



Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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Key Statistics

- In the 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, there were 2,873 stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, of which the greatest number (45%) were in relation to stolen articles.
- There were 3 road checks authorised in 2023/24, two 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 21,980 arrests¹ made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2023/24, 81% of which were males.
- During 2023/24 there were 30 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 19 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 2023 to 31 March 2024, 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 2023 and 31 March 2024

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Stolen Property / Articles	Searches	111	94	91	119	114	76	118	98	133	108	101	144	1,307
	Arrests	30	32	16	34	24	17	26	22	31	18	31	49	330
Offensive Weapon / Blade	Searches	50	73	45	81	71	79	60	72	78	59	81	79	828
	Arrests	13	14	8	25	29	20	17	15	21	16	30	15	223
Going Equipped / Prohibited	Searches	62	57	60	66	93	88	81	56	63	84	70	75	855
	Arrests	7	11	11	11	22	22	17	7	11	17	15	22	173
Fireworks	Searches	5	0	2	2	13	61	112	19	4	5	7	10	240
	Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	Searches¹	191	205	174	238	260	279	335	217	243	226	234	271	2,873
	Arrests²	46	53	34	63	63	51	53	40	55	47	71	77	653

(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.

(2) For those persons stopped under a combination of reasons and subsequently arrested, the arrest will be counted under each reason and so the sum of the arrests will be greater than the total number of arrests following stop and searches under PACE. Arrests are as a result of a stop and search but may not be related to the initial reason for the stop and search.

3. PACE Article 6 – Road Checks

There were 3 road checks authorised in 2023/24, two 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 2023/24

	Arrests under PACE ¹				Of which there was a request for	
	Total	Gender			Friend / relative etc.	Solicitor
		Male	Female	Unknown / Other		
April 23 – June 23	5,706	4,624	1,074	8	1,895	4,058
July 23 – September 23	5,889	4,797	1,084	8	1,883	4,211
October 23 – December 23	5,271	4,281	980	10	1,815	3,623
January 24 – March 24	5,114	4,180	925	9	1,763	3,664
Total	21,980	17,882	4,063	35	7,356	15,556

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

Extended Detention: During 2023/24 there were 30 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

Magistrate's Warrants: There were 19 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2023/24, in relation to 16 individuals. Two of these applications were for 24 hours or less and the remaining 17 were for a period of 36 hours.

Of the 19 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 3 of these were for a second warrant of further detention.

Of the 16 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 4 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 9 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and the remaining 3 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 2023/24.

X-rays & ultrasound scans: During 2023/24 3 x-rays and 4 ultrasound scans were carried out, all of which were negative.