



Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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PSNI Statistics Branch
Lisnasharragh
42 Montgomery Road
Belfast
BT6 9LD

 statistics@psni.police.uk

 028 9065 0222 Ext. 24135

Web [PSNI Statistics](#)

Key Statistics

- In the 12 months from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, there were 2,555 stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, of which the greatest number (44%) were in relation to stolen articles.
- There were 4 road checks authorised in 2024/25, three of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person who was a witness to an indictable offence and one which was for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person suspected of having committed an indictable offence.
- There were 20,100 arrests¹ made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2024/25, 82% of which were males.
- During 2024/25 there were 25 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 36 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention.

¹ Arrest figures are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers

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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. Introduction

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order 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).

This bulletin presents Police and Criminal Evidence Order (PACE) statistics for the Police Service of Northern Ireland for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, as required by statute. Reported are statistics on

- i) the number of stop and searches under PACE by objective of search and the number of subsequent arrests.
- ii) the number of Article 6 (PACE) road checks authorised and the reason for these.
- iii) persons detained under PACE.

PACE detention statistics are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers and relate to the period of original detention only.

2. PACE Article 5 - Persons or Vehicles Stopped and Searched

Table 1: Number of stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Stolen Property / Articles	Searches	96	90	90	88	67	104	117	69	91	91	96	117	1,116
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	34	29	30	24	20	24	31	17	29	23	24	26	311
Offensive Weapon / Blade or Point	Searches	86	78	90	59	63	72	53	58	56	51	76	70	812
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	21	24	36	19	14	16	21	16	21	11	22	22	243
Going Equipped / Prohibited Articles	Searches	52	53	63	46	60	69	52	61	43	58	61	70	688
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	14	12	22	10	14	6	18	13	13	8	13	14	157
Fireworks	Searches	6	2	3	0	8	35	144	9	2	1	5	2	217
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Total	Searches⁽¹⁾	216	191	214	182	179	257	343	176	179	181	209	228	2,555
	Arrests^(1,2)	59	54	72	47	41	45	62	42	60	39	52	58	631

(1) As more than one reason can be used to carry out a stop and search, the sum of the reasons will be greater than the total number of stop and searches under PACE. Similarly, the sum of the arrests will be greater than the total number of persons arrested.

(2) Arrests as a result of stop and search. Arrest may not be related to the initial reason for the stop and search.

3. PACE Article 6 – Road Checks

There were 4 road checks authorised in 2024/25, three of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person who was a witness to an indictable offence and one which was for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person suspected of having committed an indictable offence.

4. PACE Detention Statistics

Table 2: Arrests under PACE by gender and whether requests for friends / relatives or a solicitor were made, for each quarter during 2024/25

	Arrests under PACE ⁽¹⁾				Of which there was a request for	
	Total	Gender			Friend / relative etc.	Solicitor
		Male	Female	Unknown / Other		
April 24 – June 24	5,318	4,357	953	8	1,774	3,818
July 24 – September 24	5,045	4,096	943	6	1,778	3,699
October 24 – December 24	5,115	4,172	936	7	1,764	3,733
January 25 – March 25	4,622	3,828	792	2	1,583	3,433
Total	20,100	16,453	3,624	23	6,899	14,683

(1) Arrest figures are based on a count of detainees' custody numbers and relate to the period of original detention only.

Extended Detention: During 2024/25 there were 25 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

Magistrate's Warrants: There were 36 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2024/25, in relation to 26 individuals. Twelve of these applications were for 24 hours or less and the remaining 24 were for a period of 36 hours.

Of the 36 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 10 of these were for a second warrant of further detention.

Of the 26 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 8 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 8 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and 10 people were detained over 36 hours under the authority of these warrants. A total of 18 persons were subsequently charged.

Intimate Searches: There were no intimate searches recorded during 2024/25.

X-rays & ultrasound scans: During 2024/25 4 x-rays and one ultrasound scan were carried out. One was positive and the remaining four were negative.

Strip searches of under 18 year olds: During 2024/25 there were 17 strip searches of persons under 18 years old in custody under Article 55 of PACE ⁽¹⁾.

(1) This data refers to identified incidents where a search of a juvenile was conducted whilst in Police Custody, on the authorisation of a Custody Officer. The search involving the removal of more than outer clothing, for the purposes of retrieving any such thing believed to be concealed by the detainee which could cause physical injury to themselves or another person, damage property, interfere with evidence, assist an escape, or may be evidence relating to an offence, as per Article 55 of The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989. Persons may have been arrested under legislation other than PACE.