



## STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

### The PSNI’s Official Statistical Reports: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The Police Service of Northern Ireland today (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018) published its Official Statistical reports for the financial year 2017/18 covering:

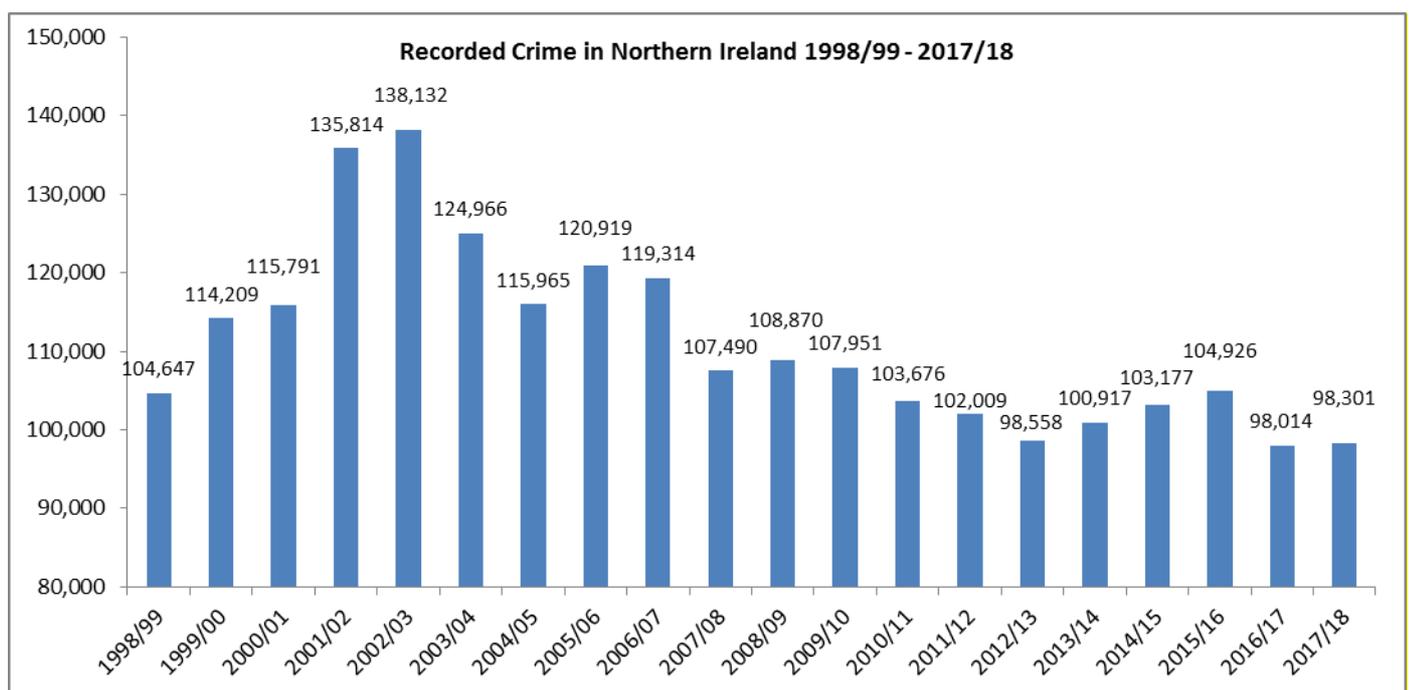
- Police recorded crime & crime outcomes (National Statistics)
- Police recorded domestic abuse incidents & crimes
- Police recorded hate incidents and crimes
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents
- Police recorded statistics on drug seizures and arrests
- Police recorded statistics relating to the security situation (National Statistics)

Northern Ireland 2017/18 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions (National Statistics) will be published on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### Key Findings

#### Annual PSNI recorded crime level remains one of the lowest since the series commenced

- There were 98,301 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 2017/18, a marginal rise of 0.3% on the previous year (98,014) but remaining the second lowest total recorded since 1998/99. Belfast City policing district accounts for around a third of all crime recorded by the police.
- Looking at the longer term trend, recorded crime has shown a general fall since 2002/03 (138,132 recorded offences) with the exception of 3 consecutive annual increases from 2013/14 to 2015/16. Last year’s total (98,014) remains a record low for the series.



## Annual change in main recorded crime types showing mixed findings

- Crime rose in five of the nine main crime classifications:
  - The largest proportional increase was in recorded drug offences, up by 20.1% on 2016/17 and a new high in the series (6,502 offences);
  - Possession of weapons offences increased by 12.4% also reaching the highest level recorded (1,000 offences);
  - Sexual offences have continued to increase since 2000/01 and were up by 9.3% (to 3,443 offences) on the previous year;
  - Miscellaneous crimes against society rose by 4.0% to 2,958; and
  - Violence against the person offences increased by 2.4% to 34,162 offences.
- Crime was down in four of the main crime classifications:
  - The largest proportional fall was in robbery offences, down by 11.6% to 577 crimes and the lowest level since the series commenced;
  - Public order offences fell by 8.9% on the previous year and to the lowest level since 2004/05;
  - Criminal damage fell by 6.1% to a new low of 18,290 offences; and
  - Theft offences (including burglary) fell by 2.4% to reach a new series low of 30,262.

## Marginal change in overall crime outcome<sup>1</sup> rate

- The overall crime outcome<sup>1</sup> rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 28.5% in 2017/18. Outcome rates increased in seven of the eleven policing districts.
- During 2017/18, there were falls in crime outcome rates across five of the main offence groups compared with 2016/17 (violence against the person offences, sexual offences, theft (including burglary), criminal damage and possession of weapons offences). The outcome rates for the remaining four offence types increased on the previous year (robbery offences, drug offences, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society).

## Incidents<sup>2</sup> and Crimes with a Domestic abuse motivation reach highest level in over 10 years

- There were 29,913 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the PSNI in 2017/18, a 2.6% (747 incidents) increase on 2016/17 and the highest level recorded since 2004/05.
- The number of *crimes* with a domestic abuse motivation also reached a record high at 14,560 in 2017/18, up by 4.5% on the previous year. The associated crime outcome rate in 2017/18 fell by 1.1 percentage points to 28%.

## Annual falls in four of the six hate incident<sup>2</sup> categories

- In 2017/18 the PSNI recorded 1,025 racist incidents, 879 sectarian incidents, 267 homophobic incidents, 101 disability incidents, 90 faith/religion incidents and 38 transphobic incidents.
- Annual decreases were seen in all categories except the faith/religion category (up by 25 incidents in 2017/18 to a total of 90) and the transphobic category (almost doubling from 20 to 38 motivations). However, the number of sectarian incidents fell by 116 (-11.7%), racist incidents fell by 19 (-1.8%), homophobic incidents fell by 12 (-4.3%) and disability incidents were down by 11 (-9.8%).
- Within these hate incidents, the number of crimes fell in three of the six hate crime types: sectarian crimes were down by 118 (-17.0%) to 576, racist crimes fell by 45 (-6.9%) to 609 and

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<sup>1</sup> Crime Outcomes include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute).

<sup>2</sup> The PSNI reports the numbers of incidents and crimes that are perceived to have a domestic or hate motivation. Incidents relate to specified reports (see Notes for Editors section) regardless of whether an offence occurred. Crimes are a subset of these and relate to those where a notifiable offence occurred during the incident. Note: more than one crime may result from any one incident so occasionally more crimes may be recorded than number of incidents for a given motivation.

disability crimes fell by 12 (20%) to 48. However, faith/religion crimes increased by seven offences to 41 in 2017/18, transphobic crimes rose by 5 to 17, while there was 1 more homophobic crime (163) in 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

- Compared to 2016/17, crime outcome rates in 2017/18 fell for all except homophobic and faith/religion categories.

#### **Annual increase in recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents**

- There were 61,207 ASB incidents recorded by the PSNI during 2017/18, an increase of 2.5% on the 2016/17 figure (59,703). While the latest figure is the highest seen in the last five years it represents only three fifths of the level recorded at the start of the series in 2006/07. Belfast City accounts for around 30% of all anti-social behaviour incidents in Northern Ireland.

#### **Highest number of recorded drug seizure incidents since 2006/07**

- There were 6,872 drug seizure incidents during 2017/18, a rise of 23.9% on the 5,546 incidents recorded in 2016/17. The latest figure is the highest recorded since 2006/07. As in previous years, the majority of these incidents related to seizures of Cannabis.
- There were 3,121 drug-related arrests in the same period, 15.5% higher than 2016/17.

#### **Annual fall in number of security related deaths and number of casualties resulting from paramilitary-style attacks**

- There were two security related deaths during 2017/18, 3 fewer than the previous year and the lowest number since 2013/14.
- There were 50 shooting incidents in 2017/18, down from 61 in 2016/17. The number of bombing incidents fell to 18, representing the lowest level recorded in the past 22 years.
- During 2017/18 there were 87 casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks, 7 fewer than the previous year.
- The number of casualties resulting from paramilitary-style *assaults* saw little change: 65 in 2017/18 compared to 66 in 2016/17 and the third highest total of the last ten years. Loyalist groups were deemed responsible for the majority (50) of these. Casualties resulting from paramilitary-style *shootings* fell from 28 to 22 in 2017/18; all except one were attributed to Republican groups.
- While 2017/18 saw an increase in the number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (176 in 2017/18 compared to 137 in 2016/17), the number of persons charged (13) was at its lowest level since the introduction of the Terrorism Act in 2001.

## **Notes for Editors**

The PSNI's statistics on Recorded Crime and the Security Situation are National Statistics. The remaining statistics on anti-social behaviour, incidents and crimes with a domestic or hate motivation and on drug seizures are Official Statistics. All are presented on a financial year basis.

2017/18 statistics on police recorded injury road traffic collisions will be published on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### **Definition of a Domestic abuse Incident**

The PSNI has adopted the definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Northern Ireland Government Strategy 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland' as: 'threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member'. For further details please see

<https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/>

### **Definition of Hate Crime and Incidents**

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents. Within PSNI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transphobia. For further information please refer to

<https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/hate-crime/disability-related-hate-crime2/>

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents**

The ASB statistics are derived from certain pre-defined incident types that are recorded on the PSNI's command & control system in line with national guidance.

### **Definition of a drug seizure incident:**

The definition of a drug seizure is a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) which is seized, recovered, found by the PSNI (including intercepted in the post), found on the person, in a vehicle etc. It also includes drugs found in a public open space or elsewhere and which are handed in to police. Please note that the drugs seized by the Border Force are published quarterly by the Home Office as Border Force transparency data, with Border Force seizures in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland presented separately. Border Force seizures are therefore not included in the official police recorded drug seizure counts.

**A drug-related arrest** is counted when a person is arrested and processed through custody for one or more drug-related offences. This is a count of custody records and not persons; a person may have been arrested on more than one occasion during the time periods presented in this section.

The various PSNI statistical bulletins for 2017/18 are available in PDF format from the PSNI website ([www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/](http://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/)) or from Statistics Branch, PSNI Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD (Telephone: 028 90650222 Ext. 24135; Email: [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk)).

Press queries about this publication should be directed to the PSNI's Corporate Communications Department on 028 90700084/85.