



Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023

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In the 12 months from 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023:

- There were 40,671 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 2% on the 41,685 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with a notable reduction in mobile phone offences (17%).
- Conversely, insurance offences increased by 6% over the year, making them the largest offence group recorded (7,091), which along with speeding (6,734) 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.

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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 June 2022 – 31st May 2023. 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 24th July 2023. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st 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.
- Continue to consult with internal and external users, for example via a customer satisfaction survey to obtain feedback and suggestions for improvements
- Ensuring any new offences are extracted and reported in the statistics, including the new FPN and safer driving course introduced in May 2023 for careless driving.

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 2% to 40,671
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 6%
- Endorsable fixed penalties increased by 8%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 9%

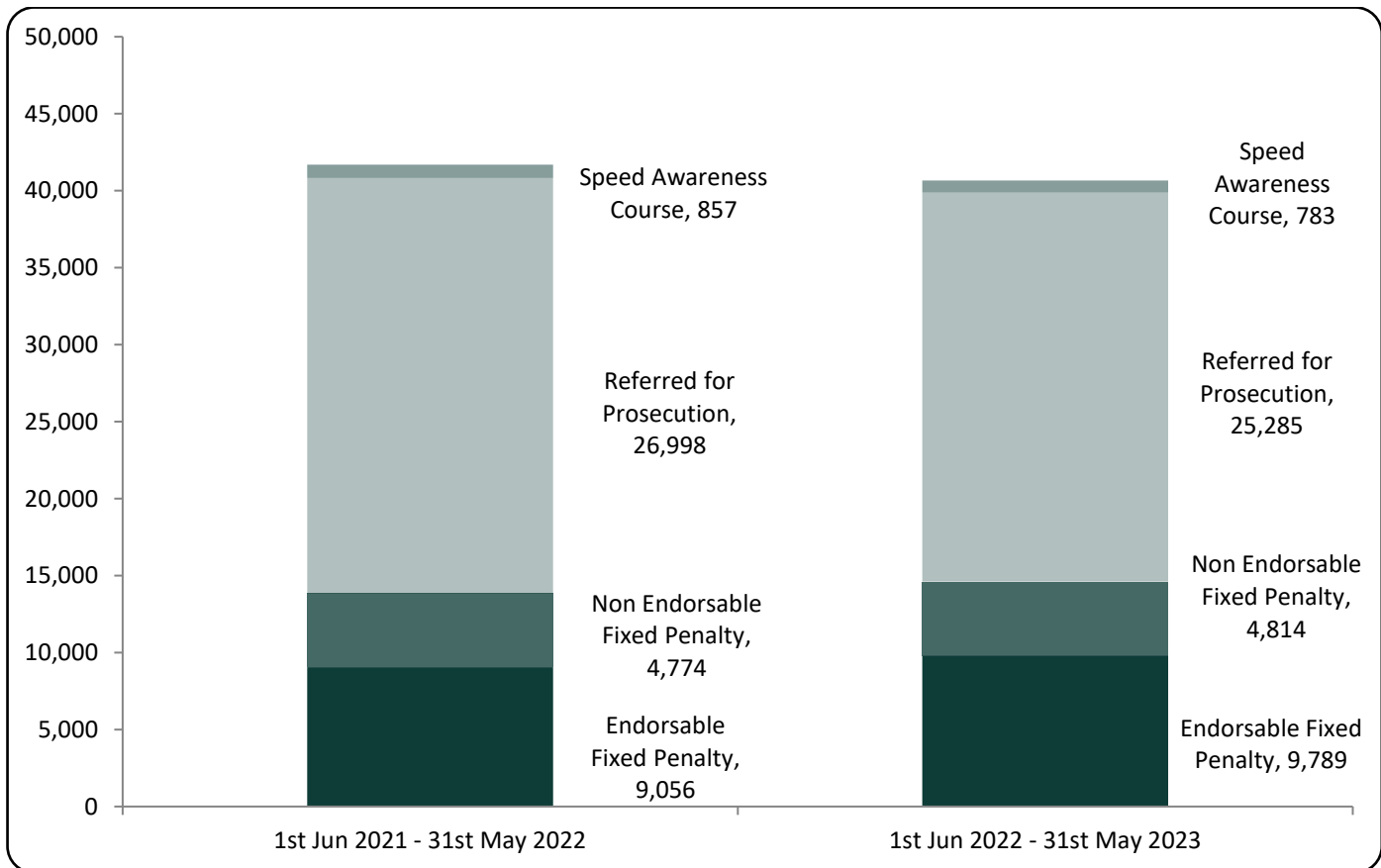
Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1st June 2021 – 31st May 2023*

	1 st Jun 2021 – 31 st May 2022	1 st Jun 2022 – 31 st May 2023	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	9,056	9,789	733	8
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	4,774	4,814	40	1
Referred for Prosecution	26,998	25,285	-1,713	-6
Speed Awareness Course	857	783	-74	-9
Total	41,685	40,671	-1,014	-2

*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 June 2021 – 31st May 2022 and 1st June 2022 – 31st May 2023



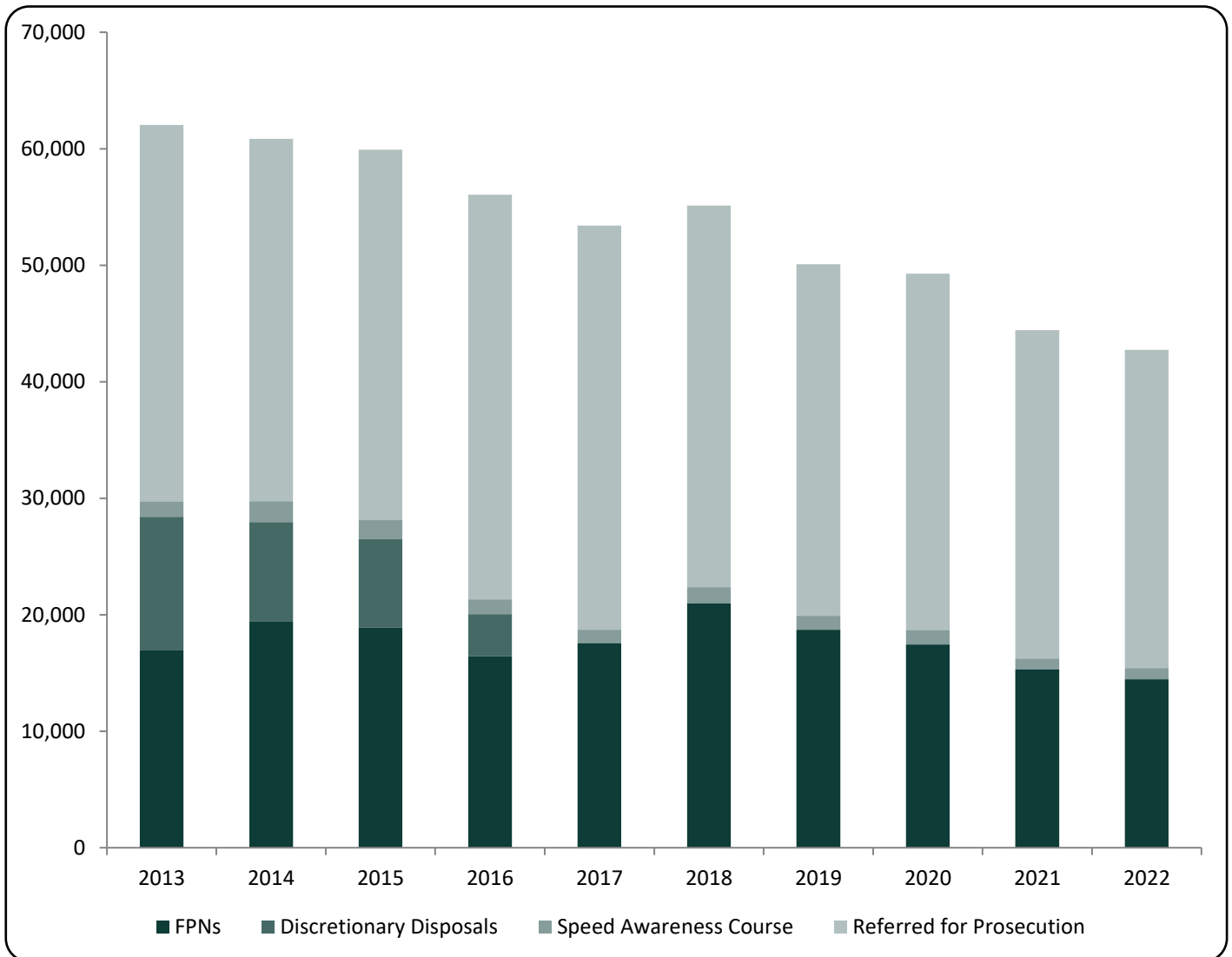
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

3. Trends

The number of motoring offences have been generally decreasing over a 10 year period from a total of 62,051 recorded in 2013 to 42,737 recorded in 2022 (see figure 2).

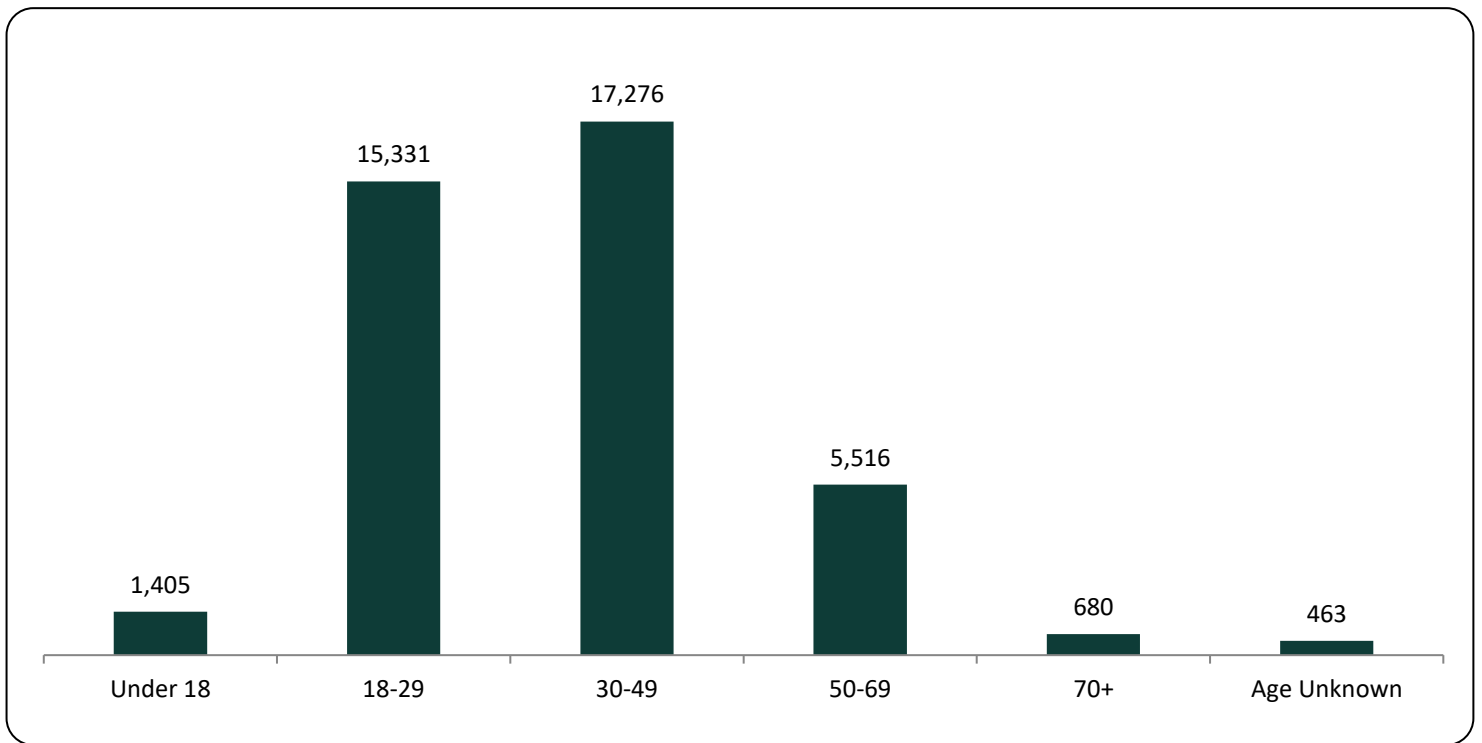
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but was then removed on 31st July 2016.

Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1st January 2013 – 31st December 2022



4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1st June 2022 – 31st May 2023



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1st June 2022 and 31st May 2023 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 June 2022 and 31st May 2023.

5. Offence Group

Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group¹
1st June 2022 – 31st May 2023*

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	77	159	2	5	63	86	40	5	39	238
Careless driving	914	3286	12	100	1449	1707	787	158	11	4,212
Construction & use	384	2541	9	148	1846	668	240	16	16	2,934
Dangerous driving	150	1,318	2	77	717	523	129	24	0	1,470
Drink or drug driving	589	2,392	1	17	815	1,566	544	40	0	2,982
Driving licence	457	2,648	4	117	1,047	1,536	362	47	0	3,109
Driving whilst disqualified	126	958	3	96	294	580	113	4	0	1,087
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	383	1,863	0	85	715	1,012	319	115	0	2,246
Fraudulent use / declaration	24	207	0	0	72	120	36	3	0	231
Insurance	1,312	5,772	7	230	2,641	3,365	778	76	1	7,091
L & R driver	248	1,503	1	169	843	593	137	10	0	1,752
Miscellaneous	79	789	0	64	365	337	95	5	2	868
Mobile phone	283	1,373	1	8	397	891	344	17	0	1,657
Non-driver	231	346	0	16	219	246	88	7	1	577
Parking	375	653	35	4	286	252	116	15	390	1,063
Seatbelt	114	576	4	13	231	322	105	19	4	694
Speeding	1,908	4,825	1	129	2,679	2,700	1,125	101	0	6,734
Vehicle TADA / tampering	89	785	1	111	340	391	31	2	0	875
Vehicle test certificate	138	712	1	16	311	376	127	13	8	851
Total	7,882	32,714	75	1,405	15,331	17,276	5,516	680	463	40,671

* 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 an increase of 8% in the number of endorsable tickets issued in past 12 months when compared with previous 12 months. An increase in the number of endorsable fixed penalties issued for insurance offences offset the reduction in mobile phone tickets issued.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was insurance offences with a total of 7,091 detections, this was an increase of 6% on the number recorded in the previous 12 months. For the period 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023 insurance offences accounted for 17% of all detections for motoring offences.
- Speeding offences also accounted for 17% of all offences in the current period. The total number of such offences increased by 301 (5%) since the previous year, to 6,734 between June 2022 and May 2023.
- 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 ten times more speeding offences than the PSNI (66,596).
- Six out of the nineteen offence groups reported an increase in the number of detections over the year, including construction & use, insurance and speeding offences.
- Mobile phone offences showed a decrease of almost one-fifth over the 12 month period, reducing by 17% (341 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.
- Two-fifths of those detected for insurance offences were aged under 30.

Table 3 Number of motoring offences by month and offence group¹, 1st June 2021 – 31st May 2023*

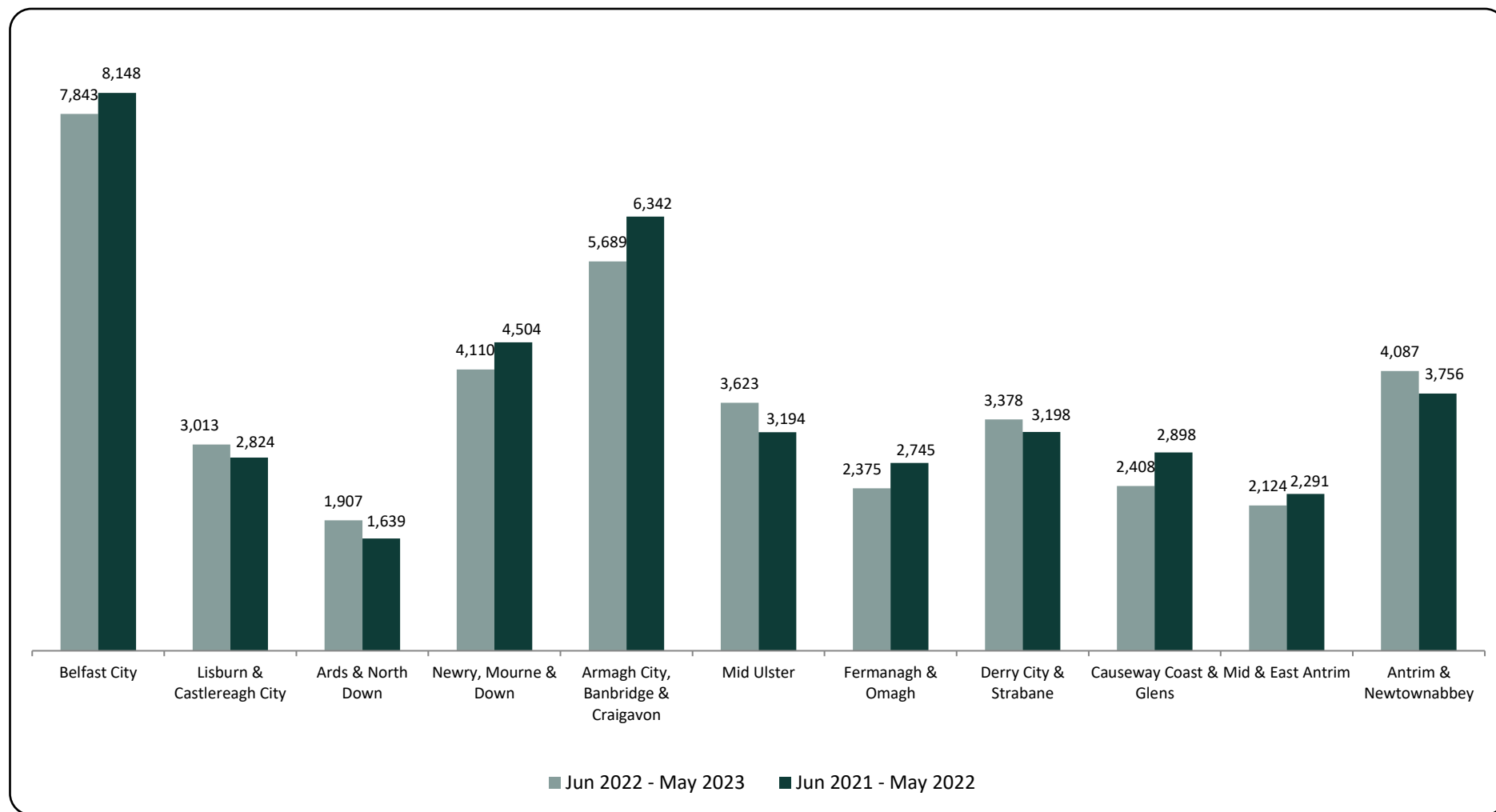
Offence group	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Apr 2023	June 2022 – May 2023	June 2021 - May 2022	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Breach of signs & signals	18	31	48	23	14	20	30	9	18	9	15	3	238	254	-16	-6
Careless driving	391	419	381	413	407	390	376	348	310	272	278	227	4,212	4,416	-204	-5
Construction & use	231	285	239	289	253	274	247	232	159	221	289	215	2,934	2,645	289	11
Dangerous driving	139	152	152	138	129	139	125	122	80	102	111	81	1,470	1,619	-149	-9
Drink or drug driving	246	296	306	277	275	243	289	217	195	212	225	201	2,982	3,033	-51	-2
Driving licence	275	327	322	347	284	269	294	256	194	225	194	122	3,109	3,354	-245	-7
Driving whilst disqualified	104	100	92	115	101	95	81	98	58	89	93	61	1,087	1,039	48	5
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	209	236	222	267	213	205	223	201	140	115	142	73	2,246	2,604	-358	-14
Fraudulent use / declaration	25	27	24	18	23	29	22	18	10	13	10	12	231	249	-18	-7
Insurance	543	668	660	697	606	626	621	635	457	570	627	381	7,091	6,688	403	6
L & R driver	147	207	141	173	114	155	148	166	121	116	161	103	1,752	1,876	-124	-7
Miscellaneous	82	101	93	85	75	73	81	75	41	59	62	41	868	960	-92	-10
Mobile phone	175	187	160	187	138	146	105	141	108	95	124	91	1,657	1,998	-341	-17
Non-driver	39	43	58	64	54	55	49	72	41	35	39	28	577	554	23	4
Parking	54	155	166	77	104	45	70	101	69	55	86	81	1,063	1,045	18	2
Seatbelt	59	82	91	50	60	55	39	38	40	62	61	57	694	793	-99	-12
Speeding	598	773	667	646	716	681	357	460	436	458	462	480	6,734	6,433	301	5
Vehicle TADA / tampering	76	81	104	83	61	72	75	87	76	58	65	37	875	1,148	-273	-24
Vehicle test certificate	73	83	81	75	68	71	60	59	56	85	71	69	851	977	-126	-13
Total	3,484	4,253	4,007	4,024	3,695	3,643	3,292	3,335	2,609	2,851	3,115	2,363	40,671	41,685	-1,014	-2

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

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

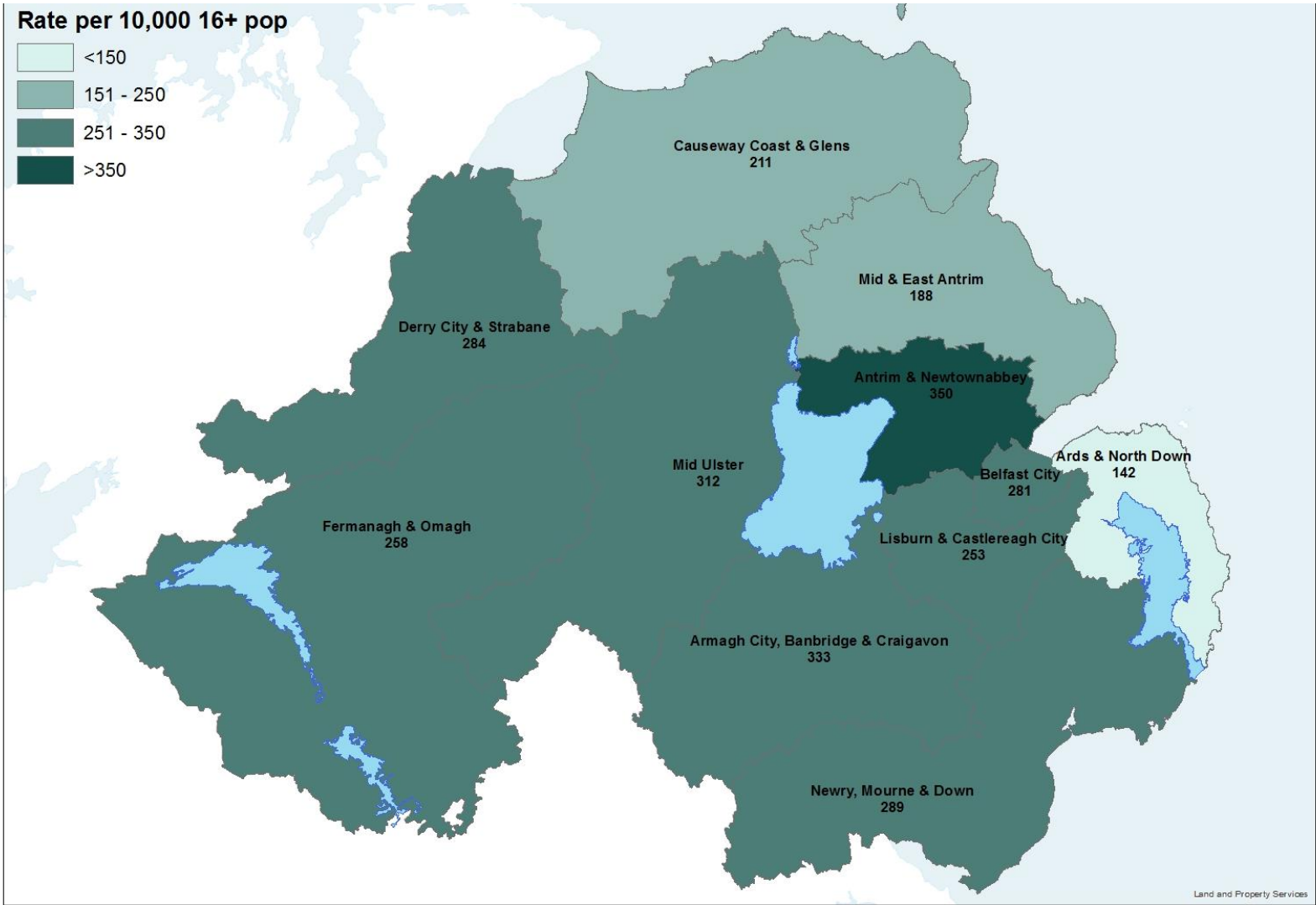
6. Policing District

Figure 4: Number of motoring offences by Policing District: 1st June 2021 – 31st May 2023



- Figure 4 shows that 19% of motoring offences were detected in Belfast City District followed by a further 14% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon district.

Figure 5: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 1st June 2022 – 31st May 2023



¹ Population figures sourced from [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/), based on mid-year population estimates for 2021.

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

On Monday 15th May 2023, a fixed penalty notice was introduced in Northern Ireland for the offence of careless driving, which is committed when the driving falls below the standard expected of a competent and careful driver. Prior to this, there was no one single offence for careless driving in Northern Ireland. The penalty for the new offence is £100 and 3 penalty points. It currently cannot be issued in the case of a road traffic collision and is an available disposal for lower level offending including driving too close, unnecessarily staying in an overtaking lane or unnecessarily slow driving or braking.

The new careless driving offence is reported within the wider careless driving offence group which includes other offences such as 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 2022 were finalised in March 2023. Figures from January 2023 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 – April 2023 are provided in the table below:

	Last month publication	This month publication	Change	Percentage change
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	2,891	2,929	38	1.3
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	1,476	1,486	10	0.7
Referred for Prosecution	7,320	7,320	0	0.0
Speed Awareness Course	167	175	8	4.8
Total	11,854	11,910	56	0.5