



Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

2023 Annual Report

Date of Publication:

28th March 2024

Frequency of Publication:

Annual

Issued by:

PSNI Statistics Branch
Lisnasharragh
42 Montgomery Road
Belfast
BT6 9LD

☎ 02890 650222 Ext. 24135

✉ statistics@psni.police.uk

Web [PSNI Statistics](#)

Key statistics

- In 2023, there were 39,789 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 3,347 offences (8%) on the 43,136 detections recorded in 2022.
- Of the 39,789 detections in 2023, over three fifths resulted in a referral for prosecution and a further one fifth in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- Motoring offence detections have fallen by one third over the last ten years, from 60,838 in 2014.
- Insurance was the largest offence group in 2023 with 7,298 detections, accounting for 18% of the total, followed by speeding with 5,551 detections. There were a further 4,666 detections related to careless driving offences, 90 more offences than in 2022.
- Three offence groups showed modest increases (2%) over the year including insurance (141), careless driving (90) and construction and use (66).
- In contrast, 16 offence groups decreased over the year, most significantly speeding and mobile phone offences which fell by 1,576 (22%) and 479 (27%) respectively. These two offence groups accounted for over three-fifths of the overall decrease in detections between 2022 and 2023.

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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 in 2023. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership. 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. Statistics Branch developed the functionality to report on prosecution referrals in 2017, at which point the figures were validated and reported back to 2011. Quality concerns due to the introduction of different information systems prevented any further back dating of the figures.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 15th March 2024 and includes all FPNs, speed awareness and safer driver courses for 2023. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2022 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment, with the potential for the totals to increase as later detections are progressed through the system. 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 (Section 6) 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 these statistics are accredited official statistics¹ that meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These accredited official statistics (Police recorded injury road traffic collisions and casualties in Northern Ireland) were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in March 2020 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Official Statistics Code of Practice](#). They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled 'accredited official statistics'.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing statistics@psni.police.uk Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [Office for Statistics Regulation website \(opens in a new window\)](#)

¹ Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The Office for Statistics Regulation website provides further information on [Accredited official statistics](#).

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

Over the last 12 months:

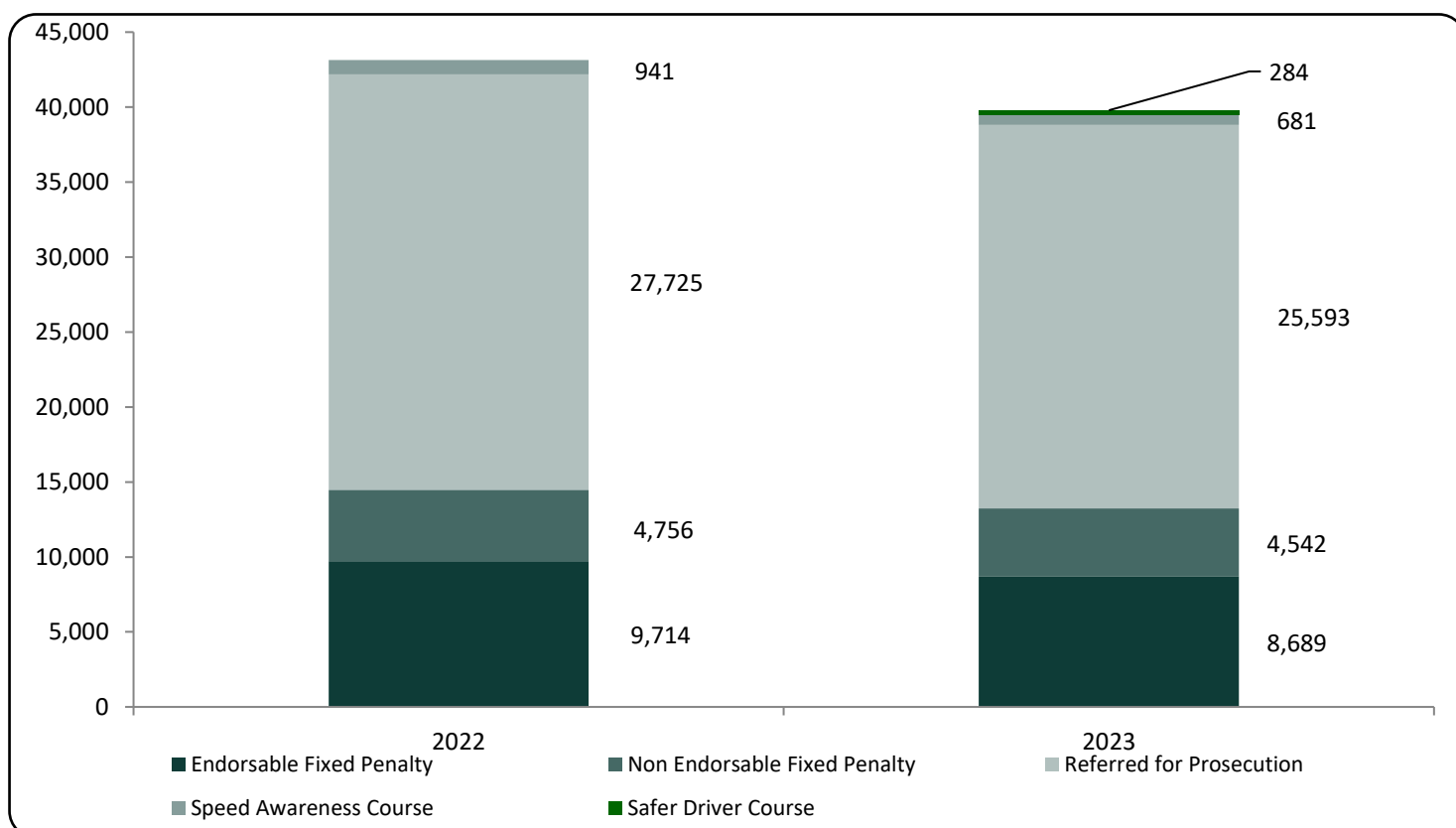
- The number of motoring offences decreased by 8%, 3,347 offences
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 8%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 11%
- Non endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 4%

Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type*, 2022 and 2023

| Disposal Type | 2022 | 2023 | Change over last 12 months Number | Change over last 12 months % |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Endorsable Fixed Penalty | 9,714 | 8,689 | -1,025 | -11 |
| Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty | 4,756 | 4,542 | -214 | -4 |
| Referred for Prosecution | 27,725 | 25,593 | -2,132 | -8 |
| Speed Awareness Course | 941 | 681 | -260 | -28 |
| Safer Driver Course | 0 | 284 | 284 | N/A |
| Total | 43,136 | 39,789 | -3,347 | -8 |

* Safer driver courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in May 2023 as an alternative disposal to the new fixed penalty notice for careless driving.

Figure 1: Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences, 2022 and 2023

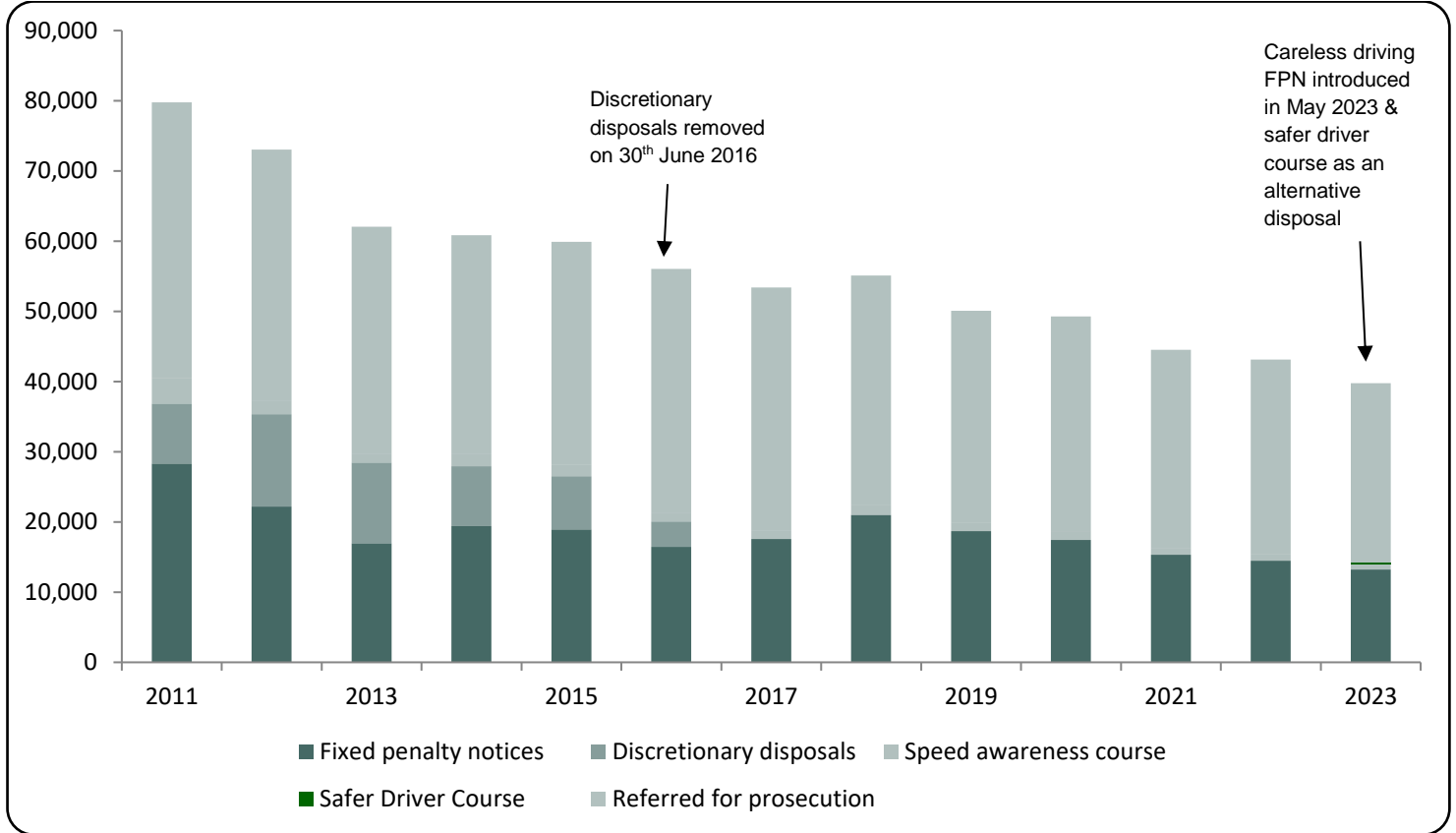


3. Trends

The number of motoring offences has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 39,789 recorded in 2023.

The removal of discretionary disposals as an option for motoring offences has had a notable impact on the number of motoring offences, albeit other disposals have also seen a decline over the years.

Figure 2: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 2011 –2024



4. Offence group

Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2022 and 2023

| Offence group | Jan 2023 | Feb 2023 | Mar 2023 | Apr 2023 | May 2023 | Jun 2023 | Jul 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sep 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Total 2023 | Total 2022 | Change over last 12 months - Number | Change over last 12 months - % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Breach of signs & signals | 9 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 3 | 15 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 25 | 23 | 18 | 164 | 265 | -101 | -38 |
| Careless driving | 388 | 377 | 362 | 407 | 413 | 453 | 415 | 425 | 385 | 393 | 351 | 297 | 4,666 | 4,576 | 90 | 2 |
| Construction & use | 235 | 164 | 232 | 294 | 241 | 279 | 341 | 282 | 243 | 235 | 213 | 178 | 2,937 | 2,871 | 66 | 2 |
| Dangerous driving | 132 | 99 | 136 | 151 | 143 | 129 | 149 | 140 | 124 | 110 | 97 | 102 | 1,512 | 1,635 | -123 | -8 |
| Drink or drug driving | 228 | 229 | 252 | 298 | 256 | 230 | 305 | 232 | 273 | 224 | 221 | 230 | 2,978 | 3,102 | -124 | -4 |
| Driving licence | 264 | 229 | 282 | 302 | 234 | 262 | 292 | 278 | 237 | 224 | 193 | 192 | 2,989 | 3,387 | -398 | -12 |
| Driving whilst disqualified | 104 | 68 | 97 | 111 | 94 | 92 | 114 | 105 | 99 | 74 | 86 | 83 | 1,127 | 1,129 | -2 | 0 |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 218 | 205 | 173 | 276 | 185 | 203 | 230 | 185 | 222 | 172 | 172 | 117 | 2,358 | 2,665 | -307 | -12 |
| Fraudulent use / declaration | 18 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 23 | 21 | 28 | 19 | 18 | 16 | 9 | 10 | 207 | 280 | -73 | -26 |
| Insurance | 653 | 506 | 653 | 758 | 529 | 579 | 658 | 646 | 582 | 554 | 618 | 562 | 7,298 | 7,157 | 141 | 2 |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 172 | 138 | 135 | 194 | 139 | 136 | 144 | 167 | 130 | 127 | 107 | 121 | 1,710 | 1,811 | -101 | -6 |
| Miscellaneous | 80 | 52 | 71 | 93 | 69 | 72 | 84 | 93 | 72 | 84 | 49 | 61 | 880 | 981 | -101 | -10 |
| Mobile phone | 145 | 108 | 101 | 134 | 111 | 127 | 101 | 114 | 95 | 97 | 94 | 71 | 1,298 | 1,777 | -479 | -27 |
| Non driver | 75 | 43 | 47 | 46 | 49 | 52 | 53 | 57 | 50 | 35 | 35 | 49 | 591 | 598 | -7 | -1 |
| Parking | 101 | 68 | 55 | 87 | 85 | 124 | 96 | 97 | 67 | 60 | 68 | 72 | 980 | 1,066 | -86 | -8 |
| Seatbelt | 38 | 41 | 67 | 65 | 67 | 83 | 77 | 79 | 59 | 51 | 46 | 41 | 714 | 723 | -9 | -1 |
| Speeding | 464 | 438 | 473 | 480 | 520 | 510 | 649 | 449 | 331 | 349 | 630 | 258 | 5,551 | 7,127 | -1,576 | -22 |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 96 | 104 | 79 | 99 | 79 | 93 | 86 | 97 | 103 | 42 | 60 | 64 | 1,002 | 1,063 | -61 | -6 |
| Vehicle test certificate | 59 | 59 | 86 | 78 | 80 | 53 | 77 | 60 | 63 | 62 | 84 | 66 | 827 | 923 | -96 | -10 |
| Total | 3,479 | 2,958 | 3,327 | 3,904 | 3,320 | 3,513 | 3,917 | 3,532 | 3,157 | 2,934 | 3,156 | 2,592 | 39,789 | 43,136 | -3,347 | -8 |

Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age and offence group, 2023

| Offence group | Male | Female | Unknown | Under 18 | 18 - 29 | 30 - 49 | 50 - 69 | 70+ | Unknown | Total |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals | 124 | 39 | 1 | 3 | 40 | 75 | 37 | 6 | 3 | 164 |
| Careless driving | 3,695 | 965 | 6 | 117 | 1,583 | 1,835 | 920 | 207 | 4 | 4,666 |
| Construction & use | 2,589 | 332 | 16 | 168 | 1,850 | 660 | 222 | 13 | 24 | 2,937 |
| Dangerous driving | 1,345 | 161 | 6 | 72 | 751 | 532 | 133 | 22 | 2 | 1,512 |
| Drink or drug driving | 2,361 | 612 | 5 | 29 | 862 | 1,550 | 501 | 36 | 0 | 2,978 |
| Driving licence | 2,545 | 435 | 9 | 114 | 1,027 | 1,472 | 332 | 44 | 0 | 2,989 |
| Driving whilst disqualified | 997 | 128 | 2 | 121 | 304 | 587 | 110 | 5 | 0 | 1,127 |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 1,980 | 372 | 6 | 63 | 787 | 1,073 | 348 | 87 | 0 | 2,358 |
| Fraudulent use / declaration | 181 | 26 | 0 | 3 | 66 | 97 | 39 | 2 | 0 | 207 |
| Insurance | 5,878 | 1,413 | 7 | 239 | 2,724 | 3,506 | 739 | 90 | 0 | 7,298 |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 1,447 | 259 | 4 | 152 | 787 | 635 | 126 | 10 | 0 | 1,710 |
| Miscellaneous | 796 | 82 | 2 | 84 | 340 | 361 | 75 | 9 | 11 | 880 |
| Mobile phone | 1,058 | 240 | 0 | 6 | 307 | 670 | 296 | 19 | 0 | 1,298 |
| Non driver | 362 | 225 | 4 | 15 | 227 | 260 | 83 | 6 | 0 | 591 |
| Parking | 577 | 356 | 47 | 0 | 268 | 219 | 117 | 21 | 355 | 980 |
| Seatbelt | 576 | 134 | 4 | 16 | 239 | 328 | 104 | 24 | 3 | 714 |
| Speeding | 3,987 | 1,563 | 1 | 124 | 2,158 | 2,248 | 925 | 95 | 1 | 5,551 |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 885 | 115 | 2 | 112 | 401 | 434 | 50 | 5 | 0 | 1,002 |
| Vehicle test certificate | 671 | 156 | 0 | 15 | 305 | 369 | 113 | 13 | 12 | 827 |
| Total | 32,054 | 7,613 | 122 | 1,453 | 15,026 | 16,911 | 5,270 | 714 | 415 | 39,789 |

Overall change

- In 2023, there were 39,789 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 3,347 (8%) on the 43,136 detections recorded in 2022.

Offence groups

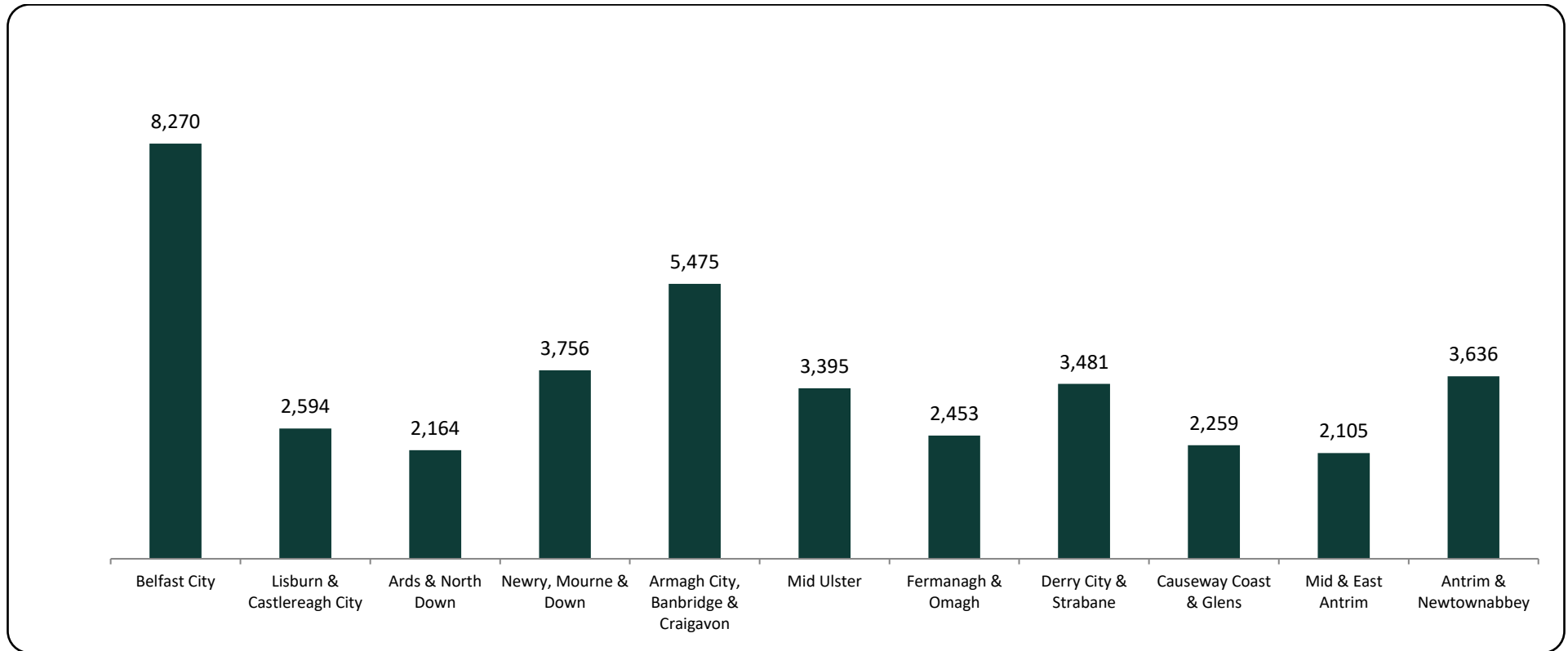
- Over three-fifths of the decrease in detections between 2022 and 2023 was attributable to two offence groups – speeding (-1,576) and mobile phone (-479).
- Insurance was the largest offence group in 2023 with 7,298 detections, accounting for 18% of the total, followed by speeding with 5,551 detections. There were a further 4,666 detections related to careless driving offences, 90 more offences than in 2022.
- Only three offence groups showed increases in detections in 2023. Careless driving was up by 90 (2%), construction and use offences increased by 66 (2%), while an additional 141 insurance offences resulted in an increase of 2%.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in 2023 was 140mph on the M12 motorway, Craigavon which is a 70mph stretch of road.
- In 2022 (the most recent year available), the NI Road Safety Partnership detected almost 12 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (65,974), equating to 92% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Age and gender

- One fifth of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- Just under one sixth of under 18 year olds were detected for insurance offences, whilst careless driving offences accounted for 29% of offences detected among those aged 70 and over.
- Over two-thirds of those detected for construction and use offences were aged under 30.
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were aged 30-49.

5. Policing District

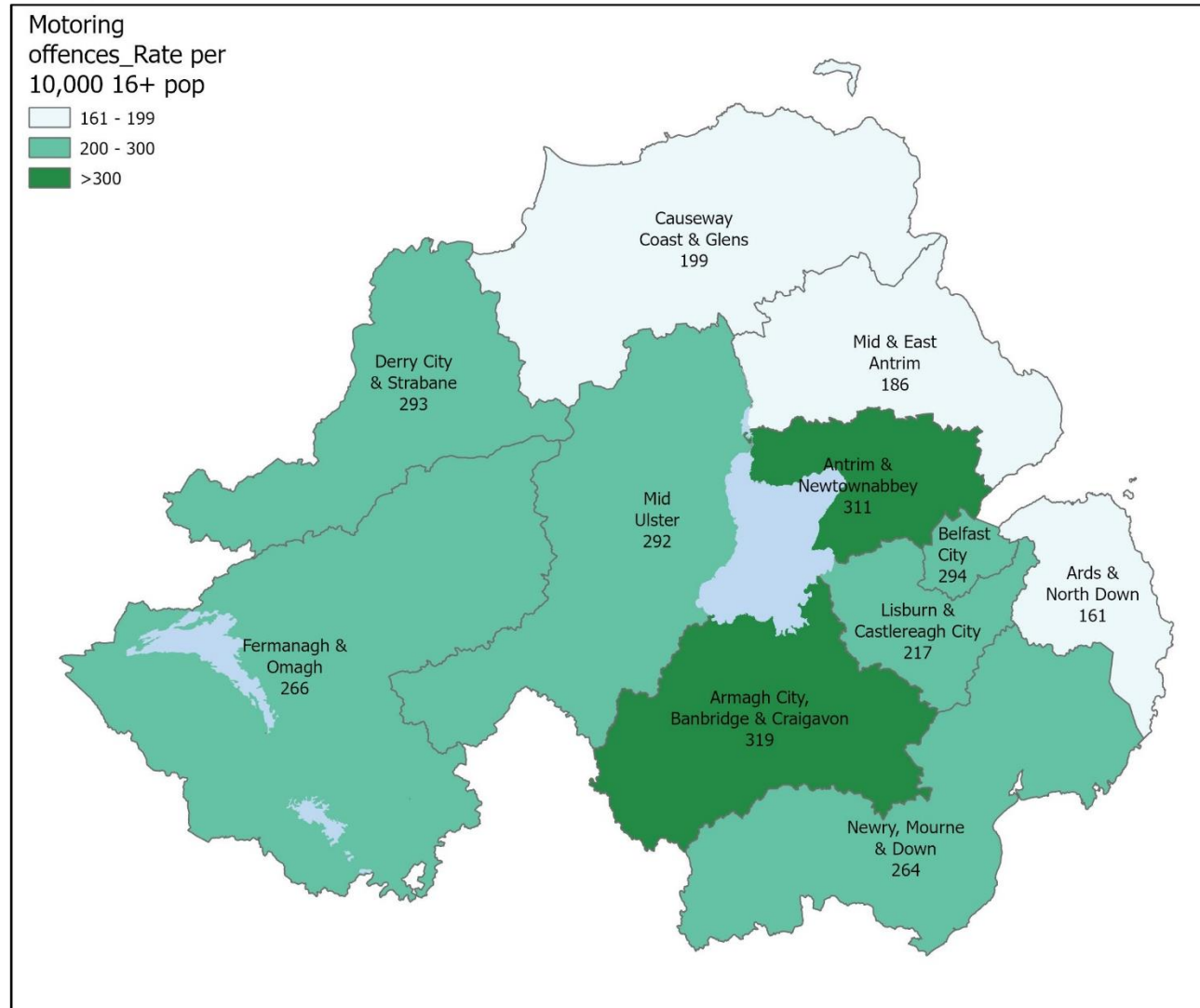
Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2023



Unknown district is excluded from the chart above

The number of motoring offences detected in Belfast City represented 21% of all motoring offences detected in 2023. Ards and North Down and Mid & East Antrim recorded the fewest detections, each accounting for 5% of the total in 2023. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 319 offences per 10,000 population aged 16+ while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 161 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2023

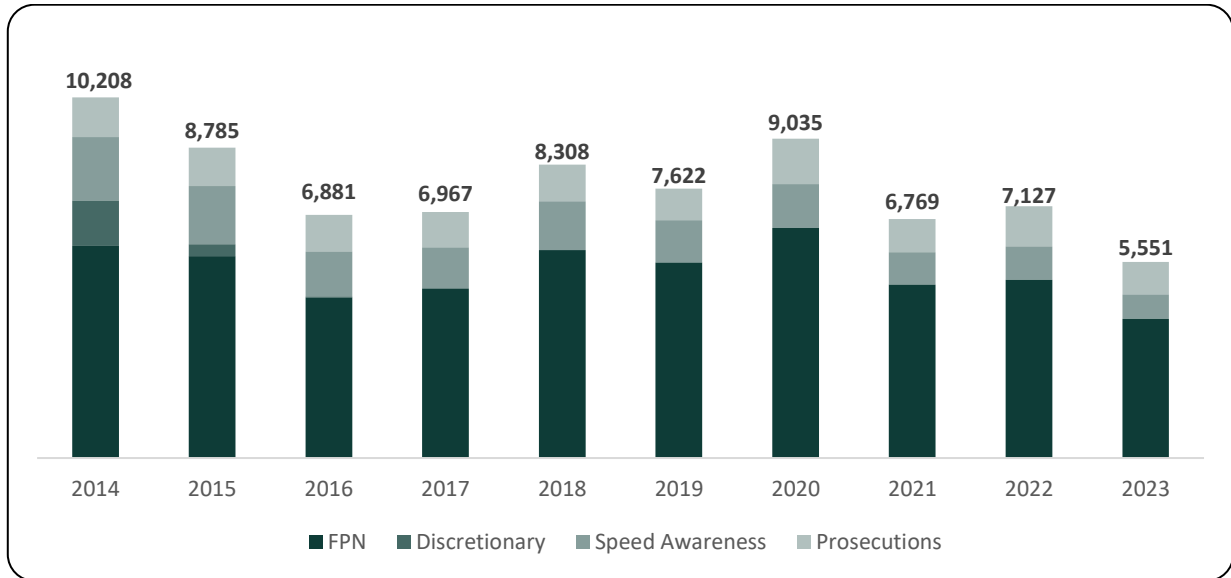


¹ Population figures sourced from Mid-Year Estimates 2022, NISRA.

6. Speeding

In Northern Ireland speeding offences can be detected by PSNI officers or by the fixed cameras and mobile cameras operated by the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP). More detailed information regarding the NIRSP can be obtained from the [NI RSP website](#). In 2022² (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 65,974 persons speeding which equated to 92% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Figure 5: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2014 – 2023



In 2023, there were 5,551 detections for speeding offences, which was a 46% decrease on the 10,208 speeding detections in 2014. Speeding detections accounted for 14% of all motoring offences detected by PSNI, with almost one in three of these detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) – see table 5. The highest speed detected in 2023 was 140mph on the M12 motorway, Craigavon which is a 70mph stretch of road. (Table 4).

Table 4: Top speed detected by PSNI within each speed limit, 2023

| Speed limit | Highest speed detected | Location |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 20mph | 49mph | Marble Arch Road, Enniskillen |
| 30mph | 75mph | Station Road, Newtownabbey |
| 40mph | 100mph | Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt |
| 45mph | 130mph | Belfast Road, Ballyclare |
| 50mph | 120mph | Parkway, Belfast |
| 60mph | 119mph | Annagilla Road, Ballygawley |
| 70mph | 140mph | M12, Craigavon |

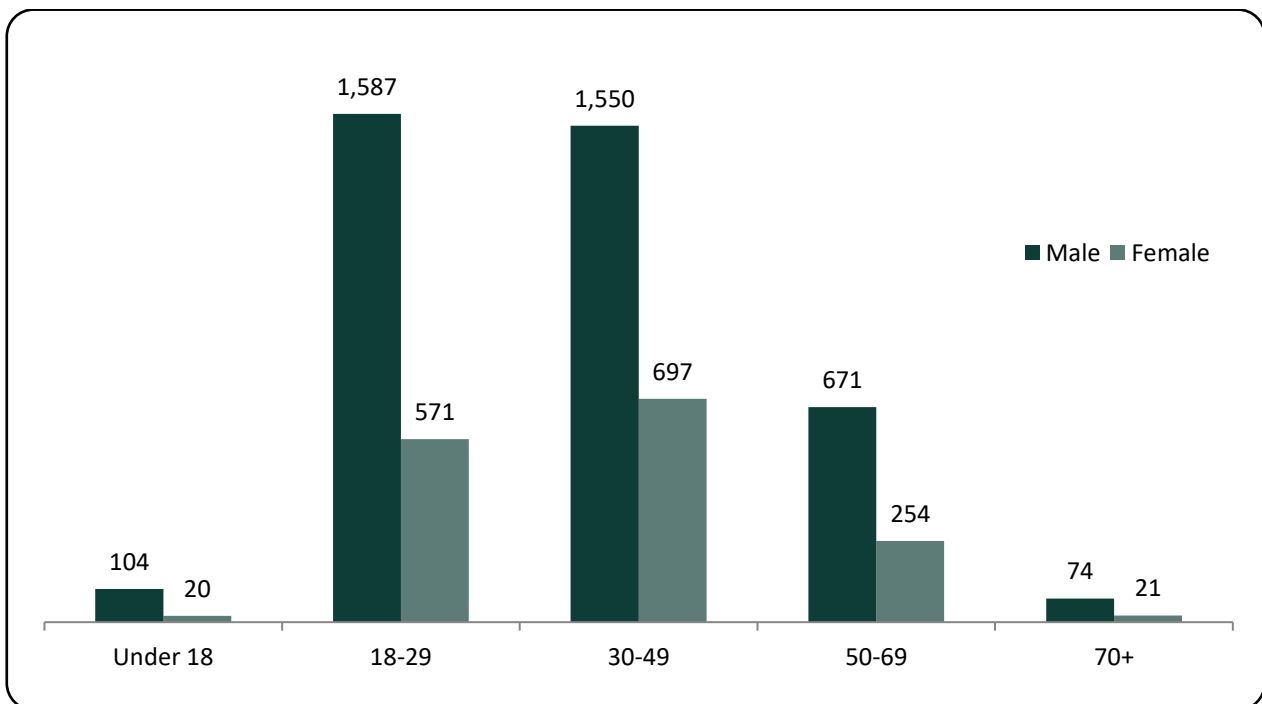
² 2023 figures will be published on 28th June 2024.

Table 5: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2023

| Month | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January | 83 | 56 | 45 | 53 | 74 | 67 | 86 | 464 |
| February | 61 | 44 | 48 | 32 | 85 | 90 | 78 | 438 |
| March | 60 | 67 | 53 | 60 | 100 | 55 | 78 | 473 |
| April | 113 | 66 | 65 | 40 | 64 | 56 | 76 | 480 |
| May | 72 | 82 | 95 | 81 | 61 | 70 | 59 | 520 |
| June | 81 | 53 | 57 | 61 | 119 | 70 | 69 | 510 |
| July | 111 | 70 | 75 | 68 | 77 | 106 | 142 | 649 |
| August | 65 | 58 | 82 | 49 | 73 | 51 | 71 | 449 |
| September | 54 | 40 | 37 | 40 | 46 | 44 | 70 | 331 |
| October | 60 | 35 | 72 | 42 | 41 | 50 | 49 | 349 |
| November | 69 | 73 | 98 | 57 | 202 | 67 | 64 | 630 |
| December | 36 | 34 | 40 | 42 | 32 | 31 | 43 | 258 |
| Total | 865 | 678 | 767 | 625 | 974 | 757 | 885 | 5,551 |

Males accounted for almost three quarters (72%) of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 18–29 and those aged 30-49 together represented almost four fifths of all persons detected for speeding offences.

Figure 6: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2023

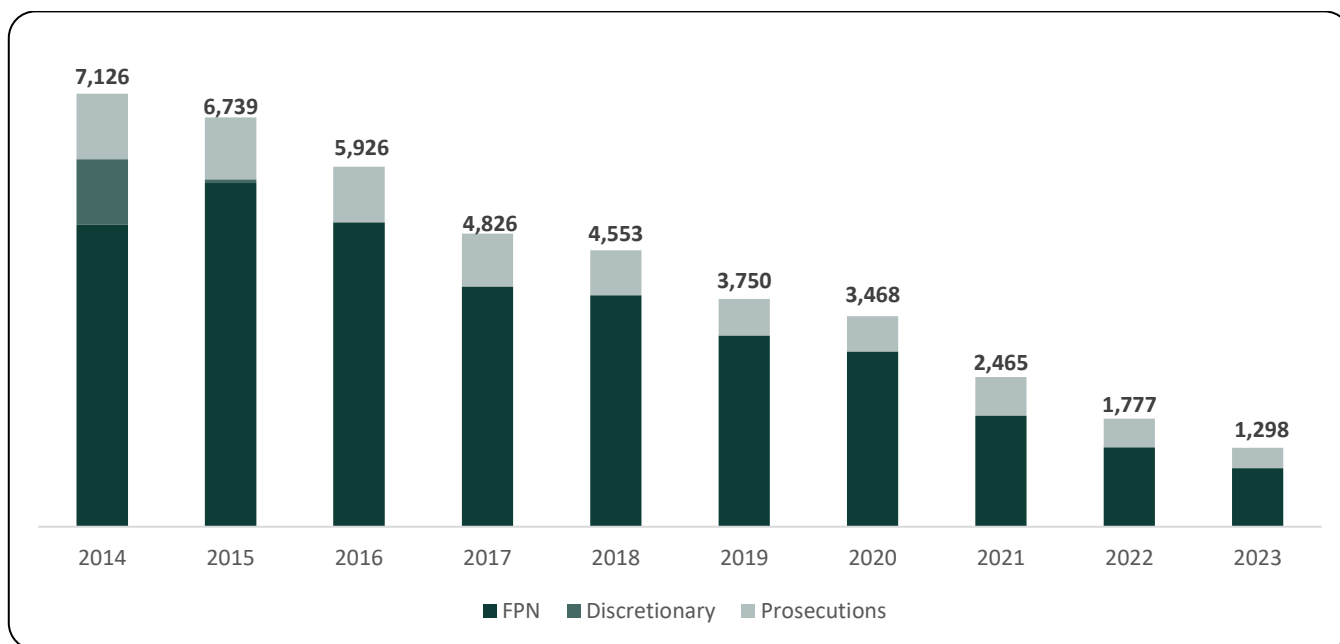


Of the 11 Policing Districts, the highest number of speeding offences detected in 2023 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (1,201). However, Antrim and Newtownabbey recorded the highest rate of speeding offences with 86 per 10,000 population aged 16+. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest speeding detections (134) and the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 13 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

7. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 7,126 in 2014 to 1,298 in 2023 (a decrease of 82%). Although the number of detections has decreased, research conducted by DfI³ in 2021/22 shows that 58% of drivers used their phone in some capacity in the last year while driving, with males more likely to make a hand held call. More than half (54%) of respondents believed that drivers were likely to be stopped by police for using their mobile phone while driving.

Figure 7: Number of mobile phone offences, 2014 – 2023



Mobile phone offences accounted for 3% of all motoring offences in 2023. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Saturday and Sunday with the highest proportion detected on a Thursday (21%) (Table 6).

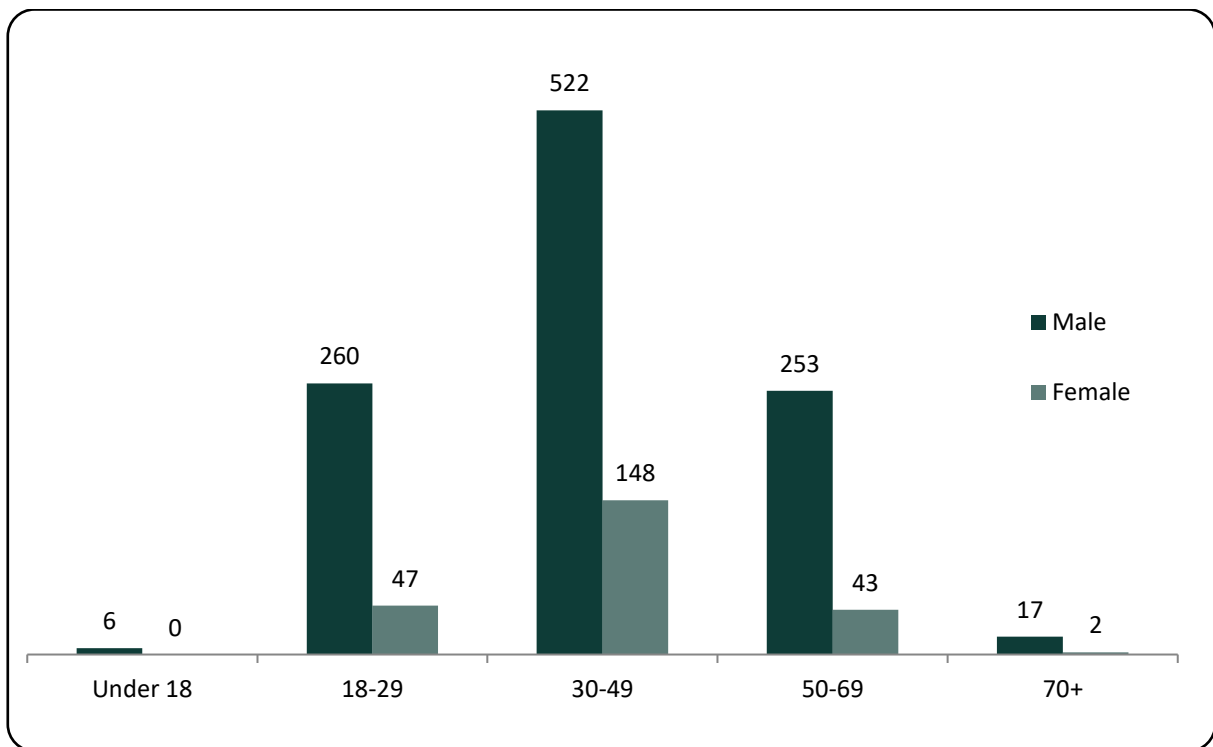
³ [Road safety issues in Northern Ireland](#)

Table 6: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2023

| Month | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January | 8 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 31 | 32 | 19 | 145 |
| February | 5 | 15 | 21 | 15 | 22 | 24 | 6 | 108 |
| March | 7 | 12 | 16 | 13 | 22 | 18 | 13 | 101 |
| April | 11 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 31 | 17 | 15 | 134 |
| May | 8 | 11 | 25 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 6 | 111 |
| June | 7 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 31 | 10 | 127 |
| July | 7 | 9 | 15 | 11 | 24 | 21 | 14 | 101 |
| August | 6 | 13 | 30 | 26 | 21 | 11 | 7 | 114 |
| September | 3 | 12 | 19 | 15 | 9 | 25 | 12 | 95 |
| October | 7 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 97 |
| November | 2 | 9 | 14 | 5 | 30 | 21 | 13 | 94 |
| December | 4 | 4 | 13 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 10 | 71 |
| Total | 75 | 165 | 228 | 173 | 269 | 253 | 135 | 1,298 |

Males accounted for over four fifths of all persons detected for mobile phone offences while persons aged 30 – 49 accounted for more than half (52%).

Figure 8: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2023



Belfast City policing district recorded the largest number (220) of mobile phone offences out of the 11 Districts in 2023, while the highest rate (12 per 10,000 population aged 16+) was reported in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest mobile phone detections (50) and recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 4 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

8. Careless driving

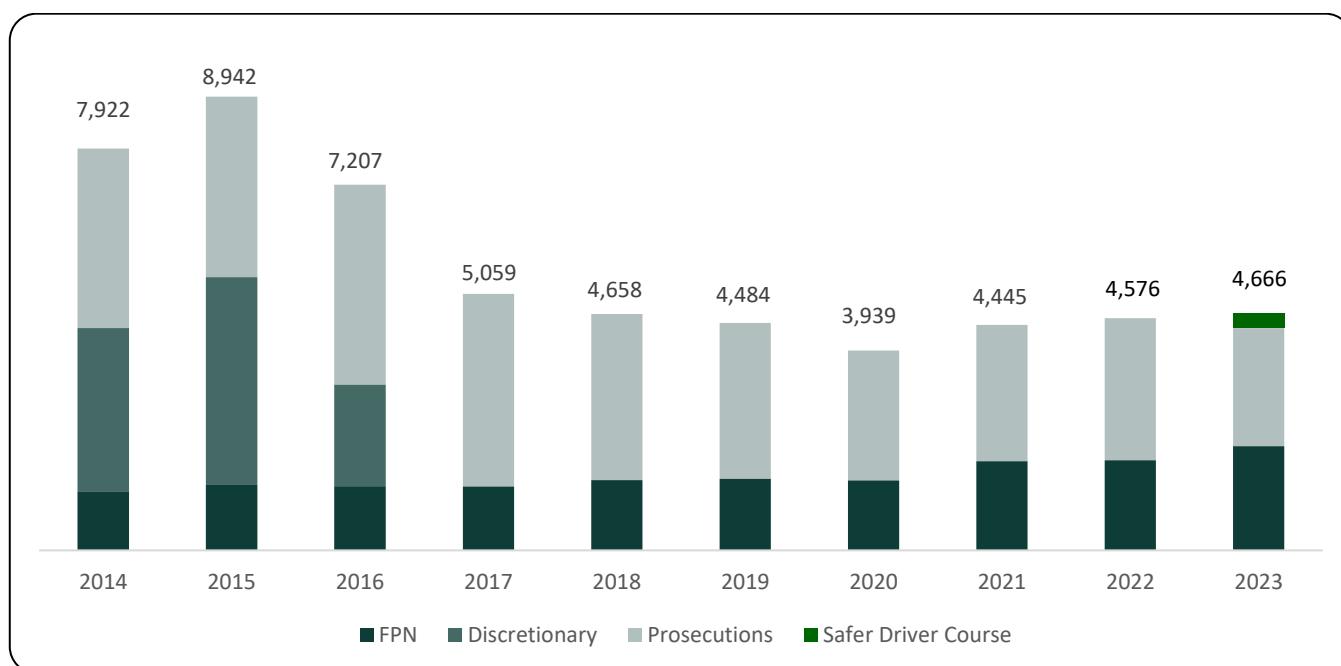
On 15th May 2023, a fixed penalty notice was introduced in Northern Ireland for the offence of careless driving, which is committed when the driving falls below the standard expected of a competent and careful driver. Prior to this, there was no one single offence for careless driving in Northern Ireland. 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.

Safer driver courses were also introduced in Northern Ireland in May 2023 as an alternative disposal to the new fixed penalty notice for careless driving, subject to eligibility.

The number of careless driving offences decreased from 7,922 in 2014 to 4,666 in 2023 (a decrease of 41%), however the evidence indicates that it remains the main contributor to injury road traffic collisions. The top 3 principal causation factors in injury collisions between January and November 2023⁴ were 'inattention or attention diverted', 'impairment by drugs or alcohol - driver/rider' and 'wrong course/position'.

Principal causation factors such as 'inattention or attention diverted' would be captured in the offences under 'driving without due care and attention', which accounted for almost half (49%) of all careless driving offences.

Figure 9: Number of careless driving offences, 2014 – 2023



Almost one fifth (18%) were issued on a Friday while one in ten careless driving offences were detected in June (Table 7).

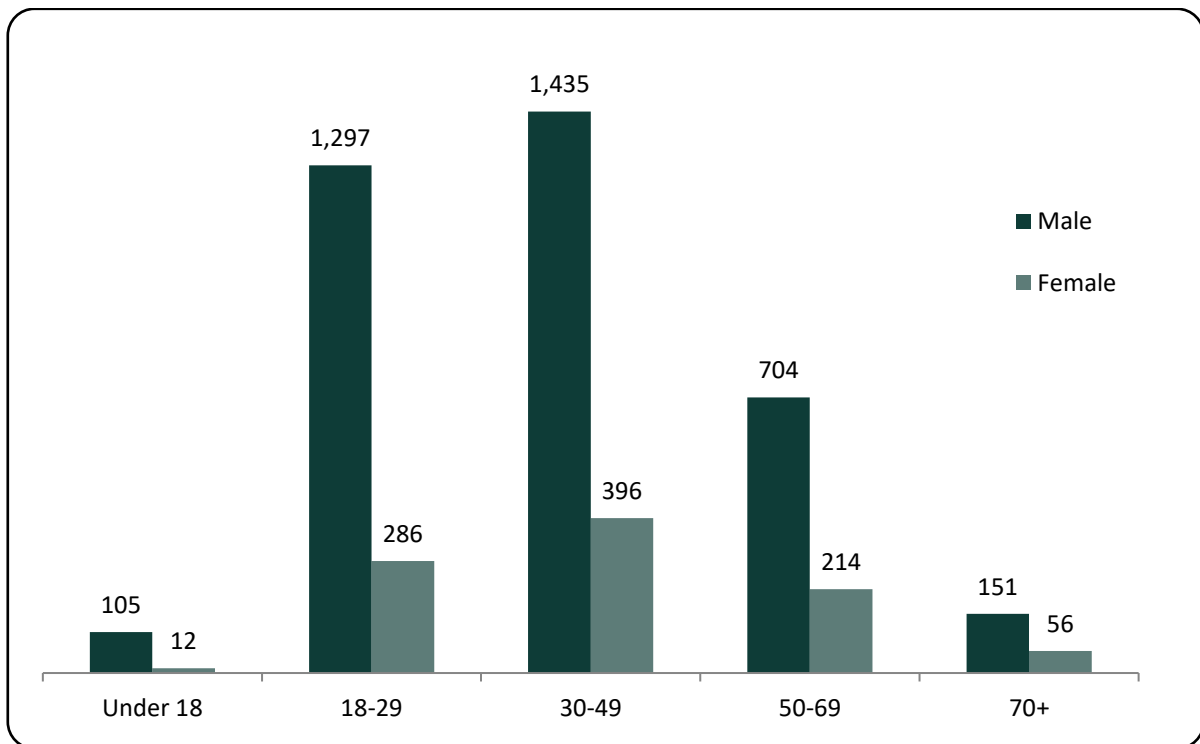
⁴ See <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics> for the latest RTC statistics.

Table 7: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2023

| Month | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January | 38 | 58 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 78 | 64 | 388 |
| February | 36 | 36 | 63 | 42 | 67 | 75 | 58 | 377 |
| March | 35 | 39 | 40 | 53 | 72 | 76 | 47 | 362 |
| April | 77 | 59 | 43 | 51 | 67 | 49 | 61 | 407 |
| May | 53 | 45 | 66 | 52 | 70 | 75 | 52 | 413 |
| June | 55 | 53 | 61 | 47 | 81 | 98 | 58 | 453 |
| July | 70 | 42 | 55 | 42 | 65 | 70 | 71 | 415 |
| August | 65 | 34 | 74 | 59 | 70 | 69 | 54 | 425 |
| September | 40 | 41 | 52 | 53 | 62 | 73 | 64 | 385 |
| October | 50 | 53 | 77 | 40 | 67 | 47 | 59 | 393 |
| November | 36 | 37 | 49 | 51 | 69 | 56 | 53 | 351 |
| December | 45 | 22 | 34 | 48 | 48 | 51 | 49 | 297 |
| Total | 600 | 519 | 654 | 588 | 798 | 817 | 690 | 4,666 |

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for almost four fifths of careless driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for 39%.

Figure 10: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2023



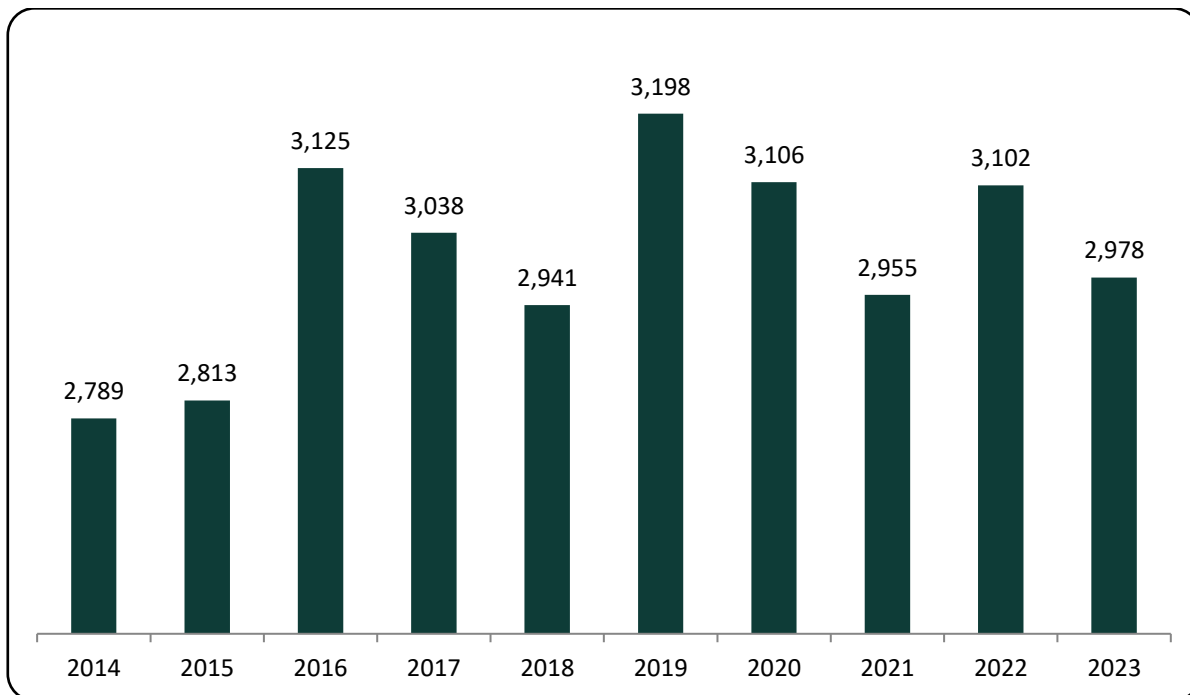
Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above.

Of the 11 Districts, the highest number of careless driving offences detected in 2023 was in Belfast City (959) however the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+ was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (43). Mid and East Antrim recorded the fewest detections for such offences (191) and the lowest rate per 10,000 population, 17 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

9. Drink and drug driving

The number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences in 2023 was 3,145 resulting in 2,978 drink/drug driving offences being referred for prosecution, with the worst offender being almost 5 times over the limit (Table 9). This is an increase from 2,959 arrests and 2,789 offences referred for prosecution in 2014, an increase of 6% and 7% respectively. Drink/drug driving continues to be a major contributor in fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions as 'impaired by alcohol/drugs – driver/rider' was the 2nd most common principal causation factor for KSI casualties between January and November 2023⁵. Further analysis identifying issues and trends in relation to fatal and serious collisions caused by drink driving has been completed by Department for Infrastructure⁶.

Figure 11: Number of drink/drug driving offences referred for prosecution, 2014 – 2023



Almost half (48%) of drink/drug driving offences were detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) and the month with most detections for drink/drug driving offences was July with 305 detections, counting for 10% of the total (Table 8).

Of the 11 Policing Districts, Belfast City recorded the highest number of drink drug driving offence detections in 2023 (552), however Mid Ulster recorded the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 26. Ards and North Down had the fewest detections (153) and had the lowest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 11 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

⁵ See <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics> for the latest RTC statistics.

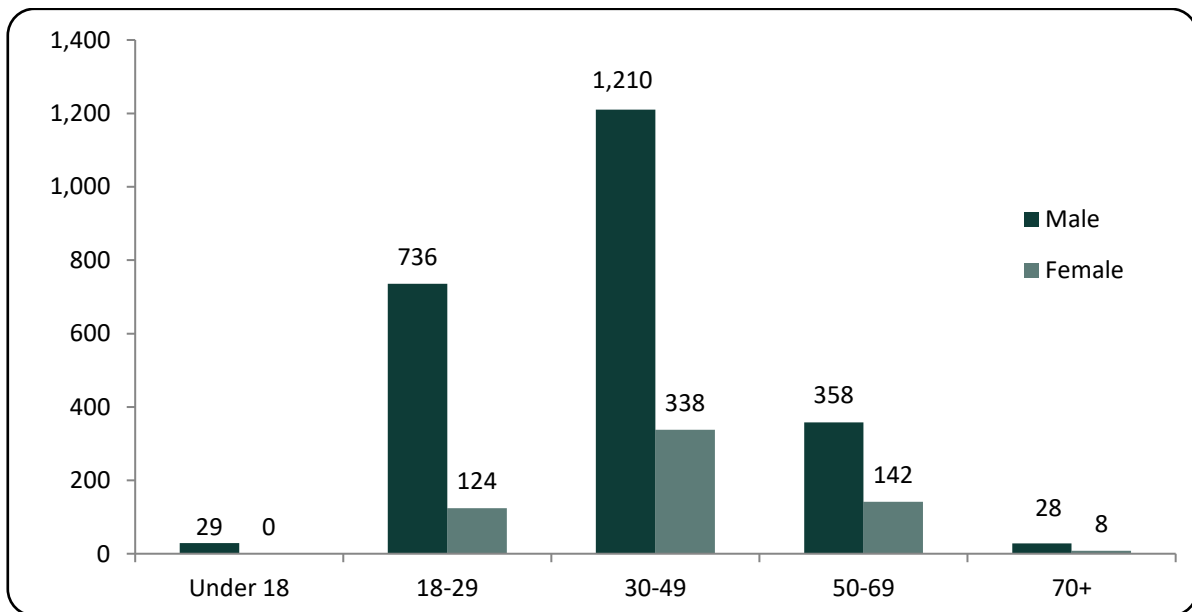
⁶ [KSI road traffic collisions caused by drink driving 2013 - 2017](#)

Table 8: Number of drink/drug driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2023

| Month | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January | 60 | 34 | 20 | 16 | 16 | 33 | 49 | 228 |
| February | 65 | 35 | 29 | 15 | 14 | 26 | 45 | 229 |
| March | 52 | 28 | 15 | 25 | 26 | 54 | 52 | 252 |
| April | 81 | 34 | 20 | 28 | 32 | 40 | 63 | 298 |
| May | 69 | 46 | 22 | 27 | 19 | 30 | 43 | 256 |
| June | 46 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 34 | 45 | 50 | 230 |
| July | 96 | 38 | 28 | 28 | 30 | 20 | 65 | 305 |
| August | 64 | 22 | 29 | 22 | 19 | 23 | 53 | 232 |
| September | 65 | 30 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 41 | 69 | 273 |
| October | 74 | 18 | 23 | 17 | 22 | 30 | 40 | 224 |
| November | 65 | 11 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 37 | 48 | 221 |
| December | 49 | 29 | 26 | 19 | 28 | 23 | 56 | 230 |
| Total | 786 | 341 | 274 | 260 | 282 | 402 | 633 | 2,978 |

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for almost four fifths of drink/drug driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for over half (56%).

Figure 12: Number of drink/drug driving offences by age and gender, 2023



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

Table 9: Top 5 alcohol readings for drink/drug driving offences, 2023

| Rank | Breath / Blood | Reading | No of times over legal limit ⁷ |
|------|----------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | Breath | 170 µg/100ml | 4.86 |
| 2 | Breath | 168 µg/100ml | 4.80 |
| 3 | Breath | 164 mg/100ml | 4.69 |
| 4 | Breath | 164 µg/100ml | 4.69 |
| 5 | Breath | 164 µg/100ml | 4.69 |

⁷ Legal limit for breath tests is 35µg/100ml, blood tests is 80mg/100ml and urine tests 107mg/100ml.

10. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 64% of all motoring offences detected in 2023, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 22%. A further 11% were dealt with by means of a non endorsable FPN, 2% completed a speed awareness course and the final 1%, a safer driver course.

Figure 13: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2023

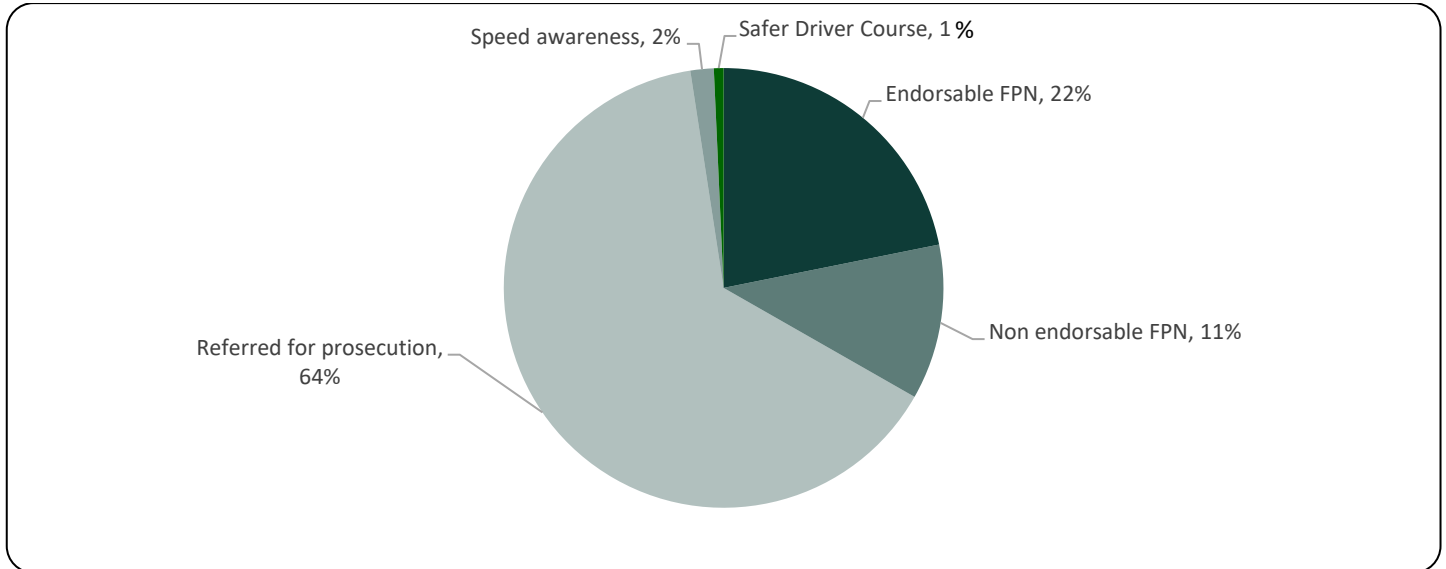


Table 10: Offence group by disposal type, 2023

| Offence group | Endorsable FPN | Non Endorsable FPN | Referred for prosecution | Speed Awareness | Safer Driver Course | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals | 0 | 157 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 164 |
| Careless driving | 1,723 | 332 | 2,327 | 0 | 284 | 4,666 |
| Construction & use | 0 | 2,423 | 514 | 0 | 0 | 2,937 |
| Dangerous driving | 330 | 0 | 1,182 | 0 | 0 | 1,512 |
| Drink or drug driving | 0 | 0 | 2,978 | 0 | 0 | 2,978 |
| Driving licence | 0 | 0 | 2,989 | 0 | 0 | 2,989 |
| Driving whilst disqualified | 0 | 0 | 1,127 | 0 | 0 | 1,127 |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 0 | 0 | 2,358 | 0 | 0 | 2,358 |
| Fraudulent use / declaration | 0 | 1 | 206 | 0 | 0 | 207 |
| Insurance | 1,128 | 0 | 6,170 | 0 | 0 | 7,298 |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 183 | 0 | 1,527 | 0 | 0 | 1,710 |
| Miscellaneous | 16 | 52 | 812 | 0 | 0 | 880 |
| Mobile phone | 961 | 0 | 337 | 0 | 0 | 1,298 |
| Non driver | 0 | 52 | 539 | 0 | 0 | 591 |
| Parking | 20 | 952 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 980 |
| Seatbelt | 397 | 103 | 214 | 0 | 0 | 714 |
| Speeding | 3,931 | 11 | 928 | 681 | 0 | 5,551 |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 0 | 0 | 1,002 | 0 | 0 | 1,002 |
| Vehicle test certificate | 0 | 459 | 368 | 0 | 0 | 827 |
| Total | 8,689 | 4,542 | 25,593 | 681 | 284 | 39,789 |

10.1 Fixed penalty notices

FPNs originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. The scheme was then expanded to cover minor road traffic offences in the mid-1980s and was again further expanded to incorporate endorsable and non endorsable offences with the introduction of penalty points in October 1997.

Non endorsable offences are those which do not result in penalty points on your licence and which incur a fine of £30. The standard fine for endorsable offences is £60 along with three penalty points. More serious offences such as driving, or causing or permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle whilst uninsured, can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by NI Court Service.

A list of fixed penalty offences can be found at - [FPN list](#)

Endorsable fixed penalty notices

Endorsable FPNs accounted for over one fifth of all disposal types used in 2023. There has been an 11% decrease in the number of endorsable FPNs issued when compared with 2022. This decrease can largely be attributed to a fall in the number of endorsable FPNs issued for mobile phone and speeding offences.

Persons aged 30-49 represented 44% of those issued with an endorsable FPN, followed by persons aged 18-29 (34%). Females accounted for one quarter of all issued endorsable FPNs. Over half of all endorsable FPNs issued to females were for speeding offences.

Table 11: Number of endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, age and gender, 2023

| Offence group | Male | Female | Under 18 | 18 - 29 | 30 - 49 | 50 - 69 | 70+ | Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Careless driving | 1,352 | 371 | 18 | 501 | 766 | 376 | 62 | 1,723 |
| Dangerous driving | 297 | 33 | 20 | 185 | 90 | 29 | 6 | 330 |
| Insurance | 789 | 339 | 1 | 358 | 569 | 176 | 24 | 1,128 |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 157 | 26 | 32 | 104 | 38 | 8 | 1 | 183 |
| Miscellaneous | 15 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Mobile phone | 762 | 199 | 3 | 200 | 509 | 234 | 15 | 961 |
| Parking | 16 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 20 |
| Seatbelt | 319 | 78 | 4 | 100 | 192 | 79 | 22 | 397 |
| Speeding | 2,774 | 1,157 | 62 | 1,489 | 1,643 | 668 | 69 | 3,931 |
| Total | 6,481 | 2,208 | 141 | 2,949 | 3,824 | 1,575 | 200 | 8,689 |

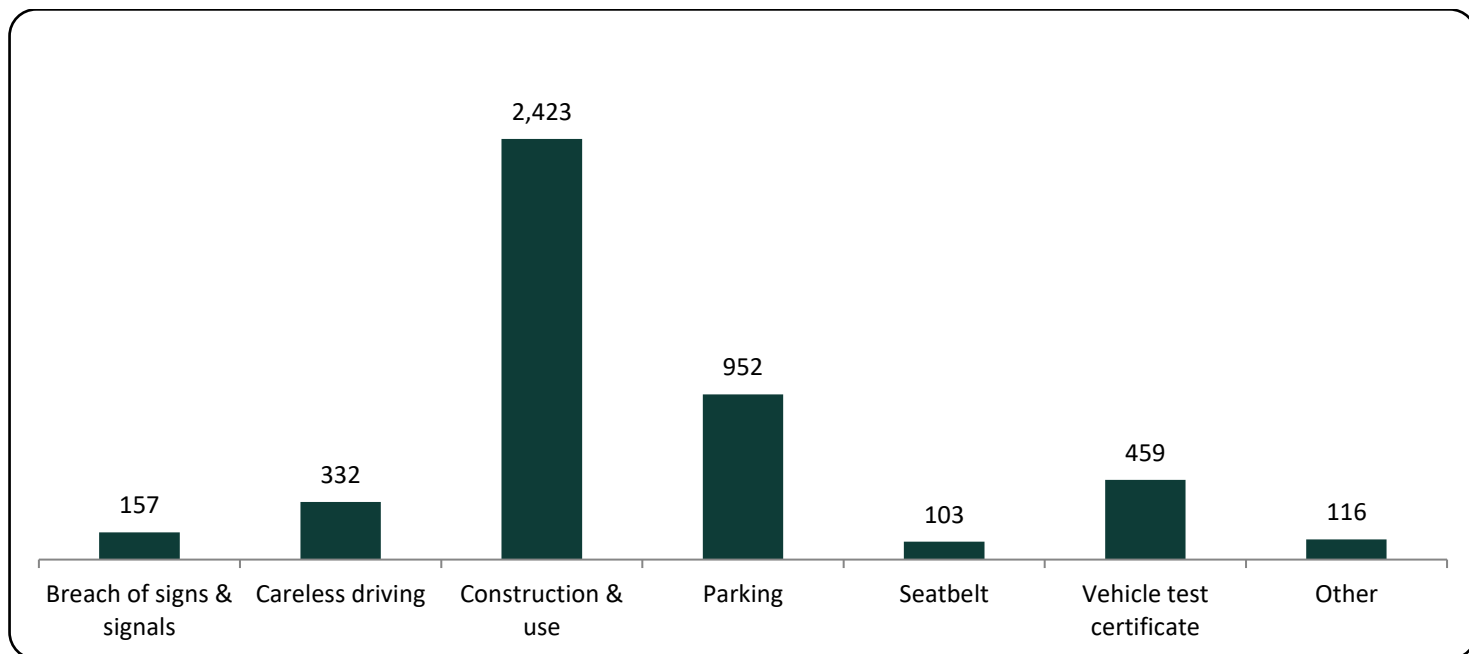
Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 4,542 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2023, a decrease of 4% on the number issued in 2022.

Overall, construction and use offences accounted for over half (53%) of all non endorsable FPNs issued, while a further 21% were issued for parking offences.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for 11% of all motoring offences in 2023.

Figure 14: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2023



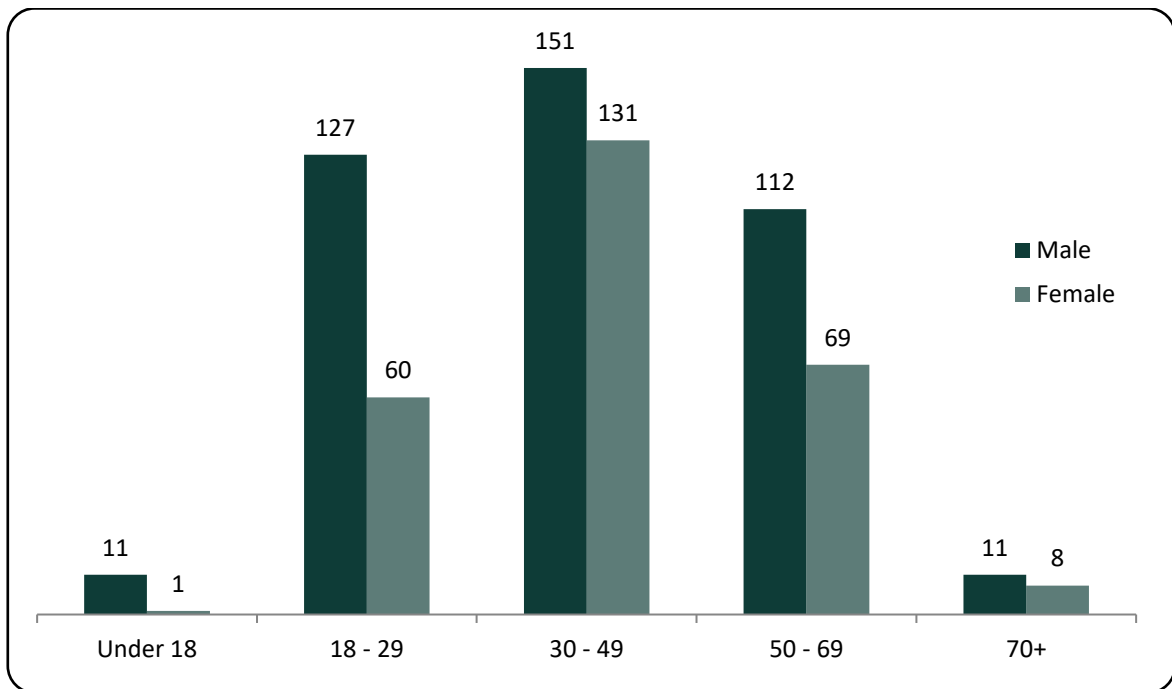
Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non driver' and 'Speeding'.

10.2 Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, may 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 by an appointed contractor, must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic the courses moved to an online platform from June 2020. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option, for those not eligible they will be dealt with by means of an alternative disposal option.

Almost one in seven drivers caught speeding by police officers in 2023 completed a speed awareness course. Drivers aged 30-49 represented two fifths of those who completed a course, followed by drivers aged 18-29 (27%).

Figure 15: Age and gender of drivers who completed a speed awareness course, 2023



Based on date of detection as opposed to the date the course was completed.

10.3 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.

Motoring offences that have been referred for prosecution accounted for 64% of all motoring offences in 2023, with insurance offences making up almost one quarter (24%) of all offences referred.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths (83%) of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 45%.

Table 12: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group and age, 2023

| Offence group | Under 18 | 18 - 29 | 30 - 49 | 50 - 69 | 70+ | Unknown | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Careless driving | 80 | 816 | 871 | 439 | 119 | 2 | 2,327 |
| Construction & use | 31 | 314 | 125 | 42 | 2 | 0 | 514 |
| Dangerous driving | 52 | 566 | 442 | 104 | 16 | 2 | 1,182 |
| Drink or drug driving | 29 | 862 | 1,550 | 501 | 36 | 0 | 2,978 |
| Driving licence | 114 | 1,027 | 1,472 | 332 | 44 | 0 | 2,989 |
| Driving whilst disqualified | 121 | 304 | 587 | 110 | 5 | 0 | 1,127 |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 63 | 787 | 1,073 | 348 | 87 | 0 | 2,358 |
| Fraudulent use / declaration | 3 | 66 | 96 | 39 | 2 | 0 | 206 |
| Insurance | 238 | 2,366 | 2,937 | 563 | 66 | 0 | 6,170 |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 120 | 683 | 597 | 118 | 9 | 0 | 1,527 |
| Miscellaneous | 81 | 319 | 336 | 67 | 9 | 0 | 812 |
| Mobile phone | 3 | 107 | 161 | 62 | 4 | 0 | 337 |
| Non driver | 15 | 212 | 230 | 76 | 6 | 0 | 539 |
| Parking | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Seatbelt | 2 | 77 | 111 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 214 |
| Speeding | 49 | 474 | 323 | 75 | 7 | 0 | 928 |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 112 | 401 | 434 | 50 | 5 | 0 | 1,002 |
| Vehicle test certificate | 12 | 148 | 164 | 41 | 3 | 0 | 368 |
| Total | 1,125 | 9,535 | 11,517 | 2,989 | 421 | 6 | 25,593 |

11. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website.

Referred for prosecution figures from 2021 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

| Figure under revision | 2022 publication | 2023 publication | Change - Number | Change - % |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Referred for Prosecution – 2021 | 28,155 | 28,318 | 163 | 1 |
| Referred for Prosecution - 2022 | 26,019 | 27,725 | 1,706 | 7 |