen articles.
- There were 14 road checks authorised in 2020/21, all of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a witness to an indictable offence.
- There were 19,689 arrests¹ made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2020/21, 84% of which were males.
- During 2020/21 there were 35 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 20 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention.

¹ Arrest figures are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Keeping People Safe



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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address above or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

1. Introduction

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).

This bulletin presents Police and Criminal Evidence Order (PACE) statistics for the Police Service of Northern Ireland for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, as required by statute. Reported are statistics on

- i) the number of stop and searches under PACE by objective of search and the number of subsequent arrests.
- ii) the number of Article 6 (PACE) road checks authorised and the reason for these.
- iii) persons detained under PACE.

PACE detention statistics are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers in each custody suite and relate to the period of original detention only.

2. Article 5 – Persons or Vehicles Stopped and Searched

Table 1: Number of stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021

| | | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Stolen Property / Articles | Searches | 92 | 122 | 123 | 146 | 117 | 103 | 142 | 156 | 153 | 129 | 128 | 133 | 1,544 |
| | Arrests ¹ | 13 | 16 | 16 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 36 | 29 | 30 | 25 | 27 | 26 | 293 |
| Offensive Weapon / Blade or Point | Searches | 27 | 39 | 51 | 69 | 42 | 33 | 76 | 49 | 38 | 58 | 67 | 65 | 614 |
| | Arrests ¹ | 7 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 147 |
| Going Equipped / Prohibited Articles | Searches | 96 | 116 | 66 | 88 | 62 | 84 | 82 | 85 | 86 | 71 | 84 | 94 | 1,014 |
| | Arrests ¹ | 13 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 131 |
| Fireworks | Searches | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 76 | 371 | 39 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 537 |
| | Arrests ¹ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | Searches | 216 | 280 | 242 | 311 | 224 | 296 | 671 | 329 | 295 | 263 | 284 | 298 | 3,709 |
| | Arrests¹ | 33 | 34 | 37 | 54 | 48 | 42 | 55 | 66 | 51 | 46 | 52 | 55 | 573 |

¹ Arrests as a result of stop and search. Arrest may not be related to the initial reason for the stop and search.

3. Article 6 – Road Checks

There were 14 road checks authorised in 2020/21, all of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a witness to an indictable offence.

4. PACE Detention Statistics

Table 2: Arrests under PACE by gender and whether requests for friends / relatives or a solicitor were made, for each quarter during 2020/21

| | Arrests under PACE ¹ | | | | Of which there was a request for | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Total | Gender | | | Friend / relative etc. | Solicitor |
| | | Male | Female | Unknown / Other | | |
| April 20 – June 20 | 4,528 | 3,854 | 674 | 0 | 1,405 | 3,033 |
| July 20 – September 20 | 5,478 | 4,548 | 926 | 4 | 1,618 | 3,629 |
| October 20 – December 20 | 5,287 | 4,361 | 925 | 1 | 1,614 | 3,577 |
| January 21 – March 21 | 4,396 | 3,723 | 670 | 3 | 1,363 | 3,046 |
| Total | 19,689 | 16,486 | 3,195 | 8 | 6,000 | 13,285 |

¹ Arrest figures are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers and relate to the period of original detention only.

Extended Detention: During 2020/21 there were 35 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

Magistrate's Warrants: There were 20 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2020/21, in relation to 18 individuals. Three of these applications were for 24 hours or less, 4 were for between 25 and 35 hours and the other 13 were for a period of 36 hours. Of the 20 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 2 of these were for a second warrant of further detention. Of the 18 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 3 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 13 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and the remaining 2 people were detained over 36 hours under the authority of these warrants. A total of 13 persons were subsequently charged.

Intimate Searches: There was one intimate search carried out by a suitably qualified person during 2020/21, which was in relation to a drugs offence (positive result).

X-rays & ultrasound scans: During 2020/21 6 x-rays were carried out (all negative results). No ultrasound scans were recorded.