



# Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

## 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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In the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022:

- There were 40,335 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 9% on the 44,458 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with a notable reduction in mobile phone offences detected (32%).
- Speeding offences were the largest offence group recorded (6,958) and along with insurance (6,751) 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 28% between December 2020 – November 2021 and December 2021 – November 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. Referred for prosecution figures from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 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 9% to 40,335
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 10%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 4%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 4%

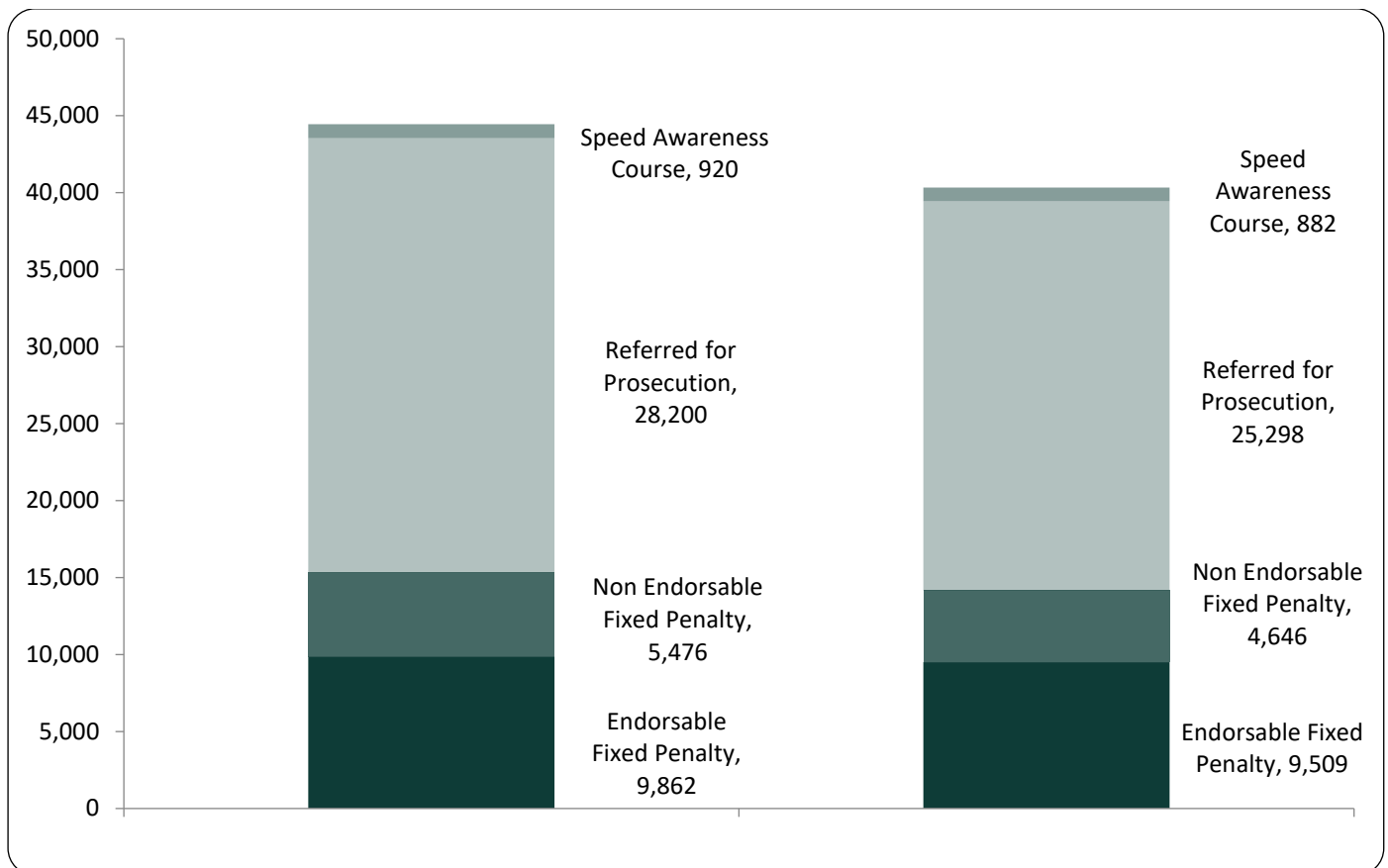
**Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022\***

	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	9,862	9,509	-353	-4
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	5,476	4,646	-830	-15
Referred for Prosecution	28,200	25,298	-2,902	-10
Speed Awareness Course	920	882	-38	-4
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,458</b>	<b>40,335</b>	<b>-4,123</b>	<b>-9</b>

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



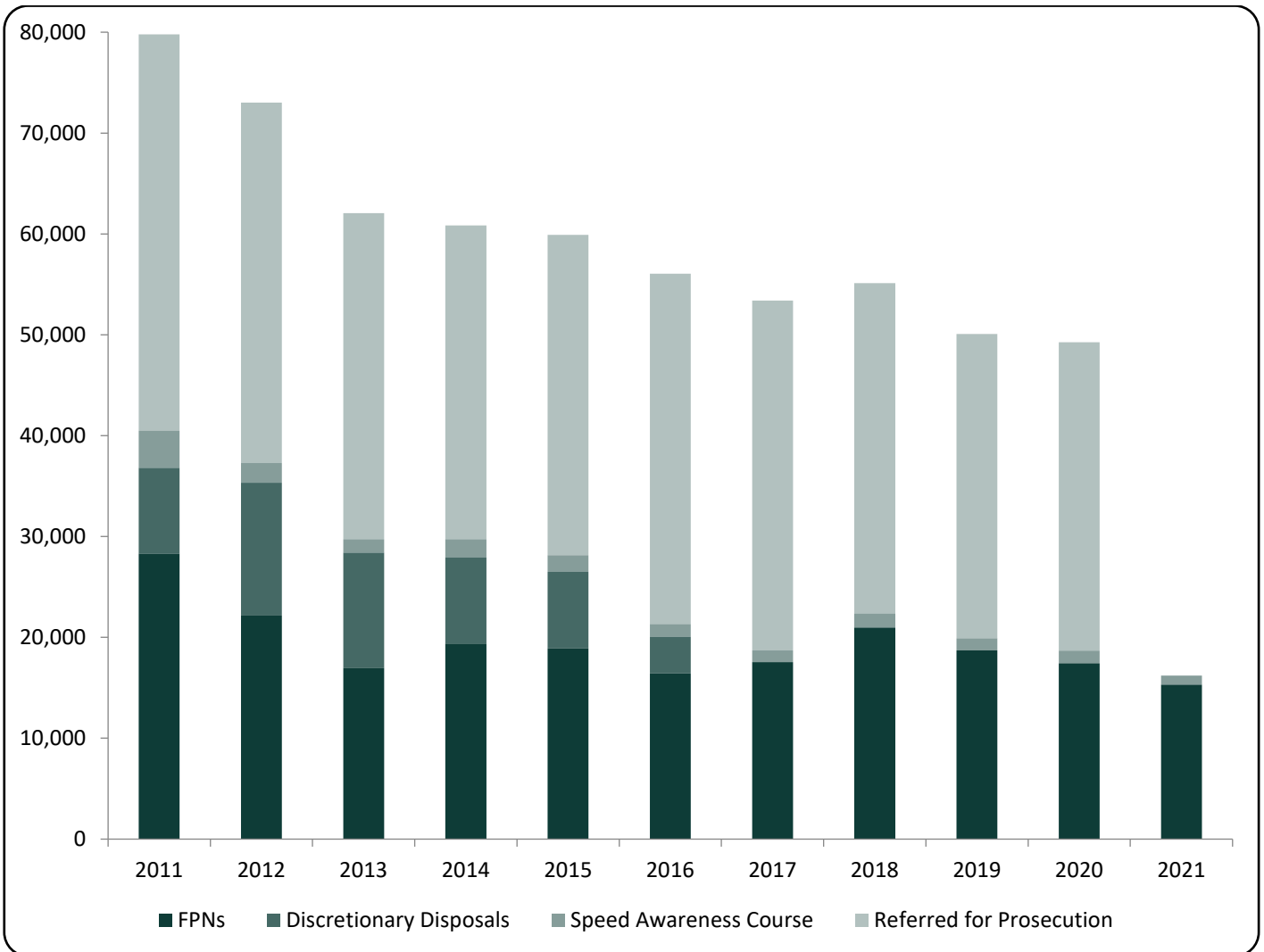
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

### 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 44,334 recorded in 2021 (see figure 2).

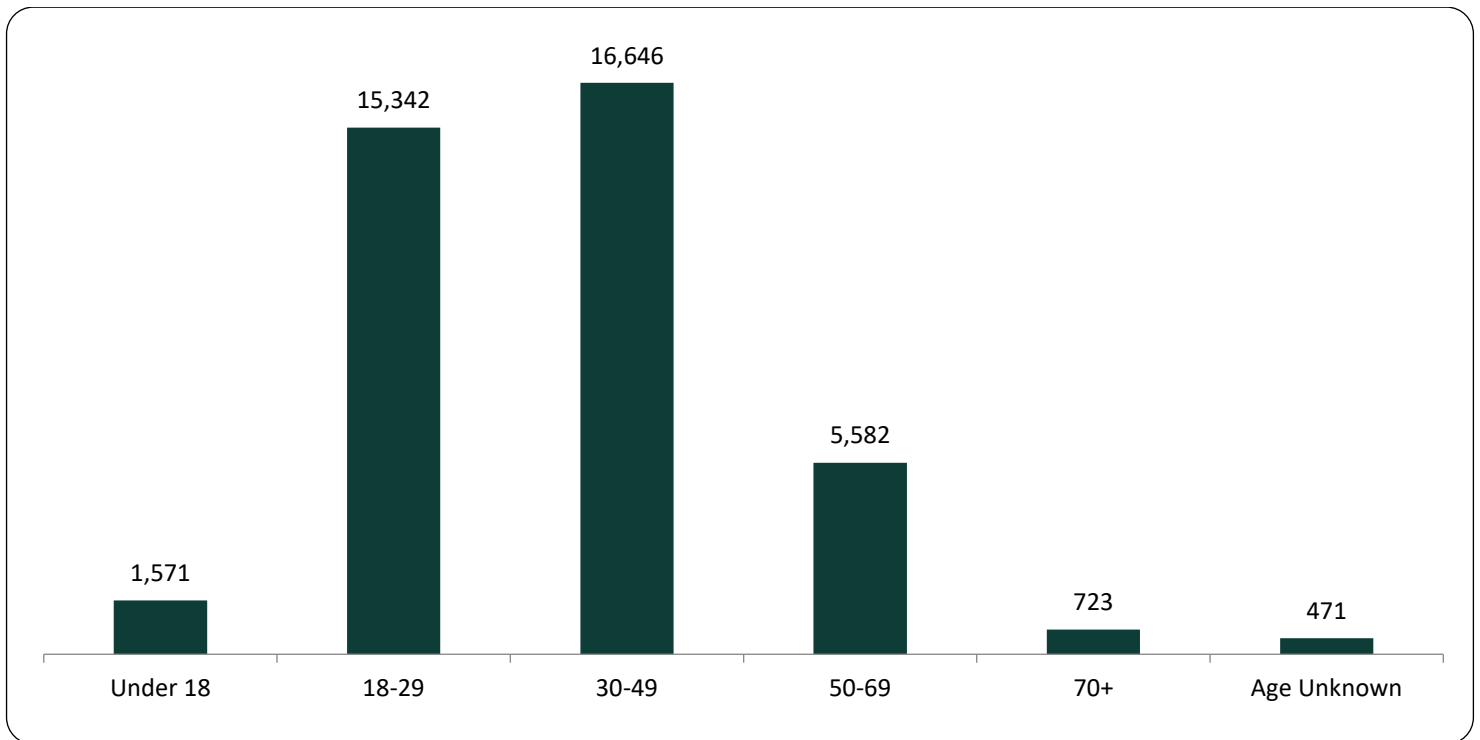
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but was then removed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

**Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**



## 4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## 5. Offence Group

**Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group<sup>1</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022\***

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	75	173	5	2	67	74	56	9	45	<b>253</b>
Careless driving	940	3,203	4	136	1,471	1,588	777	173	2	<b>4,147</b>
Construction & use	398	2,332	8	142	1,692	650	215	18	21	<b>2,738</b>
Dangerous driving	156	1,277	0	77	743	447	141	25	0	<b>1,433</b>
Drink or drug driving	582	2,339	2	23	785	1,523	547	45	0	<b>2,923</b>
Driving licence	486	2,641	3	113	1,079	1,528	360	50	0	<b>3,130</b>
Driving whilst disqualified	124	942	0	102	297	558	101	8	0	<b>1,066</b>
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	393	1,815	0	124	680	1,001	313	90	0	<b>2,208</b>
Fraudulent use / declaration	38	195	0	7	59	132	31	4	0	<b>233</b>
Insurance	1,198	5,544	9	251	2,632	3,052	734	82	0	<b>6,751</b>
L & R driver	217	1,531	4	163	890	537	145	17	0	<b>1,752</b>
Miscellaneous	99	801	2	73	394	343	80	12	0	<b>902</b>
Mobile phone	286	1,436	1	9	438	901	353	22	0	<b>1,723</b>
Non-driver	228	303	2	16	215	233	66	2	1	<b>533</b>
Parking	371	612	39	3	286	232	100	9	392	<b>1,022</b>
Seatbelt	126	593	3	9	247	325	115	23	3	<b>722</b>
Speeding	2,006	4,952	0	142	2,694	2,747	1,259	116	0	<b>6,958</b>
Vehicle TADA / tampering	85	847	1	161	362	367	40	3	0	<b>933</b>
Vehicle test certificate	150	756	2	18	311	408	149	15	7	<b>908</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,958</b>	<b>32,292</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>15,342</b>	<b>16,646</b>	<b>5,582</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>40,335</b>

\* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

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

- Table 1 shows a drop of 4% 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 mobile phone offences.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was speeding offences with a total of 6,958 detections, this was an increase of 2% on the number recorded in the previous 12 months. For the period 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2022 speeding offences accounted for 17% of all detections for motoring offences.
- Insurance offences also accounted for 17% of all offences in the current period. The total number of such offences decreased by 442 (6%) since the previous year, to 6,751 between December 2021 and November 2022.
- 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 almost 9 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (61,876).
- Only three out of the nineteen offence groups reported an increase in the number of detections over the year, including vehicle test certificates and speeding.
- Mobile phone offences showed a decrease of almost one-third over the 12 month period, reducing by 32% (794 detections).
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- Over 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 28% between December 2020 – November 2021 and December 2021 – November 2022.
- Over two-fifths of those detected for insurance offences were aged under 30.



**Table 3 Number of motoring offences by month and offence group<sup>1</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022\***

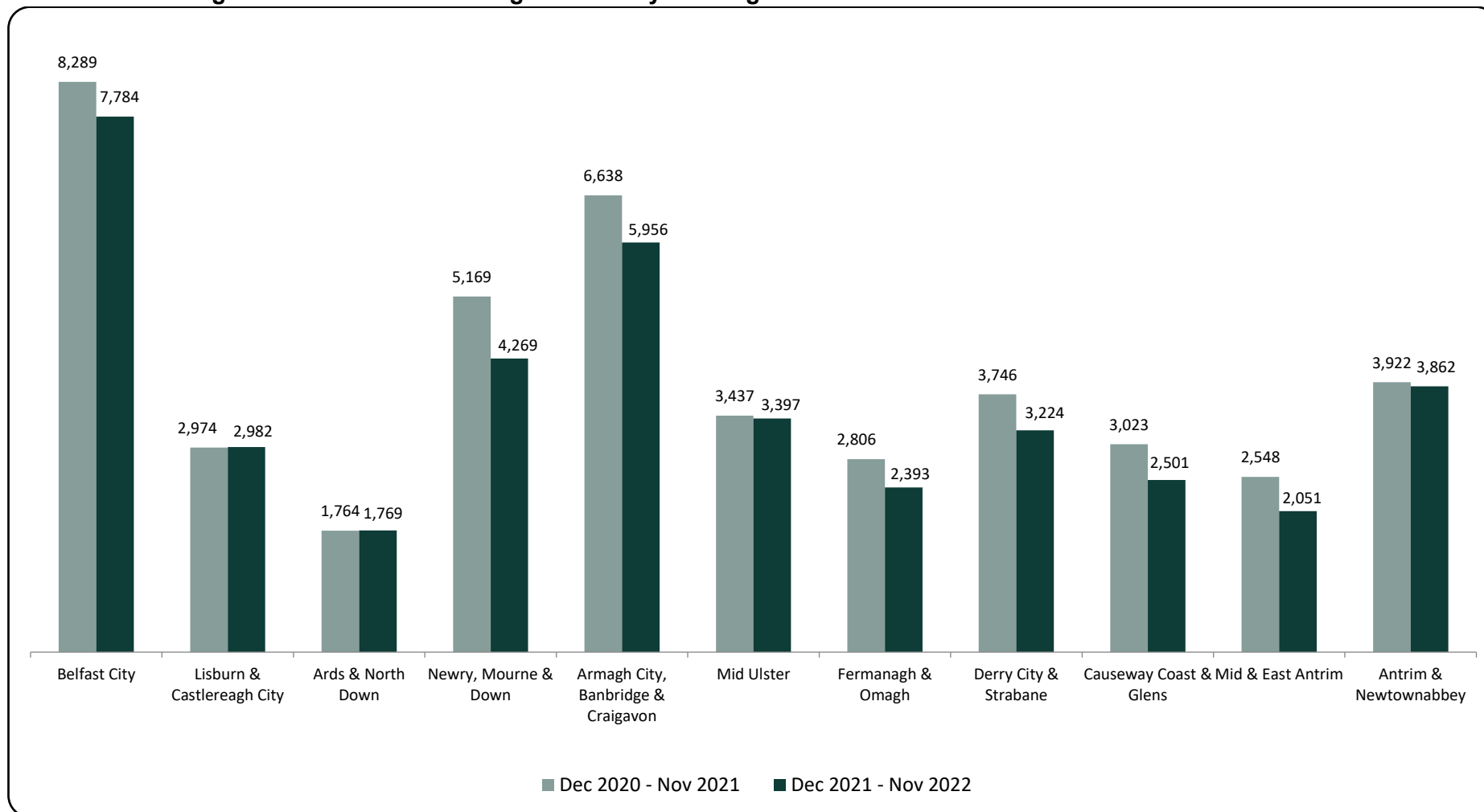
Offence group	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2021 - Nov 2022	Dec 2020 – Nov 2021	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Breach of signs & signals	18	21	13	19	12	16	18	31	48	23	14	20	253	341	-88	-26
Careless driving	361	354	278	340	354	368	385	409	334	351	314	299	4,147	4,353	-206	-5
Construction & use	158	184	145	218	251	237	231	285	239	284	243	263	2,738	3,014	-276	-9
Dangerous driving	117	117	92	142	130	118	133	144	137	112	93	98	1,433	1,868	-435	-23
Drink or drug driving	290	215	201	239	225	260	245	288	294	246	224	196	2,923	2,897	26	1
Driving licence	283	248	226	244	251	276	270	322	303	313	219	175	3,130	3,781	-651	-17
Driving whilst disqualified	80	92	63	91	95	81	103	96	87	106	89	83	1,066	1,103	-37	-3
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	197	181	166	191	206	228	197	222	191	203	117	109	2,208	2,628	-420	-16
Fraudulent use / declaration	18	15	17	23	22	21	25	22	20	13	16	21	233	298	-65	-22
Insurance	527	501	454	582	537	611	538	659	629	646	540	527	6,751	7,193	-442	-6
L & R driver	151	119	114	157	142	181	146	207	135	163	102	135	1,752	1,910	-158	-8
Miscellaneous	87	87	64	85	61	84	79	98	83	73	57	44	902	993	-91	-9
Mobile phone	93	144	121	162	110	139	175	187	155	180	132	125	1,723	2,517	-794	-32
Non-driver	44	45	30	48	54	51	33	42	53	54	40	39	533	590	-57	-10
Parking	32	84	36	110	108	56	54	155	165	76	101	45	1,022	1,419	-397	-28
Seatbelt	47	52	34	86	57	58	59	81	91	49	55	53	722	850	-128	-15
Speeding	361	592	410	567	611	507	598	770	665	638	672	567	6,958	6,807	151	2
Vehicle TADA / tampering	92	87	72	84	109	97	74	79	81	65	42	51	933	1,185	-252	-21
Vehicle test certificate	65	96	65	91	90	69	72	83	78	71	62	66	908	711	197	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>3,234</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>4,180</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>3,132</b>	<b>2,916</b>	<b>40,335</b>	<b>44,458</b>	<b>-4,123</b>	<b>-9</b>

\* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

<sup>1</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022



- Figure 4 shows that 19% 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 population<sup>1</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022



<sup>1</sup> 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 his 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 – October 2022 are provided in the table below:

	Last month publication	This month publication	Change	Percentage change
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	8,053	8,127	74	0.9
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	3,970	3,972	2	0.1
Referred for Prosecution	20,638	21,507	869	4.2
Speed Awareness Course	732	792	60	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,393</b>	<b>34,398</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>3.0</b>