



Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

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In the 12 months from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022:

- There were 39,957 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, which were dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice, speed awareness course or referral for prosecution.
- This represented a decrease of 11% on the 45,062 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with a notable reduction in mobile phone offences detected (30%).
- Speeding offences were the largest offence group recorded (6,706) and along with insurance (6,609) accounted for one-third of the total detections.
- The highest speed detected by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 140mph, on the M1, Craigavon.
- The number of vehicle test certificate offences remain low compared with pre-covid levels which resulted in a significant decrease due to reduced traffic and automatic MOT renewals. However, such offences have increased by 59% between October 2020 – September 2021 and October 2021 – September 2022.



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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. Things you need to know about this release

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

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland from 1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership (NI RSP). Figures relating to such detections through the Partnership can be accessed via the following link – [NI RSP](#).

The range of disposals covered includes those offences dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice (FPN), speed awareness course and referral for prosecution.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 21st November 2022. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2020 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment. The information is also available in tabular format in the [accompanying spreadsheets](#) on the PSNI website.

Background information and details of the offences included in each offence grouping can be found in the [Motoring Offence User Guide](#) on the PSNI website. Please note the figures refer to the number of offences and not the number of persons detected as a person can be detected for more than one offence.

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in March 2020 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- In November 2020, a review of the motoring offence codes was conducted to ensure all appropriate offences continue to be included in the statistics, with the referred for prosecution figures amended accordingly.
- In October 2021, a further review of the motoring offence codes was completed and as a result the offence groups were amended to better reflect the offences recorded within them.

Uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring, and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), media and academics.

More detail can be found in the Motoring Offence User Guide which can be accessed via the [motoring offences](#) statistics web page on the PSNI website.

Related statistics

Sources of motoring offences data for other domains include [An Garda Síochána - Republic of Ireland](#) and [England and Wales](#). Related statistics include [Injury road traffic collision statistics](#) and [NI Road Safety Partnership](#) statistics.

2. Summary

Table 1 shows that, over the last 12 months:

- The number of motoring offences detected fell by 11% to 39,957
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 12%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 8%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 15%

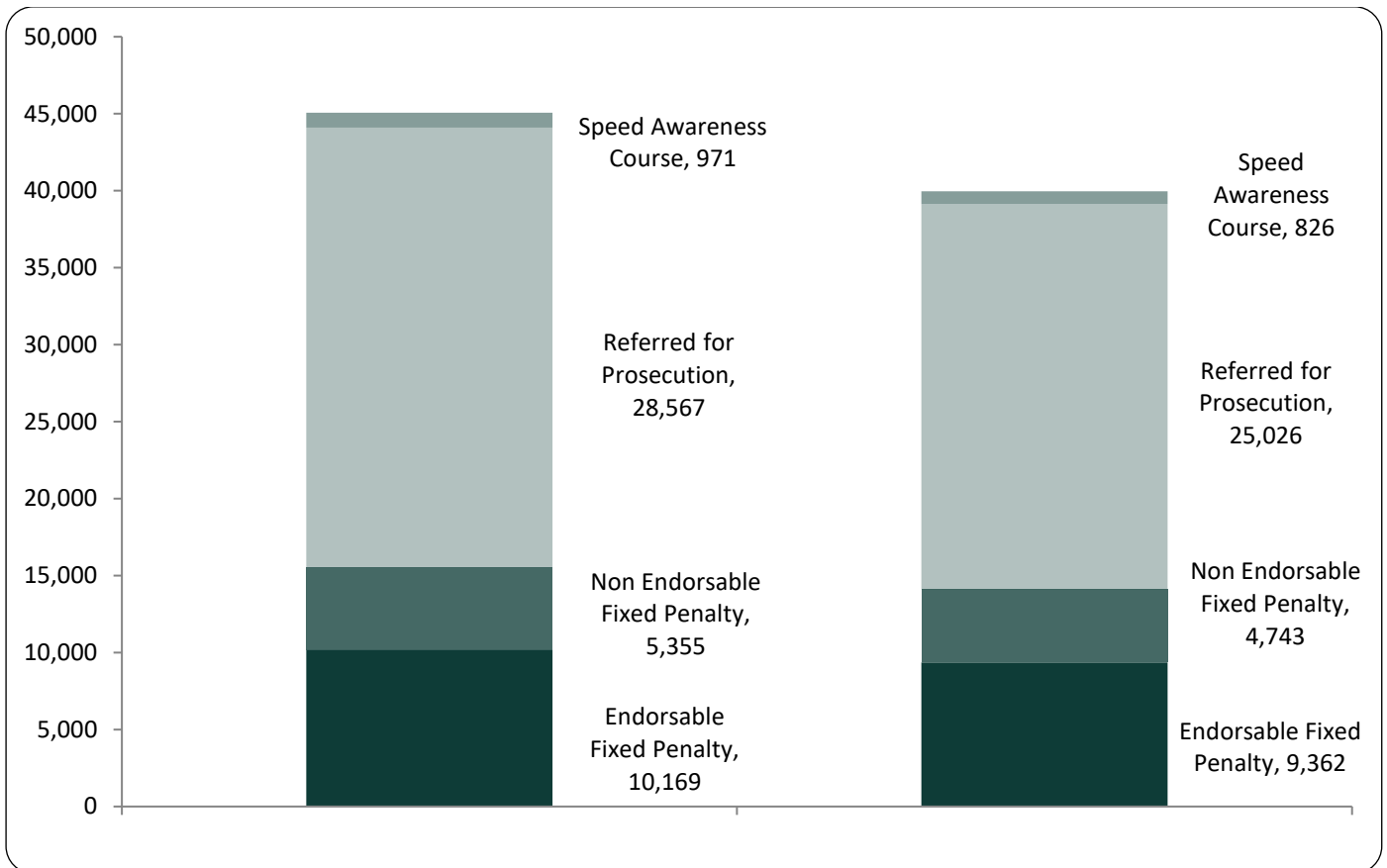
Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2022*

	1 st Oct 2020 – 30 th Sept 2021	1 st Oct 2021 – 30 th Sept 2022	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	10,169	9,362	-807	-8
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	5,355	4,743	-612	-11
Referred for Prosecution	28,567	25,026	-3,541	-12
Speed Awareness Course	971	826	-145	-15
Total	45,062	39,957	-5,105	-11

*Figures are provisional and subject to change.

1. Note that not all detections in the most recent few months will have been processed as yet, particularly those referred for prosecution.

Figure 1 Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences between 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2021 and 1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022



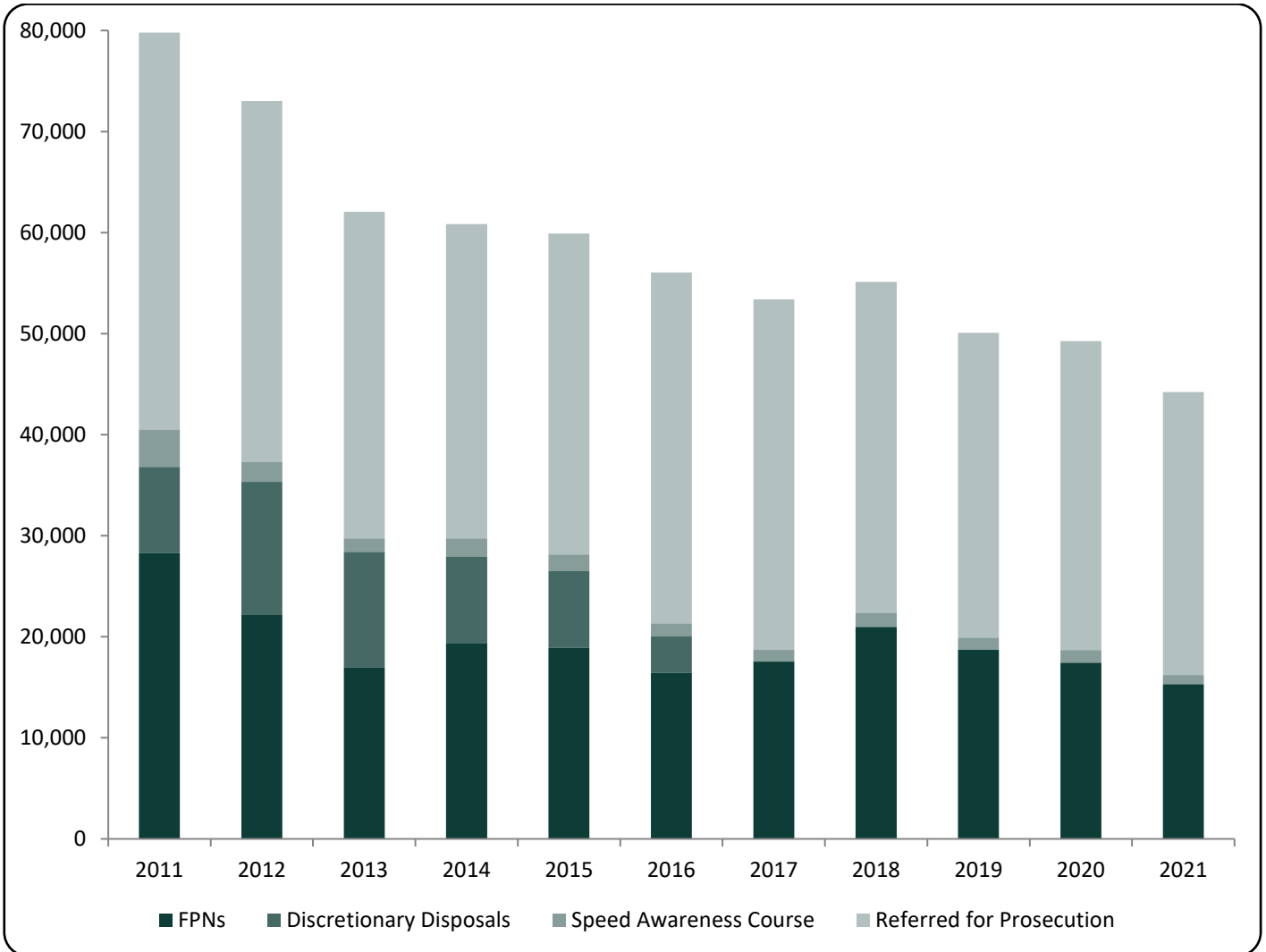
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

3. Trends

The number of motoring offences have been generally decreasing over a 10 year period from a total of 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 44,225 recorded in 2021 (see figure 2).

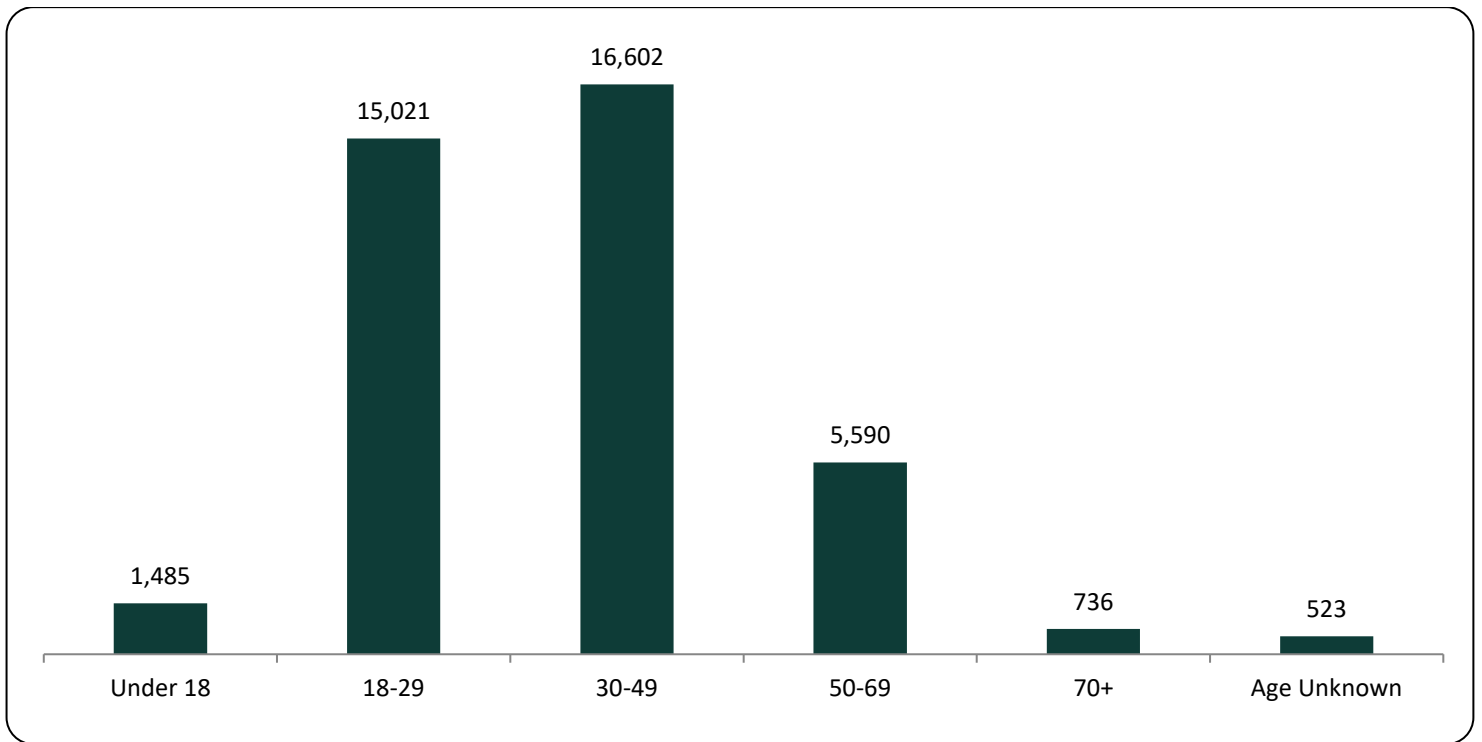
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but was then removed on 31st July 2016.

Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1st January 2011 – 31st December 2021



4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2022 where age is known, followed by those aged 18-29 (38%). Almost all (99%) of the unknown ages refer to non endorsable offences, which can be issued in the absence of the offender and do not require licence details to process, for example parking offences.
- Males accounted for 8 in 10 of all motoring offences detected between 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2022.

5. Offence Group

Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group¹
1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022*

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	84	184	5	3	66	79	62	9	54	273
Careless driving	928	3,138	5	129	1,397	1,564	797	180	4	4,071
Construction & use	395	2,326	8	119	1,648	702	211	25	24	2,729
Dangerous driving	161	1,270	1	72	725	464	146	25	0	1,432
Drink or drug driving	572	2,327	2	23	801	1,508	523	46	0	2,901
Driving licence	483	2,638	5	118	1,081	1,511	363	53	0	3,126
Driving whilst disqualified	109	912	2	95	284	543	93	8	0	1,023
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	393	1,789	3	107	722	962	307	87	0	2,185
Fraudulent use / declaration	36	196	0	7	62	123	33	7	0	232
Insurance	1,200	5,397	12	250	2,559	3,024	700	76	0	6,609
L & R driver	239	1,559	8	170	900	565	154	17	0	1,806
Miscellaneous	109	797	1	74	381	344	95	13	0	907
Mobile phone	315	1,515	1	8	426	959	411	27	0	1,831
Non-driver	233	276	2	13	202	230	58	7	1	511
Parking	384	616	46	4	277	225	102	4	434	1,046
Seatbelt	130	588	3	8	248	319	120	25	1	721
Speeding	1,934	4,771	1	126	2,575	2,675	1,220	110	0	6,706
Vehicle TADA / tampering	83	813	5	141	354	365	40	1	0	901
Vehicle test certificate	167	779	1	18	313	440	155	16	5	947
Total	7,955	31,891	111	1,485	15,021	16,602	5,590	736	523	39,957

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

¹ Please refer to section 7 further information for more detail regarding the offence groups.

- Table 1 shows a drop of 8% in the number of endorsable tickets issued in past 12 months when compared with previous 12 months, this is mainly attributed to large fall in tickets issued for dangerous driving and mobile phone offences.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was speeding offences with a total of 6,706 detections, accounting for 17% of all detections for motoring offences. This was a decrease of 6% on the number recorded in the previous 12 months.
- Insurance offences also accounted for 17% of all offences, a reduction of 11% on the number recorded between October 2020 and September 2021.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 140mph, on the M1, Craigavon.
- In the latest 12 months, the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 9 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (59,830).
- Only two out of the nineteen offence groups reported an increase in the number of detections over the year, one of which was vehicle test certificates, which increased by 59% between October 2020 – September 2021 and October 2021 – September 2022 however, remains lower than pre-Covid levels.
- Mobile phone offences showed a decrease of almost one-third over the 12 month period, reducing by 30% (801 detections).
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- Almost one quarter of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- The number of vehicle test certificate offences remain low compared with pre-covid levels which resulted in a significant decrease due to reduced traffic and automatic MOT renewals. However, such offences have increased by 59% between October 2020 – September 2021 and October 2021 – September 2022.
- Over two-fifths of those detected for insurance offences were aged under 30.

Table 3 Number of motoring offences by month and offence group¹, 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2022*

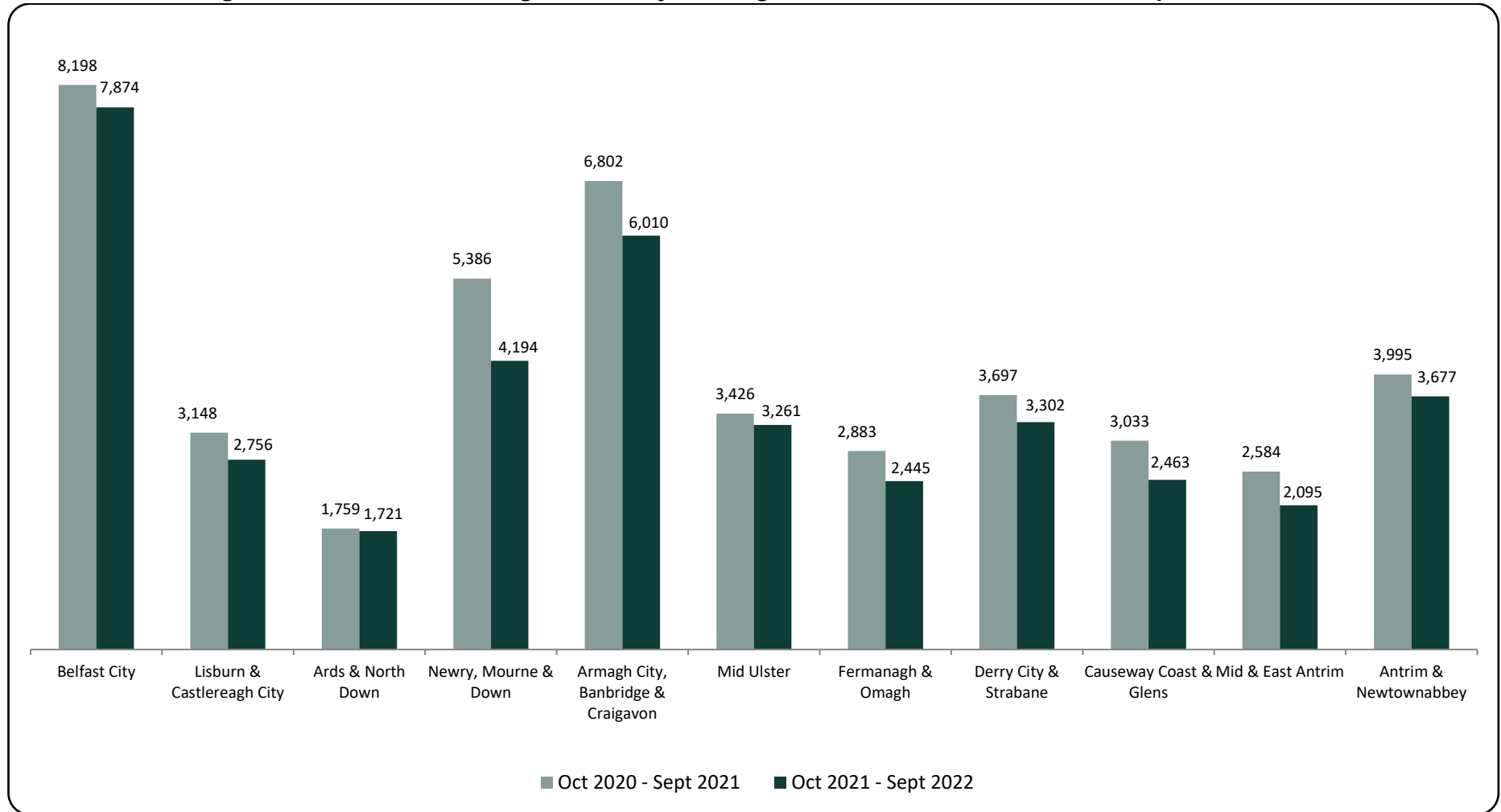
Offence group	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021 - Sept 2022	Oct 2020 – Sept 2021	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Breach of signs & signals	41	13	18	21	13	19	12	16	18	31	48	23	273	340	-67	-20
Careless driving	406	368	355	350	276	331	350	361	343	344	285	302	4,071	4,254	-183	-4
Construction & use	238	280	158	184	145	217	251	237	229	281	232	277	2,729	3,054	-325	-11
Dangerous driving	134	144	114	114	91	140	125	116	122	124	114	94	1,432	1,909	-477	-25
Drink or drug driving	292	249	287	213	198	236	223	254	230	259	240	220	2,901	2,846	55	2
Driving licence	307	255	281	248	225	243	250	274	259	296	254	234	3,126	3,869	-743	-19
Driving whilst disqualified	97	71	79	92	62	90	92	79	100	88	78	95	1,023	1,116	-93	-8
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	233	199	191	180	154	185	203	214	184	167	130	145	2,185	2,667	-482	-18
Fraudulent use / declaration	28	21	18	14	17	23	22	20	20	20	16	13	232	289	-57	-20
Insurance	631	478	523	502	450	580	533	607	525	620	585	575	6,609	7,432	-823	-11
L & R driver	200	141	149	120	112	155	140	179	143	199	125	143	1,806	1,847	-41	-2
Miscellaneous	77	70	87	87	64	84	60	82	73	89	73	61	907	1,013	-106	-10
Mobile phone	208	178	93	143	121	162	110	140	171	183	153	169	1,831	2,632	-801	-30
Non-driver	50	39	44	45	27	48	53	51	31	40	40	43	511	641	-130	-20
Parking	94	76	32	84	36	110	108	56	54	155	165	76	1,046	1,331	-285	-21
Seatbelt	60	53	47	52	34	86	57	58	59	80	89	46	721	886	-165	-19
Speeding	585	559	361	592	409	567	611	506	598	760	626	532	6,706	7,097	-391	-6
Vehicle TADA / tampering	90	68	90	81	66	78	107	96	58	64	55	48	901	1,242	-341	-27
Vehicle test certificate	87	84	65	96	65	90	90	69	72	82	77	70	947	597	350	59
Total	3,858	3,346	2,992	3,218	2,565	3,444	3,397	3,415	3,289	3,882	3,385	3,166	39,957	45,062	-5,105	-11

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

¹ Please refer to section 7 further information for more detail regarding the offence groups.

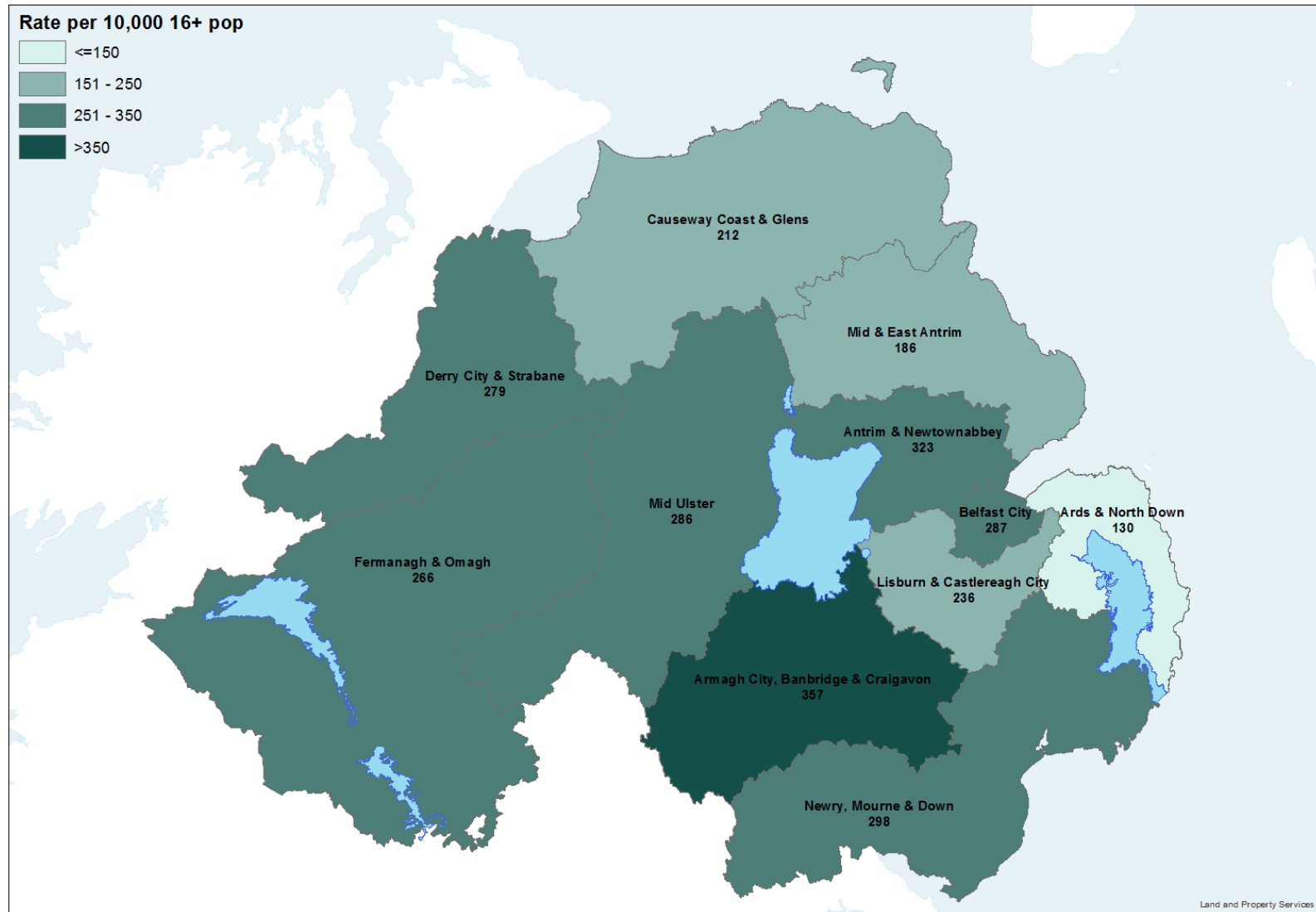
6. Policing District

Figure 4: Number of motoring offences by Policing District: 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2022



- Figure 4 shows that 20% of motoring offences were detected in Belfast City District followed by a further 15% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon district.

Figure 5: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022



¹ Population figures sourced from [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service \(NINIS\)](#), based on mid-year population estimates for 2020.

7. Further Information

A [User Guide](#) providing detailed information on the motoring offences statistics is available on the PSNI website.

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

Referred for prosecution

Police led prosecutions for motoring offences occur when the offence is of a serious nature and has no corresponding fixed penalty or where multiple offences have occurred or where the alleged offender wishes to have the matter(s) heard at court. Where an offending driver has already accumulated a number of penalty points, to the extent that a driving disqualification is now in scope, such cases must be heard at court and will consequently also be subject of a prosecution.

Fixed penalty notices

Fixed penalties originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. Such was its success that it was identified as an efficient way to deal with minor road traffic offences and was expanded to encompass these matters in the mid-1980s. With the introduction of penalty points for traffic offences, the scheme was expanded to incorporate endorsable and non-endorsable offences.

Non-endorsable offences - meaning those which don't result in points on your licence incur a fine of £30. Fines for endorsable offences are £60 and three points. More serious offences such as driving without insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Other fixed penalty offences include No MOT (£60) or Vehicle Excise License (£60). Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by the NI Courts Service.

The full list of offences and groups are published on the [motoring offences section](#) of the PSNI website.

Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, October be offered an opportunity to attend a speed awareness course as an alternative to penalty points. The course which is available at eight locations throughout Northern Ireland and delivered and managed (currently online due to COVID-19) by an appointed contractor must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option.

Offence groups

An offence group is made up of many individual offences. For the full list of offences and groups see the [motoring offences section](#) of the PSNI website.

Careless driving

Unlike England and Wales there is not one single offence for careless driving in Northern Ireland. The careless driving offence group includes driver does not have proper control of vehicle, driving without due care and attention, overtaking on inside lane, driving on hard shoulder of motorway and reversing on motorway.

Construction and use

Construction and use offence group includes defective tyre, defective exhaust, excess noise, incorrect form of registration and no number plate offences.

L & R driver

L & R driver means learner and restricted driver offence group. Note the offence of L or R driver exceeding 45mph is included in the speeding group.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous offence group includes taxi related offences, tachograph and driver hours offences.

Non-driver

The non-driver offence group includes all aiding and abetting, permitting and causing offences. It also includes non-motor vehicle and pedestrian offences.

Speeding

This does not include driver's detected speeding through the NI Road Safety Partnership.

Vehicle TADA / tampering

Vehicle TADA means Vehicle taking and driving away.

Revisions

Figures for 2021 were finalised in March 2022. Figures from January 2022 onwards are currently provisional and subject to ongoing quality assurance and minor amendment, primarily due to the time taken to process all offences, particularly those referred for prosecution or completing a speed awareness course.

To demonstrate the scale of revisions, updated figures for January – August 2022 are provided in the table below:

	Last month publication	This month publication	Change	Percentage change
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	6,276	6,326	50	0.8
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	3,126	3,132	6	0.2
Referred for Prosecution	15,769	16,533	764	4.8
Speed Awareness Course	565	604	39	6.9
Total	25,736	26,595	859	3.3