



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

Accountability Report

Presented at Policing Board Meeting:
5 March 2026



**we care
we listen
we act**

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Chief Constable's Foreword



Policing in Northern Ireland continues against a backdrop of real complexity and sustained day-to-day demand. At its heart, however, remains a simple and enduring purpose: keeping people safe, supporting those in need and working alongside communities to prevent harm. This month's Report reflects where the Police Service stands today, the pressures faced, the progress being made and, above all, the dedication of officers and staff who serve every neighbourhood and community. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge strong public interest in a career in policing, sustained operational commitment across local and specialist teams, and practical steps to strengthen how we respond to community concerns, even as we confront difficult choices about resources and investment that will shape policing in the years ahead.

The much needed additional funding allocated after December Monitoring means we are now aiming for a break even position on both resource and capital budgets. This is an important element in our ambition to stabilise the Service this year. As reported last month, the Proposed Draft Budget published in January offered some hope of a multi-year settlement, support for our Recovery Plan and funding to settle the Data Breach claims. Our initial assessment was that, although the earmarked funding was welcome, PSNI would continue to face a significant funding deficit next year and into the future. Since then, PSNI has been issued with an 'Indicative Allocation'

by the Department of Justice for resource spending from 2026-27 to 2028-29 and for capital in 2026-27 only. Work is well advanced in preparing a Draft Resource Plan on this basis, but current estimates identify pressures of approximately £65m next year, rising to £168m by 2028-29. These figures will be refined, but they provide a stark picture of the ongoing funding challenge. Similarly, the indicative capital budget for 2026-27 is £52m, almost £20m short of our estimated requirement and £14m less than the current year, necessitating prioritisation that will inevitably have significant impact.

Although progress has been made, much remains to be done to place policing on a stable financial footing and safeguard capability into the future. I welcome the evidence given on 25 February 2026 by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, outlining the Board's perspectives on police funding, recruitment and service delivery. I am grateful for their continued advocacy on behalf of policing in Northern Ireland.

I am delighted with the strong response to the 2026 Student Officer Recruitment Campaign, with a total of 4,104 applications. This level of interest is encouraging and demonstrates public recognition of policing as a vocation and a way to make a positive difference in people's lives. Successful

applicants will progress through a rigorous multi-stage selection process ahead of an intensive 22-week training programme at the Police College, Garnerville, where they will develop the practical, mental and physical skills required for operational policing. February saw the first attestation of student officers progressing through our enhanced intake cohorts of 51 recruits. These larger intakes will begin to strengthen operational capacity and resilience across districts in the months ahead. I wish each of these new officers every success as they embark on a demanding but deeply rewarding policing career.

A representative workforce remains fundamental to effective community focused policing. We are committed to building an organisation reflective of all communities and backgrounds so that we operate with legitimacy, resilience and local understanding. Learning from this and previous recruitment campaigns is informing a targeted action plan to better understand and address the barriers faced by under-represented groups when considering a career in policing. I again call on leaders and communities across our society to advocate positively for policing as a career of choice and to support our efforts to attract the very best from all backgrounds to join this fantastic organisation and deliver the most valuable and rewarding public service.

This year marks 25 years since the introduction of the new policing arrangements. The anniversary provides an important opportunity to reflect on the transformation from the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC to the modern Police Service of Northern Ireland, recognising the dedication and sacrifice of officers and staff who have served communities across Northern Ireland throughout that period. We will develop a programme of events to honour past achievements, renew pride in the Service's vital role today and set a positive course for the years ahead, supported by a modern, innovative and professional police service committed to meeting the evolving needs of the public.

We are also working with the Northern Ireland Policing Board to consider how best to mark this significant milestone, including the development of proposals for an anniversary conference.

I am keen that these anniversary events provide space for a genuine public debate about what we have done, and what more must be done, to ensure that the PSNI workforce is representative of the communities we serve and that policing is seen as a normal and valued career choice. This is a critical success factor in sustaining trust and confidence for the next generation. We all share a responsibility to advocate positively for policing as a profession and to support those who choose to serve a society that continues to evolve beyond conflict.

I am personally determined that we bring into the open the issues that may discourage individuals or families from recommending policing as a career, and that we work collectively to create clear pathways for those attracted to policing to apply in the knowledge that they will have community support. I have consistently said that policing is the most rewarding career a person can choose, it carries immense responsibility, but it also offers the rare opportunity to make a tangible difference to people's lives, to protect society and to help shape a safer future for the next generation.

In that regard, I am profoundly saddened by the recent loss of lives on our roads. Such tragedies have a lasting impact on families, friends and communities, and my thoughts and deepest sympathies are with all those affected. The human cost of every road death is immeasurable.

Road safety remains a strategic priority. Our approach places prevention at its centre. Sustained reductions in harm depend on proactive community education and engagement, reinforcing the risks of speeding, impaired or distracted driving and the life-saving importance of wearing seatbelts. Enforcement remains an essential deterrent. In recent weeks, despite weather warnings, officers and Road Safety Camera Vans recorded 779 speeding detections across enforcement days on 30 January and 6 February, including a detected speed of 97mph, alongside other offences such as

drink and drug driving, mobile phone use, failure to wear seatbelts and driving without insurance. We will sustain Operation Lifesaver and focus patrol activity where intelligence indicates the greatest risk, while deepening collaboration with communities, schools and partner agencies to change behaviour before collisions occur. I call on every road user to play their part by driving responsibly, slowing down, never driving under the influence of drink or drugs, avoiding mobile phone use and always wearing a seatbelt, so that fewer families are forced to endure the grief of sudden bereavement. We can save lives by doing these very basic things.

Since my last update, we have published clear operational guidance on responding to complaints about public displays in public spaces, which provides a consistent framework for assessment, engagement and proportionate action. This guidance clarifies decision making to support officers to work with communities and partners, while respecting legal and human rights obligations. Statutory partnership working is central to the resolution of these issues and we will continue to work closely with these partners to ensure there is a collective focus on protecting community relations and public trust.

Alongside these operational priorities, we continue to strengthen governance and accountability across areas of significant public concern.

I welcome the publication of the recent Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland report into Child Criminal Exploitation and accept its findings as an important catalyst for improvement. Children who are exploited are victims first, and I am determined to ensure they are seen, heard and safeguarded while those who exploit them are held to account. We have strengthened governance, improved data recording and embedded awareness across training and investigative practice, and will continue to work with justice partners, academia and communities to refine our response and ensure collective effort delivers better outcomes for vulnerable children.

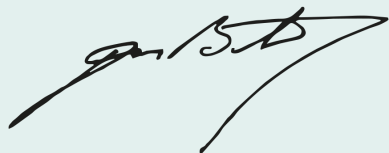
On 26 February, I had the privilege of hosting our Long Service and Good Conduct Awards Ceremony, where, in the presence of family and friends, we recognised 40 officers and staff for their sustained contribution to policing.

These occasions provide an important opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and exemplary commitment of colleagues whose years of duty represent professionalism, sacrifice and public service at its very best.

I also wish to recognise the strong representation of the PSNI at this year's Blue Light Awards, which celebrated the dedication and extraordinary achievements of emergency services across Northern Ireland. PSNI were awarded Highly Commended for Blue Light Emergency Service of the Year Award and the Bravery and Courage Award (ARV Belfast). Winners included the following - Team of the Year (Navy Team, Organised Crime), Unsung Hero (Crime Department) and Innovation and Operational Excellence (ACC Davy Beck). I wish to extend special congratulations to the award winners on their well-deserved recognition. I am immensely proud that their unwavering commitment has been acknowledged alongside colleagues from across our partner services, reflecting the strength of our collective service to the public.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the incredible dedication and professionalism of our officers and staff. This month's report once again demonstrates their sustained operational focus on tackling organised criminality, disrupting drug supply networks and protecting those most vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Detectives and Local Policing Teams have dismantled organised crime groups across districts, while Public Protection Branch and Neighbourhood Policing Teams have strengthened safeguarding interventions and community engagement, including targeted listening events designed to improve accessibility and trust. That commitment to protection is exemplified in the actions of Local Policing and District Support Team officers in Magherafelt and Cookstown who administered CPR to a six-year-old child in cardiac arrest, sustaining life until ambulance crews arrived. Intervention that medical staff confirmed was critical to the child's survival.

This is why being a member of the PSNI carries such responsibility, a responsibility our workforce meets every day through exceptional professionalism, courage and determination, often under unrelenting operational demand. I am proud of their commitment to protecting all the people of Northern Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Boutcher', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jon Boutcher QPM

Chief Constable

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Our Performance

The information in this section is extracted from our Official Statistics published reports. The full reports can be accessed via the following link. <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics>.

These are in-year provisional figures and may be subject to change.

Recorded Crime

In the 12 months from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026:

- There were 93,529 crimes recorded, a decrease of 3,170 (-3.3%) on the previous 12 months. The number of crimes recorded in the latest 12 months is the lowest since the start of the data series (April 1998).
- There were 49 recorded crimes per 1,000 population¹ in the 12 months February 2025 to January 2026 compared with 50 in the previous 12 months.
- All crime classifications have recorded lower levels, with the exception of an increase in sexual offences (+122), miscellaneous crimes against society (+114), possession of weapons (+105), stalking and harassment (+96)² and robbery (+45).
- All policing districts experienced a lower level of crime with the exception of Ards and North Down, Newry, Mourne and Down and Causeway Coast and Glens.
- Lower crime levels were seen in violence against the person. The largest volume and percentage decrease was seen in violence with injury.

¹Crime per 1,000 population based on mid-year population estimate of 1,920,382 for 2023, the latest mid-year estimate available at time of compilation [Mid-year population estimates are available from the NISRA website \(opens in a new window\)](#). ² Full details are available in points to note on page 3 of The Police Recorded Crime in Northern

- Lower crime levels were also seen across burglary, theft, criminal damage, drug offences and public order offences.
- Higher crime levels were seen in sexual offences, robbery, possession of weapons offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

In the 12 months from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026:

- There were 44,159 ASB incidents, an increase of 198 (0.5%) on the previous 12 months. Despite the increase, this remains one of the lowest 12-month figures since the data series began in 2006/07.
- Between February 2025 and January 2026, seven of the months recorded lower levels of ASB when compared with the same month in the previous year; March, April, July and August 2025, and January 2026 recorded higher levels.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, six policing districts showed higher levels of ASB.
- The seven months that recorded lower levels of ASB when compared with the same month in the previous year also recorded the lowest levels of ASB for those months since the start of the data series in April 2006.
- The latest month (January 2026) was 143 incidents higher than December 2025. Levels during January have been higher than those in December for six of the previous seven years.

Ireland Statistical Bulletin, which describes the changes in the recording of these 'behavioural offences' since April 2017 with the latest change from May 2023 requiring fewer such offences to be recorded.



Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded

In the 12 months from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025:

- There were 30,793 domestic abuse incidents recorded, showing an increase of 286 (0.9%) on the previous 12 months.
- The number of domestic abuse crimes recorded fell to 18,524, a decrease of 177 (-0.9%) on the previous 12 months.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, five policing districts showed an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents, and six policing districts showed a decrease in the number of domestic abuse crimes. Belfast City policing district, which accounts for more than a quarter of all domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, showed a 3.2% increase in the number of incidents and a 0.8% increase in the number of crimes.
- There were 16 domestic abuse incidents and 10 domestic abuse crimes per 1,000 population¹, matching the rates recorded during the previous 12 months.
- Levels fell across all major offence classifications, with the exception of sexual offences and criminal damage.
- The largest volume decrease in domestic abuse crimes was seen within Violence against the person which showed a fall of 90 (-0.9%). Within this classification, Violence with injury fell by 116 (-2.5%), Violence with injury decreased by 154 (-2.4%), and Stalking and Harassment rose by 180 (5.1%). The largest percentage fall of 8.7% was within Theft (including burglary). Sexual offences increased by 36 (3.5%).

¹ Crime per 1,000 population based on mid-year population estimate of 1,927,855 for 2024, the latest mid-year estimate available at time of compilation. [Mid-year population estimates are available from the NISRA website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

² Homicide consists of the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter.

Domestic Abuse Homicide

In the 12 months from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026 there were seven homicides with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the police, matching the level of domestic abuse homicides recorded in the previous 12 months. Four of the victims were female and three were male, compared with six female victims and one male victim during the previous 12 months. All seven domestic abuse homicides were murder offences.

What is the difference between a domestic abuse incident and crime recorded by the police?

Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a domestic abuse crime being recorded. Some domestic abuse incidents will result in multiple crimes being recorded. Domestic abuse crimes are included in the incident count and the two should not be added together.

Hate Motivation Incidents and Crimes

In the 12 months from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025:

- There were more race, sectarian and disability incidents when compared with the previous twelve months.
- Crimes with a race hate motivation saw the largest increase, with smaller increases also seen in sectarian, and disability hate crimes. Transgender identity crimes saw the largest decrease, with smaller decreases in sexual orientation and faith/religion hate crimes.
- The number of incidents with a race motivation was the highest 12-month level since the recording of these motivations began in 2004/05.
- The number of crimes recorded increased across three of the six motivations (race, sectarian and disability) when compared with the previous 12 months.

- The number of crimes with a race motivation was the highest 12-month level since the recording of these motivations began in 2004/05.
- Incidents and crimes with a race motivation showed the largest increases (488 more race incidents and 271 more race crimes
- Incidents and crimes with a transgender identity motivation showed the largest decrease with 18 fewer incidents and 10 fewer crimes.

Overall summary of hate motivated incidents and crimes

	Incidents Jan'24-Dec'24	Incidents Jan'25-Dec'25	Incidents Change	Crimes Jan'24- Dec'24	Crimes Jan'25-Dec'25	Crimes Change
Race	1,772	2,260	488	1,159	1,430	271
Sexual Orientation	364	364	0	221	213	-8
Sectarian	922	954	32	590	633	43
Disability	68	80	12	40	44	4
Faith/Religion	91	85	-6	63	57	-6
Transgender Identity	72	54	-18	39	29	-10

Security Situation

During 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026:

- There were no security related deaths, as was the case during the previous 12 months. The last such death occurred in January 2024.
- There were fewer shooting incidents than during the previous 12 months but more bombings incidents.
- There were 14 bombing incidents, compared to 6 during the previous 12 months and 8 shooting incidents, compared to 17.
- There were 21 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, the same number as during the previous 12 months. The majority of these assaults occurred in Belfast (11). All 21 casualties were aged 18 years or older.
- There were 2 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, compared to 7 during the previous 12 months. Belfast and Ards and North Down each experienced one such attack. Both casualties were aged 18 years or older. The paramilitary style shooting in January 2026 was the first such attack of this type since March 2025.
- There were 21 security related arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 66 during the previous 12 months.
- 8 persons were subsequently charged, compared to 7 during the previous 12 months.

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

Firearms Finds

There were 7 firearms found during the past 12 months, compared to 10 during the previous 12 months.

Explosive Finds

There were 0.41kg of explosives found during the past 12 months compared to 0.30kg during the previous 12 months.

Ammunition Finds

There were 345 rounds of ammunition found during the past 12 months compared to 184 rounds found in the previous 12 months.

Use of Stop and Search Powers

During the 12 months between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025:

- 20,310 persons were stopped and searched/questioned, 5% more than the previous 12 months.
- 72% of stops were conducted under the Misuse of Drugs Act* and 12% of stops were conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence Order*.
- 9% of stops were conducted under the Justice and Security Act Section 24* and 2% under the Justice and Security Act Section 21*.
- The use of the Misuse of Drugs Act* increased by 7% (from 13,683 to 14,658) while the use of the Terrorism Act 2000 increased by 180% (from 415 to 1,160), compared to the previous 12 months. Conversely, the use of the Police and Criminal Evidence Order decreased by 5% (from 2,548 to 2,428) and the Justice and Security Act decreased by 16% (from 2,711 to 2,283). The use of the Firearms Order and other less frequently used powers increased, albeit by smaller amounts.
- 23% of stops resulted in some form of outcome. The arrest rate was 7%.
- 9% (1,736) of those stopped were aged 17 and under. Of these, nearly two-thirds (64%) were stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act*.
- 86% of those stopped were male, while 34% were aged 18 to 25.
- There were 11 persons stopped for every 1,000 people in Northern Ireland, the same number as during the previous 12 months.

** alone or in combination with other powers.*

Use of Force

During the 12 months between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025:

- There were 21,553 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, an increase of 18% on the number reported during the previous year (18,245).
- The use of all types of force increased compared to the previous year except the use of police dogs, which decreased.
- The most common type of force used was unarmed physical tactics, accounting for 58% of all uses of force.
- The most common reasons an officer used force was to protect themselves (80% of the time) and protect other officers (78% of the time).
- Belfast District accounted for one-third of the use of force (33%), followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (13%) and Derry City and Strabane (12%).
- Alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (59% of the time).

In relation to those persons* on whom force was used:

- 82% were perceived to be male
- 35% were perceived to be between 25 and 34 years old
- 93% were perceived to be white

**Figures do not represent a unique count of the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.*

A use of force is counted as when a police officer uses any of the following force tactics:

- Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) - pointed or discharged
- Baton – drawn only or drawn and used
- Irritant spray – drawn only or used
- Firearm – drawn or pointed, or discharged
- Police dog
- Conducted Energy Device (CED) – drawn (including aimed, arced, red-dotted) or fired (including drive-stun)
- Handcuffs / limb restraints (including flexi-cuffs)

- Unarmed physical tactics (including blocks/ strikes, take downs, pressure points, physical restraints, other / improvised)
- Spit and bite guard
- Water canon – deployed or used
- Total detections decreased by 3% on the 37,306 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with notable reductions across a number of offence groups including speeding and failing to stop / remain / report collision offences.

Motoring Offence Statistics

In the 12 months from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025:

- There were 36,107 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% (985) resulted in the completion of a speed awareness or safer driver course.
- Seven of the 19 offence groups showed an increase in detections over the year, in particular the construction and use group which rose by 34% to 3,681, representing an increase of 930 detections.
- The largest offence group was insurance offences with 6,244 which, along with speeding (4,454) accounted for 30% of the total detections.
- The highest speed detected by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 143mph, on the M2 Rathbeg Southbound, Antrim.

Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2025*

	1 st Dec 2023 - 30 th Nov 2024	1 st Dec 2024 - 30 th Nov 2025	Change over last 12 months	Percentage change over last 12 months
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	7,227	7,097	-130	-2
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	3,757	5,230	1,473	39
Referred for Prosecution	25,179	22,795	-2,384	-9
Speed Awareness Course	747	568	-179	-24
Safer Driver Course	396	417	21	5
Total	37,306	36,107	-1,199	-3

**Figures are provisional and subject to change.*

Safer driver courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in May 2023 as an alternative disposal to the new fixed penalty notice for careless driving.

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland from 1st December 2024 to 30th November 2025. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership (NI RSP). It presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures extracted on 26th January 2026. 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.

Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties

Between 1 January 2025 and 30 November 2025:

- There were 4,549 collisions recorded, compared with 4,325 between January and November 2024, an increase of 224 collisions (5.2%).
- There were 50 fatalities, 949 people seriously injured and a further 6,160 people slightly injured. Total fatalities were down by 9 when compared to the same period of 2024.
- Pedestrian KSIs (Killed and Seriously Injured) between January to November 2024 and January to November 2025, increased by 55. This was an increase of 41.4%.
- Derry City and Strabane district recorded zero road deaths between January and November 2025. Belfast City district had the most people seriously injured with 154 recorded during this period.
- Seven out of the eleven districts showed an increase in their KSI casualties between January and November 2024 and this year to November. The largest increase in KSI casualties was in Newry, Mourne & Down district, which recorded 31 additional KSIs, compared to the same period in the previous year. In contrast, Ards & North Down district showed a decrease of 33 recorded KSI casualties over the same period.
- Single vehicle collisions resulted in 13 fatalities or 26.0% of all fatalities during January to November 2025. In the equivalent period of 2024 there were 22 single vehicle collision fatalities or 37.3% of all fatalities.
- The most common principal causation factors for KSI casualties during the reporting period were 'inattention or attention diverted' (102 KSI casualties), 'wrong course/position' (87), and 'impairment by drugs or alcohol - driver/ rider' (73).

Outcome 1

Victim Focused

Protecting victims and reducing harm across communities remains our operational priority. During this reporting period, detectives and local policing teams have addressed serious violence within families, sexual offending, drug trafficking, paramilitary linked criminality, burglaries, illegal money lending and human trafficking.

Across public protection and serious crime investigations, our focus has been on identifying hidden victims, disrupting organised criminal activity and ensuring that offenders are brought before the courts. At the same time, we continue to target those who exploit vulnerability for financial gain or control, recognising the long-term harm caused by coercion, intimidation and criminal enterprise within communities.

The activity outlined below demonstrates our continued commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable, dismantling organised criminality and strengthening protection for individuals and communities affected by harm.

Crime Department

Organised Crime Branch

Investigations

- On 13 January 2026, a male was extradited from Spain following multi-agency investigations into drug supply using the EncroChat encrypted communications platform. He was arrested in relation to 91 offences, including supply and conspiracy to supply Class A and B drugs and with possessing, acquiring and transferring criminal property.

- On 23 January, two men were arrested following an Organised Crime Branch and Newry District Support Team operation; both were charged with cultivation of cannabis, possession of a Class B drug and possession with intent to supply, and remanded into custody.



- On 28 January 2026, detectives arrested two males after a planned search of a property in the Draperstown area. Suspected Class A and B drugs with an estimated street value of £235,000, fireworks, cash and mobile phones were recovered. Both were released on bail pending further enquiries.

Sentencing

On 26 January, Barry McMoran and Thomas Taggart were sentenced following the seizure of drugs with an estimated value of £2.1m during a search in the Coalisland area in May 2024. McMoran received 12 years' imprisonment (half in custody and half on licence). Taggart received six years and six

months (half custody, half licence). The conviction related to a quantity of cannabis resin transported from Scotland; mobile phone analysis linked McMoran to cocaine supply.

Paramilitary Crime Task Force

- On 28 January 2026 detectives investigating West Belfast UDA activity charged a man to court in relation to a number of offences, including possession and possession with intent to supply of Class A, B and C controlled drugs, possessing a firearm and ammunition in suspicious circumstances and possessing prohibited ammunition.
- On Thursday 29 January 2026, Detectives carried out searches in the Circular Road and Ballymagowan Gardens areas of Londonderry/Derry in relation to INLA activity. Electronic material was seized and submitted for examination.

Illegal Money Lending

On 15 January 2026, officers from the Predatory Lending Team arrested a woman in West Belfast on suspicion of illegal money lending and associated criminality. Enquiries are ongoing.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit

On 7 January, following an extensive human trafficking operation, detectives charged a 72-year-old man with a further 14 offences, including rape and human trafficking in respect of three additional female victims.

Serious Crime Branch

Investigations

Major Investigation Teams

- Detectives have charged a 33 year old male in relation to the murder of Wayne Reid in Coleraine on 12 January 2026. To date there have been nine persons arrested, with eight released on bail.
- Detectives have progressed an investigation into injury caused to an infant. A male has been charged with child cruelty and causing/

allowing significant injury; a female has been arrested and bailed.

Criminal Investigation Department

- Detectives investigating a serious assault on a male in Derry/Londonderry on 18 January 2026, have charged a male with grievous bodily harm with intent and common assault. He has been remanded into custody.
- Detectives investigating the serious assault of a male in Omagh on 21 December 2025 have arrested and charged a male to Court.
- Detectives investigating a burglary in the Belfast area worked alongside Local District officers to arrest a male and female. The male was charged and remanded. The female has been released on bail pending further enquiries.
- A Translink bus driver was the victim of a robbery in the early hours in Belfast. CCTV enquiries led to the identification of a suspect who was arrested and charged to Court. Engagement with Translink has aided staff and community reassurance.

Court Outcomes

- On 22 December 2025, Raymond O'Neill's appeal against conviction for the murder of Jennifer Dornan was refused.
- On 26 January, Kornelijus Bracas received a tariff of 24 years for the murder of Alesia Nazarova, plus concurrent sentences for related offences.

Public Protection Branch

Investigations

On 25 January 2026, officers responded to a serious assault involving a 52-year-old woman who was viciously assaulted and left for dead by her son. The suspect fled the scene but was swiftly located and arrested. Following interview, he was charged with attempted murder and remanded in custody.

Offender Investigation Unit

In July 2025, officers carried out a search at the home address of a registered sex offender and recovered a number of devices. Examination revealed evidence of 46 incidents of voyeurism across multiple public settings in Northern Ireland, including hospitals, shopping centres and at public events. The investigation has established 46 unidentified victims. In January 2026, the suspect was arrested and charged with 21 counts of voyeurism (up-skirting), 25 counts of outraging public decency and 12 offences relating to indecent images of children.

Adult Safeguarding

Officers received a report concerning suspected financial abuse of an 81 year-old care home resident living with dementia. Through financial analysis and investigative enquiries, officers identified substantial unexplained withdrawals from the victim's accounts. A family member was arrested for fraud by abuse of position and over £58,000 in cash was recovered during a search operation. The suspect remains on bail pending further enquiries.

Sentencing

CIPT Sentencing

On 8 January 2026, a 66-year-old male received a five-month custodial sentence, suspended for three years, and was made subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for seven years following his conviction for possession of extreme pornographic images and making indecent images of children. The sentence reflected previous relevant offending.

Child Abuse Sentencing

On 23 January 2026, a 77-year-old male was convicted of six counts of indecent assault relating to offences committed between 1976 and 1978 while he was employed as a teacher. Five victims bravely came forward during the investigation. Sentencing is scheduled for March 2026.

These outcomes reinforce the Service's continued commitment to supporting victims of

both recent and non-recent abuse and pursuing offenders irrespective of the passage of time.

CJINI Inspections

The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Inspection of Child Criminal Exploitation in Northern Ireland was published on 23 February 2026.

Fieldwork in respect of the Inspection of Adult Safeguarding Arrangements in Northern Ireland also commenced during February.

Local Policing

Organised Crime and Drug Supply

Across multiple districts, coordinated operations have disrupted organised criminal groups involved in cannabis cultivation and drug supply.

In Derry City and Strabane, officers dismantled a cannabis factory linked to a Lithuanian organised crime group, recovering plants with an estimated street value of approximately £350,000 and arresting four individuals who remain on remand. A further day of action targeting drug supply, led by the District Support Team (DST) and involving four TSG units, Dog Unit, DST teams from Lisburn and Ballymena and Local Policing officers, resulted in seven arrests and the seizure of Class A, B and C controlled drugs.

In North Area, a C District DST led cross-district operation targeting cannabis cultivation linked to a Vietnamese Organised Crime Group resulted in five arrests and the dismantling of five cultivation sites. Over 600 plants were seized with an estimated street value of £300,000 - £400,000, alongside five kilograms of herbal cannabis. This coordinated effort across districts demonstrates effective disruption of organised criminal supply chains.

In South Area, a search operation in Enniskillen involving the local NPT and District Support Teams led to the seizure of over 400 grams of cocaine, £4,500 in cash and related paraphernalia.

Two suspects have been identified and investigations continue. A separate vehicle stop by NPT officers resulted in the seizure of 7.5kg of suspected cannabis. A suspect has been arrested and charged to court. These successes have disrupted local drug distribution networks.

Burglary and Commercial Crime

In Belfast, a sustained investigation into a series of commercial burglaries between May 2024 and February 2025, affecting multiple commercial businesses, has resulted in the arrest and charging of a man. He pleaded guilty to 17 burglaries, six counts of fraud by false representation and one theft offence. The complex investigation combined analytical support, CCTV review and strong engagement between local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify the suspect and provide reassurance to affected business communities.

In South Belfast, rapid investigative work following the theft of electronic goods led to identification of the suspect through online marketplace activity. A search recovered stolen property and controlled drugs. The suspect has been charged to court.

In North Area, proactive patrols by Lisburn DST led to the arrest of a suspect linked to a recent series of 13 burglaries spanning two Police districts. Enquiries remain ongoing.

These investigations reflect continued focus on protecting local businesses and residents from acquisitive crime and providing visible reassurance.

Immediate Life-Saving Intervention

In February 2026, officers responded to a request for assistance from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service regarding a six-year-old child in cardiac arrest where the nearest ambulance was some 53 minutes away. Officers commenced CPR and continued life-saving intervention until paramedics arrived. Medical staff later confirmed that this early intervention proved critical to the child's survival.

This incident underscores the vital role officers play in emergency response and community protection beyond traditional enforcement activity.

Outcome 2

Community Focused



Building and sustaining community confidence remains fundamental to effective policing. During this reporting period, the Service has continued structured engagement with communities whose voices are less frequently heard, alongside preventative initiatives addressing emerging harms affecting young people and vulnerable groups.

Public Protection Engagement Events

Public Protection Branch (PPB) has organised three bespoke listening events in March 2026, supported by funding from the Department of Justice.

These events will provide structured opportunities for:

- LGBTQ+ communities, older people and persons with disabilities in Derry/Londonderry to share their views and experiences of domestic abuse, sexual violence and the justice journey.
- Eastern European communities and persons with additional vulnerabilities in Portadown to share their experiences and ideas about personal and community safety, domestic abuse and access to support, and how services can be made more inclusive and accessible.
- Women from ethnic minority communities in Belfast to engage on hidden domestic abuse, barriers to seeking help and what would make support feel safer and more accessible.

These sessions are designed to inform service improvement, enhance accessibility and ensure our policing responses reflect lived experience and community need.

Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age

On 5 February 2026, PPB's Child Sexual Exploitation Lead contributed to an event for Head teachers and Chairs of Boards of Governors in Strangford focusing on smartphone and social media use among young people.

The presentation, *Growing Up Online in Northern Ireland: Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age*, addressed online harms, exploitation risks and preventative strategies. Local neighbourhood officers also attended to strengthen links between schools and policing teams.

This engagement reflects our commitment to a preventative approach to safeguarding children and supporting educational partners in addressing emerging digital risks.

Outcome 3

Workforce Focused



The Police College are delighted to report that it is now operating at capacity. Over the last number of months, the College Team have phased class sizes from 34 to 51, as part of the recovery plan. This development means that 51 officers are attesting monthly which will help aid deployable resources.

In February the Police College were pleased to host a visit from colleagues from the College of Policing as part of our regular engagement around licenced training requirements. PSNI avail under licence of a range of College of Policing designed and accredited training, this ensures that we adhere to National Standards and benefit from current and best practice. Alignment with the national standards of training also enables the organisation to be well positioned in terms of interoperability and the provision of mutual aid.

