



# Use of Stop and Search Powers by the Police in Northern Ireland

## 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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### **Key Statistics**

During the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:

- 18,096 persons were stopped and searched/questioned, 28% fewer than the previous year and the lowest number since records began 20 years ago.
- 72% of stops were conducted under the Misuse of Drugs Act\* and 13% of stops were conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence Order\*.
- 11% of stops were conducted under the Justice and Security Act Section 24\* and 2% under the Justice and Security Act Section 21\*.
- there was a decrease in the use of counter-terrorism powers compared to the previous year; the use of the Justice and Security Act\* decreased by 55% (from 4,932 to 2,241) and was at its lowest level in the past 16 years, while the use of the Terrorism Act\* decreased by 29% (from 584 to 412).
- the use of the Misuse of Drugs Act\* decreased by 24% (from 17,120 to 13,063) and the use of the Police and Criminal Evidence Order decreased by 11% (from 2,725 to 2,435) compared to the previous year. The use of the Firearms Order also decreased, albeit by a smaller amount. The combined use of these non-counter-terrorism powers was at its lowest level in the past 20 years.
- 25% of stops resulted in some form of outcome. The arrest rate was 8%, compared to 6% in the previous 12 months.
- 9% (1,578) of those stopped were aged 17 and under. Of these, approximately 6 out of every 10 (61%) were stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act\*.
- 84% of those stopped were male, while 36% were aged 18 to 25.
- there were 9 persons stopped for every 1,000 people in Northern Ireland, compared to 13 for every 1,000 people the previous year.

\* alone, or in combination with other powers.

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## 1. Things you need to know about this release

### Coverage

Stop and search 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).

Stop and Search is an operational tool used to prevent, detect and investigate crime as well as to bring offenders to justice. Police officers have a legal power to stop and search members of the public in certain circumstances, from dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour, to suspecting an individual is carrying drugs, a weapon or stolen property through to countering terrorism. There are a range of legislative powers available to an officer to carry out this task, including the Police and Criminal Evidence Order (PACE), the Misuse of Drugs Act, the Terrorism Act (TACT) and the Justice and Security (NI) Act (JSA). In most circumstances a police officer will need grounds to search an individual. Some stop and search powers (those under the Justice and Security Act) allow individuals to be searched without grounds, for example, to counter terrorism. Further advice and information regarding stop and search can be found [here](#).

Officers are required to make a record of the details of a stop and search at the time of encounter as outlined in the [PACE code of practice](#). This data is downloaded from a stop and search database, validated and published on a quarterly basis. Statistics are presented on a rolling 12 month basis and this quarterly bulletin presents stop and search statistics for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. An [accompanying spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this bulletin and historic trends.

Details of how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Stop and Search User Guide](#). Further information about this publication, including the legislation reported on, can be found in the Background Notes section at the end of the report. The next quarterly update will be published in August 2025.

### Users and 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, the Policing Board, media and academics. Full details can be found in the [Stop and Search User Guide](#).

PSNI Statistics Branch welcomes any user feedback on these statistics, which can be provided via the email address on the cover page.

### Official Statistics

This bulletin is an Official Statistics publication meaning it complies with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) as follows:

- Trustworthiness: the statistics are impartial, independent and released in an open and transparent manner in accordance with a pre-announced publication schedule
- Quality: the statistics are produced using robust and relevant data sources which undergo continuous quality improvement and assurance checks
- Value: the statistics strive to meet user needs informed by ongoing feedback, providing sufficient detail which is widely accessible.

## 2. Summary Statistics

**Table 1: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to the previous 12 months**

	Number of persons stopped	Arrest rate <sup>(1)</sup>	Overall outcome rate <sup>(1)</sup>
April 2023 - March 2024	25,054	6%	<b>22%</b>
April 2024 - March 2025	18,096	8%	<b>25%</b>
Annual percentage change	-28%		

(1) Outcomes may include arrest, community resolution, report to the PPS or penalty notice for disorder. Arrest rate is included in overall outcome rate.

More than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person. For this reason the total number of powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned. For example, an individual stopped under PACE and Misuse of Drugs Act will be counted as one person in Table 1 but will have a count of 1 in both the PACE and Misuse of Drugs categories in Table 2, and other subsequent tables displaying the use of each power.

**Table 2: Number of times each power was used for a stop and search/question during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to the previous 12 months<sup>(1)</sup>**

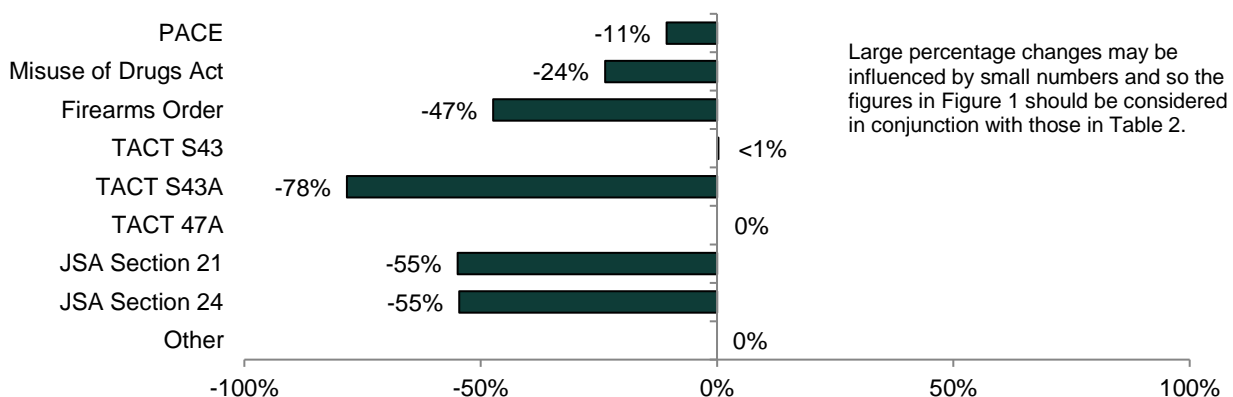
Legislation	April 2023 - March 2024			April 2024 - March 2025		
	Number of persons stopped	Arrest rate <sup>(2)</sup>	Overall outcome rate <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of persons stopped	Arrest rate <sup>(2)</sup>	Overall outcome rate <sup>(2)</sup>
PACE	2,725	23%	<b>35%</b>	2,435	25%	<b>37%</b>
Misuse of Drugs Act	17,120	6%	<b>26%</b>	13,063	6%	<b>27%</b>
Firearms Order	57	26%	<b>32%</b>	30	23%	<b>27%</b>
TACT S43	363	<1%	<b>2%</b>	364	2%	<b>3%</b>
TACT S43A	221	0%	<b>1%</b>	48	2%	<b>2%</b>
TACT 47A	0	.	.	0	.	.
JSA Section 21	753	1%	<b>2%</b>	340	2%	<b>3%</b>
JSA Section 24	4,179	1%	<b>4%</b>	1,901	1%	<b>4%</b>
Other <sup>(3)</sup>	45	7%	<b>16%</b>	45	2%	<b>7%</b>

(1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned.

(2) Outcomes may include arrest, community resolution, report to the PPS or penalty notice for disorder. Arrest rate is included in overall outcome rate. For those persons stopped under a combination of legislative powers (1% of stops) the outcome will be counted under each power. The outcome may not be linked to the initial reason of the stop and search. Outcome rates are rounded to the nearest whole number.

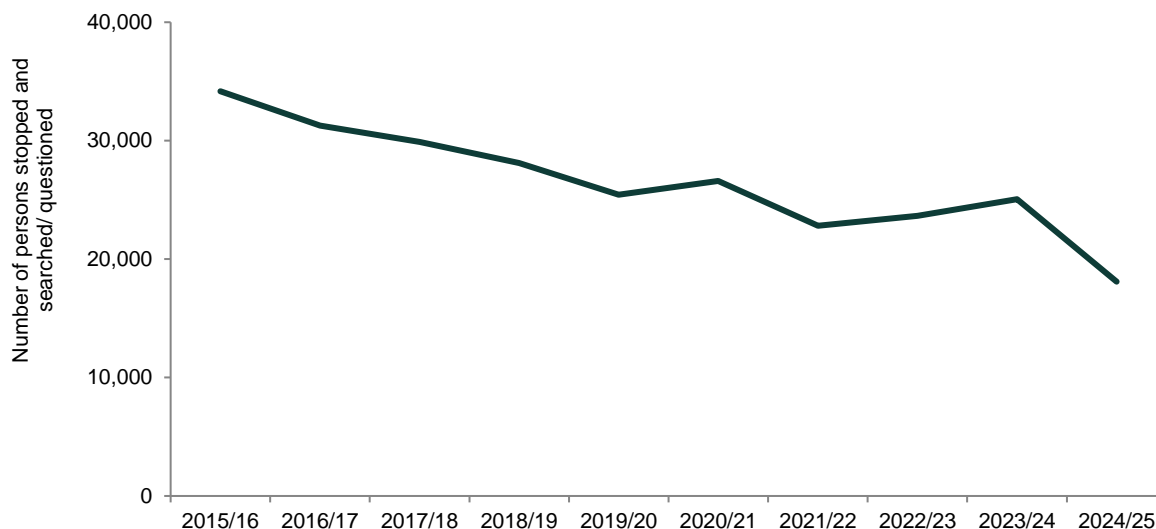
(3) 'Other' legislative powers are listed in Section 10.2

**Figure 1: Percentage change in the number of stop and searches/questions by power during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to the previous 12 months**



### 3. Levels of stop and search over the longer term (by financial year)

**Figure 2: Ten year trend in the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned**



**Table 3: Ten year trend in the use of stop and search/question powers**

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
PACE / Misuse of Drugs / Firearms	25,151	21,876	22,628	21,062	19,842	22,530	19,136	19,977	19,902	15,528
TACT - Section 43/43A	344	265	118	74	38	35	57	91	584	412
- Section 47A <sup>(3)</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JSA - Section 21	2,812	2,200	1,505	1,283	997	456	471	616	753	340
- Section 24	6,980	7,935	6,245	6,035	4,818	3,739	3,195	3,037	4,179	1,901
Other legislative powers	97	140	32	79	21	49	93	85	45	45
<b>Total uses of each legislative power <sup>(2,4)</sup></b>	<b>35,384</b>	<b>32,416</b>	<b>30,528</b>	<b>28,533</b>	<b>25,716</b>	<b>26,809</b>	<b>22,952</b>	<b>23,806</b>	<b>25,463</b>	<b>18,226</b>
<i>Total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned <sup>(2,4)</sup></i>	<i>34,171</i>	<i>31,274</i>	<i>29,882</i>	<i>28,116</i>	<i>25,450</i>	<i>26,590</i>	<i>22,823</i>	<i>23,650</i>	<i>25,054</i>	<i>18,096</i>

**Table 4: Percentage of stops carried out under non-counter terrorism powers and counter-terrorism powers**

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
PACE / Misuse of Drugs / Firearms	71%	67%	74%	74%	77%	84%	83%	84%	78%	85%
Counter Terrorism Powers <sup>(5)</sup>	29%	32%	26%	26%	23%	16%	16%	16%	22%	15%
Other legislative powers	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
<b>All Powers <sup>(6,7)</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) Figures in this section are based on financial year.

(2) The difference between **total uses of each legislative power** and **total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned** will be due to persons stopped under combinations of powers being counted under each legislation used (e.g. someone stopped under PACE and the Misuse of Drugs Act will have a count of one under each of these powers).

(3) TACT Section 47A has been in place since March 2011 although the power has only been authorised for use during one period in May 2013.

(4) Searches under the authority of a warrant and searches that have been carried out after an arrest have been excluded from the 2017/18 figures onwards (impact is an approximate 2.5% reduction in the total number of persons stopped).

(5) TACT S43, S43A and JSA S21, S24.

(6) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

(7) Figures from 2004/05 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet.

## 4. Persons stopped and searched during the past 12 months

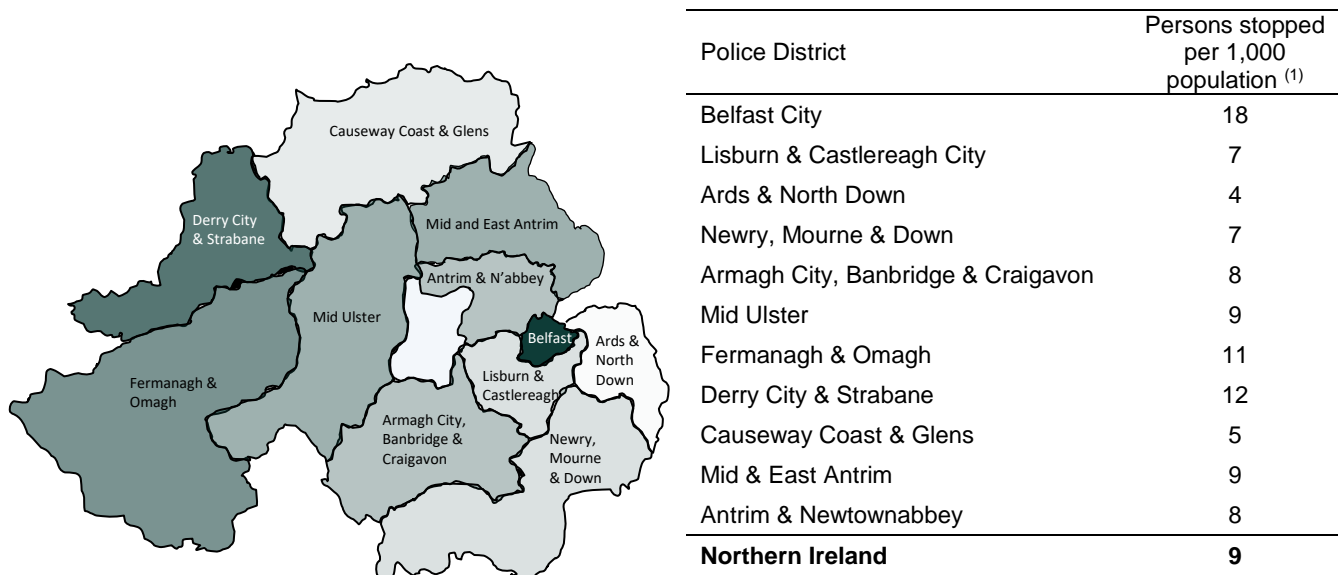
### 4.1 By policing district

**Table 5: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and subsequently arrested under all legislative powers during April 2024 to March 2025 by police district**

Police District	Total persons stopped	Total persons arrested	Arrest rate <sup>(1)</sup>
Belfast City	6,127	698	11%
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	978	82	8%
Ards & North Down	666	58	9%
Newry, Mourne & Down	1,243	77	6%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,674	104	6%
Mid Ulster	1,360	83	6%
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,301	54	4%
Derry City & Strabane	1,756	99	6%
Causeway Coast & Glens	680	50	7%
Mid & East Antrim	1,187	75	6%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1,124	84	7%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>18,096</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>8%</b>

(1) Although the arrest rate can be used as an indicator of the effectiveness of a stop and search there are a number of other possible outcomes that could indicate a successful search, which are presented in Section 4.3 (Table 11).

**Figure 3: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers per 1,000 population in each police district during April 2024 to March 2025**



(1) Rates per 1,000 are calculated using NISRA's mid-2022 [population estimates](#), the latest available data at police district level.

## 4.2 By age, gender and ethnicity

**Table 6: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and subsequently arrested under all legislative powers during April 2024 to March 2025, by age and gender**

Age Group <sup>(1,2)</sup>	Persons stopped and searched/questioned				Persons subsequently arrested			
	Male	Female	Unknown/Other	Total	Male	Female	Unknown/Other	Total
12 and under	43	2	0	<b>45</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
13 to 17	1,288	243	2	<b>1,533</b>	52	12	0	<b>64</b>
18 to 25	5,415	1,070	9	<b>6,494</b>	311	37	0	<b>348</b>
26 to 35	4,350	824	3	<b>5,177</b>	513	62	0	<b>575</b>
36 to 45	2,603	442	2	<b>3,047</b>	294	46	1	<b>341</b>
46 to 55	1,099	160	0	<b>1,259</b>	77	13	0	<b>90</b>
56 to 65	360	51	0	<b>411</b>	26	8	0	<b>34</b>
Over 65	113	13	0	<b>126</b>	11	0	0	<b>11</b>
Not specified	2	1	1	<b>4</b>	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,273</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18,096</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,464</b>

(1) Age may be officer perceived.

(2) Figures are provided in the accompanying spreadsheet by single year of age for the 13 to 17 year group.

**Table 7: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and subsequently arrested under all legislative powers during April 2024 to March 2025, by ethnicity**

	Persons stopped and searched/questioned	Persons subsequently arrested
White	16,867	1,319
Irish Traveller <sup>(1)</sup>	297	46
Other Ethnic Group	369	39
Black	290	39
Asian	195	16
Mixed	75	5
Not specified	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,096</b>	<b>1,464</b>

(1) Ethnicity may be officer perceived. A degree of undercounting may exist for the Irish Traveller category as some Irish Travellers are likely to be categorised as White.

**Table 8: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and subsequently arrested during April 2024 to March 2025, by gender and power <sup>(1)</sup>**

	Persons stopped and searched/questioned <sup>(1)</sup>				Persons subsequently arrested <sup>(1,2)</sup>			
	Male	Female	Unknown / Other	Total	Male	Female	Unknown / Other	Total
PACE	2,029	403	3	<b>2,435</b>	517	86	1	<b>604</b>
Misuse of Drugs	10,870	2,180	13	<b>13,063</b>	737	93	0	<b>830</b>
Firearms	28	2	0	<b>30</b>	7	0	0	<b>7</b>
TACT S43	351	13	0	<b>364</b>	6	0	0	<b>6</b>
TACT S43A	47	1	0	<b>48</b>	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
TACT 47A	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
JSA Section 21	283	57	0	<b>340</b>	5	1	0	<b>6</b>
JSA Section 24	1,746	154	1	<b>1,901</b>	23	0	0	<b>23</b>
Other	41	4	0	<b>45</b>	1	0	0	<b>1</b>

(1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned. Similarly, the sum of arrests will be greater than the total number of persons arrested. (2) Reason for arrest may not be linked to the initial reason of the stop and search.

**Table 9: Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned during April 2024 to March 2025, by age and power <sup>(1)</sup>**

	Persons stopped and searched/questioned									Total
	12 and under	13 to 17	18 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45	46 to 55	56 to 65	Over 65	Not specified	
PACE	35	491	551	713	419	131	68	26	1	<b>2,435</b>
Misuse of Drugs Act	9	958	5,405	3,959	1,969	600	142	20	1	<b>13,063</b>
Firearms Order	0	8	7	5	1	5	4	0	0	<b>30</b>
TACT S43	0	0	34	35	91	170	29	5	0	<b>364</b>
TACT S43A	0	0	9	1	13	21	4	0	0	<b>48</b>
TACT 47A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
JSA Section 21	0	6	51	92	78	58	37	18	0	<b>340</b>
JSA Section 24	0	55	457	391	501	302	135	58	2	<b>1,901</b>
Other	1	18	6	10	7	3	0	0	0	<b>45</b>

- (1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned.
- (2) Age may be officer perceived.
- (3) Figures are provided in the accompanying spreadsheet by single year of age for the 13 to 17 year group.

**Table 10: Percentage of persons stopped and searched/questioned in each age group by power during April 2024 to March 2025**

	Persons stopped and searched/questioned								
	12 and under	13 to 17	18 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45	46 to 55	56 to 65	Over 65	
PACE	78%	32%	8%	14%	14%	10%	16%	20%	
Misuse of Drugs Act	20%	62%	83%	76%	64%	47%	34%	16%	
Firearms Order	0%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	
Counter Terrorism <sup>(1)</sup>	0%	4%	8%	10%	22%	43%	49%	64%	
Other	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

- (1) TACT S43, S43A and JSA S21 and S24.
- (2) Age may be officer perceived.
- (3) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### 4.3 Outcomes of stop and searches/questions

**Table 11: Principal outcome of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers during April 2024 to March 2025**

Outcome	Number	%
Arrest	1,464	8%
Community Resolution	1,685	9%
Report to PPS	1,299	7%
Penalty Notice for Disorder	17	<1%
No Further Action Disposal	13,631	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,096</b>	<b>100%</b>

- (1) The outcome may not be linked to the initial reason of the stop and search.
- (2) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## 5. Frequency of use of powers

**Table 12: Number of times all powers were used during April 2024 to March 2025 by quarter <sup>(1)</sup>**

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March	Total
PACE	591	596	664	584	<b>2,435</b>
Misuse of Drugs Act	3,236	3,222	3,198	3,407	<b>13,063</b>
Firearms Order	8	5	7	10	<b>30</b>
TACT S43	80	104	78	102	<b>364</b>
TACT S43A	20	5	6	17	<b>48</b>
TACT 47A	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
JSA Section 21	85	92	83	80	<b>340</b>
JSA Section 24	562	455	442	442	<b>1,901</b>
Other	3	24	12	6	<b>45</b>
<b>Total <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>4,503</b>	<b>4,490</b>	<b>4,648</b>	<b>18,226</b>

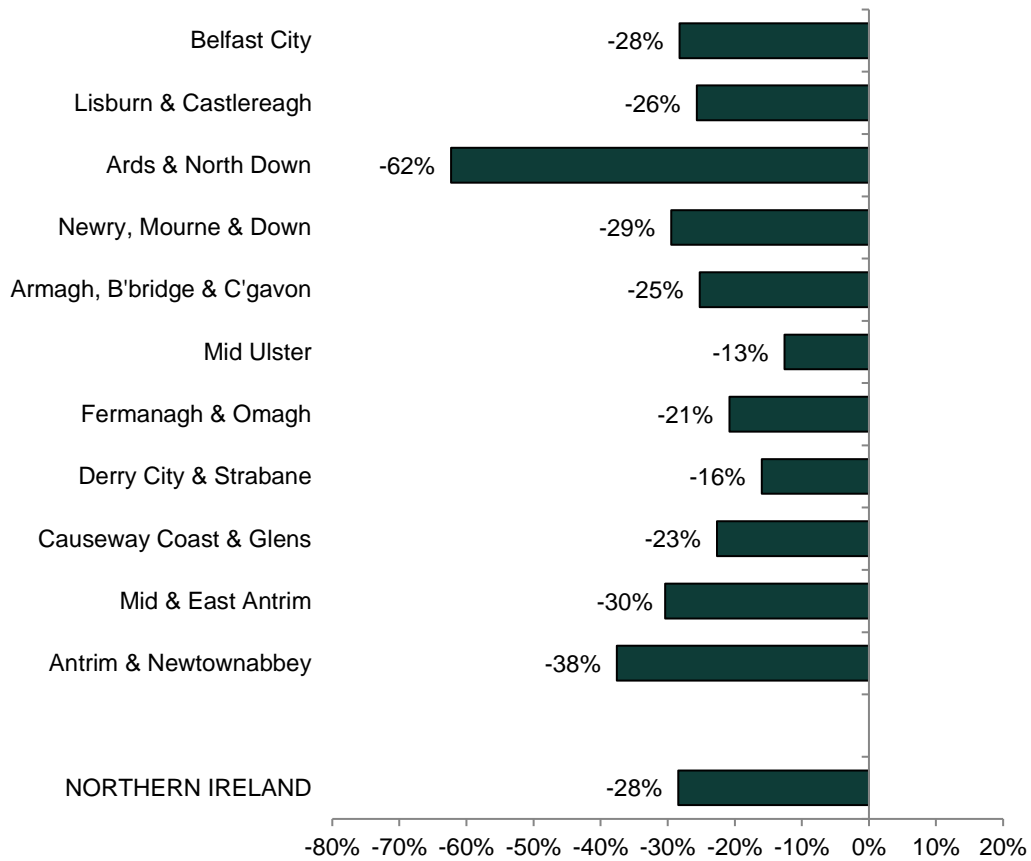
(1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned.

**Table 13: Number of times all powers were used during April 2024 to March 2025 by police district <sup>(1)</sup>**

Police District	PACE	Misuse of Drugs	Firearms Order	TACT S43	TACT S43A	TACT 47A	JSA S21	JSA S24	Other
Belfast City	1,071	4,250	6	286	43	0	129	376	23
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	134	678	1	10	0	0	34	125	0
Ards & North Down	80	430	2	0	0	0	45	109	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	143	989	2	2	0	0	5	106	0
Armagh City, B'bridge & C'gavon	185	1,340	4	14	1	0	21	113	11
Mid Ulster	194	1,018	8	35	3	0	44	89	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	118	1,140	0	1	0	0	6	38	0
Derry City & Strabane	139	912	3	10	1	0	16	679	0
Causeway Coast & Glens	70	510	1	1	0	0	27	77	0
Mid & East Antrim	138	987	2	0	0	0	2	56	3
Antrim & Newtownabbey	163	809	1	5	0	0	11	133	8
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>13,063</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>45</b>

(1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned.

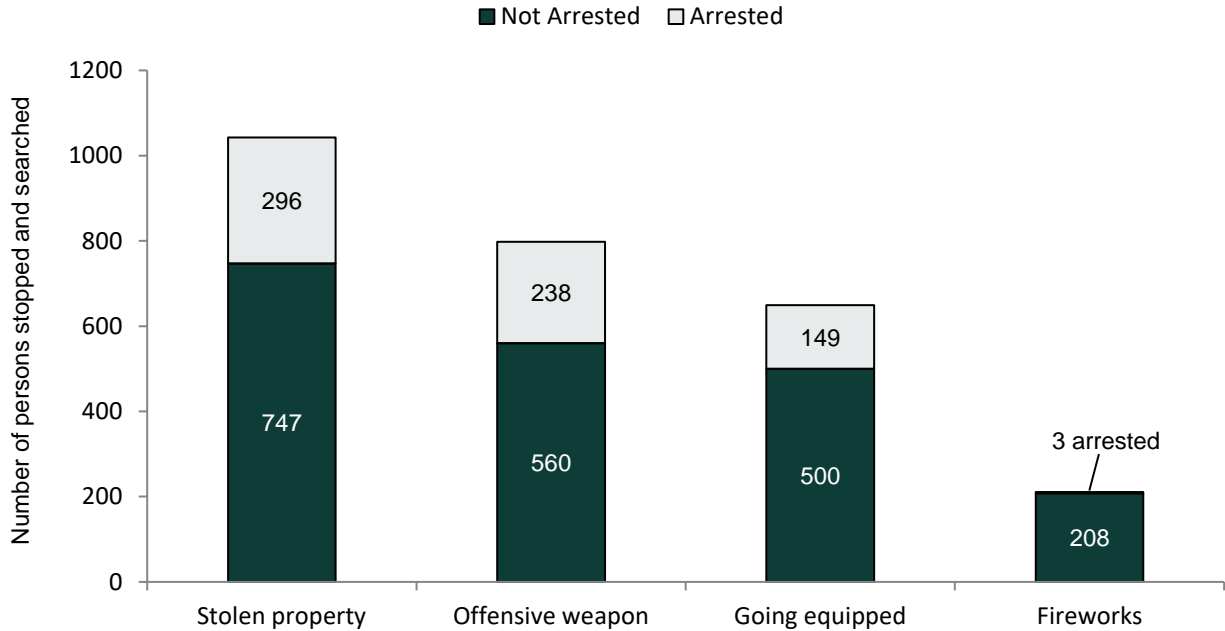
**Figure 4: Percentage change in the use of all legislative powers by policing district during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to the previous 12 months**



(1) The percentage change in the use of individual powers by policing district can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet.

## 6. Reason for search under PACE

**Figure 5: Number of persons stopped and searched under PACE during April 2024 to March 2025 by reason for search**



- (1) As more than one reason can be used to stop and search a person, the sum of the reasons may be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched under PACE.  
 (2) The reason for arrest may not be linked to the initial reason of the search.

## 7. Vehicles stopped and searched during the past 12 months

Vehicle searches include vehicle-only searches as well as those in which a vehicle was searched together with any persons in it. **Therefore figures in Table 14 should not be added to other figures in this report to get the total number of stop and searches** as this would result in the double counting of an occupant of a vehicle searched.

**Table 14: Number of times each power was used to stop and search a vehicle during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to the previous 12 months <sup>(1)</sup>**

Legislation <sup>(2)</sup>	April 2023 - March 2024	April 2024 - March 2025	Percentage change
	Number of vehicles stopped	Number of vehicles stopped	
PACE	479	383	-20%
Misuse of Drugs Act	6,604	4,993	-24%
Firearms Order	31	13	-58%
TACT S43	265	278	5%
TACT S43A	233	56	-76%
TACT 47A	0	0	-
JSA Section 24	5,079	1,934	-62%
Other	18	7	-61%

- (1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search a vehicle, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of vehicles stopped and searched.  
 (2) JSA S21 is excluded from this table as it is a stop and question power.

Figure 6: Number of stops per 1,000 population during 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 by police force<sup>(1,2,3)</sup>

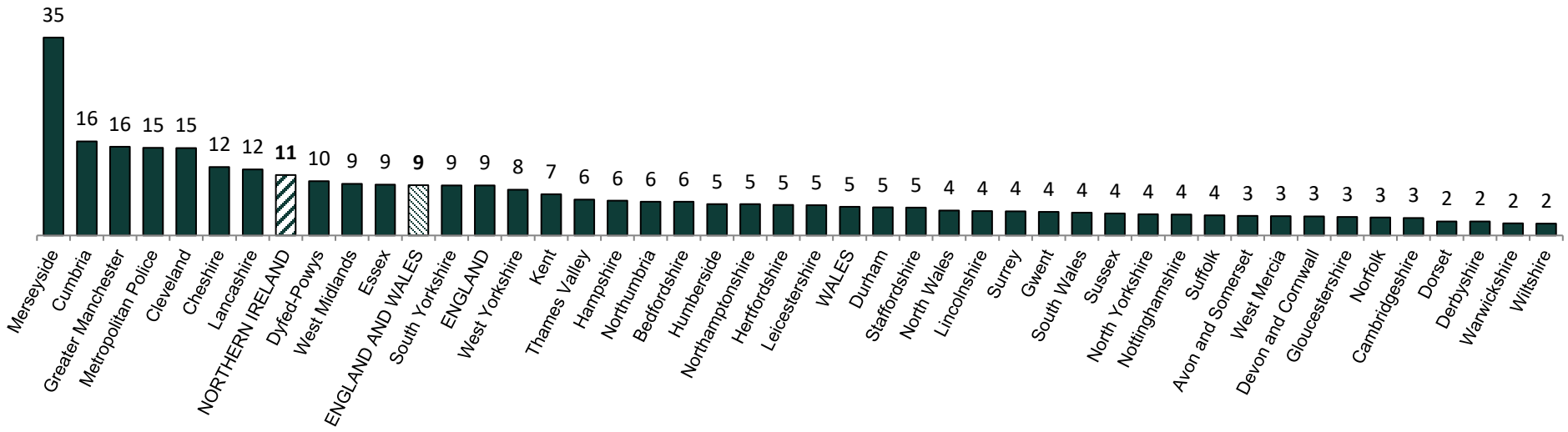
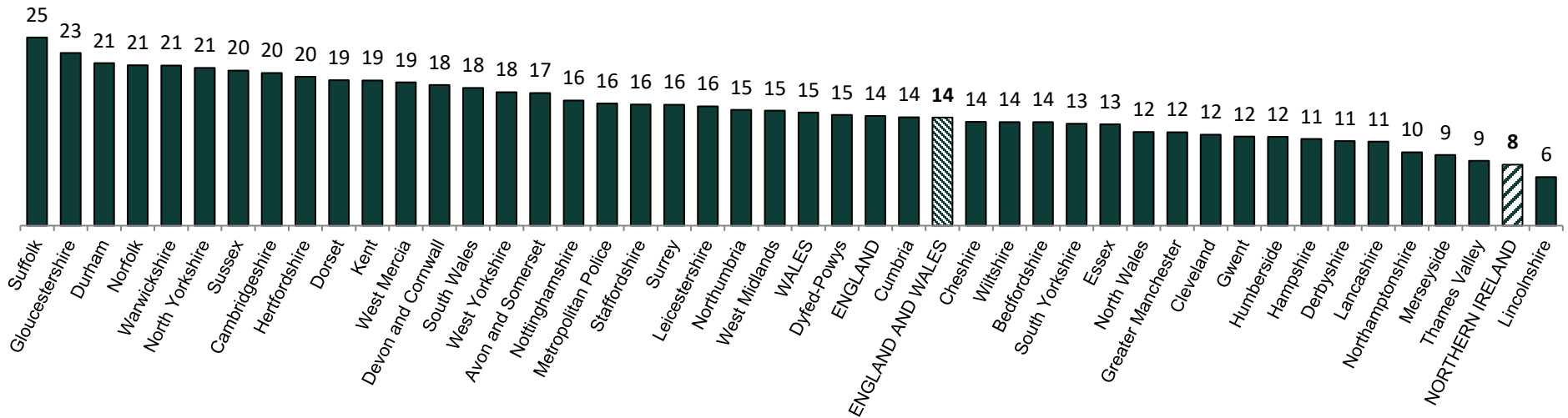
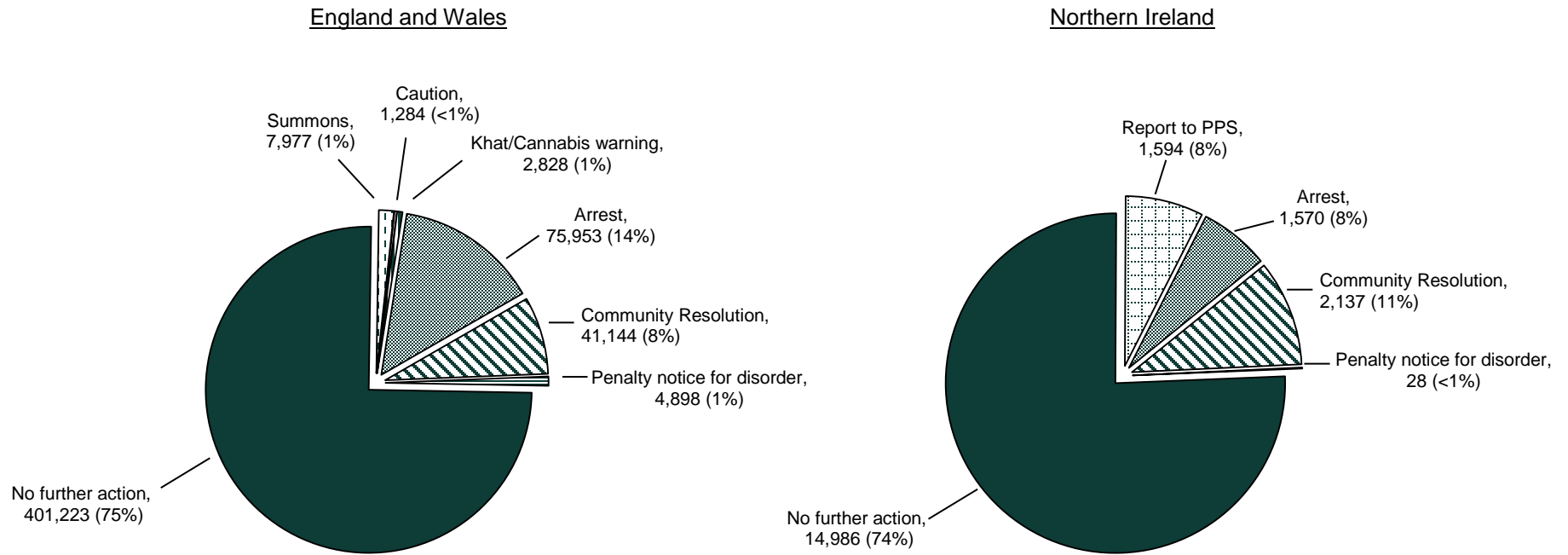


Figure 7: Percentage of stops resulting in an arrest during 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 by police force<sup>(1,2)</sup>



(1) The latest data available for England and Wales is 2023/24 (*Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending March 2024*). For comparability, the 2023/24 NI figures are also shown.  
 (2) In the interest of comparability, the NI figure excludes stops under JSA Section 21 and 24.  
 (3) Rates per 1,000 are calculated using NISRA's mid-2023 [population estimates](#).

**Figure 8: Principal outcome of stop and search during 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024<sup>(1,2)</sup>**



**25 out of every 100 stops in England and Wales resulted in an outcome**

**26 out of every 100 stops in Northern Ireland resulted in an outcome**

- (1) The latest data available for England and Wales is 2023/24 (*Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending March 2024*). For comparability, the 2023/24 NI figures are also shown.
- (2) In the interest of comparability, the NI figure excludes stops under JSA Section 21 and 24.
- (3) England and Wales figures include vehicle only searches (3% of all searches). Northern Ireland figures do not.
- (4) 'No further action' figures for England and Wales include voluntary attendance, verbal warning, seizure of property, guardian intervention and other action.
- (5) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## 9. Background Notes

Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the Stop and Search User Guide which can be found [here](#).

### 10.1 Persons, vehicles or both searched

Officers record if each stop and search involved (i) only a person, (ii) only a vehicle or (iii) both.

All of the statistics reported in this publication, except Table 14, are a count of persons stopped and searched, that is, those stops under (i) **plus** those stops under (iii). Table 14 presents the number of vehicles stopped and searched, that is, those stops under (ii) **plus** stops under (iii).

**Therefore figures in Table 14 should not be added to other figures in this report to get the total number of stop and searches** as this would result in the double counting of an occupant of a vehicle searched.

The figures in this report are the number of stop and search incidents rather than the number of unique individuals stopped and searched, that is, multiple searches on the same people are counted as separate incidents.

### 10.2 Stop and search legislation

The following table summarises the legislative powers available to a PSNI officer to perform a stop and search.

Legislation	What the police can search for
The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 3	Stolen property, going equipped to steal, offensive weapons including a blade or point, fireworks.
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 23	Controlled drugs
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, Section 53	Firearms
Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007, Sections 21 and 24	Section 21 gives a police officer the authority to stop and question an individual to establish their identity and movements.  Section 24 gives a police officer the authority to search for munitions and wireless apparatus. This can be done if (1) an officer has reasonable suspicion that he will find such items, or (2) he was authorised from an ACC.
Terrorism Act 2000, Section 43 and 43A	Anything which may constitute evidence that the individual is a terrorist, where an officer must have reasonable suspicion of terrorism-related activity.  Section 43 gives a police officer the authority to search an individual. Section 43A gives a police officer the authority to search a vehicle as well as any individual he reasonably suspects to be a terrorist.
Terrorism Act 2000, Section 47A	Anything which may constitute evidence that the individual is a terrorist, but an officer may not necessarily have reasonable suspicion of terrorism-related activity but the search must occur within an area authorised made by a senior police officer and where necessary confirmed by the Secretary of State.

The PSNI have a number of other legislative powers that give them the authority to carry out a stop and search. These are:

- Section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011
- Article 6 Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988
- Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987
- The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.
- Section 50(2) of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

These are less frequently used powers and are reported collectively under '*Other legislative powers*' in this report.

Further information on these powers can be found at [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

### **10.3 Longer term trend comparability**

An internal review was carried out to assess the PSNI's compliance with PACE legislation governing the recording of stop and searches under Articles 3-5. The review found that searches under the authority of a warrant and searches carried out after an arrest had been recorded, and subsequently reported, as searches under Articles 3–5 when in fact they are governed by other articles of PACE. In order to fully comply with PACE legislation and more accurately report the usage of stop and search powers, searches under the authority of a warrant and searches that have been carried out after an arrest have been excluded from the 2017/18 figures onwards. Figures reported for the period pre-2017/18 still contain such searches. The impact is an approximate 2.5% reduction in the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned from 2017/18 onwards.