



Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Date of Publication:

15 May 2026


Frequency of Publication:

Annual

Issued by:

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 2025 to 31st March 2026, there were 2,481 stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, of which the greatest number (40%) were in relation to stolen articles.
- There was one road check authorised in 2025/26, which was for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person who was a witness to an indictable offence.
- There were 20,192 arrests¹ made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2025/26, 82% of which were males.
- During 2025/26 there were 38 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention.

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

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. PACE Article 5 - Persons or Vehicles Stopped and Searched.....	3
3. PACE Article 6 – Road Checks	3
4. PACE Detention Statistics.....	4

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 2025 to 31 March 2026, 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 2025 and 31 March 2026

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Stolen Property / Articles	Searches	58	99	75	94	91	65	104	111	91	74	73	68	1,003
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	19	21	14	20	30	15	28	33	27	35	14	22	278
Offensive Weapon / Blade or Point	Searches	67	65	69	58	66	89	80	56	90	58	77	68	843
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	12	25	22	21	15	15	19	11	22	17	18	17	214
Going Equipped / Prohibited Articles	Searches	66	88	70	76	73	70	73	58	66	63	60	61	824
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	9	26	9	17	25	12	17	13	5	11	15	13	172
Fireworks	Searches	3	2	3	0	40	36	95	11	2	8	2	1	203
	Arrests ⁽²⁾	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
Total	Searches⁽¹⁾	164	209	198	200	231	224	316	206	209	173	179	172	2,481
	Arrests^(1,2)	34	55	40	49	60	38	59	48	49	58	40	42	572

(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 was one road check authorised in 2025/26, which was for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a person who was a witness to 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 2025/26

	Arrests under PACE ⁽¹⁾				Of which there was a request for	
	Total	Gender			Friend / relative etc.	Solicitor
		Male	Female	Unknown / Other		
April 25 – June 25	5,105	4,188	911	6	1,738	3,876
July 25 – September 25	5,261	4,284	973	4	1,853	4,055
October 25 – December 25	5,132	4,173	951	8	1,897	3,923
January 26 – March 26	4,694	3,846	844	4	1,714	3,646
Total	20,192	16,491	3,679	22	7,202	15,500

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

Extended Detention: During 2025/26 there were 38 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

Magistrate's Warrants: There were 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2025/26, in relation to 20 individuals. Five of these applications were for 24 hours or less and the remaining 19 were for a period of 36 hours.

Of the 24 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 4 of these were for a second warrant of further detention.

Of the 20 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 14 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 2 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and 4 people were detained over 36 hours under the authority of these warrants. A total of 12 persons were subsequently charged.

Intimate Searches: There were no intimate searches recorded during 2025/26.

X-rays & ultrasound scans: There were no X-rays or ultrasound scans recorded during 2025/26.

Strip searches of under 18 year olds: During 2025/26 there were 30 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.