



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025

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In the 12 months from 1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025:

- There were 33,607 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% (1,039) resulted in the completion of a speed awareness or safer driver course.
- Total detections decreased by 19% on the 41,555 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with notable reductions across a number of offence groups including insurance, speeding, driving licence and careless driving offences.
- Only one of the 19 offence groups showed an increase in detections over the year – breach of signs and signals, which rose slightly (26) to 199 detections.
- The largest offence group was insurance offences with 5,401 which along with speeding (4,530) accounted for just under one-third of the total detections.
- The highest speed detected by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 132mph, on the A8 Belfast Road, Larne.



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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland from 1st March 2024 – 28th February 2025. 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 28th April 2025. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2023 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment, as do the remaining disposals for the 2025 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.

Accredited Official Statistics

[Accredited Official Statistics](#)¹ are official statistics that have been independently reviewed by Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and confirmed to comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). Producers of accredited official statistics are legally required to ensure they maintain compliance with the Code. Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

These accredited official statistics 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 that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing statistics@psni.police.uk. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [Office for Statistics Regulation website](#).

¹ From 7 June 2024 the Accredited Official Statistics badge replaced the National Statistics badge.

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 19% to 33,607
- Offences referred for prosecution fell by 19%
- Endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 21%
- Number of speed awareness courses decreased by 11%

Table 1 Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1st March 2023 – 28th February 2025*

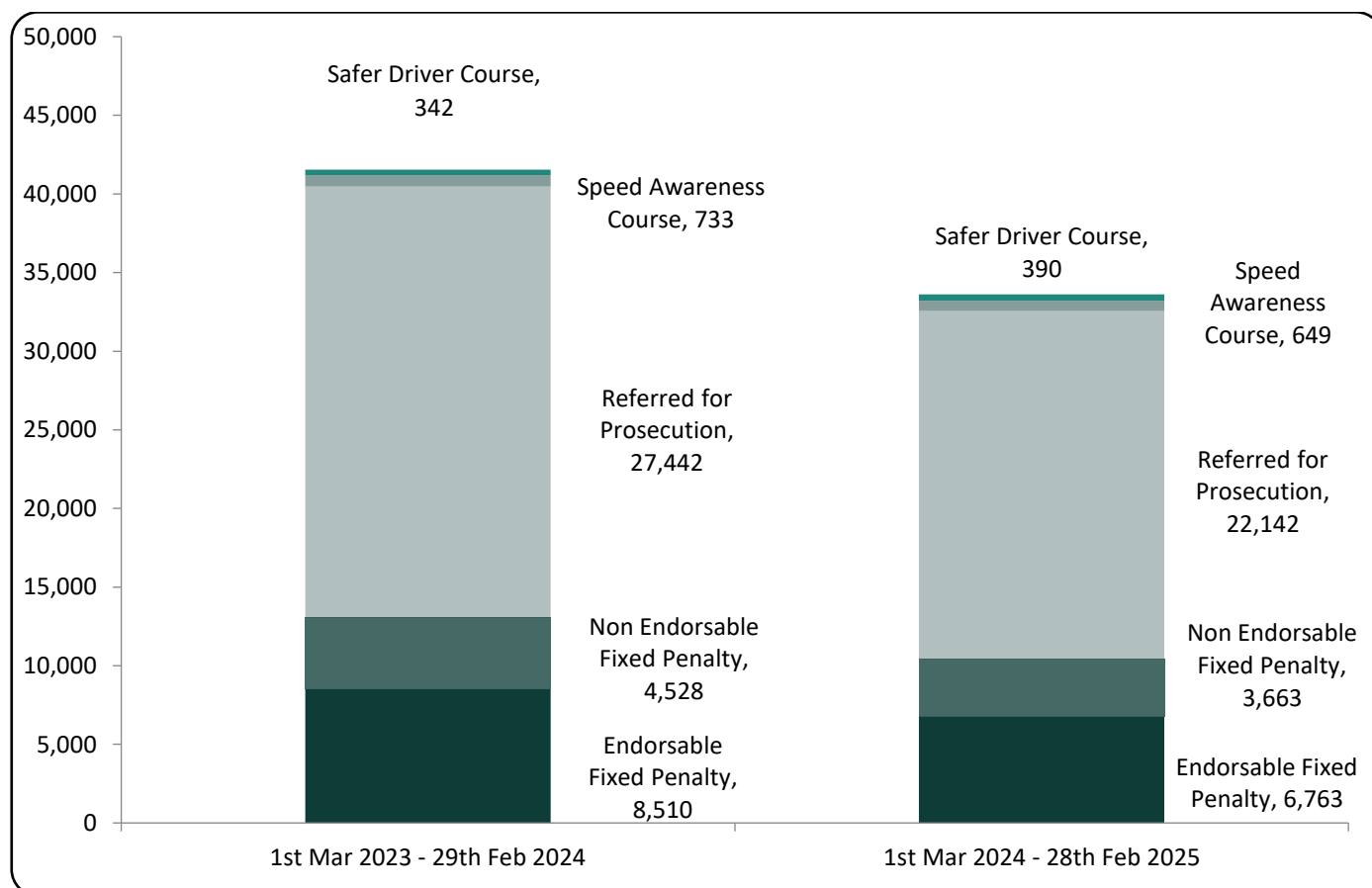
	1 st Mar 2023 – 28 th Feb 2024	1 st Mar 2024 – 28 th Feb 2025	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	8,510	6,763	-1,747	-21
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	4,528	3,663	-865	-19
Referred for Prosecution	27,442	22,142	-5,300	-19
Speed Awareness Course	733	649	-84	-11
Safer Driver Course	342	390	48	N/A
Total	41,555	33,607	-7,948	-19

*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.

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 1st March 2023 – 29th February 2024 and 1st March 2024 – 28th February 2025



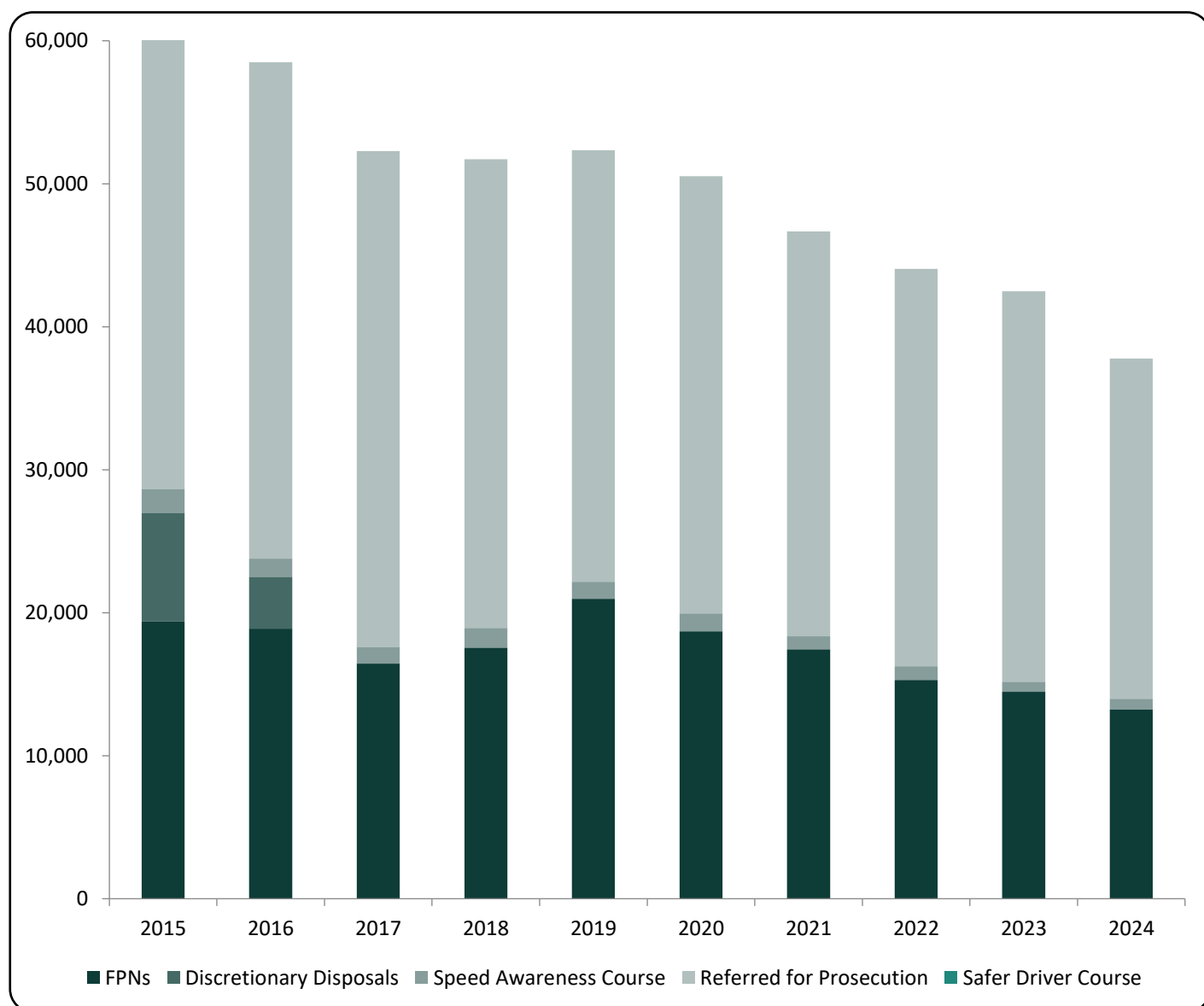
Note that not all detections in the most recent months will have been processed at this time, particularly those referred for prosecution.

3. Trends

The number of motoring offences have been generally decreasing over a 10 year period from a total of 59,907 recorded in 2015 to 35,732 recorded in 2024 (see figure 2).

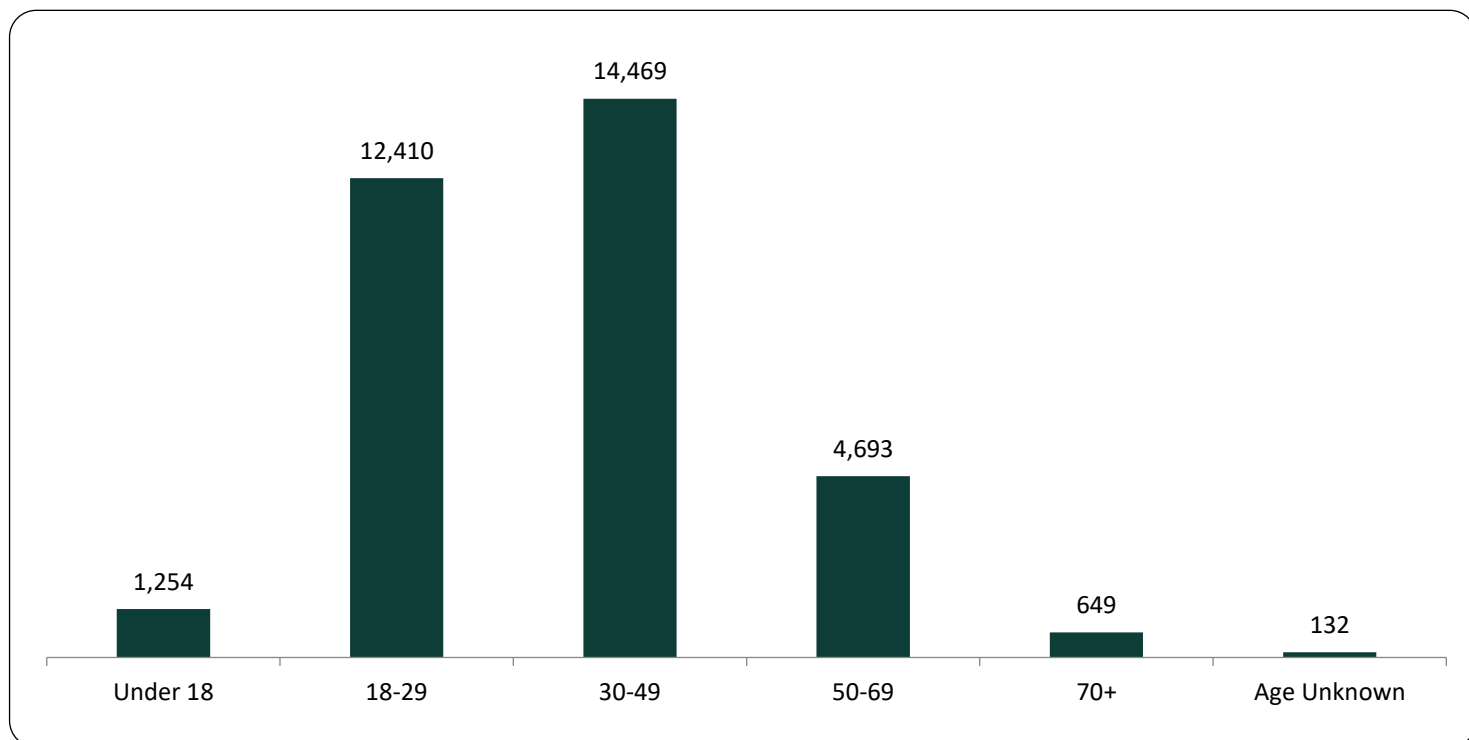
Discretionary disposals were introduced during 2011 as an alternative method of disposal for dealing with motoring offences but were removed on 31st July 2016. Safer driver courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in May 2023 as an alternative disposal to the new fixed penalty notice for careless driving.

Figure 2 Number of motoring offences by disposal type: 1st January 2015 – 31st December 2024



4. Age and Gender

Figure 3 Number of motoring offences by age: 1st March 2024 – 28th February 2025



- Figure 3 shows that those aged 30-49 years old accounted for over two fifths of motoring offences detected between 1st March 2024 and 28th February 2025 where age is known, followed by those aged 18-29 (37%). Almost all (99%) of the unknown ages refer to non endorsable offences, which can be issued in the absence of the offender and do not require licence details to process, for example parking offences.
- Males accounted for 8 in 10 of all motoring offences detected between 1st March 2024 and 28th February 2025.

5. Offence Group

Table 2 Number of motoring offences by gender, age band and offence group¹
1st March 2024 – 28th February 2025*

	Female	Male	Other / Unknown	Under 18	18-29	30-49	50-69	70+	Age Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	47	148	4	3	56	80	44	9	7	199
Careless driving	816	3,459	2	121	1,456	1,743	781	175	1	4,277
Construction & use	305	2,369	3	136	1,732	614	159	12	24	2,677
Dangerous driving	154	1,321	1	84	713	522	138	19	0	1,476
Drink or drug driving	546	2,356	8	19	694	1,597	552	48	0	2,910
Driving licence	352	2,067	4	111	766	1,235	280	30	1	2,423
Driving whilst disqualified	82	893	5	90	272	479	131	8	0	980
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	396	1,865	0	91	735	943	390	102	0	2,261
Fraudulent use / declaration	25	194	1	2	80	88	43	7	0	220
Insurance	858	4,530	13	192	1,946	2,585	608	70	0	5,401
L & R driver	164	1,217	5	102	594	568	105	17	0	1,386
Miscellaneous	81	797	9	84	357	351	74	15	6	887
Mobile phone	170	847	0	4	231	546	212	24	0	1,017
Non-driver	196	292	4	17	143	233	90	7	2	492
Parking	181	326	21	4	193	157	82	10	82	528
Seatbelt	102	409	0	16	159	247	74	15	0	511
Speeding	1,220	3,310	0	86	1,725	1,847	797	74	1	4,530
Vehicle TADA / tampering	87	770	0	84	339	375	58	1	0	857
Vehicle test certificate	84	489	2	8	219	259	75	6	8	575
Total	5,866	27,659	82	1,254	12,410	14,469	4,693	649	132	33,607

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

- Table 1 shows a decrease of 21% 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 insurance, speeding, driving license and careless driving offences.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded was insurance offences with a total of 5,401 detections, this was a 30% decrease on the number recorded in the previous 12 months. For the period 1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025 insurance offences accounted for 16% of all detections for motoring offences.
- Speeding offences accounted for 13% of all offences in the current period. The total number of such offences decreased by 933 (17%) since the previous year, to 4,530 between March 2024 and February 2025.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 132mph, on the A8 Belfast Road, Larne.
- In the latest 12 months, the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 18 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (84,259).
- Only one of the 19 offence groups showed an increase in detections over the year, breach of signs and signals saw an increase of 15% (26 detections).
- Parking detections by the PSNI decreased by over two-fifths over the 12 month period, while vehicle test certificate offences showed a decrease of over one-third, reducing by 311 detections.
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- One-fifth of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- Over a quarter of detections involving those aged 70 or more were for careless driving type offences.

Table 3 Number of motoring offences by month and offence group¹, 1st March 2023– 28th February 2025*

Offence group	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2024 – Feb 2025	Mar 2023 – Feb 2024	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Breach of signs & signals	23	14	11	17	24	14	11	7	17	15	17	29	199	173	26	15
Careless driving	445	368	404	367	369	362	361	414	333	313	306	235	4,277	4,924	-647	-13
Construction & use	308	220	224	227	236	216	243	201	206	185	211	200	2,677	3,043	-366	-12
Dangerous driving	148	139	145	133	148	140	124	134	106	107	89	63	1,476	1,675	-199	-12
Drink or drug driving	275	243	295	248	284	214	317	284	228	242	139	141	2,910	3,166	-256	-8
Driving licence	263	217	181	199	224	211	208	211	188	179	197	145	2,423	3,104	-681	-22
Driving whilst disqualified	97	83	96	80	90	76	91	91	77	80	64	55	980	1,242	-262	-21
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	229	193	153	236	208	226	183	255	205	142	137	94	2,261	2,671	-410	-15
Fraudulent use / declaration	22	23	22	25	24	16	19	17	13	17	9	13	220	230	-10	-4
Insurance	693	532	404	381	435	385	398	478	427	414	464	390	5,401	7,682	-2,281	-30
L & R driver	147	107	112	113	167	102	103	117	114	88	133	83	1,386	1,717	-331	-19
Miscellaneous	94	89	75	69	109	82	68	85	66	57	46	47	887	973	-86	-9
Mobile phone	113	91	89	92	91	79	80	102	77	45	85	73	1,017	1,244	-227	-18
Non-driver	43	35	74	37	59	31	35	55	38	43	16	26	492	582	-90	-15
Parking	41	61	50	17	33	46	42	58	46	40	32	62	528	910	-382	-42
Seatbelt	55	57	49	37	48	36	42	41	38	31	53	24	511	745	-234	-31
Speeding	416	441	451	475	541	447	387	387	297	170	259	259	4,530	5,463	-933	-17
Vehicle TADA / tampering	66	89	91	71	78	69	70	81	74	63	46	59	857	1,125	-268	-24
Vehicle test certificate	65	68	42	42	46	39	43	48	46	45	55	36	575	886	-311	-35
Total	3,543	3,070	2,968	2,866	3,214	2,791	2,825	3,066	2,596	2,276	2,358	2,034	33,607	41,555	-7,948	-19

* Figures are provisional and subject to change.

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

6. Policing District

Figure 4: Number of motoring offences by Policing District: 1st March 2023 – 28th February 2025

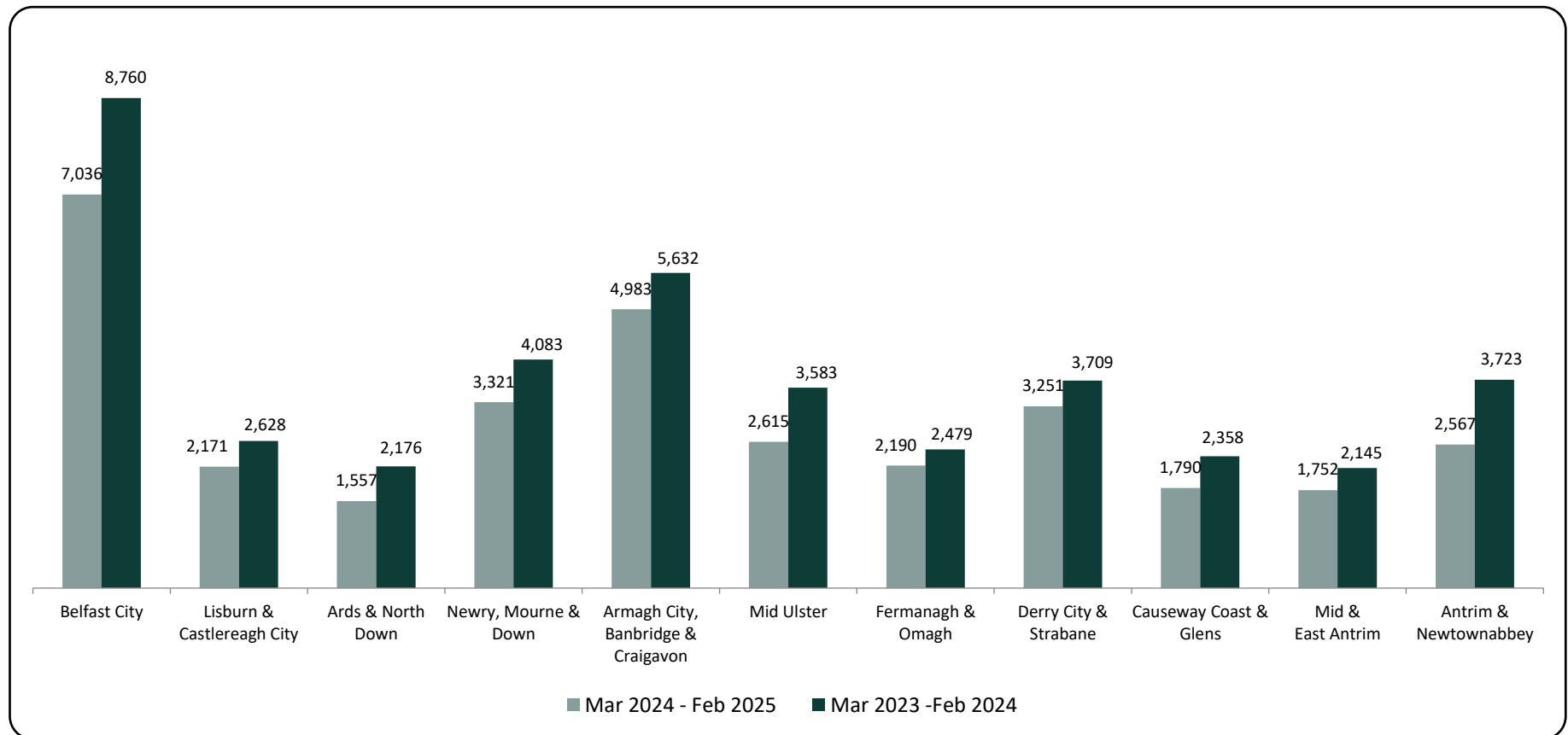
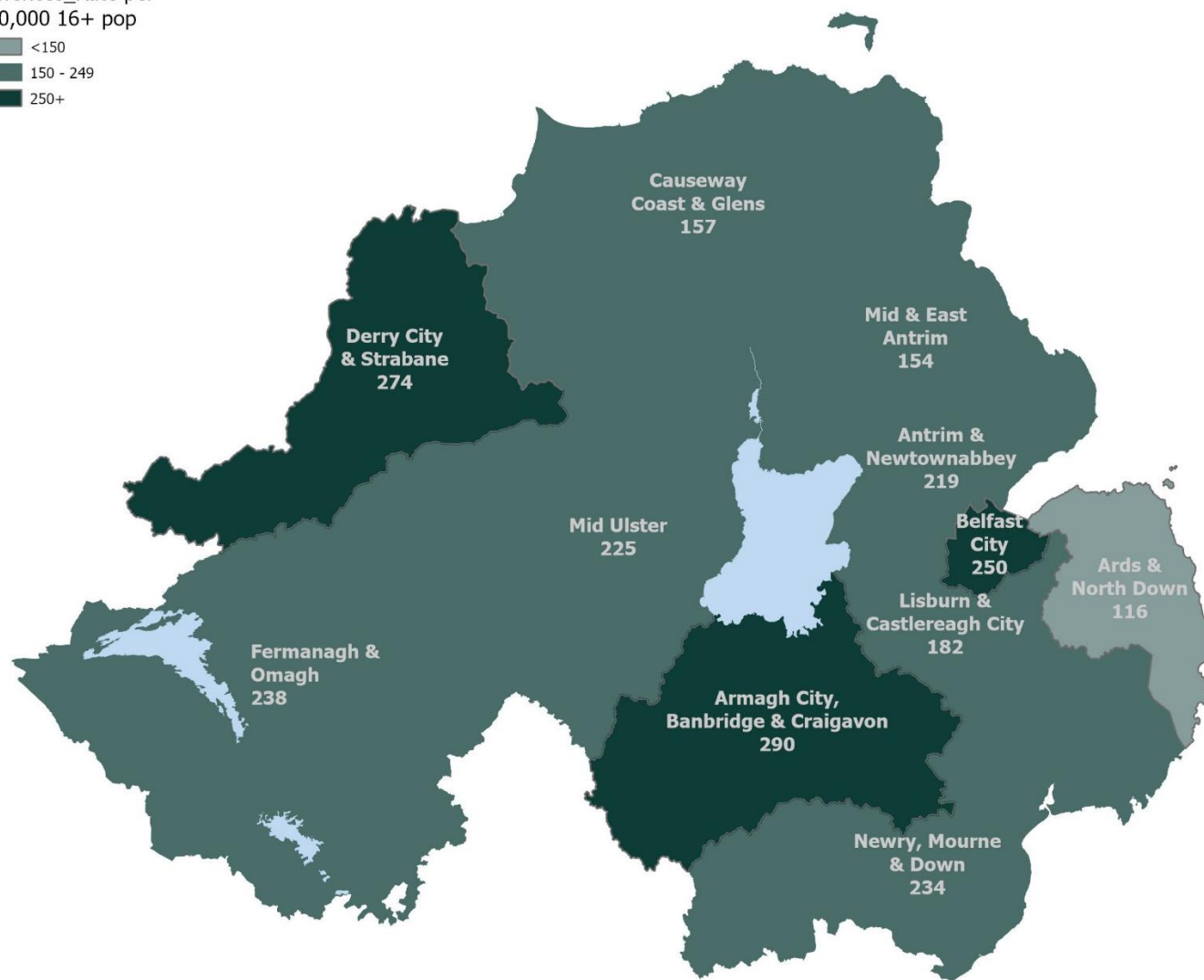


Figure 4 shows that 21% of motoring offences were detected in Belfast City District followed by a further 15% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.

Figure 5: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 1st March 2024 – 28th February 2025

Motoring
offences_Rate per
10,000 16+ pop

<150
150 - 249
250+



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

The new careless driving offence is reported within the wider careless driving offence group which includes other offences such as overtaking on inside lane, driving on hard shoulder of motorway and reversing on motorway.

Construction and use

Construction and use offence group includes defective tyre, defective exhaust, excess noise, incorrect form of registration and no number plate offences.

L & R driver

L & R driver means learner and restricted driver offence group. Note the offence of L or R driver exceeding 45mph is included in the speeding group.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous offence group includes taxi related offences, tachograph and driver hours offences.

Non-driver

The non-driver offence group 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 2024 were finalised in March 2025. Figures from January 2025 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.