



Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

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Key Statistics

- In the 12 months from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, there were 2,887 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 4 road checks authorised in 2021/22, all of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a witness to an indictable offence.
- There were 20,528 arrests¹ made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2021/22, 83% of which were males.
- During 2021/22 there were 28 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention.

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

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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page 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 2021 to 31 March 2022, 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 and relate to the period of original detention only.

2. PACE 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 2021 and 31 March 2022

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Stolen Property / Articles	Searches	82	119	91	124	121	101	118	124	77	81	65	100	1,203
	Arrests ²	15	23	13	19	36	23	30	31	18	18	17	28	271
Offensive Weapon / Blade or Point	Searches	69	76	78	72	84	65	80	58	60	68	47	51	808
	Arrests ²	13	10	28	13	17	14	19	10	12	14	9	13	172
Going Equipped / Prohibited Articles	Searches	122	74	63	84	82	69	68	54	57	74	46	41	834
	Arrests ²	10	25	16	9	16	12	3	10	10	9	8	7	135
Fireworks	Searches	8	1	1	7	6	16	184	3	1	1	1	1	230
	Arrests ²	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	Searches¹	281	270	233	271	263	227	430	226	172	197	138	179	2,887
	Arrests²	38	58	57	40	64	48	53	49	35	39	30	48	559

(1) As more than one reason can be used to carry out a stop and search, the sum of the reasons may be greater than the total number of stop and searches under PACE.

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

3. PACE Article 6 – Road Checks

There were 4 road checks authorised in 2021/22, 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 2021/22

	Arrests under PACE ¹				Of which there was a request for	
	Total	Gender			Friend / relative etc.	Solicitor
		Male	Female	Unknown / Other		
April 21 – June 21	5,236	4,337	896	3	1,637	3,599
July 21 – September 21	5,431	4,497	925	9	1,703	3,739
October 21 – December 21	4,987	4,133	850	4	1,607	3,391
January 22 – March 22	4,874	4,020	853	1	1,537	3,321
Total	20,528	16,987	3,524	17	6,484	14,050

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

Extended Detention: During 2021/22 there were 28 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

Magistrate's Warrants: There were 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2021/22, in relation to 17 individuals. Five of these applications were for 24 hours or less, 6 were for between 25 and 35 hours and the other 13 were for a period of 36 hours.

Of the 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 7 of these were for a second warrant of further detention.

Of the 17 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 3 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 7 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and the remaining 7 people were detained over 36 hours under the authority of these warrants. A total of 12 persons were subsequently charged.

Intimate Searches: There were no intimate searches recorded during 2021/22.

X-rays & ultrasound scans: During 2021/22 two x-rays were carried out (both negative results). No ultrasound scans were recorded.