



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland



# Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

## 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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In the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024:

- There were 39,278 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, of which 97% were dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice or referral for prosecution.
- The remaining 3% (1,052) resulted in the completion of a speed awareness or safer driver course.
- Total detections decreased by 10% on the 43,715 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with a notable reduction in speeding offences which was down by 1,634 (23%).
- Of the 19 offence groups, 15 showed decreases in detections over the year while any increase by offence group was marginal, including construction and use and seatbelt offences which were up by 2% based on the provisional figures.
- The largest offence group was insurance offences with 7,361 which along with speeding (5,397) accounted for one-third of the total detections.
- The highest speed detected by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 149mph, on the M2 Foreshore, Belfast.



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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> March 2023 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. 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 extracted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. Referred for prosecution figures from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment, as do the remaining disposals for the 2024 period only. 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 these statistics are accredited official statistics<sup>1</sup> 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 (Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland) were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in March 2020. 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](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk). Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the [Office for Statistics Regulation website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

<sup>1</sup> 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

Table 1 shows that, over the last 12 months:

- The number of motoring offences detected decreased by 10% to 43,715
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 10%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 14%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 17%

**Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024\***

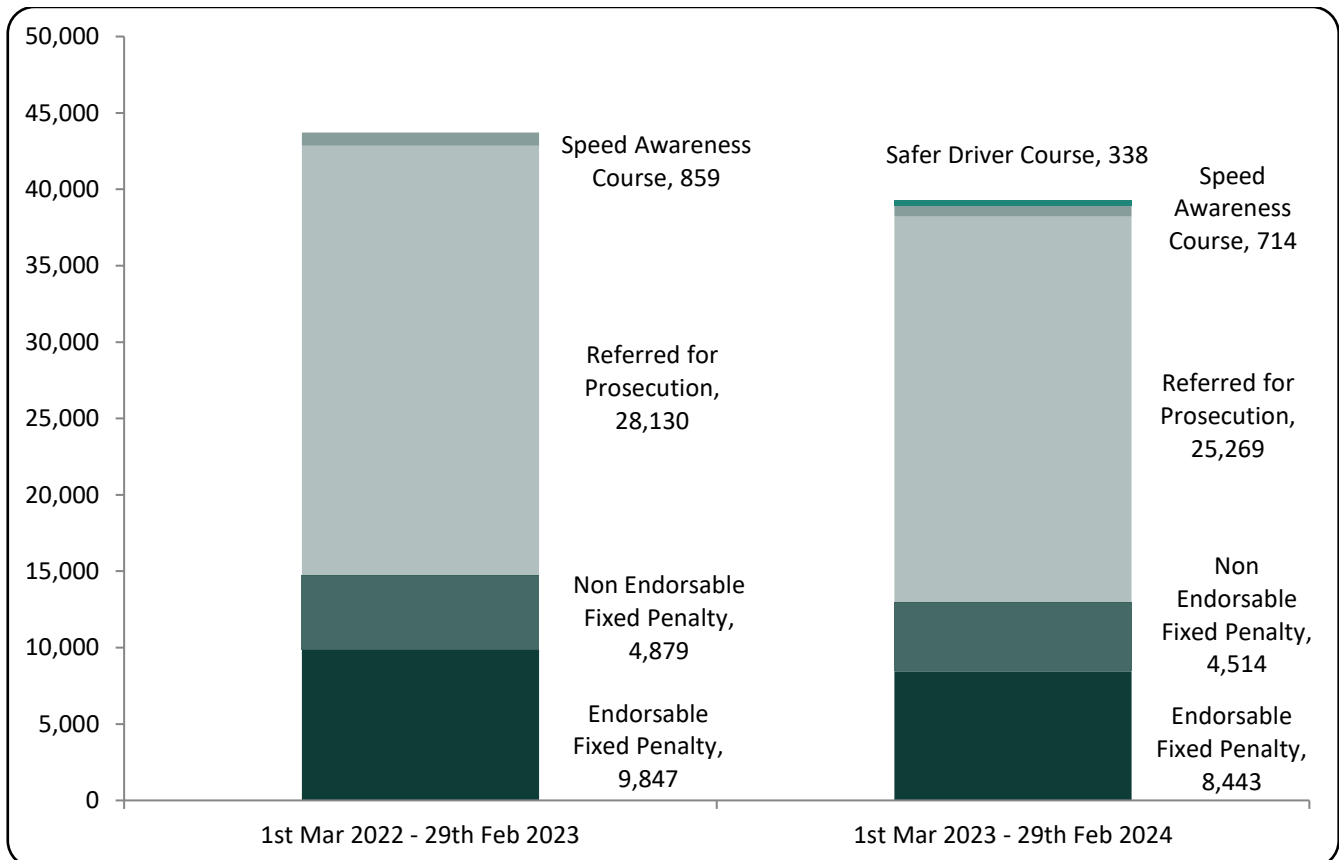
	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022 – 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2023 – 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	9,847	8,443	-1,404	-14
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	4,879	4,514	-365	-7
Referred for Prosecution	28,130	25,269	-2,861	-10
Speed Awareness Course	859	714	-145	-17
Safer Driver Course	0	338	338	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,715</b>	<b>39,278</b>	<b>-4,437</b>	<b>-10</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. This is especially relevant to the December publication due to the data being extracted from systems earlier to facilitate publication of the figures prior to the holiday period.

2. 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 between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



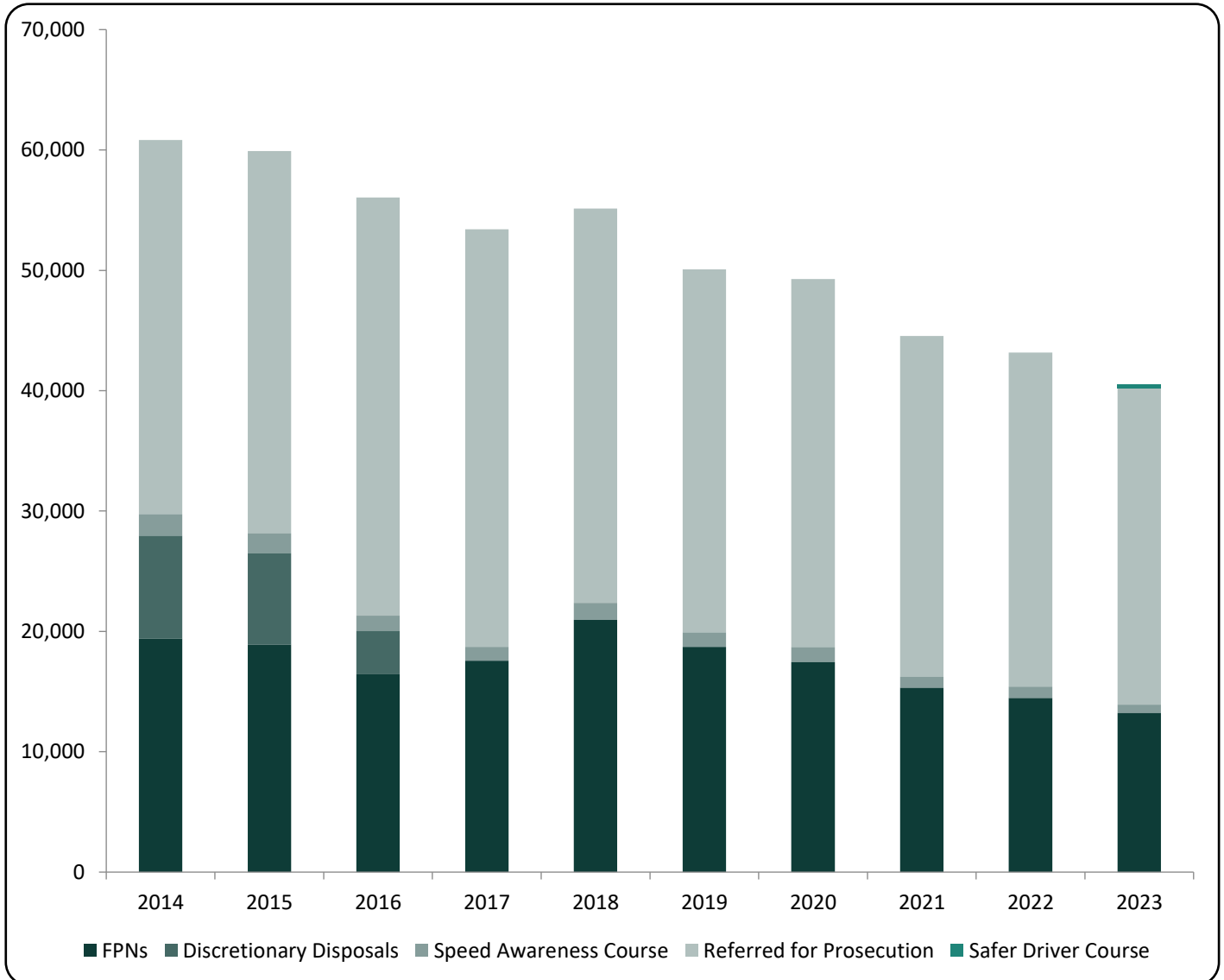
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

### 3. Trends

The number of motoring offences have been generally decreasing over a 10 year period from a total of 60,838 recorded in 2014 to 40,496 recorded in 2023 (see figure 2).

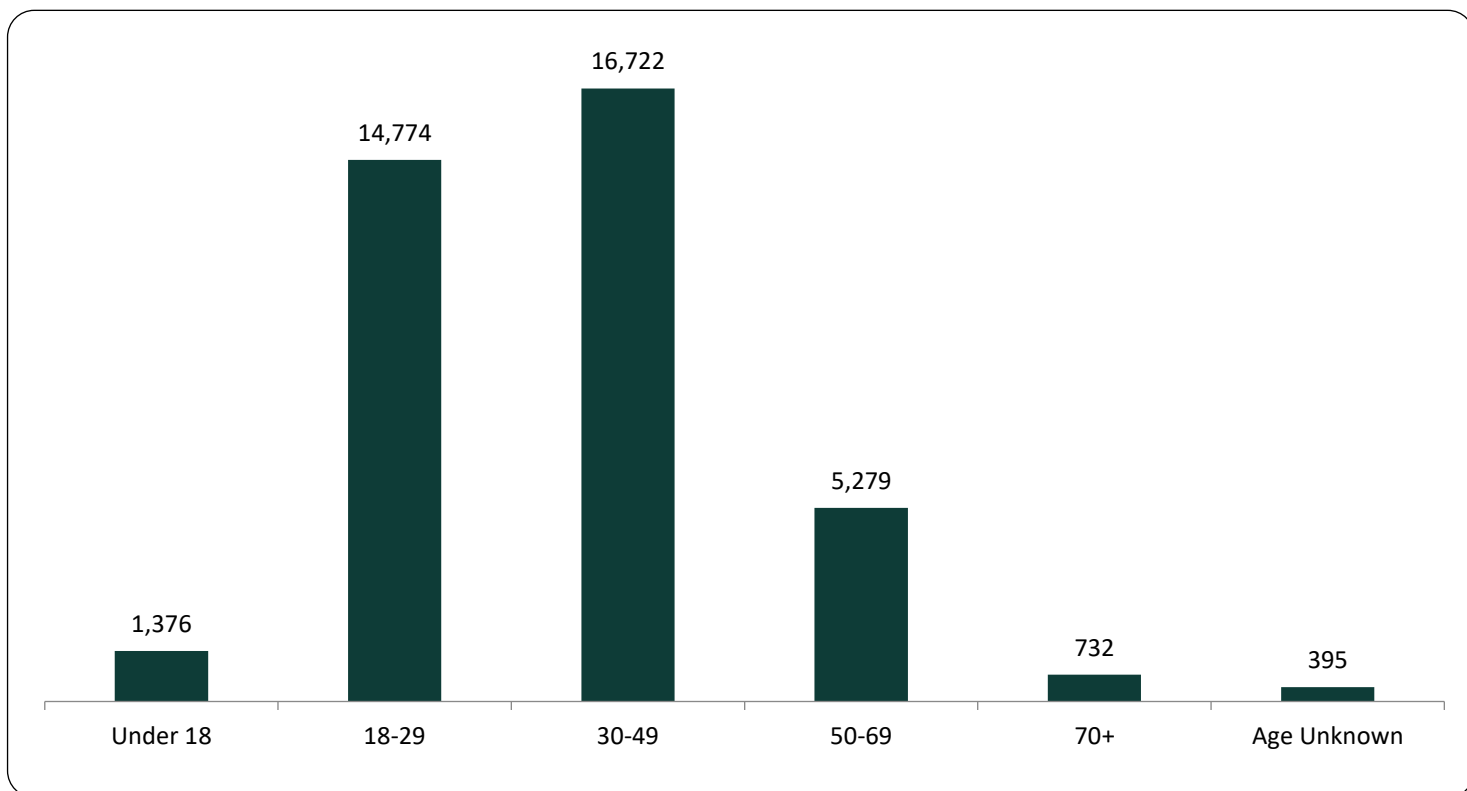
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but were removed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

**Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



## 4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 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> March 2023 and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## 5. Offence Group

**Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group<sup>1</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024\***

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	43	128	1	3	43	75	40	8	3	172
Careless driving	921	3,641	5	119	1,521	1,807	907	210	3	4,567
Construction & use	347	2,633	16	171	1,854	702	227	15	27	2,996
Dangerous driving	167	1,325	3	71	761	504	138	19	2	1,495
Drink or drug driving	602	2,343	3	27	829	1,555	500	37	0	2,948
Driving licence	432	2,504	3	107	1,021	1,424	343	44	0	2,939
Driving whilst disqualified	122	1,025	1	110	312	608	112	6	0	1,148
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	363	1,914	3	62	744	1,038	342	94	0	2,280
Fraudulent use / declaration	27	178	0	3	64	94	42	2	0	205
Insurance	1,436	5,921	4	218	2,784	3,497	772	90	0	7,361
L & R driver	237	1,433	3	142	741	645	135	10	0	1,673
Miscellaneous	83	803	1	82	356	347	81	10	11	887
Mobile phone	220	995	0	5	295	618	275	22	0	1,215
Non-driver	210	335	3	13	200	252	77	6	0	548
Parking	331	532	44	0	245	204	106	21	331	907
Seatbelt	136	593	4	13	241	359	95	22	3	733
Speeding	1,535	3,862	0	122	2,064	2,189	920	101	1	5,397
Vehicle TADA / tampering	107	838	0	94	376	419	52	4	0	945
Vehicle test certificate	165	697	0	14	323	385	115	11	14	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>31,700</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>14,774</b>	<b>16,722</b>	<b>5,279</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>39,278</b>

\* Figures are provisional and subject to change. <sup>1</sup> Please refer to section 7 for more detail regarding the offence groups.



- Table 1 shows a decrease of 14% in the number of endorsable tickets issued in past 12 months when compared with previous 12 months, which was primarily due to lower numbers of speeding offences detected.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was insurance offences with a total of 7,361 detections, this was a zero percentage change on the number recorded in the previous 12 months. For the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 insurance offences accounted for 19% of all detections for motoring offences.
- Speeding offences accounted for 14% of all offences in the current period. The total number of such offences decreased by 1,634 (23%) since the previous year, to 5,397 between March 2023 and February 2024.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 149mph, on the M2 Foreshore, Belfast.
- In the latest 12 months, the NI Road Safety Partnership detected thirteen times more speeding offences than the PSNI (70,469).
- Four out of the nineteen offence groups reported marginal increases in the number of detections over the year, including seatbelt and construction & use.
- Mobile phone offences showed a decrease of almost one-third over the 12 month period, reducing by 31% (549 detections).
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- Over one-fifth 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 group<sup>1</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024\***

Offence group	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2022 – Feb 2023	Mar 2023 - Feb 2024	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Breach of signs & signals	9	15	3	15	18	7	4	25	23	18	24	11	172	258	-86	-33
Careless driving	362	408	415	455	418	429	403	429	382	326	302	238	4,567	4,707	-140	-3
Construction & use	232	294	241	282	341	282	243	240	218	181	246	196	2,996	2,940	56	2
Dangerous driving	136	151	144	130	150	141	129	128	102	113	94	77	1,495	1,655	-160	-10
Drink or drug driving	252	300	258	231	306	233	281	246	242	253	167	179	2,948	3,140	-192	-6
Driving licence	284	303	235	262	292	279	240	249	200	216	193	186	2,939	3,404	-465	-14
Driving whilst disqualified	98	111	94	92	115	107	102	82	89	88	89	81	1,148	1,147	1	0
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	173	276	191	203	235	191	225	233	193	138	106	116	2,280	2,733	-453	-17
Fraudulent use / declaration	18	17	23	21	28	19	18	16	9	10	14	12	205	280	-75	-27
Insurance	657	759	531	580	659	650	588	589	640	592	601	515	7,361	7,359	2	0
L & R driver	136	194	139	138	144	167	134	134	110	122	170	85	1,673	1,884	-211	-11
Miscellaneous	70	93	69	72	85	95	73	94	56	69	57	54	887	963	-76	-8
Mobile phone	101	134	111	127	101	114	96	99	96	71	91	74	1,215	1,764	-549	-31
Non-driver	47	50	49	52	53	59	55	37	36	54	36	20	548	643	-95	-15
Parking	55	87	85	124	96	97	67	60	68	72	47	49	907	1,115	-208	-19
Seatbelt	67	65	67	83	77	79	60	54	47	42	49	43	733	716	17	2
Speeding	474	480	520	510	649	449	331	351	631	264	385	353	5,397	7,031	-1,634	-23
Vehicle TADA / tampering	79	100	81	93	88	99	103	54	66	68	55	59	945	1,096	-151	-14
Vehicle test certificate	86	78	80	53	77	61	63	62	86	66	79	71	862	880	-18	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>3,915</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>3,523</b>	<b>3,932</b>	<b>3,558</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>3,294</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>39,278</b>	<b>43,715</b>	<b>-4,437</b>	<b>-10</b>

\* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

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

## 6. Policing District

Figure 4: Number of motoring offences by Policing District: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

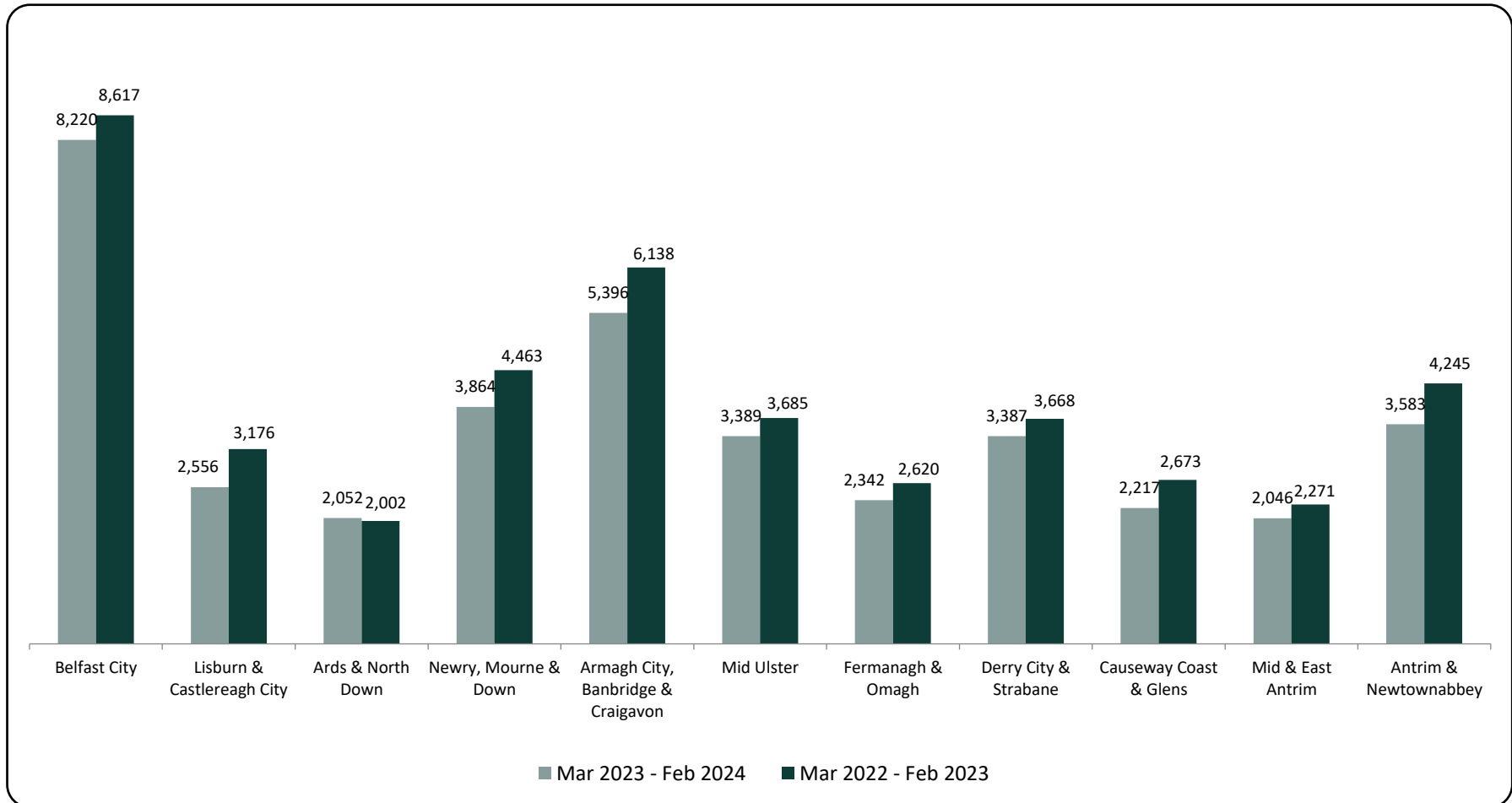
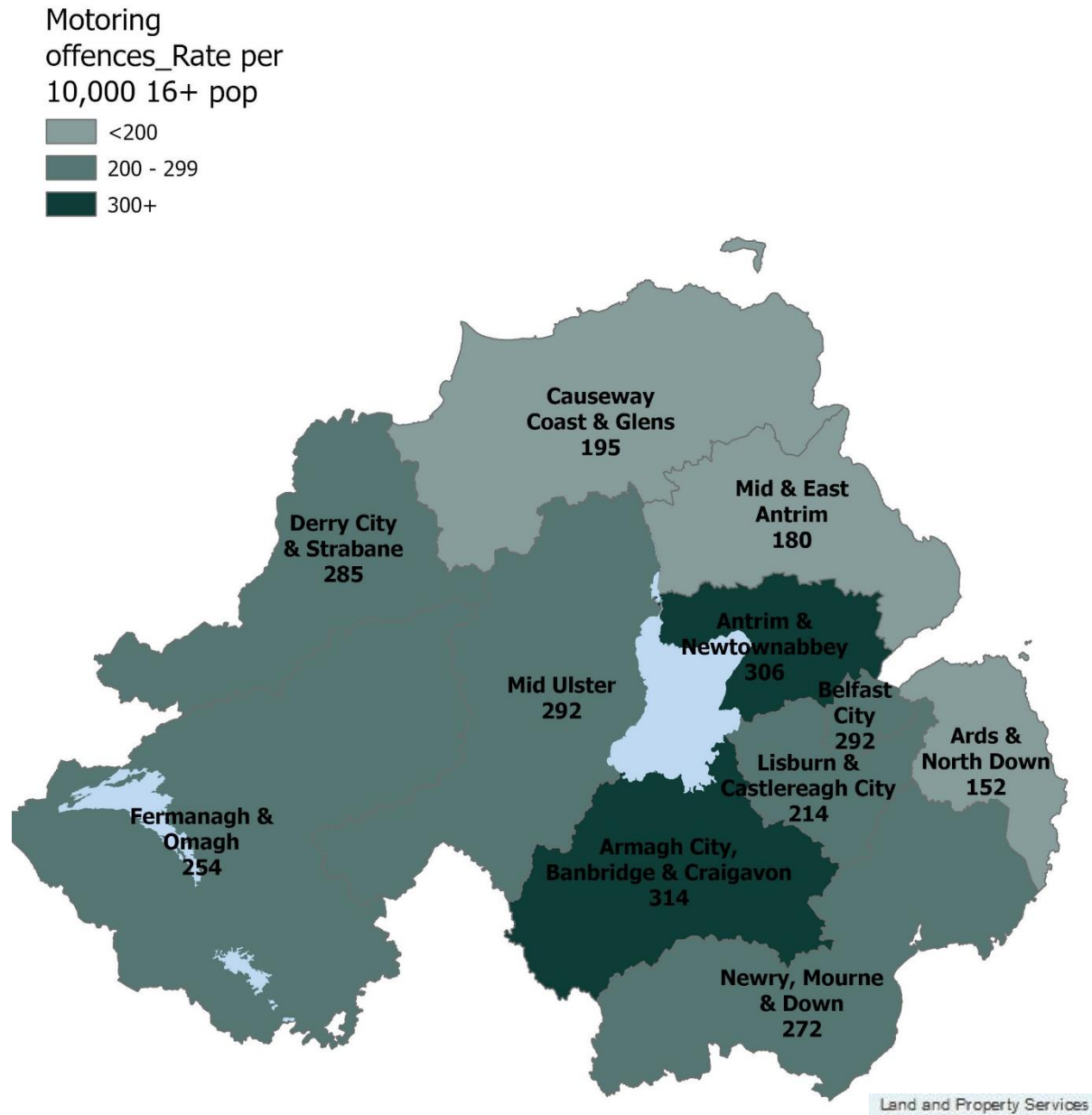


Figure 4 shows that 21% of motoring offences were detected in Belfast City District followed by a further 14% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.

Figure 5: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population<sup>1</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024



## 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.

### Safer driver courses

Safer driver courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in May 2023 as an alternative disposal to the new fixed penalty notice for careless driving, subject to eligibility. See Careless Driving section below for more details.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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 2023 were finalised in March 2024. Figures from January 2024 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.