

Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Date of Publication:

15 May 2020

Frequency:

Annual

Issued by:

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Key Statistics

During 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020:

- there was 1 security related death, compared to 2 in each of the previous 2 years. There was an increase in the numbers of bombings and shootings compared to the previous year, however current levels are markedly lower than 10 years ago. The figures show an increase in the number of paramilitary style assaults and a reduction in paramilitary style shootings in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.
- there were 21 bombing incidents compared to 15 in the previous year. This increase follows 3 consecutive years in which there were decreases in the number of bombing incidents.
- there were 40 shooting incidents, a small increase on the 38 shootings incidents in the previous year.
- there were 13 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, compared to 19 in the previous year. This was the lowest number of such shootings since 2007/08, and is the third year in a row that the number of such attacks has fallen. Of the 13, 11 were carried out by republicans. All 13 casualties were aged 18 years or older.
- there were 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, compared to 59 in the previous year. This is the highest number of such attacks since 2009/10 and a reversal of the small decline that was witnessed during 2017/18 and 2018/19. Loyalists were responsible for 3 out of every 4 assaults and of the 67 casualties, 3 were under 18 years old.
- there were 123 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 146 during the previous year. The number of persons subsequently charged was 15 compared to 16 in the previous year.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe



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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

Coverage

Police Recorded Statistics on the Security Situation for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).

Police recorded statistics relating to the security situation in Northern Ireland are the main source of official information on trends and statistics relating to the security situation throughout the Troubles and up to the present day. The PSNI produces statistics on incidents relating to the security situation that are reported to the police, including security related deaths, shooting and bombing incidents, paramilitary style attacks and arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

This annual bulletin presents finalised security situation statistics for the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. An accompanying [spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this bulletin and historic trends. Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Security Situation Statistics User Guide](#) available on the [PSNI website](#).

The security situation figures relate to those incidents that took place within Northern Ireland, they do not include any security related incidents that may have happened either in the Republic of Ireland or in Great Britain.

These statistics only include those incidents that are brought to the attention of the police and some such incidents may not have been reported. Therefore a level of under-reporting may exist and users of the statistics should exercise caution when examining trends based on these police statistics.

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 June 2012 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

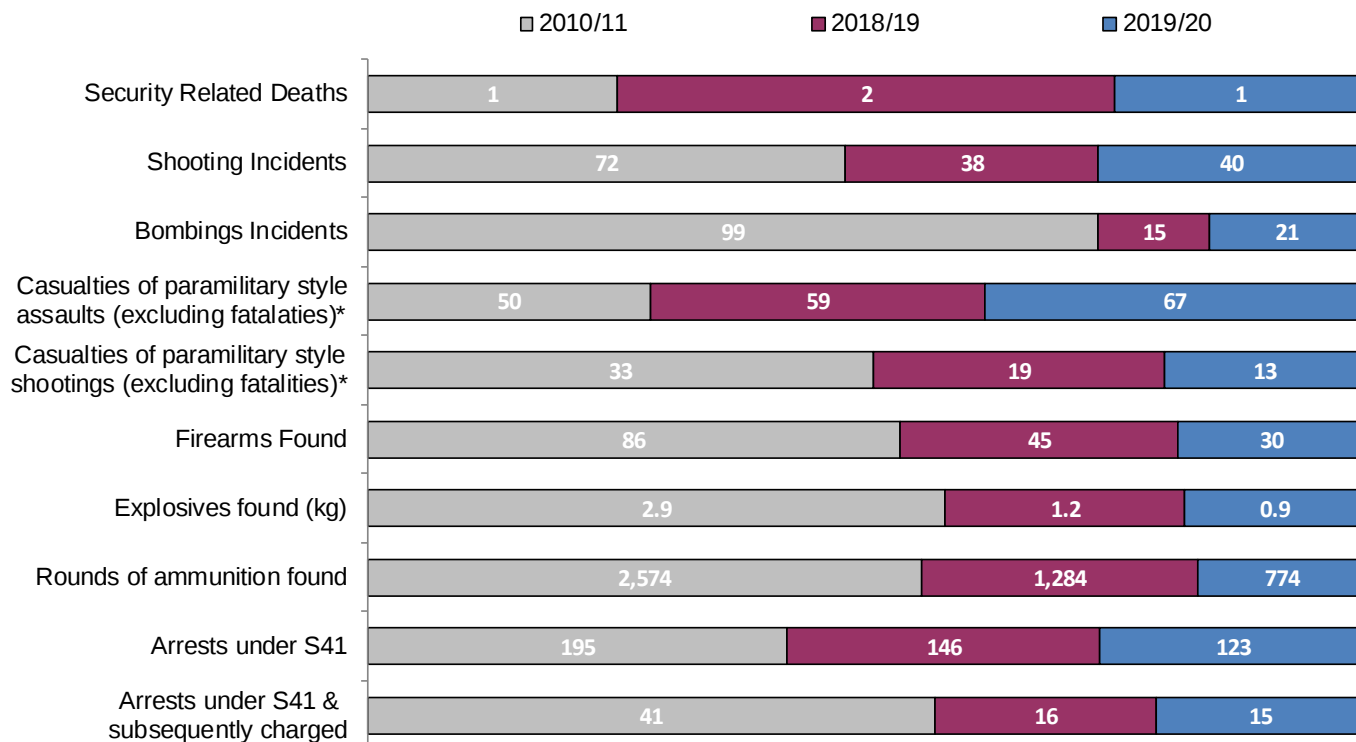
Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Enhanced the amount of information available to users, for example inclusion of longer trend information and District breakdown in annual reports.
- Reviewed and enhanced the format of the monthly bulletins.
- Improved accessibility by introducing user friendly methods of data presentation, for example tables, maps and charts, and providing tables in open document spreadsheet format.
- Continued to conduct regular consultation with internal and external users, for example via a customer satisfaction survey to obtain feedback and suggestions for improvements, with [results](#) published on the PSNI statistics website.
- Assessment against the Administrative Data Quality Assurance framework in 2018 to ensure ongoing quality of outputs and identify improvements.

2. Summary statistics

Figure 1 compares the number of security related incidents during the past year (2019/20) with the previous year (2018/19) and 10 years ago (2010/11).

Figure 1: Comparison of security incidents between 2019/20, 2018/19 and 2010/11.



* Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

3. Longer term trends since 1990

Figure 2: Number of deaths due to the security situation 1990/91 – 2019/20

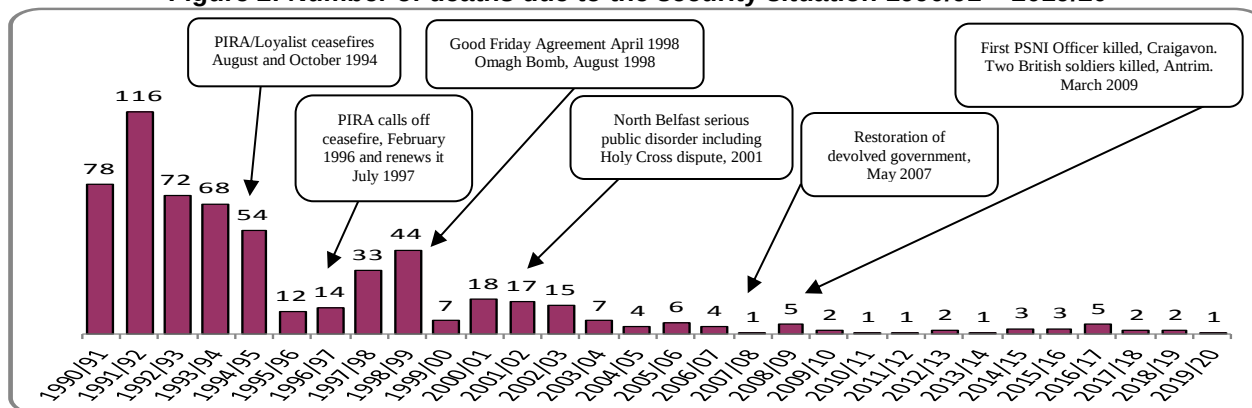


Figure 3: Number of shooting incidents 1990/91 – 2019/20

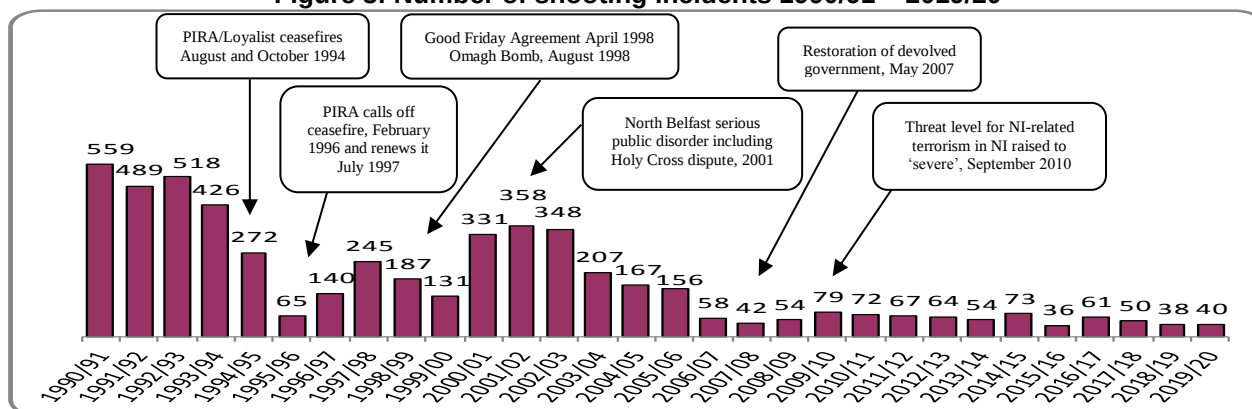


Figure 4: Number of bombing incidents 1990/91 – 2019/20

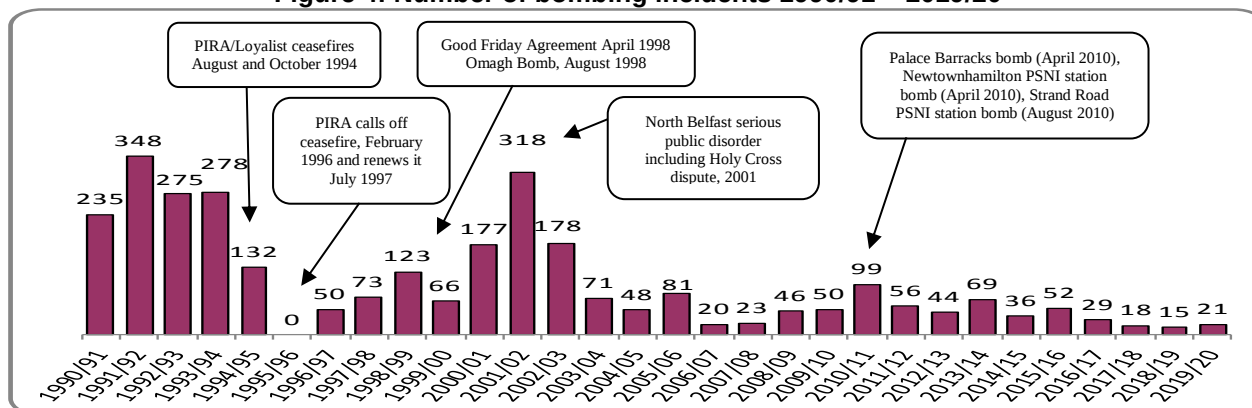
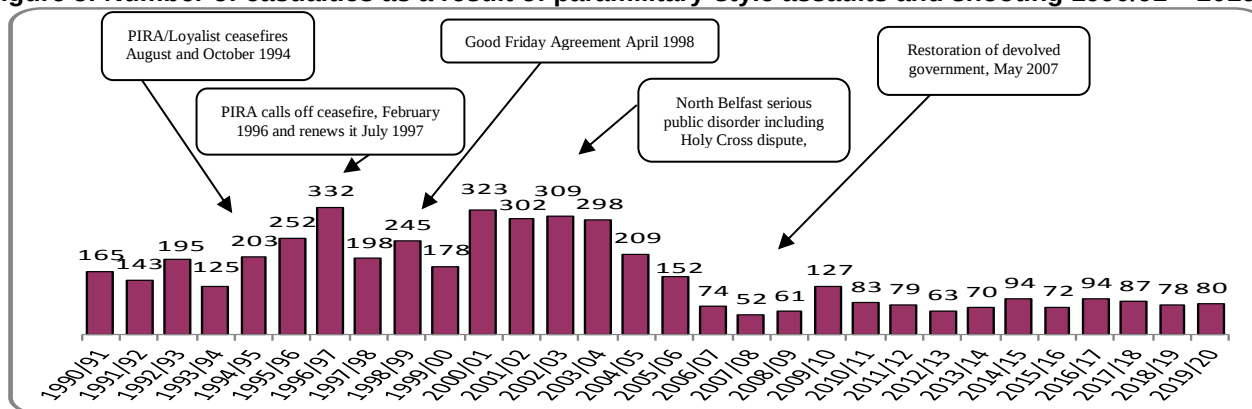


Figure 5: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults and shooting 1990/91 – 2019/20



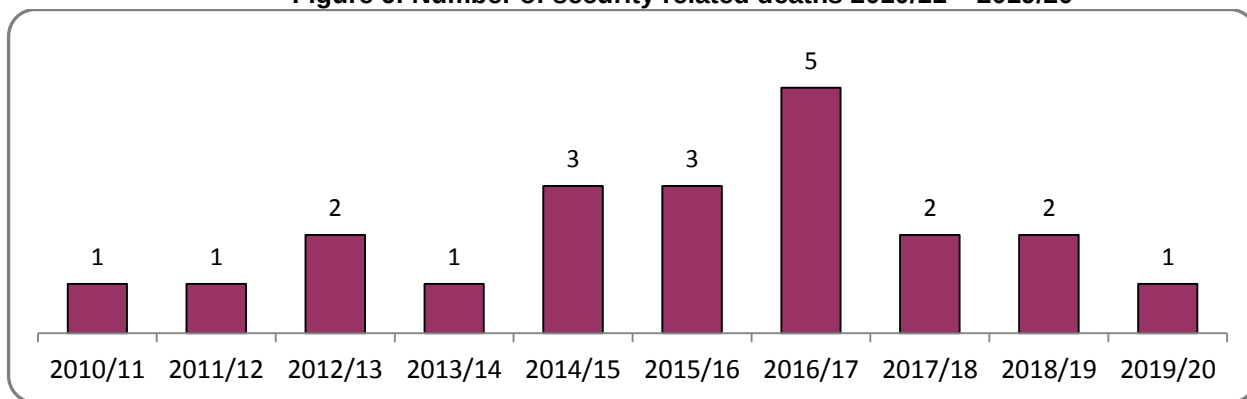
4. Ten year trends

4.1 Security Related Deaths

Security related deaths are those which are considered at the time of the incident to be directly attributed to terrorism, where the cause has a direct or proximate link to subversive / sectarian strife or where the death is attributable to security force activity.

- There was one security related death during 2019/20, compared to two in each of the previous two years. The latest death occurred in April 2019 in Derry City and Strabane.
- The past 5 years have seen 13 security related deaths compared to the 8 deaths that occurred during the previous 5 years, see Figure 6.

Figure 6: Number of security related deaths 2010/11 – 2019/20

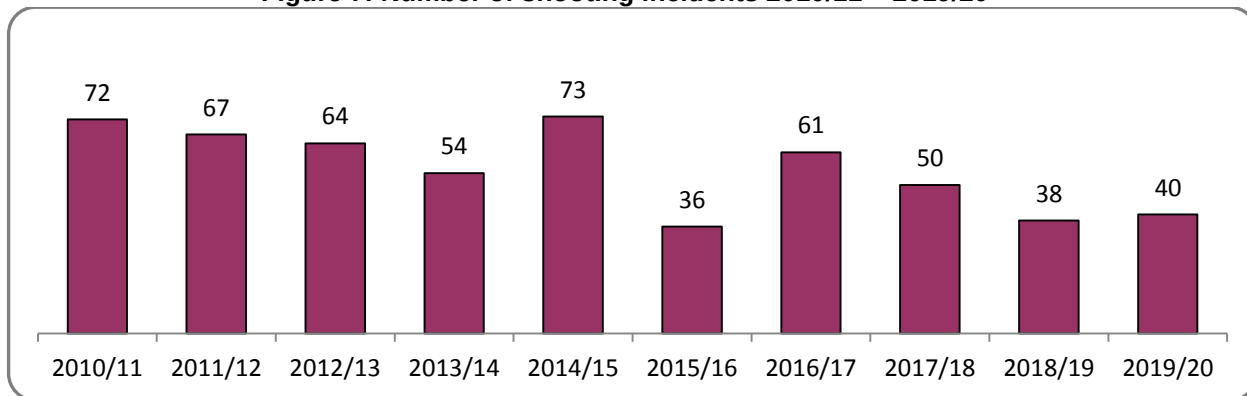


4.2 Shooting Incidents

These include any shooting incident relating to the security situation and include shots fired by terrorists, shots fired by the security forces, paramilitary style attacks involving shootings and shots heard (and later confirmed by other sources).

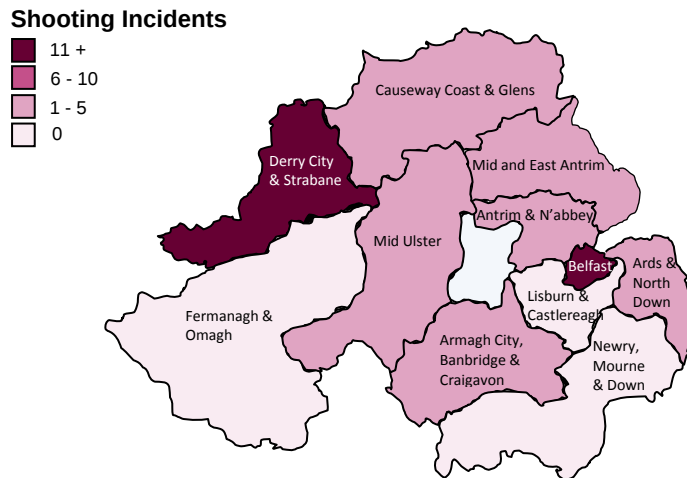
- There were 40 shooting incidents during 2019/20 compared to 38 during the previous year. Although there has been a small increase year-on-year, it is the third lowest number of shootings since records began in 1969, with lowest (36) having occurred in 2015/16 and second lowest (38) in 2018/19 (see Figure 7).
- The number of shooting incidents over the past 5 years (225 incidents) has decreased by approximately a third (32%) compared to the number that occurred during the previous 5 years (330 incidents).

Figure 7: Number of shooting incidents 2010/11 – 2019/20



- Belfast and Derry City and Strabane continue to experience the majority of shootings that occur; 7 out of every 10 shootings in 2019/20 occurred in these districts. There were 16 shooting incidents in Belfast in the past year, 12 in Derry City and Strabane, five in Causeway Coast and Glens, three in Ards and North Down and one in each of the following districts - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Mid and East Antrim and Antrim and Newtownabbey (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of shooting incidents by policing district during 2019/20

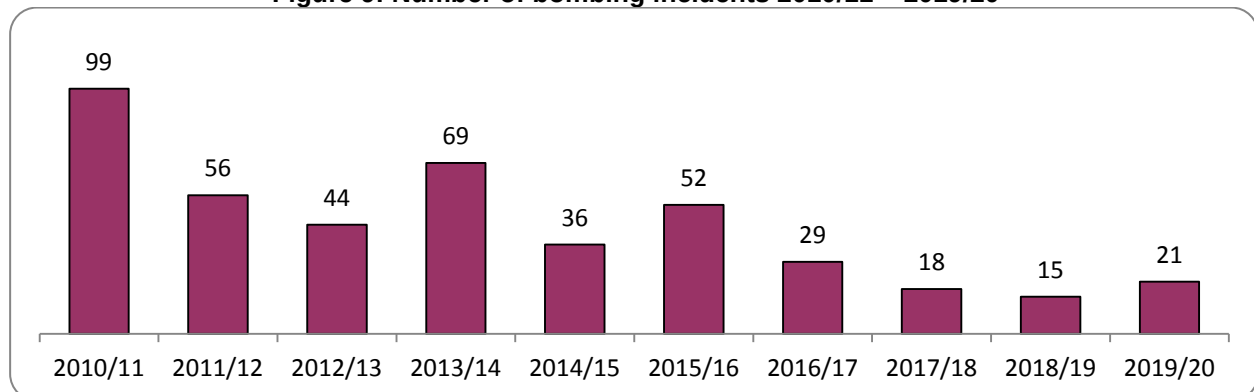


4.3 Bombing Incidents

These include all incidents where a bombing device explodes or is defused. If a device is found that is not complete or armed, then it is recorded as a 'find' and not as a bombing.

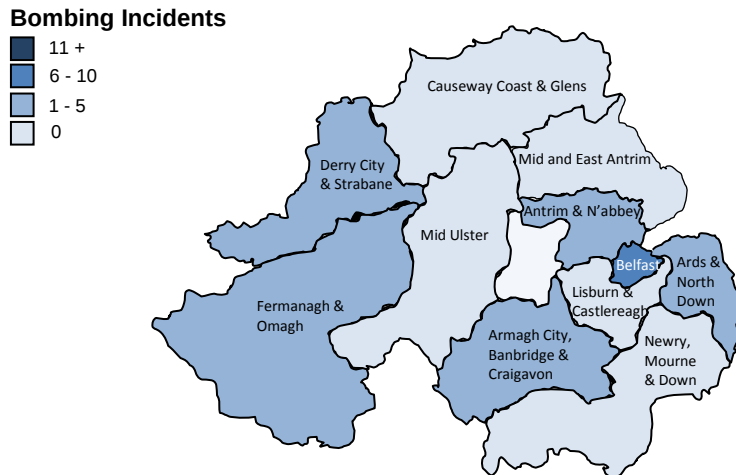
- There were 21 bombing incidents during 2019/20 compared to 15 during the previous year (Figure 9). This increase follows 3 consecutive years in which there were decreases in the number of bombing incidents.
- The number of bombing incidents over the past 5 years (135 incidents) is less than half the number that occurred during the previous 5 years (304 incidents).

Figure 9: Number of bombing incidents 2010/11 – 2019/20



- The largest number of bombing incidents occurred in Belfast (9 incidents) during 2019/20. There were 4 such incidents in Derry City and Strabane, 3 in each of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Antrim and Newtownabbey and 1 in each of Ards and North Down and Fermanagh and Omagh (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: Number of bombing incidents by policing district during 2019/20

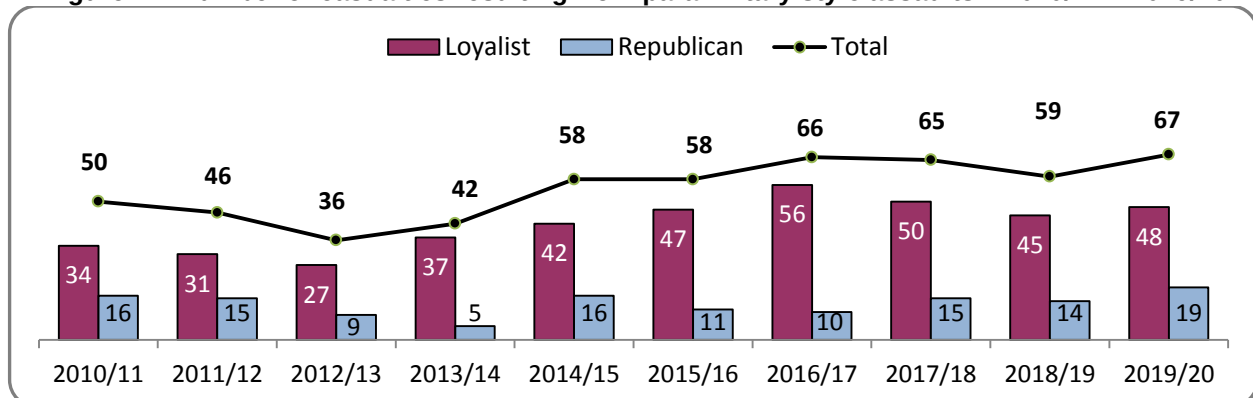


4.4 Paramilitary Style Assaults

Paramilitary style assaults are usually carried out by Loyalist or Republican groups on members of their own community as a so-called punishment. The assault will involve major or minor physical injury to the injured party typically involving a group of assailants armed with, for example, iron bars or baseball bats. Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault figures.

- There were 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during 2019/20 compared to 59 during the previous year. It is the highest number of such assaults since 2009/10, when there were 81, and is a reversal of the small decline that was witnessed during 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- The number of assaults during the past 5 years (315) is approximately a third higher (36%) than the number during the previous 5 years (232).

Figure 11: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults⁽¹⁾ 2010/11 – 2019/20

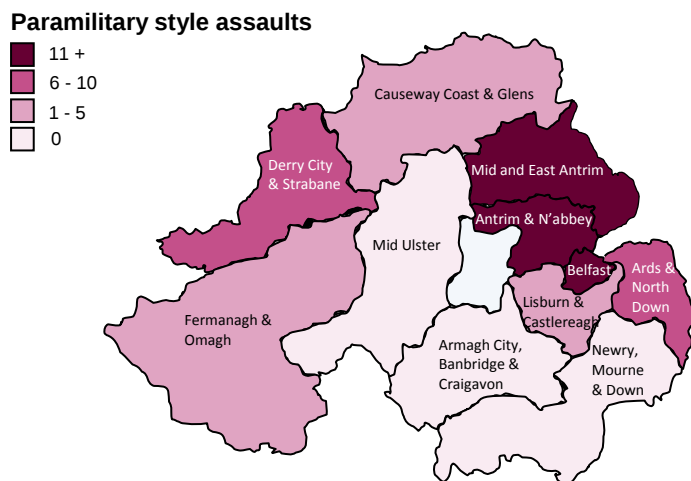


⁽¹⁾ Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults figures. Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of incident.

- Responsibility for the majority of paramilitary style assaults conducted in the last ten years has been attributed to Loyalists. In 2019/20, approximately 3 out of every 4 assaults (72%) were attributed to Loyalists while 1 out of every 4 was attributed to Republicans.
- Of the 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the past year, 3 were aged under 18 years old.

- The greatest number of assaults were carried out in Belfast (15 casualties), although a number of other districts also had a significant number - Antrim and Newtownabbey (13), Mid and East Antrim (12), Derry City and Strabane (10) and Ards and North Down (10). Figures for all districts can be found in Section 5. Figure 12 shows the distribution of paramilitary style assaults across the 11 policing districts.
- Although Belfast experienced 15 such assaults, this was 9 fewer than occurred in this district during the previous 12 months. Conversely, Derry City and Strabane saw the largest increase in number of such assaults compared to the previous year (from 2 to 10).

Figure 12: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style assaults during 2019/20

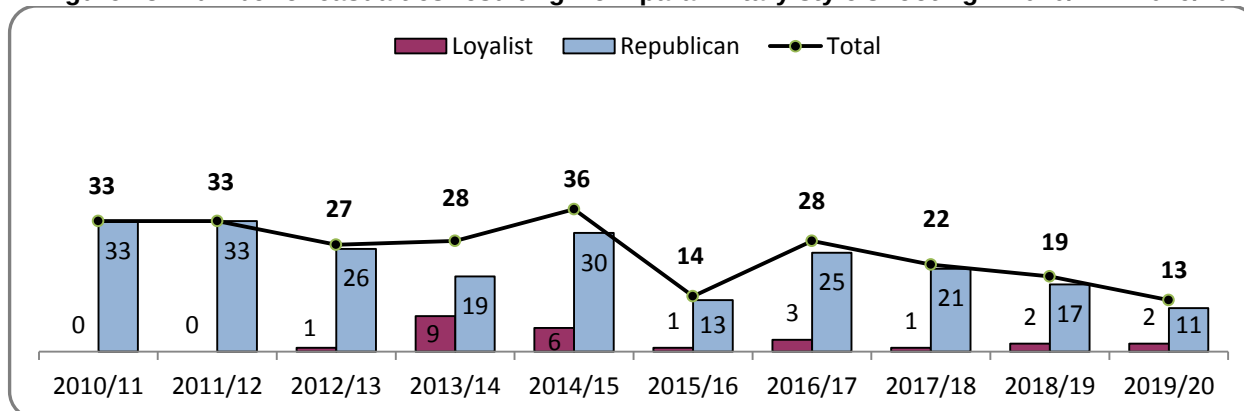


4.5 Paramilitary Style Shootings

Paramilitary style shootings usually result in the injured party being shot in the knees, elbows, feet, ankles or thighs and the motive is supposedly to punish the person for anti-social activities. These paramilitary style shootings are generally conducted by Loyalist or Republican paramilitary groups on members of their own community. Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style shooting figures.

- There were 13 casualties from paramilitary style shootings during 2019/20 compared to 19 during the previous year (Figure 13). It is the lowest number of such shootings since 2007/08, when there were 7, and is the third year in a row that the number of such attacks has fallen.

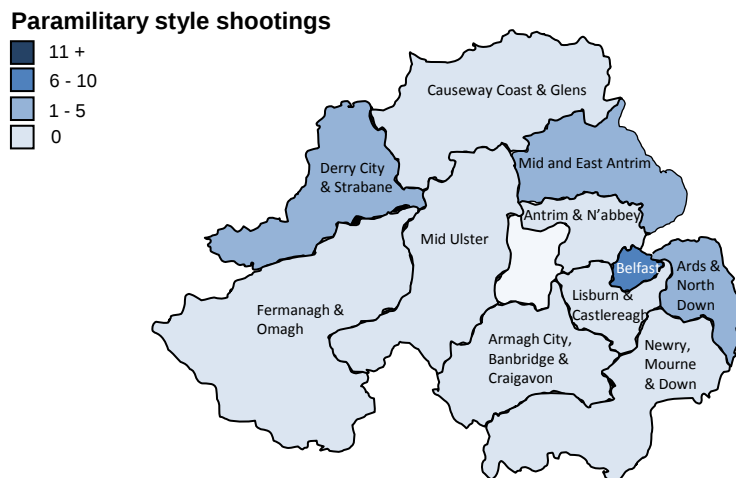
Figure 13: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style shooting⁽¹⁾ 2010/11 – 2019/20



⁽¹⁾ Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style shootings figures. Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of incident.

- The number of paramilitary style shootings during the past 5 years (96) is over a third lower (39%) than the number during the previous 5 years (157).
- Responsibility for the majority of paramilitary style shootings conducted in the last ten years has been attributed to Republicans. In 2019/20, 11 of the 13 shootings were attributed to Republicans while 2 were attributed to Loyalists.
- All of the 13 casualties of paramilitary style shootings during the past year were aged 18 years and above.
- Six paramilitary style shootings in the past year were carried out in Belfast, 5 in Derry City and Strabane, 1 in Ards and North Down and 1 in Mid and East Antrim.
- The 5 casualties of paramilitary style shootings recorded in Derry City and Strabane was half the number recorded in the previous year. Section 5 shows the change in paramilitary style shootings for all policing districts.

Figure 14: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style shootings during 2019/20



4.6 Finds of Firearms, Explosives and Ammunition

These refer to the seizure or recovery of all illegal firearms, ammunition, explosives, rocket/mortar launchers, detonators and bomb making material/equipment. Replica/blank firing firearms, petrol bombs and petrol bomb making materials, grenades and munitions from World War 1 or World War 2 found on the beach or in attics etc. are not recorded as finds.

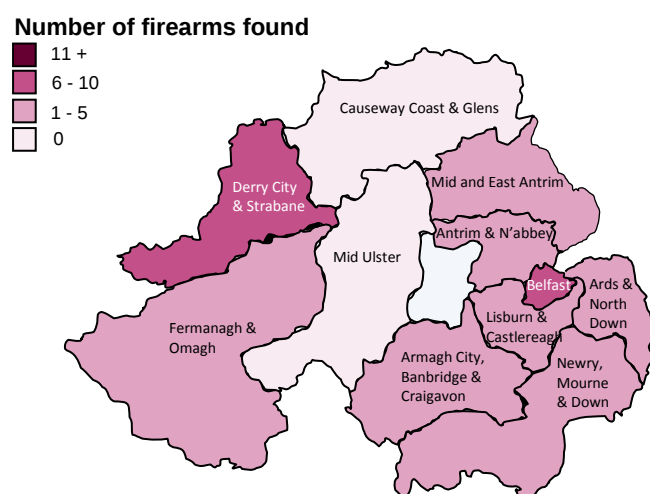
- There were 30 firearms found during 2019/20 compared to 45 during the previous year. The number of firearms found was the smallest number found since records began in 1969.
- There was 0.9kg of explosives found during 2019/20 compared to 1.2kg during the previous year. This is the second smallest quantity found since records began in 1969.
- There were 774 rounds of ammunition found during 2019/20 compared to 1,284 during the previous year. This was the smallest number found since records of ammunition finds began in 1990.

Table 1: Number of firearms, explosives and rounds of ammunition seized by PSNI 2010/11 – 2019/20

	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition
2010/11	86	2.9	2,574
2011/12	176	43.8	4,064
2012/13	57	11.4	2,589
2013/14	101	23.1	5,057
2014/15	58	22.9	4,569
2015/16	66	2.4	4,418
2016/17	45	75.1	2,635
2017/18	40	0.4	5,758
2018/19	45	1.2	1,284
2019/20	30	0.9	774

- The policing districts with the largest number of firearms seizures in 2019/20 were Belfast City (9 firearms), followed by Derry City and Strabane (7 firearms), see Figure 15. The largest number of rounds of ammunition were seized in Derry City and Strabane (197), as was the largest quantity of explosives (0.5kg).

Figure 15: Firearms found/seized in 2019/20



4.7 Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests and Subsequent Charges

Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 enables police officers to arrest persons whom they reasonably suspect to be a terrorist. Following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act an individual may be charged with any offence (e.g. attempted murder) and not necessarily an offence listed under the Terrorism Act.

- There were 123 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 during 2019/20 compared to 146 during the previous year. This is the lowest number of arrests under this legislation since its introduction in February 2001.
- Of the 123 arrests, 105 of them occurred in Belfast or Derry City and Strabane (Section 5).
- There were 15 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently charged (with any offence) during 2019/20 compared to 16 during the previous year. This is the second lowest number since the introduction of the Terrorism Act in February 2001, the lowest having occurred in 2017/18.

Table 2: Number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently charged 2010/11 – 2019/20

	Persons arrested under Section 41 of TACT	Persons subsequently charged ^(1,2)
2010/11	195	41
2011/12	159	39
2012/13	157	50
2013/14	168	32
2014/15	227	35
2015/16	149	18
2016/17	137	19
2017/18	176	13
2018/19	146	16
2019/20	123	15

(1) Statistics refer to charges brought against a person after the original period of detention (including extensions). Any subsequent charges, additions, deletions to the original charges are not included.

(2) Persons can be charged under legislation other than the Terrorism Act.

5. District level tables

Bombing and Shooting Incidents

	Bombing Incidents ¹			Shooting Incidents ²		
	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change
Belfast City	6	9	3	18	16	-2
North Area	7	7	0	16	19	3
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	3	2	0	1	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	0	0	2	5	3
Derry City & Strabane	5	4	-1	14	12	-2
Mid & East Antrim	1	0	-1	0	1	1
South Area	2	5	3	4	5	1
Ards & North Down	0	1	1	0	3	3
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	3	3	1	1	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	1	0	2	0	-2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	1	0	-1	0	1	1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Northern Ireland	15	21	6	38	40	2

(1) Individual bombing incidents may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents include explosions and defusings. Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

(2) The following types of incidents are included:

- Shots fired by terrorists
- Shots fired by the security forces
- Paramilitary-style attacks involving shootings
- Shots heard (and later confirmed).

Casualties of Paramilitary-Style Attacks

Policing Area/District	Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Shootings ³			Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Assaults ³		
	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change
Belfast City	7	6	-1	24	15	-9
North Area	12	6	-6	24	38	14
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	0	0	14	13	-1
Causeway Coast & Glens	2	0	-2	1	3	2
Derry City & Strabane	10	5	-5	2	10	8
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	1	7	12	5
South Area	0	1	1	11	14	3
Ards & North Down	0	1	1	7	10	3
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0	0	3	3
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Northern Ireland	19	13	-6	59	67	8

(3) Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

Arrests under Section 41 TACT and subsequent charges

Policing Area/District	Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests			Persons Charged subsequent to S41 Arrest		
	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change	12 months to March 19	12 months to March 20	Change
Belfast City	76	59	-17	12	5	-7
North Area	56	52	-4	3	8	5
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	4	3	1	0	-1
Causeway Coast & Glens	6	2	-4	1	0	-1
Derry City & Strabane	47	46	-1	1	8	7
Mid & East Antrim	2	0	-2	0	0	0
South Area	14	12	-2	1	2	1
Ards & North Down	2	4	2	0	1	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	6	3	-3	0	0	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	3	2	0	1	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1	1	0	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	4	0	-4	1	0	-1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	1	1	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	146	123	-23	16	15	-1

6. 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. Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until figures for the full financial year are published. This means that the totals for each month from April 2019 can change each time the figures are published during the financial year. These amendments can happen for a number of reasons, such as an incident being included or excluded following further investigation by an officer.

Since the publication of the previous bulletin up until 29 February 2020, 11 revisions have been made to the data as detailed below:

- The number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults recorded in February 2020 increased by 1 (from 3 to 4).
- The number of casualties of paramilitary style shootings recorded in January and February 2020 decreased by 1 in each month (from 1 to none).
- The number of shooting incidents recorded in January 2020 decreased by 2 (from 4 to 2) and in February 2020 decreased by 1 (from 2 to 1).
- The number of bombing incidents recorded in December 2019 increased by 1 (from 2 to 3), in January 2020 decreased by 1 (from 6 to 5) and in February 2020 increased by 1 (from 1 to 2).
- The number of rounds of ammunition seized by the PSNI in September 2019 increased by 9 (from 57 to 66) and in January 2020 by 1 (231 to 232). The quantity of explosives seized by the PSNI in November 2019 increased by 0.04kg (previously was recorded as 0kg).