



# Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

## 2024 Annual Report

**Date of Publication:**

27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Frequency of Publication:**

Annual

**Issued by:**

PSNI Statistics Branch  
Lisnasharragh  
42 Montgomery Road  
Belfast  
BT6 9LD

☎ 02890 650222 Ext. 24135

✉ [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk)

Web [PSNI Statistics](#)

**Key statistics**

- In 2024, there were 34,795 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,697 offences (16%) on the 41,492 detections recorded in 2023.
- Of the 34,795 offences detected in 2024, two thirds resulted in a referral for prosecution and a further one fifth in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- Motoring offence detections have fallen by over two fifths over the last ten years, from 59,907 in 2015.
- Insurance was the largest offence group in 2024 with 5,739 detections, accounting for 16% of the total, followed by speeding with 4,793 detections. There were a further 4,338 detections related to careless driving offences.
- Two offence groups showed small increases over the year including breach of signs and signals (25) and fraudulent use/declaration (7).
- In contrast, 17 offence groups decreased over the year, most significantly insurance and speeding which fell by 1,783 (24%) and 779 (14%) respectively. These two offence groups accounted for almost two fifths of the overall decrease in detections between 2023 and 2024.



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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 2024. 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, safer driver 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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The FPN, speed awareness and safer driver courses for 2024 are final figures however, referred for prosecution figures from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 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 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 (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](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

Over the last 12 months:

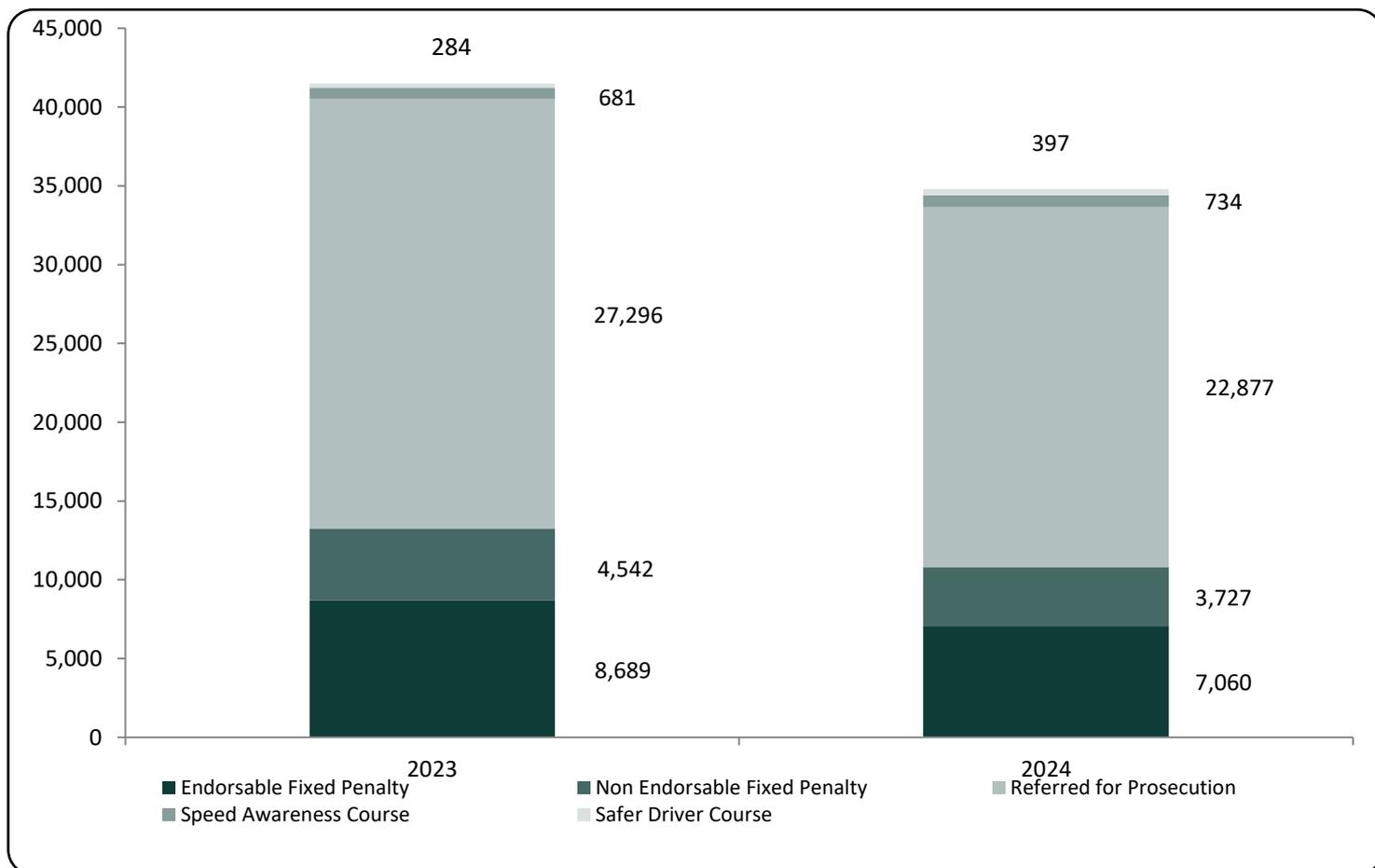
- The number of motoring offences decreased by 16%, 6,697 offences.
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 16%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 19%
- Non endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 18%
- Speed awareness courses increased by 8%.

**Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type\*, 2023 and 2024**

| Disposal Type                | 2023          | 2024          | Change over last 12 months Number | Change over last 12 months % |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Endorsable Fixed Penalty     | 8,689         | 7,060         | -1,629                            | -19                          |
| Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty | 4,542         | 3,727         | -815                              | -18                          |
| Referred for Prosecution     | 27,296        | 22,877        | -4,419                            | -16                          |
| Speed Awareness Course       | 681           | 734           | 53                                | 8                            |
| Safer Driver Course          | 284           | 397           | 113                               | N/A                          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>41,492</b> | <b>34,795</b> | <b>-6,697</b>                     | <b>-16</b>                   |

\* 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, 2023 and 2024**

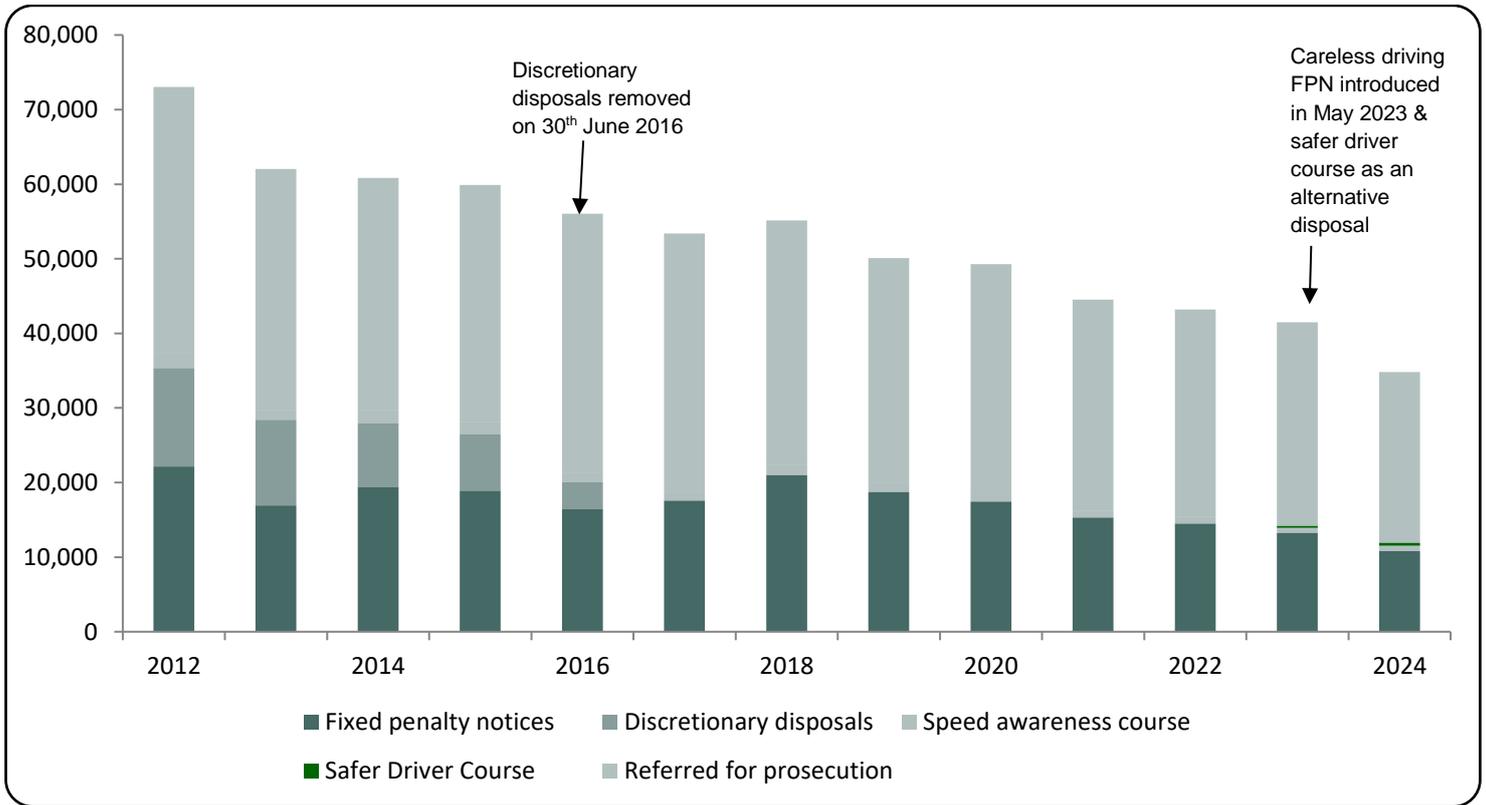


### 3. Trends

The number of motoring offences has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 73,028 recorded in 2012 to 34,795 recorded in 2024.

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, 2012 –2024**



## 4. Offence group

Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2023 and 2024

| Offence group                               | Jan 2024     | Feb 2024     | Mar 2024     | Apr 2024     | May 2024     | Jun 2024     | Jul 2024     | Aug 2024     | Sep 2024     | Oct 2024     | Nov 2024     | Dec 2024     | Total 2024    | Total 2023    | Change over last 12 months - Number | Change over last 12 months - % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Breach of signs & signals                   | 24           | 12           | 23           | 14           | 11           | 17           | 24           | 14           | 11           | 7            | 17           | 15           | 189           | 164           | 25                                  | 15                             |
| Careless driving                            | 389          | 357          | 444          | 368          | 403          | 363          | 365          | 358          | 354          | 367          | 297          | 273          | 4,338         | 4,946         | -608                                | -12                            |
| Construction & use                          | 261          | 209          | 308          | 220          | 224          | 227          | 236          | 216          | 243          | 195          | 199          | 180          | 2,718         | 2,973         | -255                                | -9                             |
| Dangerous driving                           | 132          | 130          | 148          | 137          | 145          | 130          | 146          | 138          | 118          | 117          | 85           | 94           | 1,520         | 1,644         | -124                                | -8                             |
| Drink or drug driving                       | 218          | 252          | 275          | 243          | 294          | 244          | 281          | 212          | 309          | 248          | 194          | 215          | 2,985         | 3,157         | -172                                | -5                             |
| Driving licence                             | 234          | 257          | 263          | 217          | 181          | 198          | 223          | 212          | 207          | 188          | 165          | 147          | 2,492         | 3,108         | -616                                | -20                            |
| Driving whilst disqualified                 | 116          | 113          | 97           | 82           | 96           | 79           | 89           | 76           | 88           | 83           | 65           | 75           | 1,059         | 1,186         | -127                                | -11                            |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 190          | 225          | 229          | 190          | 153          | 229          | 197          | 222          | 180          | 186          | 157          | 114          | 2,272         | 2,662         | -390                                | -15                            |
| Fraudulent use / declaration                | 21           | 16           | 22           | 23           | 22           | 25           | 24           | 15           | 19           | 16           | 12           | 16           | 231           | 224           | 7                                   | 3                              |
| Insurance                                   | 686          | 629          | 692          | 531          | 403          | 378          | 431          | 384          | 396          | 448          | 387          | 374          | 5,739         | 7,522         | -1,783                              | -24                            |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver           | 178          | 101          | 145          | 107          | 111          | 113          | 167          | 102          | 103          | 111          | 108          | 77           | 1,423         | 1,749         | -326                                | -19                            |
| Miscellaneous                               | 74           | 84           | 94           | 89           | 75           | 68           | 108          | 82           | 69           | 70           | 48           | 49           | 910           | 949           | -39                                 | -4                             |
| Mobile phone                                | 94           | 88           | 113          | 91           | 89           | 92           | 91           | 79           | 80           | 102          | 75           | 43           | 1,037         | 1,316         | -279                                | -21                            |
| Non driver                                  | 46           | 29           | 43           | 34           | 74           | 33           | 57           | 31           | 35           | 49           | 32           | 38           | 501           | 625           | -124                                | -20                            |
| Parking                                     | 46           | 53           | 41           | 61           | 50           | 17           | 33           | 46           | 42           | 58           | 46           | 40           | 533           | 981           | -448                                | -46                            |
| Seatbelt                                    | 53           | 49           | 55           | 57           | 49           | 37           | 48           | 36           | 42           | 41           | 36           | 30           | 533           | 722           | -189                                | -26                            |
| Speeding                                    | 403          | 391          | 416          | 441          | 451          | 473          | 541          | 447          | 387          | 381          | 292          | 170          | 4,793         | 5,572         | -779                                | -14                            |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 82           | 96           | 65           | 87           | 89           | 70           | 75           | 69           | 70           | 59           | 63           | 56           | 881           | 1,152         | -271                                | -24                            |
| Vehicle test certificate                    | 86           | 77           | 65           | 68           | 42           | 42           | 45           | 39           | 43           | 47           | 43           | 44           | 641           | 840           | -199                                | -24                            |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>3,333</b> | <b>3,168</b> | <b>3,538</b> | <b>3,060</b> | <b>2,962</b> | <b>2,835</b> | <b>3,181</b> | <b>2,778</b> | <b>2,796</b> | <b>2,773</b> | <b>2,321</b> | <b>2,050</b> | <b>34,795</b> | <b>41,492</b> | <b>-6,697</b>                       | <b>-16</b>                     |

**Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age and offence group, 2024**

| <b>Offence group</b>                        | <b>Male</b>   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Unknown</b> | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18 - 29</b> | <b>30 - 49</b> | <b>50 - 69</b> | <b>70+</b> | <b>Unknown</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals                   | 145           | 43            | 1              | 4               | 56             | 72             | 44             | 8          | 5              | <b>189</b>    |
| Careless driving                            | 3,500         | 835           | 3              | 121             | 1,453          | 1,763          | 814            | 186        | 1              | <b>4,338</b>  |
| Construction & use                          | 2,381         | 336           | 1              | 141             | 1,728          | 638            | 177            | 12         | 22             | <b>2,718</b>  |
| Dangerous driving                           | 1,356         | 162           | 2              | 89              | 748            | 526            | 137            | 20         | 0              | <b>1,520</b>  |
| Drink or drug driving                       | 2,408         | 570           | 7              | 16              | 724            | 1,640          | 559            | 46         | 0              | <b>2,985</b>  |
| Driving licence                             | 2,123         | 367           | 2              | 112             | 792            | 1,262          | 294            | 31         | 1              | <b>2,492</b>  |
| Driving whilst disqualified                 | 968           | 86            | 5              | 89              | 319            | 506            | 137            | 8          | 0              | <b>1,059</b>  |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 1,857         | 415           | 0              | 81              | 721            | 970            | 397            | 103        | 0              | <b>2,272</b>  |
| Fraudulent use / declaration                | 205           | 26            | 0              | 2               | 81             | 98             | 45             | 5          | 0              | <b>231</b>    |
| Insurance                                   | 4,783         | 945           | 11             | 190             | 2,123          | 2,676          | 671            | 79         | 0              | <b>5,739</b>  |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver           | 1,240         | 180           | 3              | 102             | 616            | 573            | 114            | 18         | 0              | <b>1,423</b>  |
| Miscellaneous                               | 819           | 84            | 7              | 77              | 364            | 360            | 88             | 15         | 6              | <b>910</b>    |
| Mobile phone                                | 862           | 174           | 1              | 5               | 237            | 555            | 215            | 25         | 0              | <b>1,037</b>  |
| Non driver                                  | 314           | 184           | 3              | 14              | 142            | 245            | 91             | 7          | 2              | <b>501</b>    |
| Parking                                     | 329           | 186           | 18             | 4               | 186            | 158            | 83             | 8          | 94             | <b>533</b>    |
| Seatbelt                                    | 434           | 99            | 0              | 14              | 163            | 266            | 76             | 14         | 0              | <b>533</b>    |
| Speeding                                    | 3,488         | 1,305         | 0              | 85              | 1,835          | 1,954          | 841            | 77         | 1              | <b>4,793</b>  |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 788           | 91            | 2              | 81              | 364            | 376            | 59             | 1          | 0              | <b>881</b>    |
| Vehicle test certificate                    | 537           | 103           | 1              | 9               | 238            | 293            | 86             | 5          | 10             | <b>641</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>28,537</b> | <b>6,191</b>  | <b>67</b>      | <b>1,236</b>    | <b>12,890</b>  | <b>14,931</b>  | <b>4,928</b>   | <b>668</b> | <b>142</b>     | <b>34,795</b> |

## **Overall change**

- In 2024, there were 34,795 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,697(16%) on the 41,492 detections recorded in 2023.

## **Offence groups**

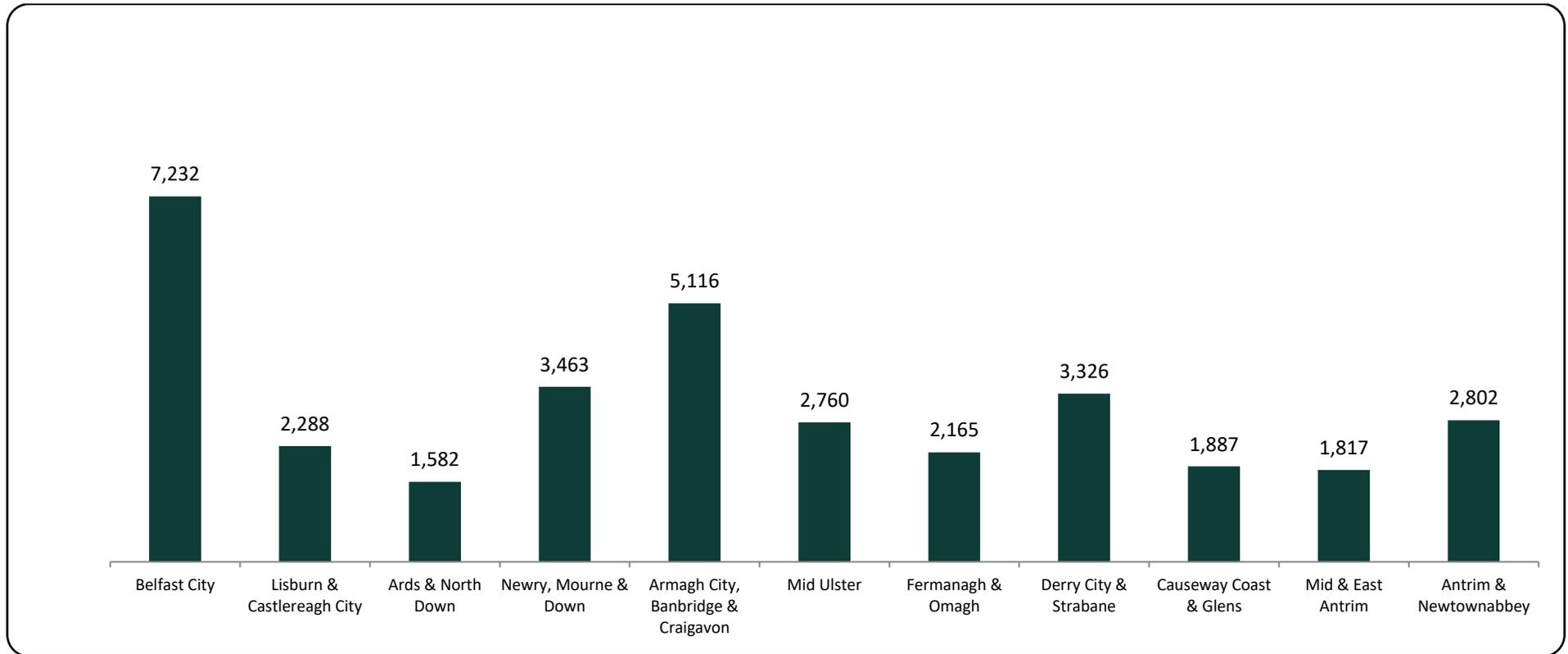
- Almost two-fifths of the decrease in detections between 2023 and 2024 was attributable to two offence groups – insurance (-1,783) and speeding (-779).
- Insurance was the largest offence group in 2024 with 5,739 detections, accounting for 16% of the total, followed by speeding with 4,793 detections. There were a further 4,338 detections related to careless driving offences.
- Only two offence groups showed increases in detections in 2024. Breach of signs and signals was up by 25 detections and fraudulent use/declaration increased by 7 detections.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in 2024 was 149mph on the M2 Foreshore, Belfast which is a 70mph stretch of road.
- In 2023 (the most recent year available), the NI Road Safety Partnership detected almost 13 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (71,915), equating to 93% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

## **Age and gender**

- One fifth of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- Almost one sixth of under 18 year olds were detected for insurance offences, whilst careless driving offences accounted for 28% 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

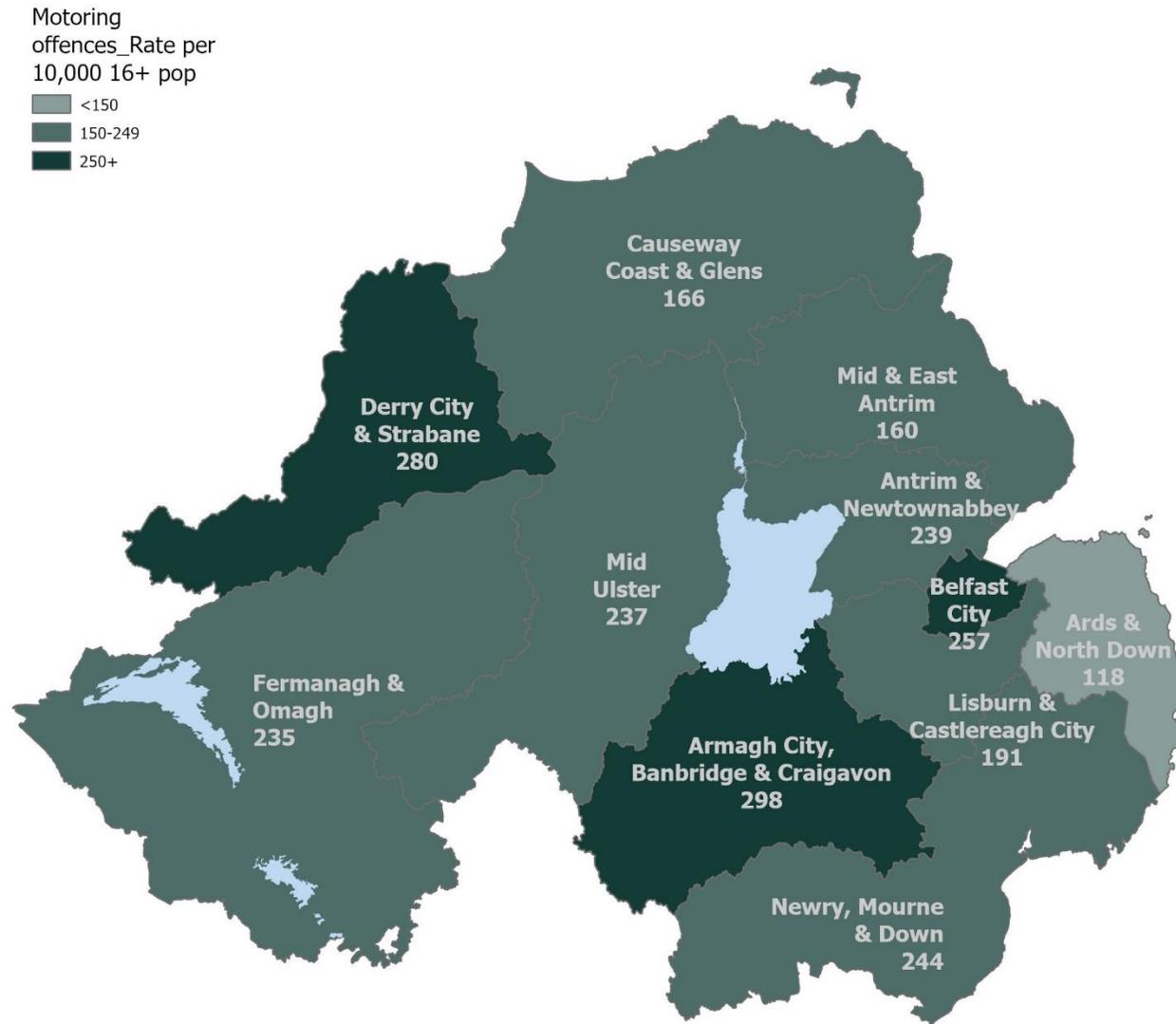
Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2024



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 2024. Ards and North Down, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid & East Antrim recorded the fewest detections, each accounting for 5% of the total in 2024. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 298 offences per 10,000 population aged 16+ while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 118 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population<sup>1</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2024**

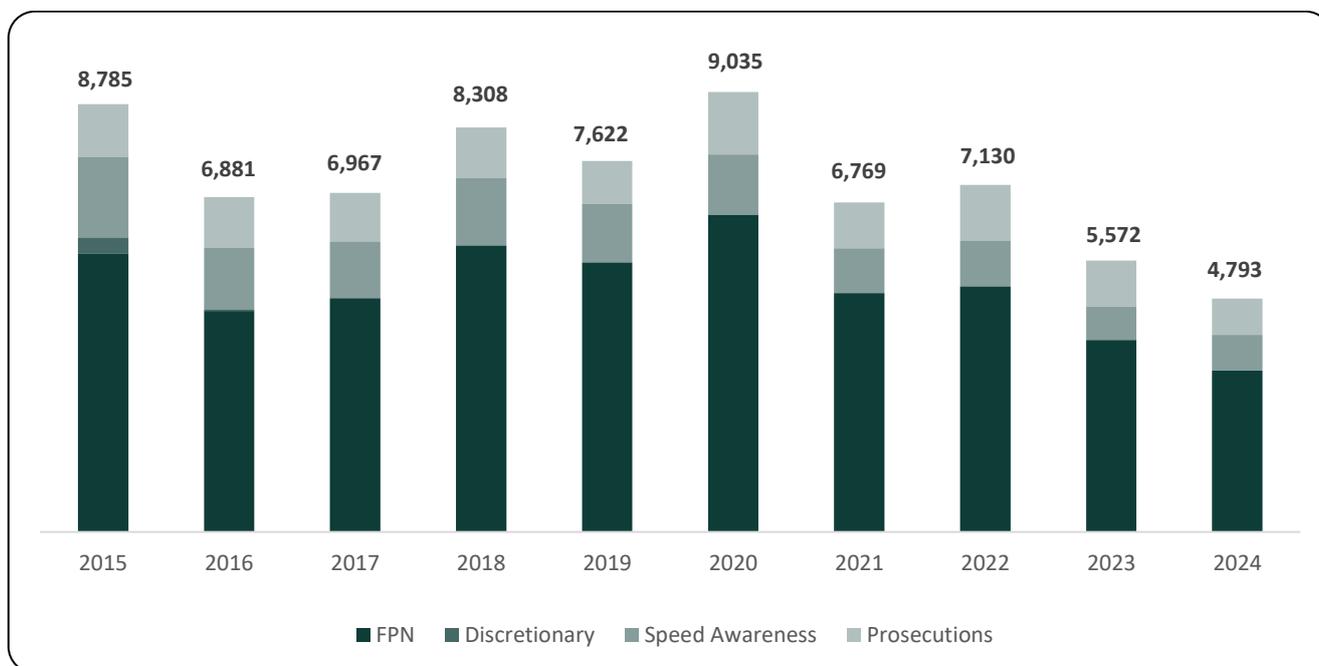


<sup>1</sup> Population figures sourced from Mid-Year Estimates 2022, NISRA.

## 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 2023<sup>2</sup> (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 71,915 persons speeding which equated to 93% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

**Figure 5: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2015 – 2024**



In 2024, there were 4,793 detections for speeding offences, which was a 45% decrease on the 8,785 speeding detections in 2015. Speeding detections accounted for 14% of all motoring offences detected by PSNI, with one in three of these detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) – see table 5. The highest speed detected in 2024 was 149mph on the M2 Foreshore, Belfast which is a 70mph stretch of road. (Table 4).

**Table 4: Top speed detected by PSNI within each speed limit, 2024**

| Speed limit | Highest speed detected | Location                      |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 20mph       | 49                     | Lattone Road, Belcoo          |
| 20mph       | 49                     | Arney Road, Bellanaleck       |
| 20mph       | 49                     | Marble Arch Road, Bellanaleck |
| 30mph       | 95                     | Moyarget Road, Ballycastle    |
| 40mph       | 85                     | Kempestones Road, Belfast     |
| 45mph       | 121                    | Glenshane Road, Knockcloghrim |
| 50mph       | 90                     | Clifton Street, Belfast       |
| 60mph       | 115                    | Moneymore Road, Cookstown     |
| 60mph       | 115                    | A1 Northbound, Dromore        |
| 70mph       | 149                    | M2 Foreshore, Belfast         |

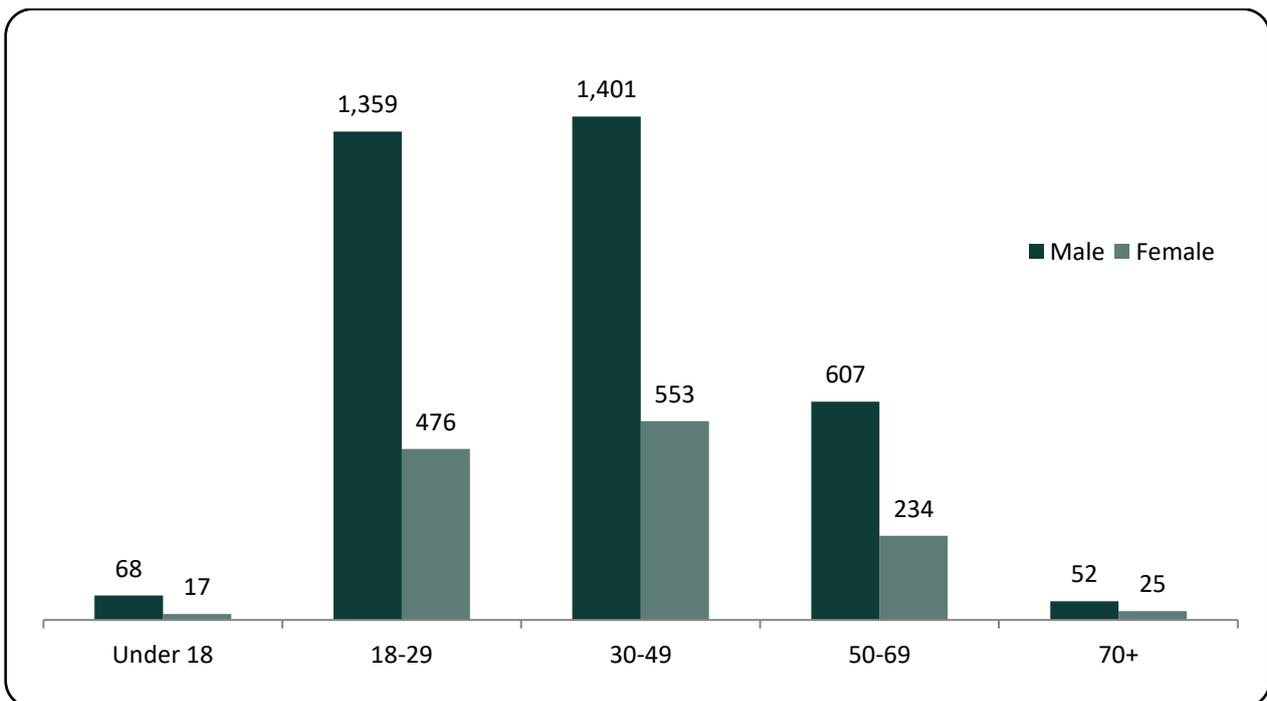
<sup>2</sup> 2024 figures will be published early summer 2025.

**Table 5: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2024**

| Month        | Sunday     | Monday     | Tuesday    | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday     | Saturday   | Total        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January      | 57         | 34         | 46         | 62         | 101        | 55         | 48         | <b>403</b>   |
| February     | 69         | 47         | 66         | 50         | 58         | 36         | 65         | <b>391</b>   |
| March        | 70         | 37         | 62         | 55         | 64         | 68         | 60         | <b>416</b>   |
| April        | 62         | 58         | 82         | 49         | 52         | 67         | 71         | <b>441</b>   |
| May          | 97         | 32         | 49         | 75         | 73         | 54         | 71         | <b>451</b>   |
| June         | 96         | 61         | 68         | 60         | 46         | 46         | 96         | <b>473</b>   |
| July         | 72         | 76         | 94         | 90         | 65         | 57         | 87         | <b>541</b>   |
| August       | 46         | 49         | 66         | 43         | 83         | 62         | 98         | <b>447</b>   |
| September    | 87         | 41         | 44         | 53         | 48         | 54         | 60         | <b>387</b>   |
| October      | 62         | 52         | 56         | 53         | 63         | 36         | 59         | <b>381</b>   |
| November     | 47         | 28         | 36         | 29         | 43         | 44         | 65         | <b>292</b>   |
| December     | 35         | 33         | 29         | 17         | 15         | 17         | 24         | <b>170</b>   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>800</b> | <b>548</b> | <b>698</b> | <b>636</b> | <b>711</b> | <b>596</b> | <b>804</b> | <b>4,793</b> |

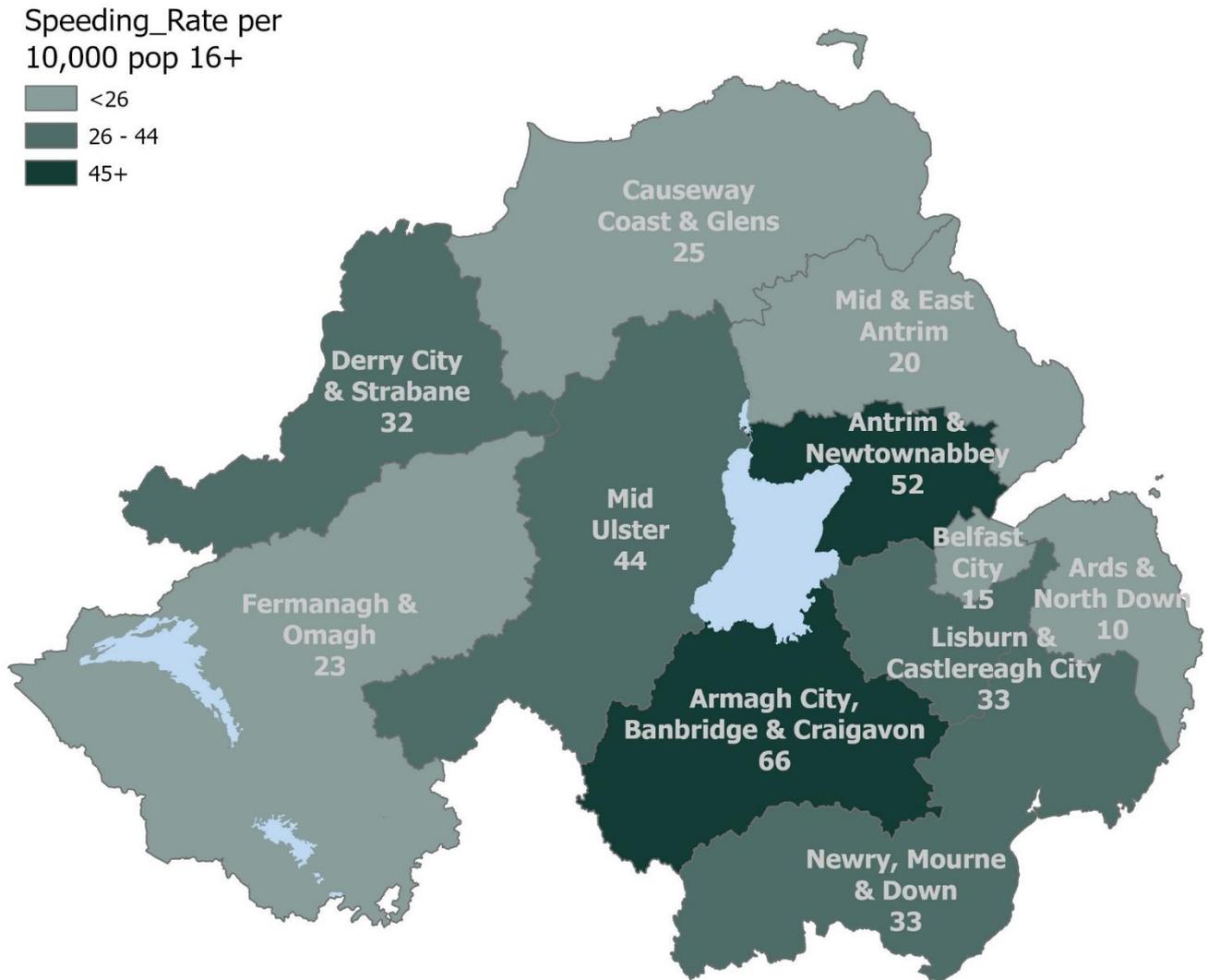
Males accounted for almost three quarters (73%) of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 18–29 and those aged 30-49 together represented almost four fifths of all persons detected for speeding offences. The month with the most speeding detections was July which made up 11% of detections.

**Figure 6: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2024**



Of the 11 Policing Districts, the highest number of speeding offences detected in 2024 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (1,141) and the highest rate of speeding offences with 66 per 10,000 population aged 16+. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest speeding detections (128) and the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 10 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

Figure 7: Rate of speeding offences per 10,000 population<sup>3</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2024

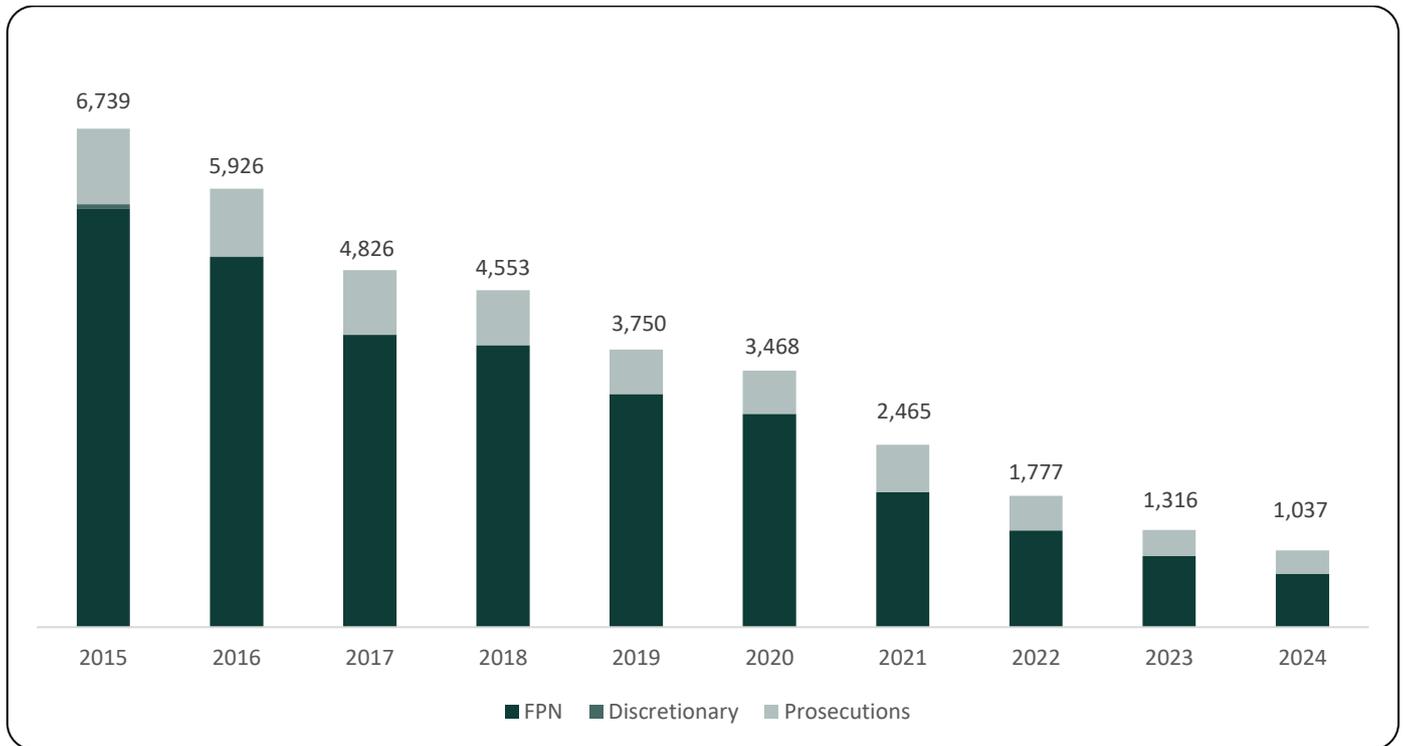


<sup>3</sup> Population figures sourced from Mid-Year Estimates 2022, NISRA.

## 7. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 6,739 in 2015 to 1,037 in 2024 (a decrease of 85%). Although the number of detections has decreased, research conducted by DfI<sup>4</sup> 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 8: Number of mobile phone offences, 2015 – 2024**



Mobile phone offences accounted for 3% of all motoring offences in 2024. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Sunday (6%) with almost three fifths detected on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday (19% each) (Table 6).

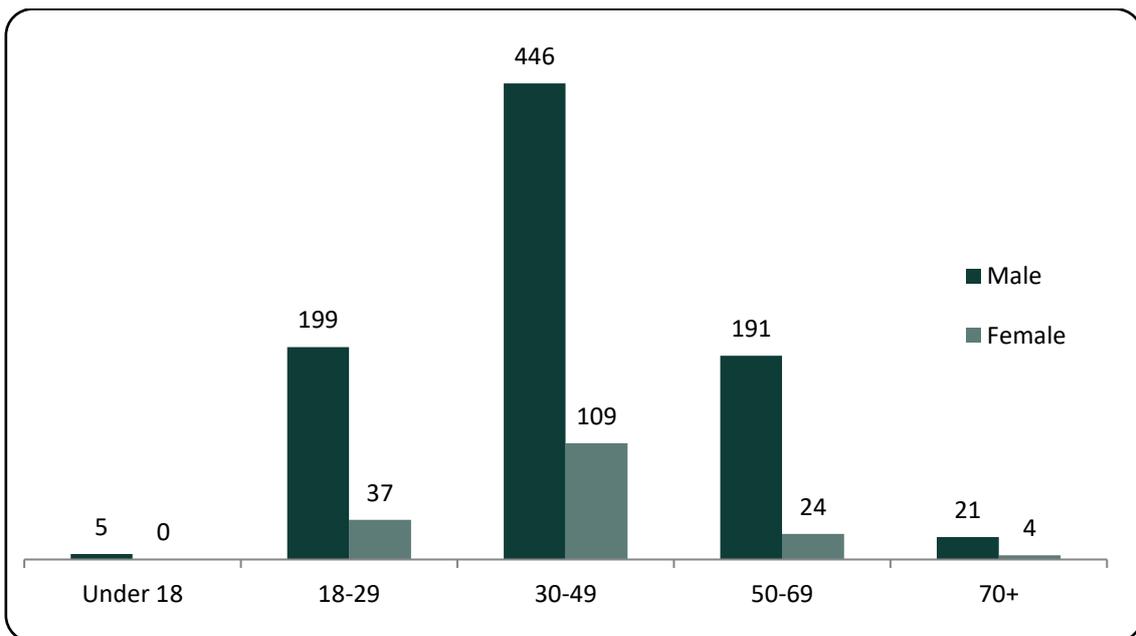
<sup>4</sup> [Road safety issues in Northern Ireland](#)

**Table 6: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2024**

| Month        | Sunday    | Monday     | Tuesday    | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday     | Saturday   | Total        |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January      | 4         | 13         | 14         | 5          | 26         | 23         | 9          | 94           |
| February     | 6         | 8          | 19         | 11         | 20         | 17         | 7          | 88           |
| March        | 7         | 12         | 20         | 15         | 25         | 25         | 9          | 113          |
| April        | 4         | 11         | 22         | 10         | 18         | 15         | 11         | 91           |
| May          | 3         | 7          | 11         | 24         | 19         | 15         | 10         | 89           |
| June         | 7         | 14         | 18         | 18         | 12         | 9          | 14         | 92           |
| July         | 3         | 15         | 16         | 13         | 11         | 24         | 9          | 91           |
| August       | 3         | 7          | 14         | 11         | 16         | 16         | 12         | 79           |
| September    | 6         | 13         | 19         | 5          | 16         | 14         | 7          | 80           |
| October      | 6         | 18         | 18         | 15         | 18         | 17         | 10         | 102          |
| November     | 7         | 11         | 15         | 7          | 11         | 18         | 6          | 75           |
| December     | 3         | 13         | 8          | 3          | 4          | 9          | 3          | 43           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>194</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>196</b> | <b>202</b> | <b>107</b> | <b>1,037</b> |

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 9: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2024**



Belfast City policing district recorded the largest number (195) of mobile phone offences out of the 11 Districts in 2024, while the highest rate (11 per 10,000 population aged 16+) was reported in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Ards and North Down and Causeway, Coast and Glens recorded the fewest mobile phone detections (47) and Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 3 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

## 8. Careless driving

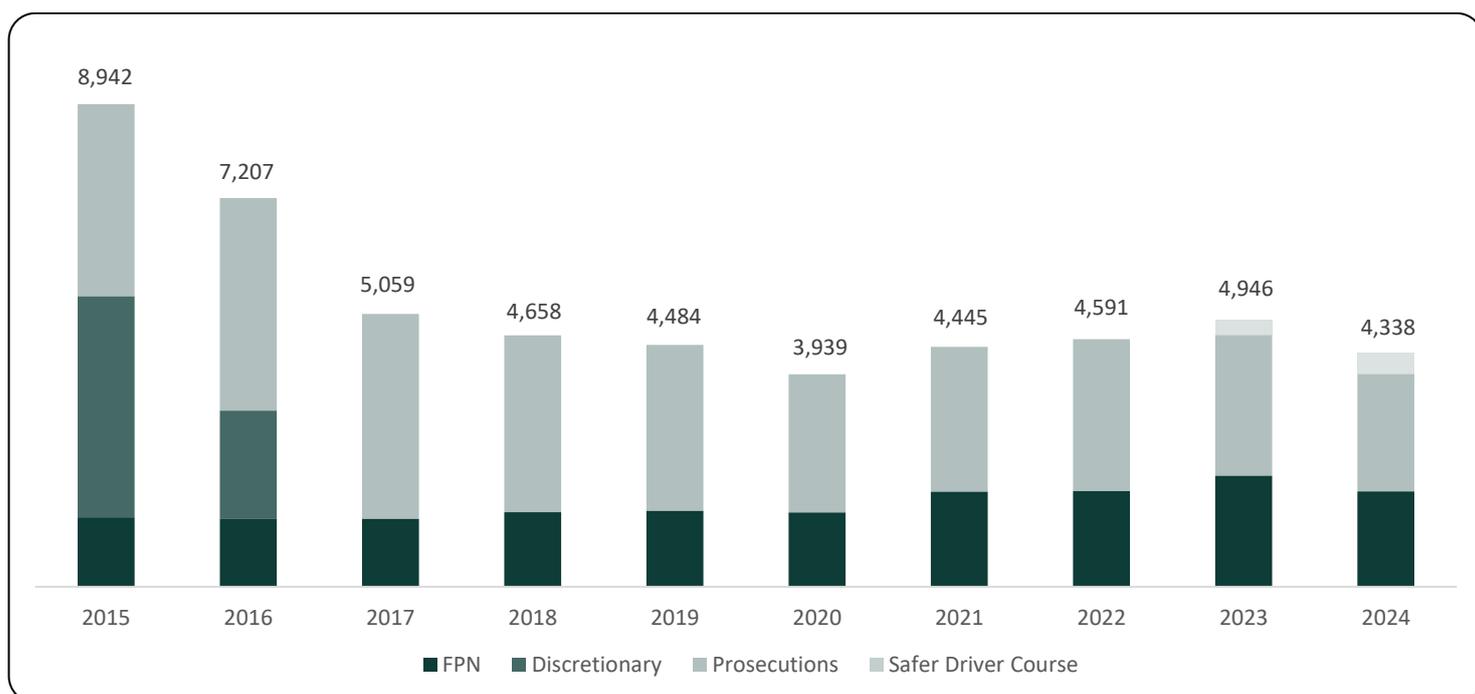
On 15th May 2023, a fixed penalty notice was introduced in Northern Ireland for the offence of careless driving, which is committed when the driving falls below the standard expected of a competent and careful driver. Prior to this, there was no one single offence for careless driving in Northern Ireland. 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 8,942 in 2015 to 4,338 in 2024 (a decrease of 51%), 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 2024<sup>5</sup> were 'inattention or attention diverted', 'wrong course/position' and 'impairment by drugs or alcohol - driver/rider'.

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 over half (53%) of all careless driving offences.

**Figure 10: Number of careless driving offences, 2015 – 2024**



One sixth (17%) were detected on a Thursday while one in ten careless driving offences were detected in March (Table 7).

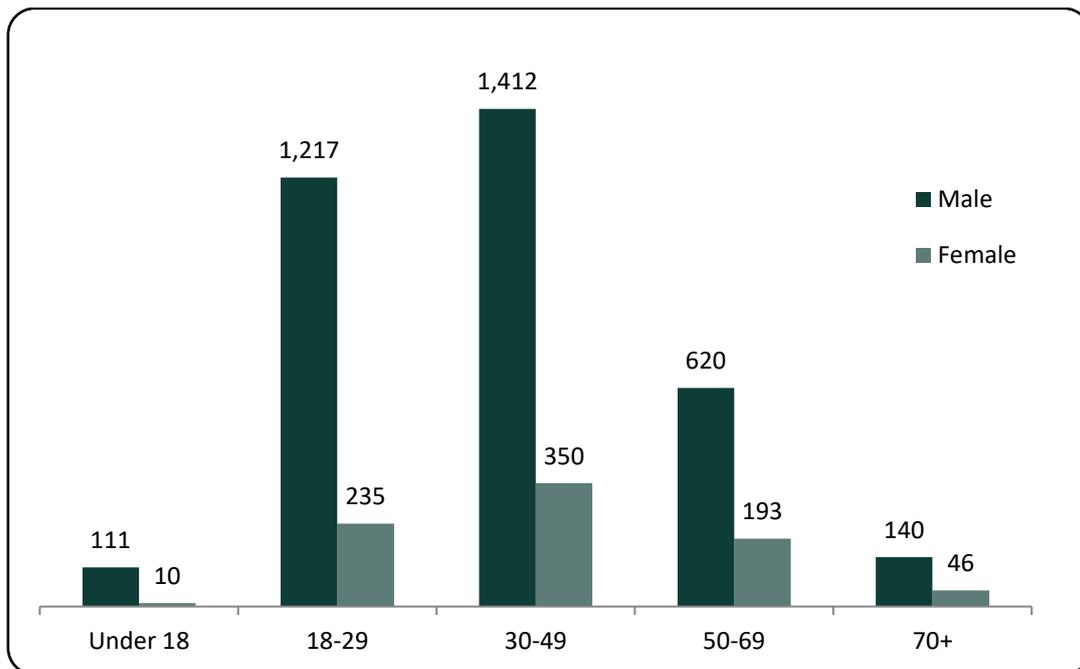
<sup>5</sup> See [here](#) for the latest RTC statistics.

**Table 7: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2024**

| Month        | Sunday     | Monday     | Tuesday    | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday     | Saturday   | Total        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January      | 47         | 57         | 49         | 66         | 60         | 60         | 50         | <b>389</b>   |
| February     | 54         | 54         | 44         | 42         | 65         | 52         | 46         | <b>357</b>   |
| March        | 78         | 47         | 50         | 59         | 61         | 77         | 72         | <b>444</b>   |
| April        | 48         | 45         | 75         | 39         | 52         | 59         | 50         | <b>368</b>   |
| May          | 47         | 34         | 62         | 66         | 80         | 61         | 53         | <b>403</b>   |
| June         | 48         | 39         | 59         | 37         | 55         | 62         | 63         | <b>363</b>   |
| July         | 44         | 51         | 70         | 42         | 72         | 52         | 34         | <b>365</b>   |
| August       | 35         | 37         | 47         | 50         | 68         | 56         | 65         | <b>358</b>   |
| September    | 61         | 49         | 41         | 39         | 51         | 65         | 48         | <b>354</b>   |
| October      | 38         | 43         | 44         | 59         | 79         | 61         | 43         | <b>367</b>   |
| November     | 32         | 29         | 50         | 30         | 35         | 67         | 54         | <b>297</b>   |
| December     | 42         | 45         | 44         | 24         | 47         | 30         | 41         | <b>273</b>   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>574</b> | <b>530</b> | <b>635</b> | <b>553</b> | <b>725</b> | <b>702</b> | <b>619</b> | <b>4,338</b> |

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of careless driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for 41%.

**Figure 11: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2024**



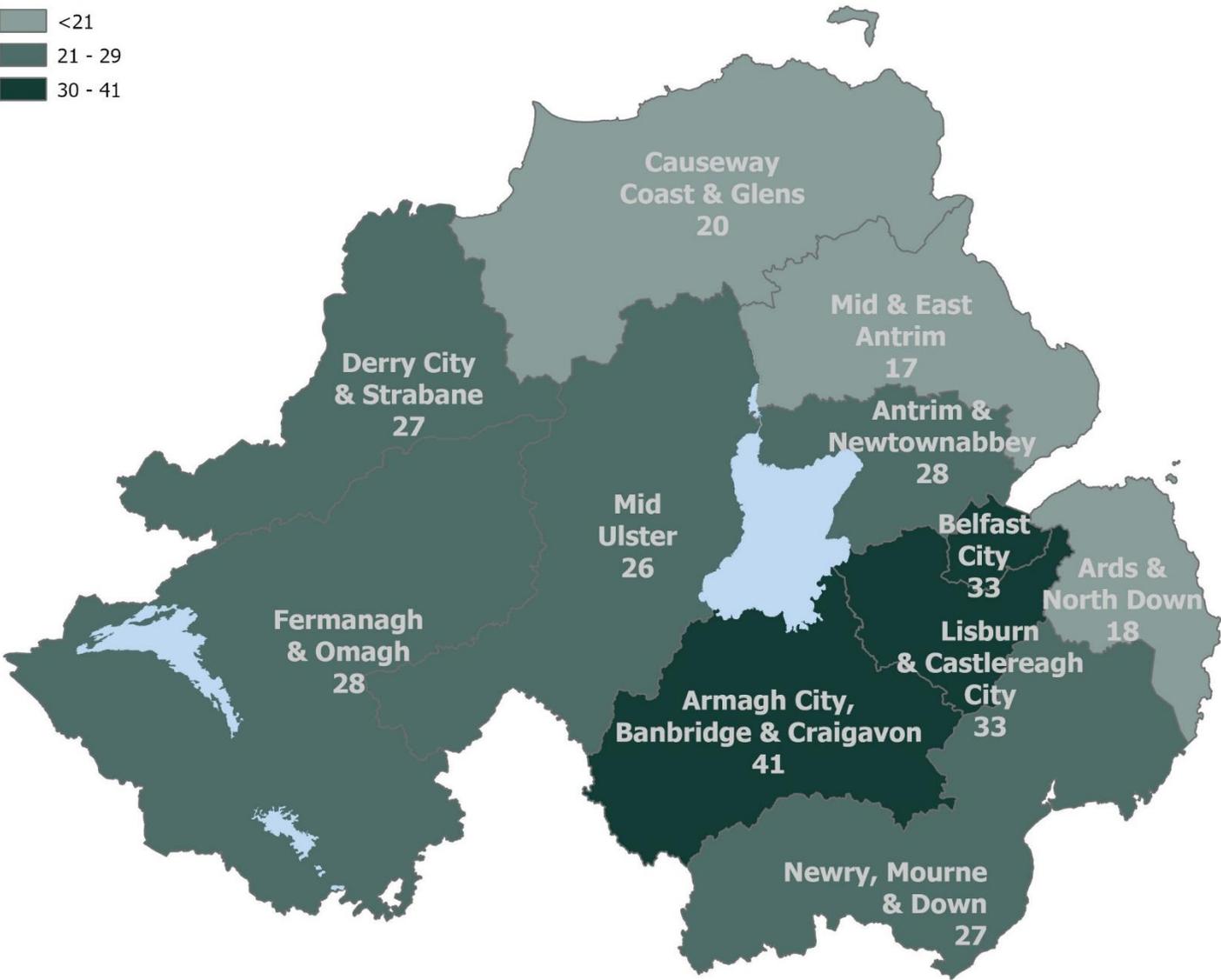
Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above.

Of the 11 Districts, the highest number of careless driving offences detected in 2024 was in Belfast City (923) however the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+ was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (41). Mid and East Antrim recorded the fewest detections for such offences (193) and the lowest rate per 10,000 population, 17 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

Figure 12: Rate of careless driving offences per 10,000 population<sup>6</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2024

Careless driving\_Rate  
per 10,000 pop 16+

- <21
- 21 - 29
- 30 - 41

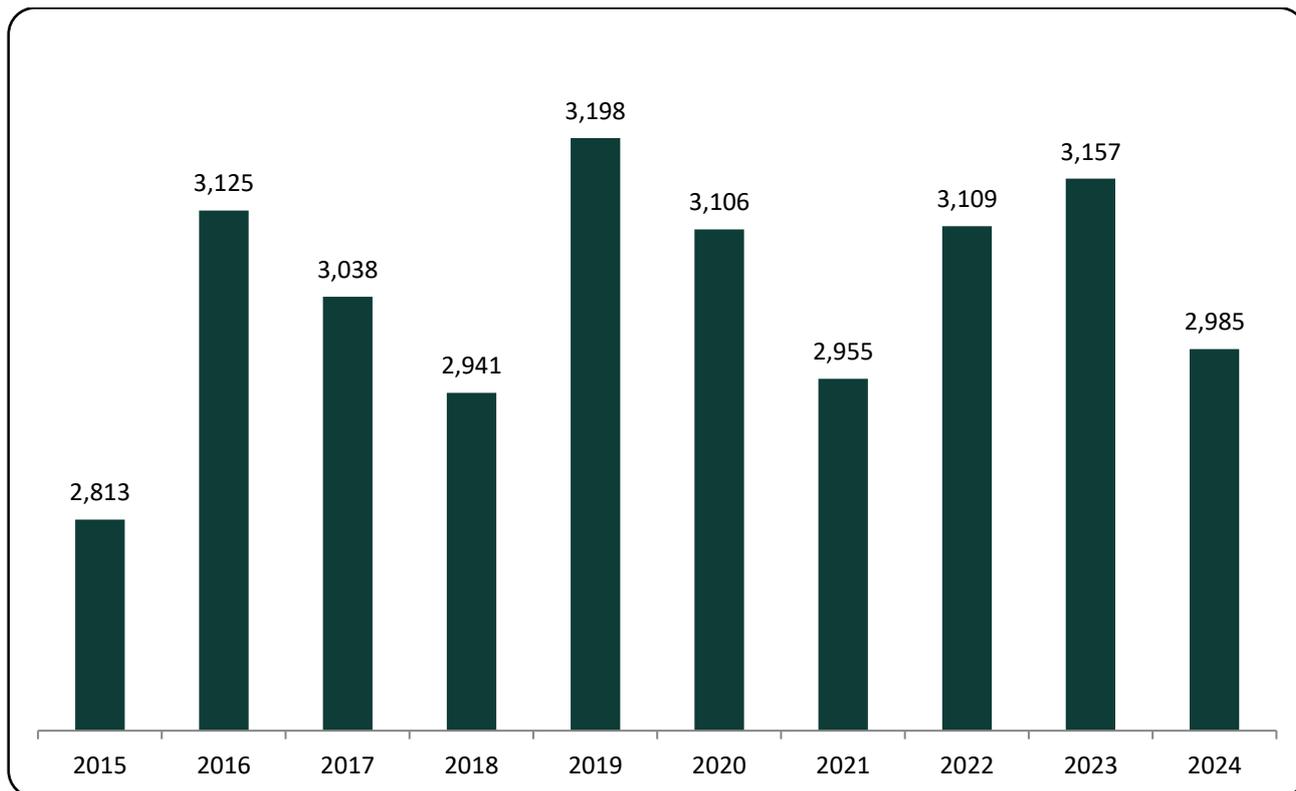


<sup>6</sup> Population figures sourced from Mid-Year Estimates 2022, NISRA.

## 9. Drink and drug driving

The number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences in 2024 was 3,158 resulting in 2,985 drink/drug driving offences being referred for prosecution, with the worst offender being more than 5 times over the limit (Table 9). This is an increase from 3,008 arrests and 2,813 offences referred for prosecution in 2015, an increase of 5% and 6% 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 3<sup>rd</sup> most common principal causation factor for KSI casualties between January and November 2024<sup>7</sup>. Further analysis identifying issues and trends in relation to fatal and serious collisions caused by drink driving has been completed by Department for Infrastructure<sup>8</sup>.

**Figure 13: Number of drink/drug driving offences referred for prosecution, 2015 – 2024**



One quarter (25%) of drink/drug driving offences were detected on a Sunday and the month with most detections for drink/drug driving offences was September with 309 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 2024 (538), however Fermanagh and Omagh recorded the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 25. Lisburn and Castlereagh had the fewest detections (179), with Ards and North having the lowest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 14 (See accompanying spreadsheet).

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.psnipolice.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics> for the latest RTC statistics.

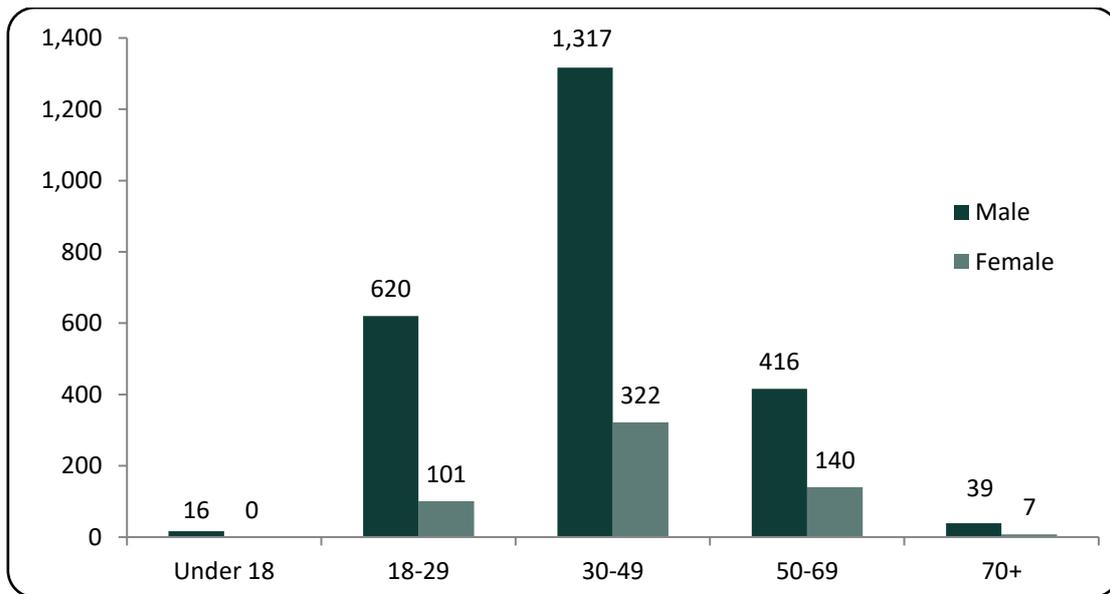
<sup>8</sup> [KSI road traffic collisions caused by drink driving 2018 - 2022](#)

**Table 8: Number of drink/drug driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2024**

| Month        | Sunday     | Monday     | Tuesday    | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday     | Saturday   | Total        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| January      | 49         | 33         | 20         | 25         | 24         | 28         | 39         | <b>218</b>   |
| February     | 59         | 38         | 27         | 21         | 35         | 22         | 50         | <b>252</b>   |
| March        | 66         | 34         | 12         | 27         | 31         | 37         | 68         | <b>275</b>   |
| April        | 69         | 33         | 26         | 27         | 27         | 27         | 34         | <b>243</b>   |
| May          | 61         | 38         | 24         | 29         | 40         | 50         | 52         | <b>294</b>   |
| June         | 63         | 28         | 25         | 26         | 25         | 26         | 51         | <b>244</b>   |
| July         | 61         | 45         | 26         | 30         | 23         | 32         | 64         | <b>281</b>   |
| August       | 50         | 29         | 12         | 14         | 25         | 24         | 58         | <b>212</b>   |
| September    | 96         | 41         | 30         | 27         | 21         | 50         | 44         | <b>309</b>   |
| October      | 57         | 30         | 21         | 19         | 36         | 17         | 68         | <b>248</b>   |
| November     | 58         | 26         | 22         | 10         | 16         | 32         | 30         | <b>194</b>   |
| December     | 52         | 33         | 22         | 19         | 26         | 31         | 32         | <b>215</b>   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>741</b> | <b>408</b> | <b>267</b> | <b>274</b> | <b>329</b> | <b>376</b> | <b>590</b> | <b>2,985</b> |

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of drink/drug driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for over half (55%).

**Figure 14: Number of drink/drug driving offences by age and gender, 2024**



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

**Table 9: Top 5 alcohol readings for drink/drug driving offences, 2024**

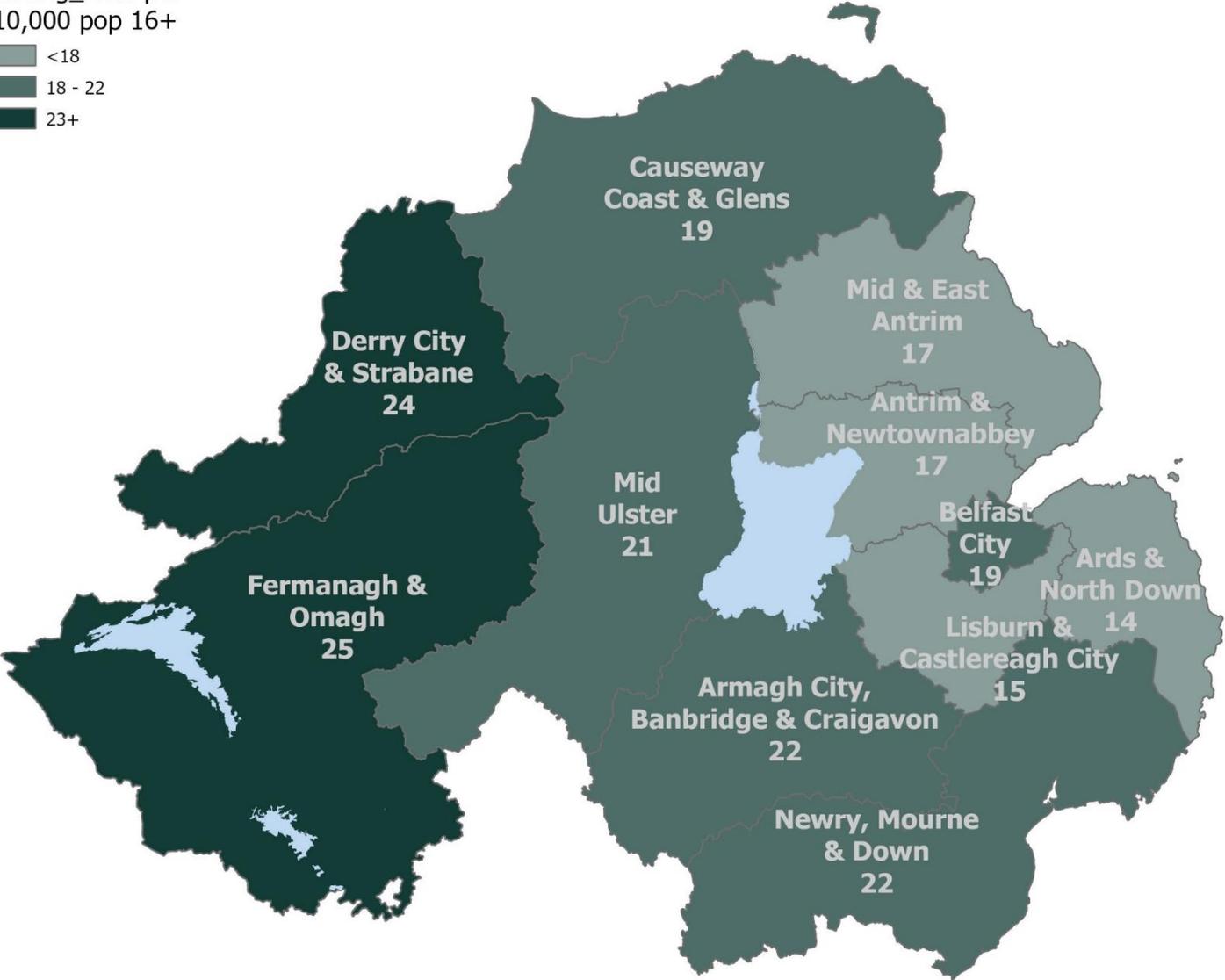
| Rank | Breath / Blood /Urine | Reading | No of times over legal limit <sup>9</sup> |
|------|-----------------------|---------|---|
| 1    | Breath                | 194     | 5.54                                      |
| 2    | Breath                | 189     | 5.40                                      |
| 2    | Breath                | 189     | 5.40                                      |
| 4    | Breath                | 172     | 4.91                                      |
| 5    | Breath                | 161     | 4.60                                      |
| 6    | Breath                | 160     | 4.57                                      |

<sup>9</sup> Legal limit for breath tests is 35µg/100ml, blood tests is 80mg/100ml and urine tests 107mg/100ml.

Figure 15: Rate of drink/drug driving offences per 10,000 population<sup>10</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2024

Drink/drug driving\_Rate per 10,000 pop 16+

- <18
- 18 - 22
- 23+

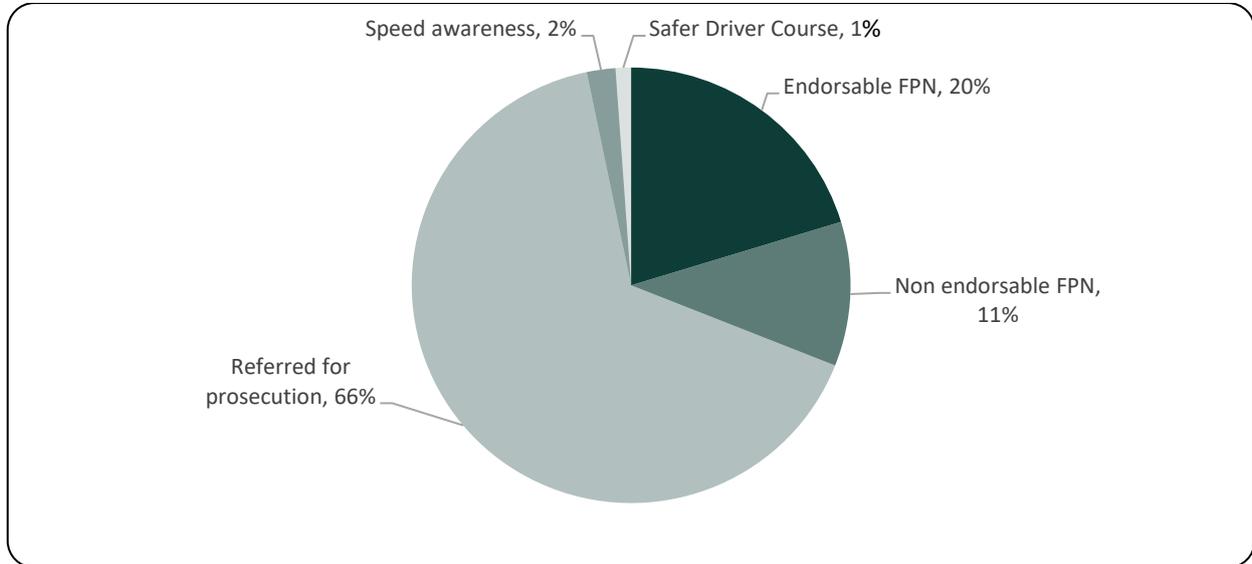


<sup>10</sup> Population figures sourced from Mid-Year Estimates 2022, NISRA.

## 10. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 66% of all motoring offences detected in 2024, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 20%. 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 16: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2024**



**Table 10: Offence group by disposal type, 2024**

| Offence group                               | Endorsable FPN | Non Endorsable FPN | Referred for prosecution | Speed Awareness | Safer Driver Course | Total         |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals                   | 0              | 186                | 3                        | 0               | 0                   | 189           |
| Careless driving                            | 1,475          | 289                | 2,177                    | 0               | 397                 | 4,338         |
| Construction & use                          | 0              | 2,240              | 478                      | 0               | 0                   | 2,718         |
| Dangerous driving                           | 318            | 0                  | 1,202                    | 0               | 0                   | 1,520         |
| Drink or drug driving                       | 0              | 0                  | 2,985                    | 0               | 0                   | 2,985         |
| Driving licence                             | 0              | 0                  | 2,492                    | 0               | 0                   | 2,492         |
| Driving whilst disqualified                 | 0              | 0                  | 1,059                    | 0               | 0                   | 1,059         |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 0              | 0                  | 2,272                    | 0               | 0                   | 2,272         |
| Fraudulent use / declaration                | 0              | 2                  | 229                      | 0               | 0                   | 231           |
| Insurance                                   | 823            | 0                  | 4,916                    | 0               | 0                   | 5,739         |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver           | 120            | 0                  | 1,303                    | 0               | 0                   | 1,423         |
| Miscellaneous                               | 8              | 35                 | 867                      | 0               | 0                   | 910           |
| Mobile phone                                | 720            | 0                  | 317                      | 0               | 0                   | 1,037         |
| Non driver                                  | 0              | 31                 | 470                      | 0               | 0                   | 501           |
| Parking                                     | 14             | 508                | 11                       | 0               | 0                   | 533           |
| Seatbelt                                    | 275            | 61                 | 197                      | 0               | 0                   | 533           |
| Speeding                                    | 3,307          | 6                  | 746                      | 734             | 0                   | 4,793         |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 0              | 0                  | 881                      | 0               | 0                   | 881           |
| Vehicle test certificate                    | 0              | 369                | 272                      | 0               | 0                   | 641           |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>7,060</b>   | <b>3,727</b>       | <b>22,877</b>            | <b>734</b>      | <b>397</b>          | <b>34,795</b> |

## 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 one fifth of all disposal types used in 2024. There has been a 19% decrease in the number of endorsable FPNs issued when compared with 2023. 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 43% 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, 2024**

| Offence group                     | Male         | Female       | Under 18   | 18 - 29      | 30 - 49      | 50 - 69      | 70+        | Total        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Careless driving                  | 1,167        | 308          | 14         | 435          | 655          | 318          | 53         | <b>1,475</b> |
| Dangerous driving                 | 280          | 38           | 13         | 193          | 81           | 28           | 3          | <b>318</b>   |
| Insurance                         | 574          | 249          | 1          | 288          | 348          | 166          | 20         | <b>823</b>   |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver | 107          | 13           | 38         | 64           | 13           | 5            | 0          | <b>120</b>   |
| Miscellaneous                     | 8            | 0            | 0          | 4            | 4            | 0            | 0          | <b>8</b>     |
| Mobile phone                      | 577          | 143          | 1          | 161          | 368          | 171          | 19         | <b>720</b>   |
| Parking                           | 12           | 2            | 0          | 5            | 6            | 3            | 0          | <b>14</b>    |
| Seatbelt                          | 227          | 48           | 5          | 63           | 135          | 58           | 14         | <b>275</b>   |
| Speeding                          | 2,378        | 929          | 35         | 1,205        | 1,430        | 591          | 46         | <b>3,307</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>5,330</b> | <b>1,730</b> | <b>107</b> | <b>2,418</b> | <b>3,040</b> | <b>1,340</b> | <b>155</b> | <b>7,060</b> |

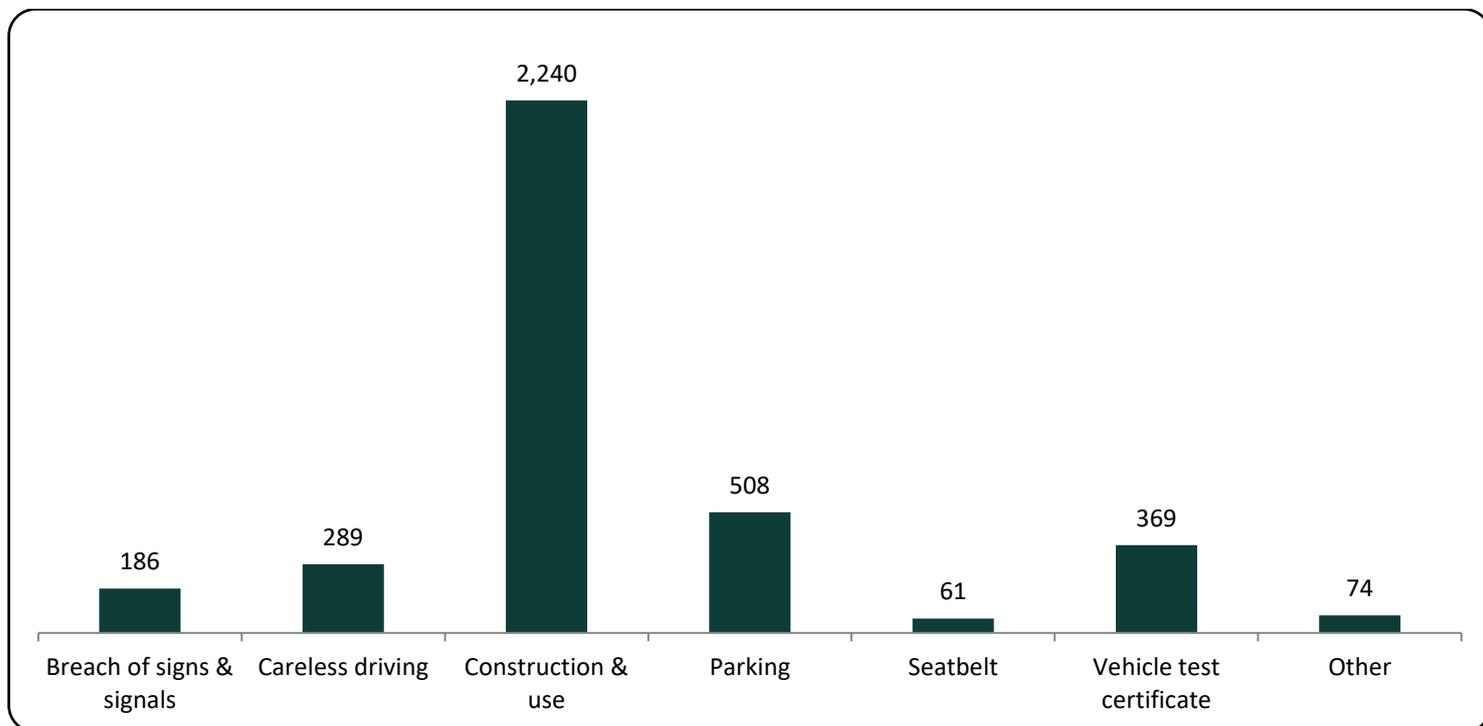
## Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 3,727 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2024, a decrease of 18% on the number issued in 2023.

Overall, construction and use offences accounted for three fifths (60%) of all non endorsable FPNs issued, while a further 14% were issued for parking offences.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for 11% of all motoring offences in 2024.

**Figure 17: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2024**



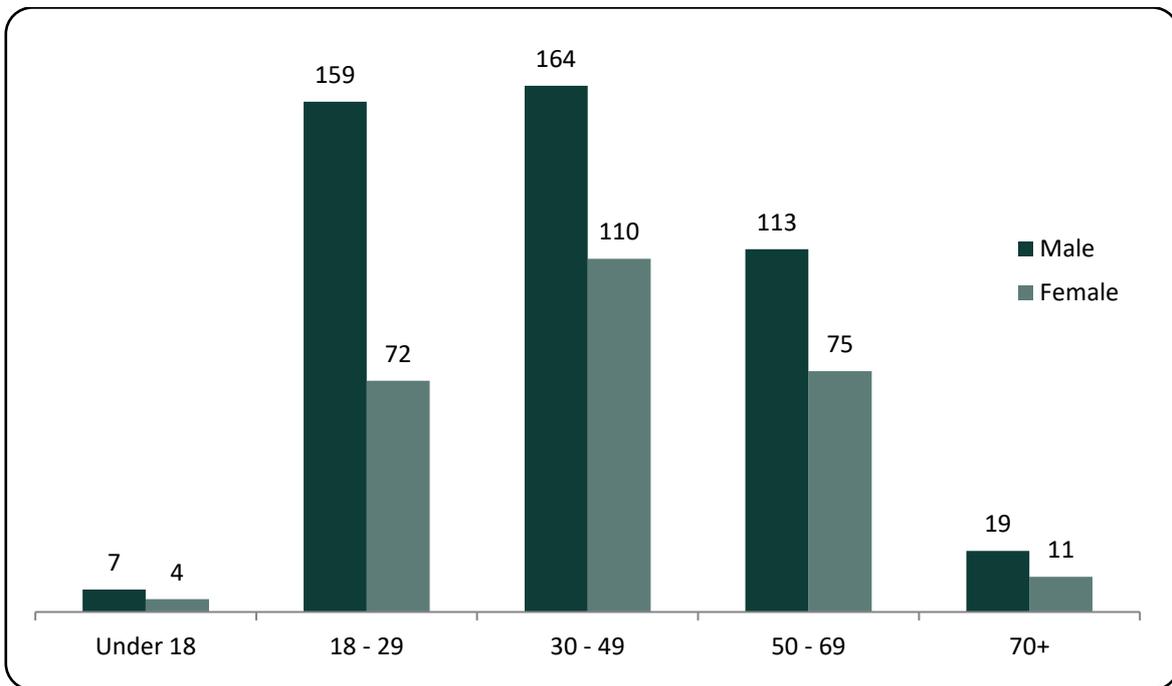
Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non driver' and 'Speeding'.

## 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 six drivers caught speeding by police officers in 2024 completed a speed awareness course. Drivers aged 30-49 represented almost two fifths of those who completed a course, followed by drivers aged 18-29 (31%).

**Figure 18: Age and gender of drivers who completed a speed awareness course, 2024**



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 66% of all motoring offences in 2024, with insurance offences making up over one fifth (21%) of all offences referred.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths (85%) of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 46%.

**Table 12: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group and age, 2024**

| Offence group                               | Male          | Female       | Unknown   | Under 18   | 18 - 29      | 30 - 49       | 50 - 69      | 70+        | Unknown   | Total         |
|---|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Breach of signs & signals                   | 3             | 0            | 0         | 0          | 2            | 0             | 1            | 0          | 0         | <b>3</b>      |
| Careless driving                            | 1,764         | 410          | 3         | 84         | 757          | 856           | 375          | 105        | 0         | <b>2,177</b>  |
| Construction & use                          | 443           | 35           | 0         | 39         | 255          | 149           | 33           | 2          | 0         | <b>478</b>    |
| Dangerous driving                           | 1,076         | 124          | 2         | 76         | 555          | 445           | 109          | 17         | 0         | <b>1,202</b>  |
| Drink or drug driving                       | 2,408         | 570          | 7         | 16         | 724          | 1,640         | 559          | 46         | 0         | <b>2,985</b>  |
| Driving licence                             | 2,123         | 367          | 2         | 112        | 792          | 1,262         | 294          | 31         | 1         | <b>2,492</b>  |
| Driving whilst disqualified                 | 968           | 86           | 5         | 89         | 319          | 506           | 137          | 8          | 0         | <b>1,059</b>  |
| Failing to stop / remain / report collision | 1,857         | 415          | 0         | 81         | 721          | 970           | 397          | 103        | 0         | <b>2,272</b>  |
| Fraudulent use / declaration                | 204           | 25           | 0         | 2          | 81           | 96            | 45           | 5          | 0         | <b>229</b>    |
| Insurance                                   | 4,209         | 696          | 11        | 189        | 1,835        | 2,328         | 505          | 59         | 0         | <b>4,916</b>  |
| Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver           | 1,133         | 167          | 3         | 64         | 552          | 560           | 109          | 18         | 0         | <b>1,303</b>  |
| Miscellaneous                               | 778           | 82           | 7         | 76         | 349          | 343           | 82           | 11         | 6         | <b>867</b>    |
| Mobile phone                                | 285           | 31           | 1         | 4          | 76           | 187           | 44           | 6          | 0         | <b>317</b>    |
| Non driver                                  | 288           | 179          | 3         | 14         | 132          | 232           | 83           | 7          | 2         | <b>470</b>    |
| Parking                                     | 11            | 0            | 0         | 0          | 3            | 6             | 2            | 0          | 0         | <b>11</b>     |
| Seatbelt                                    | 167           | 30           | 0         | 4          | 64           | 112           | 17           | 0          | 0         | <b>197</b>    |
| Speeding                                    | 644           | 102          | 0         | 39         | 395          | 248           | 62           | 1          | 1         | <b>746</b>    |
| Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering | 788           | 91           | 2         | 81         | 364          | 376           | 59           | 1          | 0         | <b>881</b>    |
| Vehicle test certificate                    | 240           | 31           | 1         | 8          | 99           | 126           | 34           | 5          | 0         | <b>272</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>19,389</b> | <b>3,441</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>978</b> | <b>8,075</b> | <b>10,442</b> | <b>2,947</b> | <b>425</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>22,877</b> |

## 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 2022 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

| Figure under revision           | 2023 publication | 2024 publication | Change - Number | Change - % |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Referred for Prosecution – 2022 | 27,725           | 27,805           | 80              | 0.3        |
| Referred for Prosecution - 2023 | 25,593           | 27,296           | 1,703           | 6.7        |