

Probation Board for Northern Ireland Annual Caseload Statistics Report 2022/23



About PBNI Statistics

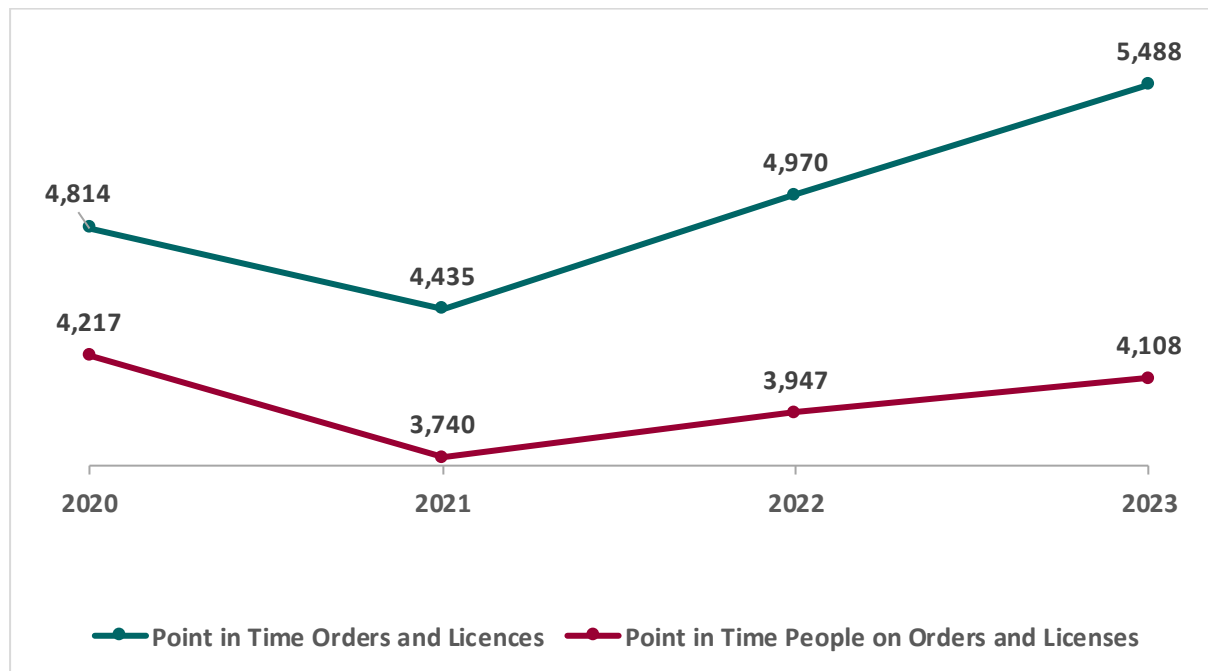
This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the financial year 2022/23, reflecting PBNI caseload at point in time at the end of March 2023. There are also comparators to data in previous years.

The data source for all tables and charts presented in this publication from April 2020 onwards is the PBNI's electronic case management system (ECMS). Prior to this date, a different, but compatible case management system was in place. Although care is taken when processing and analysing data increases quality assurance, it is however, subject to inaccuracies inherent in an administrative manual data recording system.

The collation and production of PBNI statistics is by seconded statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Statistical production is subject to a UK code of practice, the details of which are available here: [About the Code – Code of Practice for Statistics](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-code/) (statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

Managing People on Caseload on 31st March 2022

Figure 1: Point in time orders and people on caseload



On March 31st, 2023, PBNI were managing 4,108 Service users on a combined total of 5,488 orders, licences, and sentences.

Following a reduction in caseload in 2021 due to the pandemic, there is a continuing upward trend through 2022 and 2023 for both people and orders, though a sharper increase can be seen in the number of orders on caseload.

Table 1: Point in time Type of Order/Licence		31st March			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
Order	Combination	505	403	438	505
	Community Service	560	449	408	401
	Custody Probation	39	42	65	69
	Juvenile Justice Centre	16	6	3	6
	Probation	1,620	1,471	1765	1894
	ECO	266	203	211	233
	Others	2	1	2	0
Licence/Sentence	DCS	1,179	1,288	1496	1786
	Life	245	235	232	232
	Sex Offender	77	71	68	73
	GB	53	43	32	24
Public Protection	Extended Custodial	181	167	187	200
	Indeterminate Custodial	51	55	53	57
Non Statutory	Remand/Sentence	2	1	1	0
	Other	18	-	9	8
Point in Time Orders and Licences		4,814	4,435	4,970	5,488
Point in Time People on Orders and Licences		4,217	3,740	3,947	4,108
Other includes Supervised Activity Order, Supervision and Treatment Order, Youth Conference Order					

While there has been an upward trend in People and Orders on Caseload since 2021, there are fluctuations when order / licence types are looked at individually.

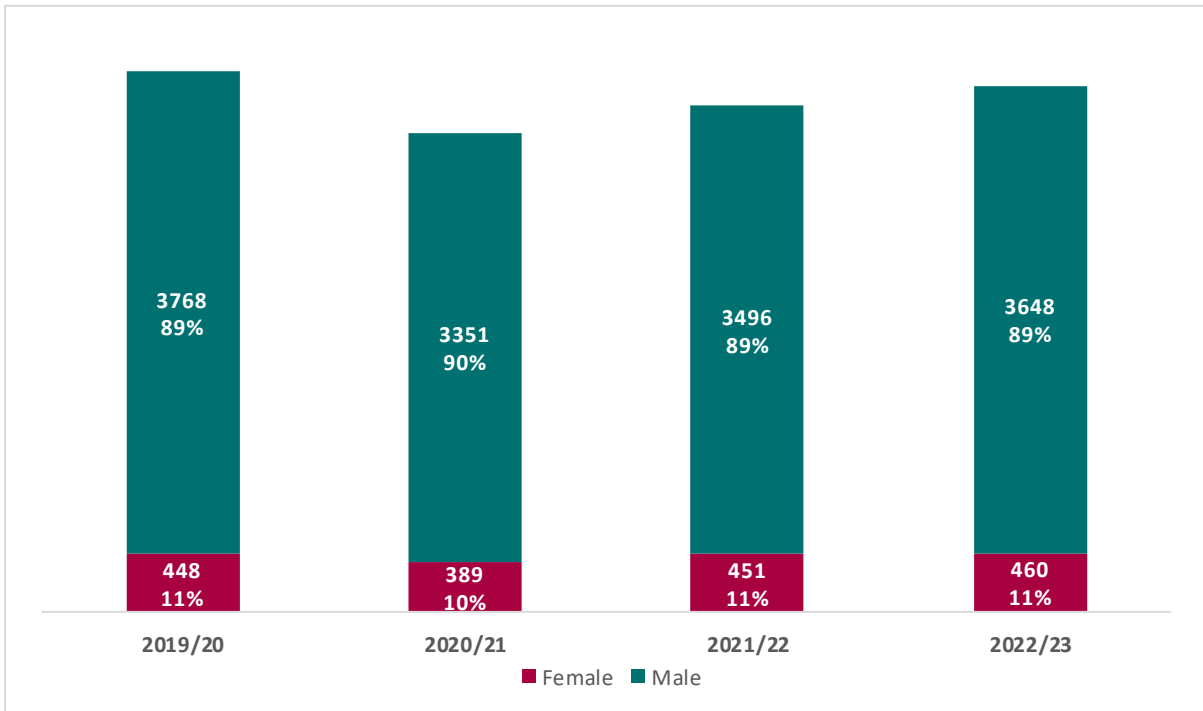
The most common order remains probations orders, which accounted for 35% of all orders at the end of 2022/23. This is followed by Determinate Custodial Sentences, which on 31st March 2023 accounted for 33% of orders on caseload and saw an increase of 19% when compared to the same date in 2022, the largest increase of any order type.

Combinations orders also saw an increase in the past year. They are up 15% from the same date last year and have now returned to the pre-pandemic levels seen in 2020.

Community Service Orders continued to trend downwards, despite the increase in caseload, and saw a reduction of 2% when compared to the same date in 2022.

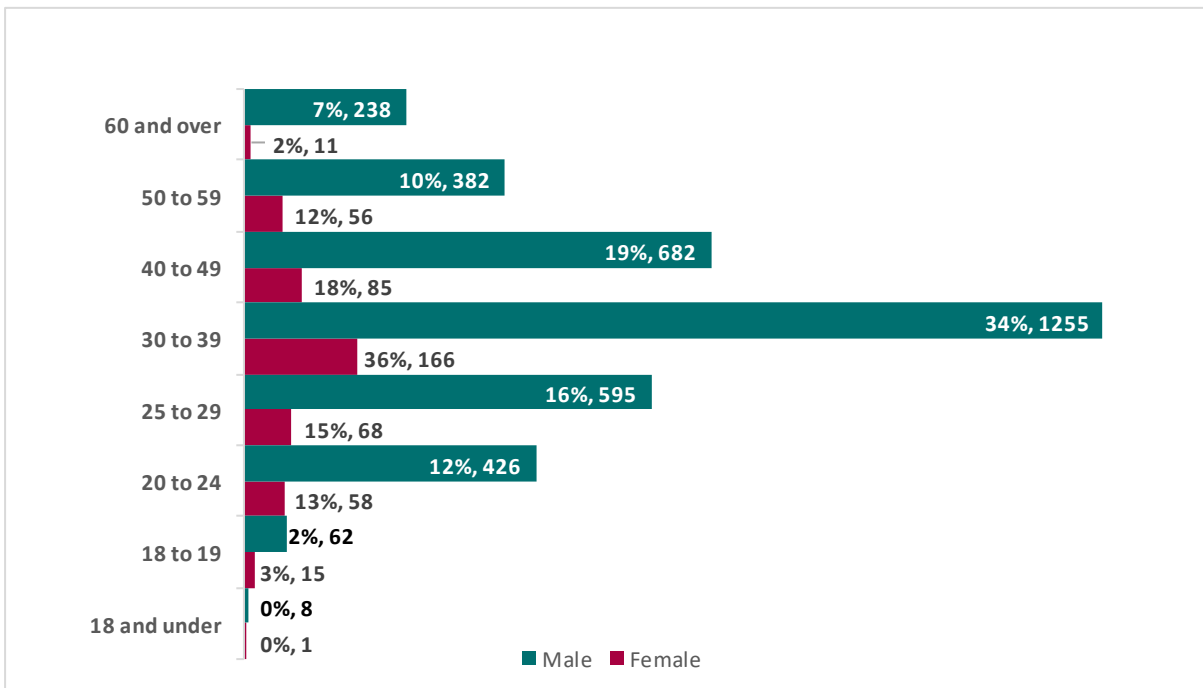
PBNI Caseload Demographics

Figure 2: Males and Female on Caseload from 2019/20 to 2022/23



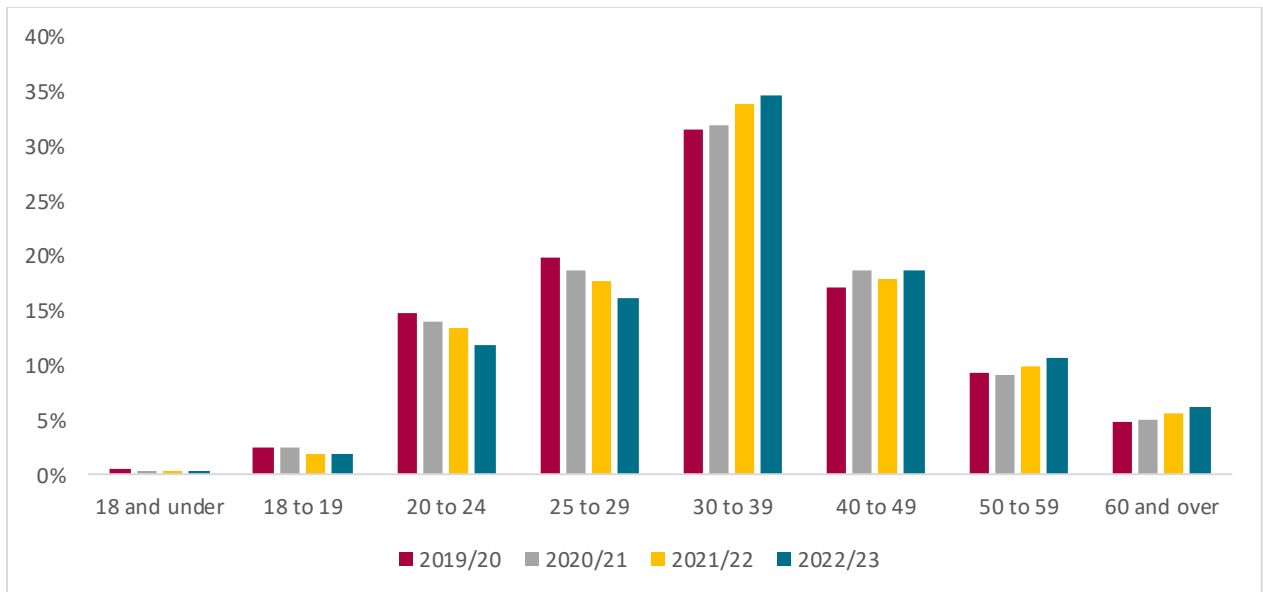
The breakdown of caseload by gender remained consistent this year, with 89% of caseload being male and 11% female on 31st March 2023.

Figure 3: Age Groups of Males and Females on Caseload on 31st March 2023



The most common age range of people on caseload was 30 to 39 years old, with 34% of males and 36% of females belonging to this demographic.

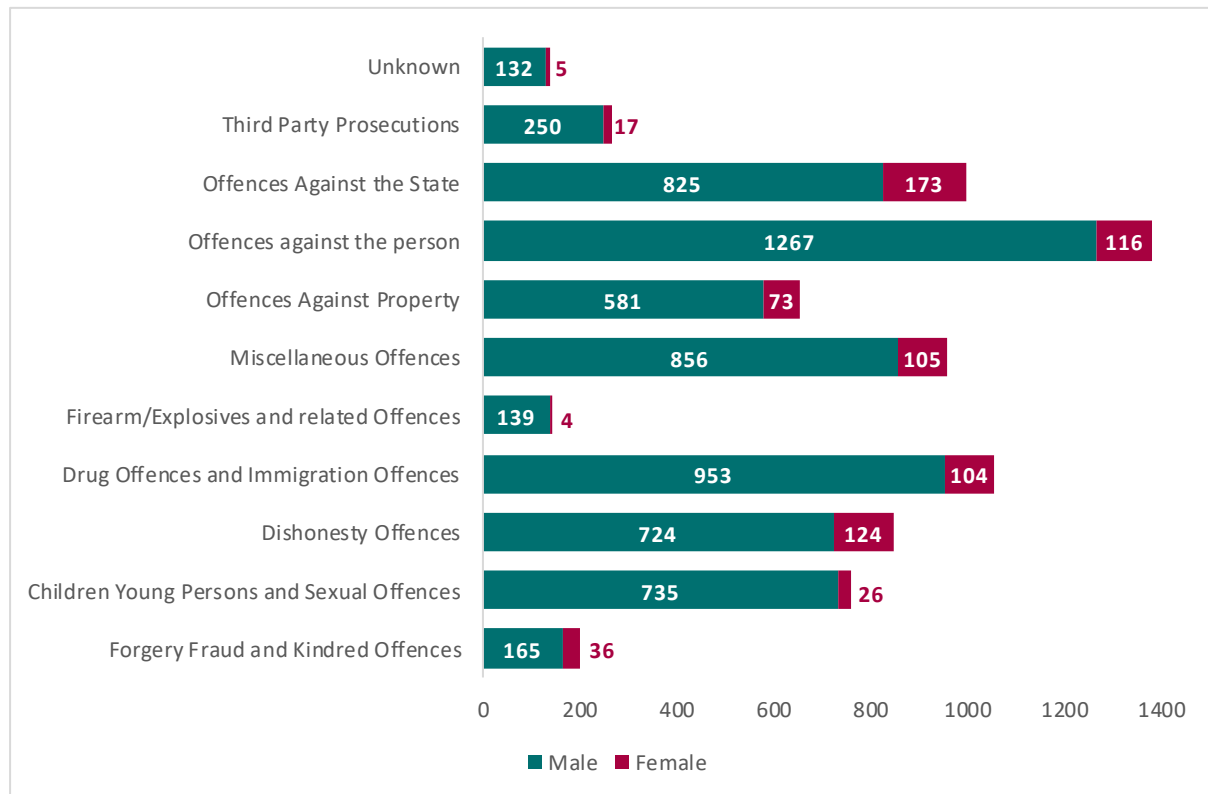
Figure 4: Age Groups on Caseload on 31st March 2019/20 to 2022/23



While 30- to 39-year-olds has consistently been the most common demographic of people on PBNI’s caseload, there has been a general downward trend across the lower age groups of 18 and under, 19 to 19, 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 while the higher age groups of 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59 and 60 and over have seen a general upward trend.

PBNI Caseload Characteristics

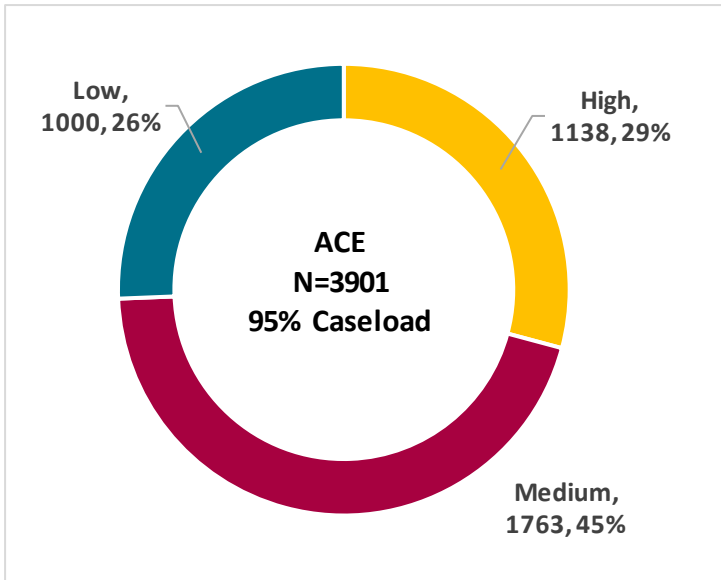
Figure 5: Offence Categories of Males and Females on Caseload 31st March 23



For males on caseload on 31st March 23, the most common offence category was Offences Against the Person, followed by Drug and Immigration Offences. These also represented the most common offence categories overall.

For females on caseload on 31st March 23, the most common offence category was Offences Against the State, followed by Dishonestly offences.

Figure 6: ACE Bands Caseload on 31 March 2023

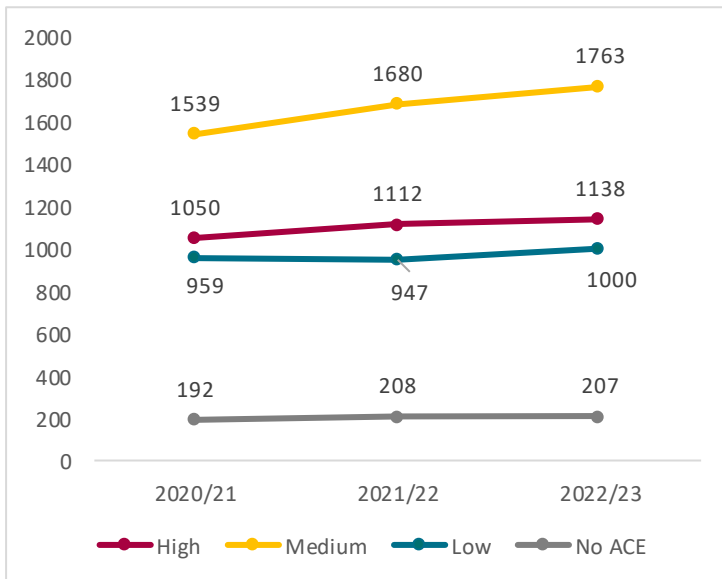


Of those on caseload on 31st March 2023, 95% had an ACE assessment completed and had been assigned a band.

The most common ACE band assigned was Medium, representing 45% of ACE's.

29% of those who received an assessment were assigned as High ACE, 26% were assigned as Low ACE.

Figure 7: Trends in ACE Bands on 31st March 2020/21 to 2022/23

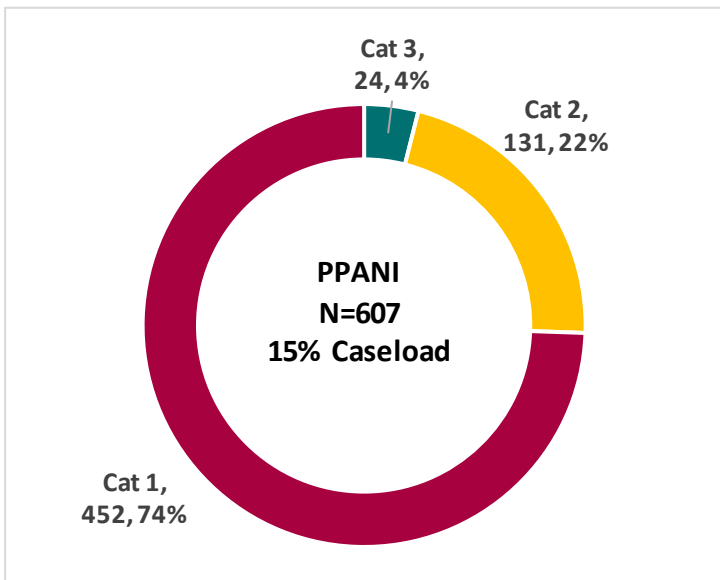


There has been an increase in ACE's overall since 2020/21, in line with the increasing caseload.

While all ACE bands have seen an increase, the Medium ACE band has seen the greatest rise.

It represented 43% of those assigned ACE bands in 2020/21, increasing in 2022/23 to represent 45% of ACE's.

Figure 8: PPANI Categories on Caseload on 31st March 2023

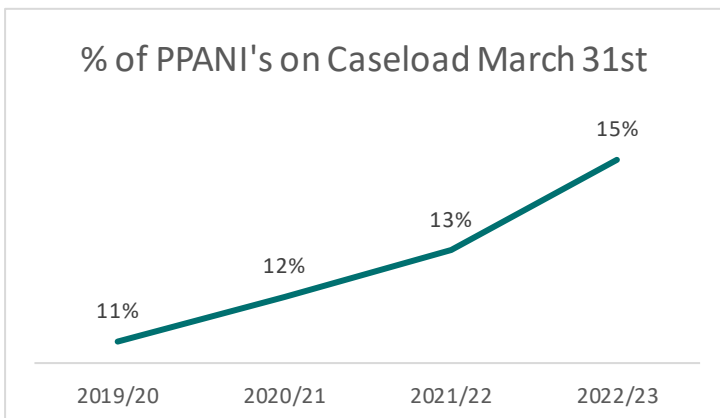


Of those on caseload on 31st March 2023, 15% had been assessed as PPANI and assigned a PPANI category.

The most common category assigned was Cat 1, with 74% of those considered PPANI falling under this category.

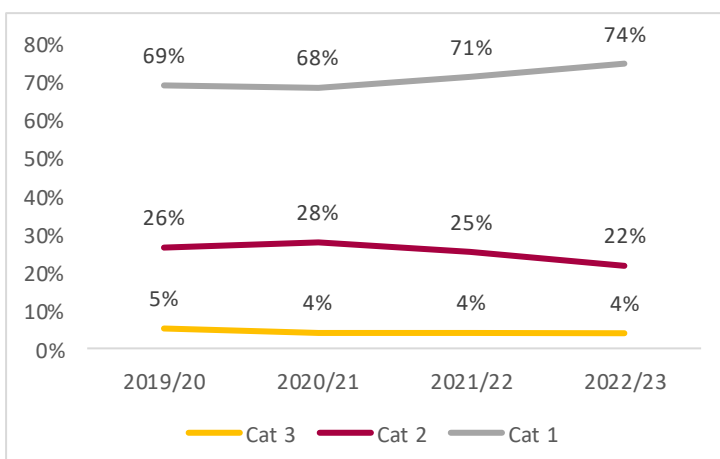
23% of PPANI's were assigned as Cat 2, and 4% of PPANI's were assigned as Cat 3.

Figure 9: Percentage of PPANI's on Caseload on 31st March 2019/20 to 2022/23



The proportion of caseload being categorised as PPANI shows an upward trend, with 11% of caseload being counted as PPANI in 2019/20, increasing to 15% in 2022/23

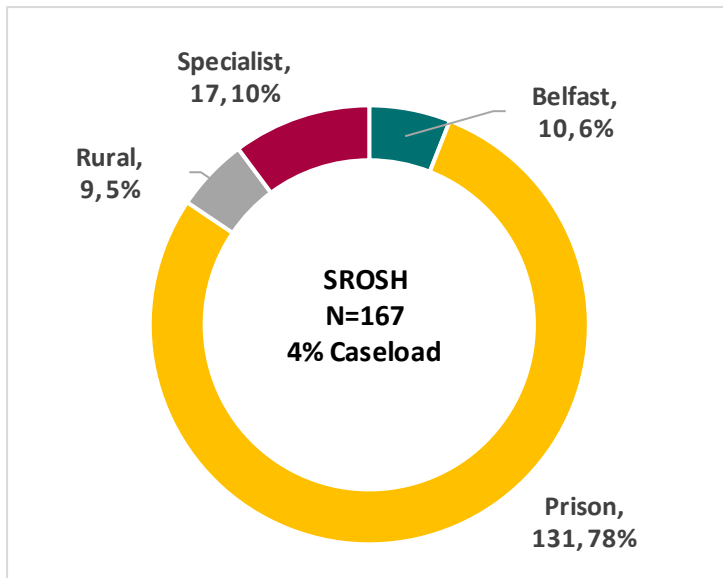
Figure 10: Percentage of PPANI Categories on 31st March 2019/20 to 2022/23



There has been an increase in the proportion of PPANI's being assigned as Cat 1 since 2019/22, while the proportion being assigned as Cat 2 has fallen.

Cat 3 PPANI's have remained steady from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

Figure 11: SROSH on Caseload on 31st March 2023

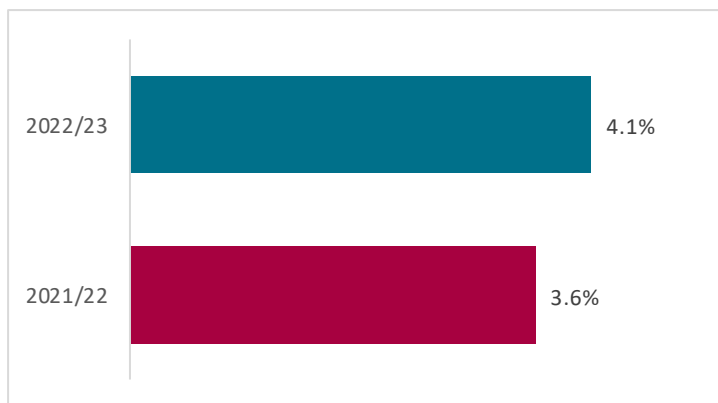


Of those on caseload on 31st of March 2023, 4% had been assessed as SROSH.

The majority of people considered SROSH were under the supervision of Prison based teams, with 78% falling under this directorate.

10% of SROSH were supervised by specialist teams, 6% by Belfast based teams and 5% by Rural based teams.

Figure 12: Proportion of Caseload classified as SROSH on 31st March.



SROSH has seen a slight increase in the past year, with 4.1% of caseload on March 31st 2023 being categorised as SROSH, compared to 3.6% of caseload at the same time the previous year.

Trends in People by Directorate

Figure 13: Number of People on Caseload 31st March by Directorate (Belfast and Rural)

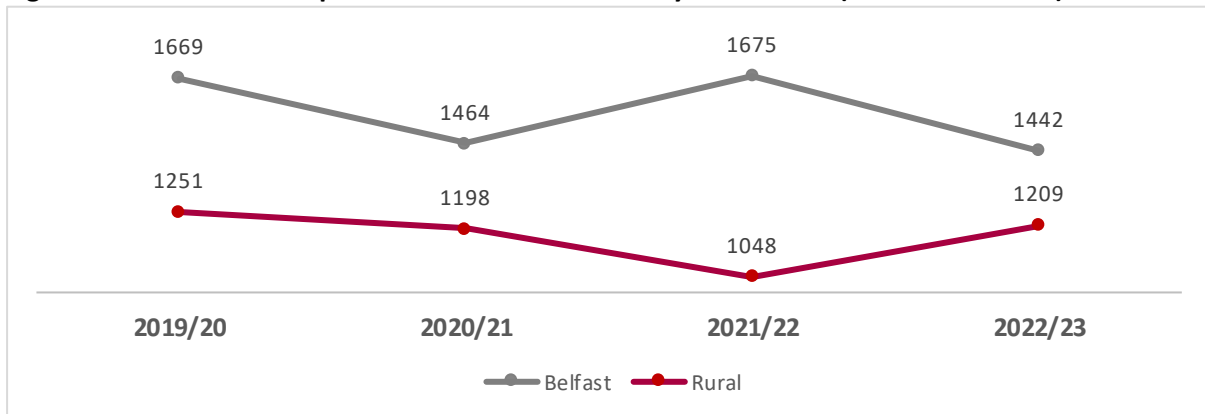


Figure 14: Number of People on Caseload on 31st March by Directorate (Prison, Specialist and Other)

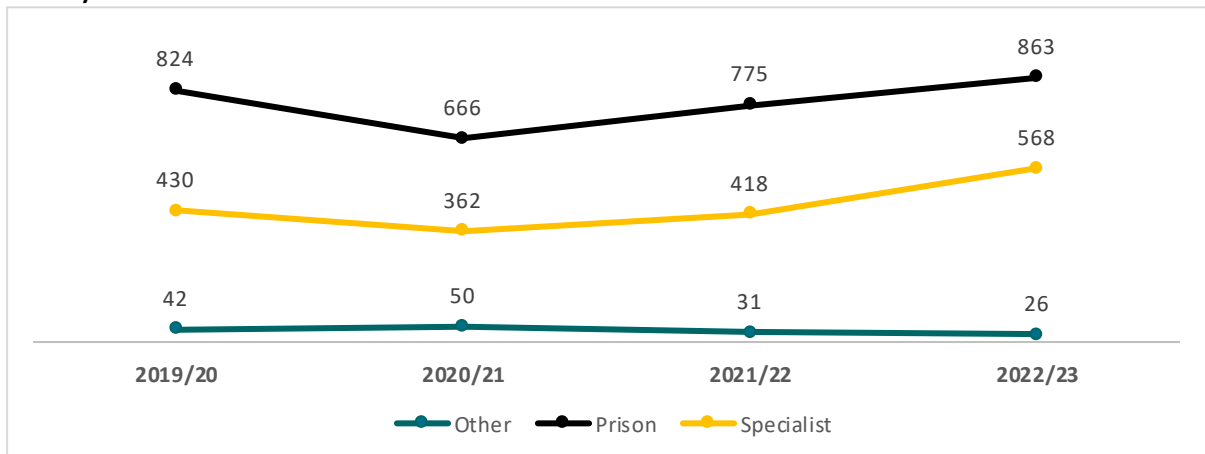
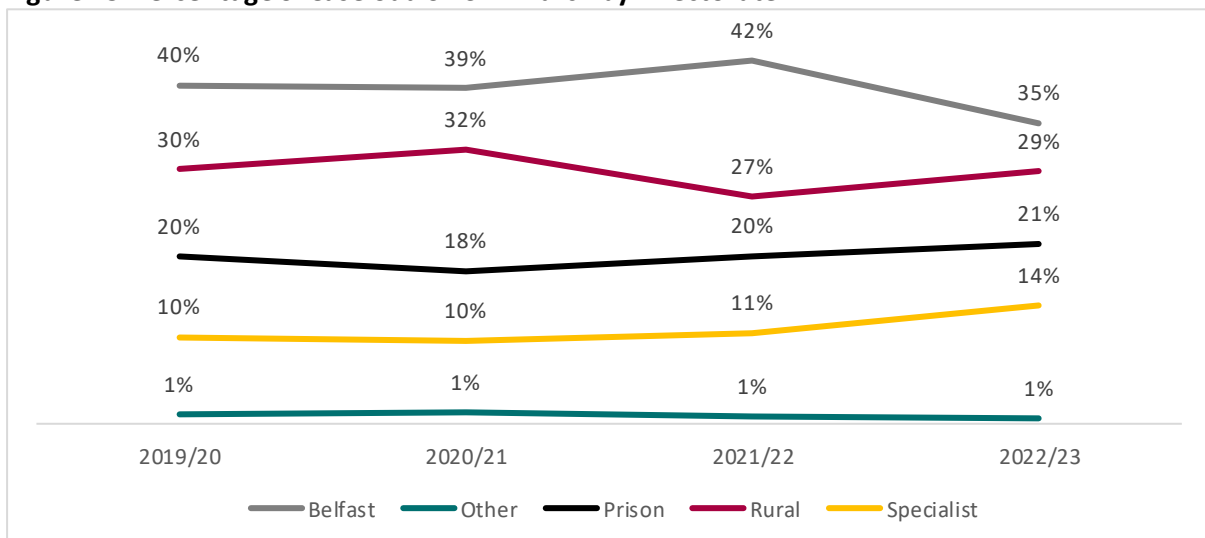
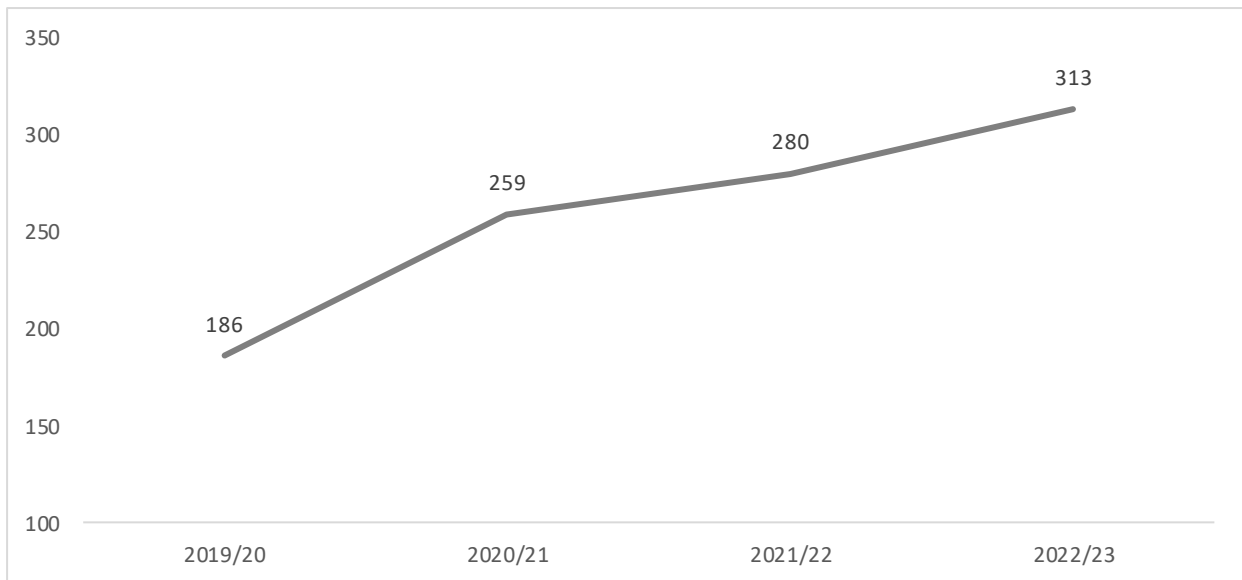


Figure 15: Percentage of Caseload on 31st March by Directorate



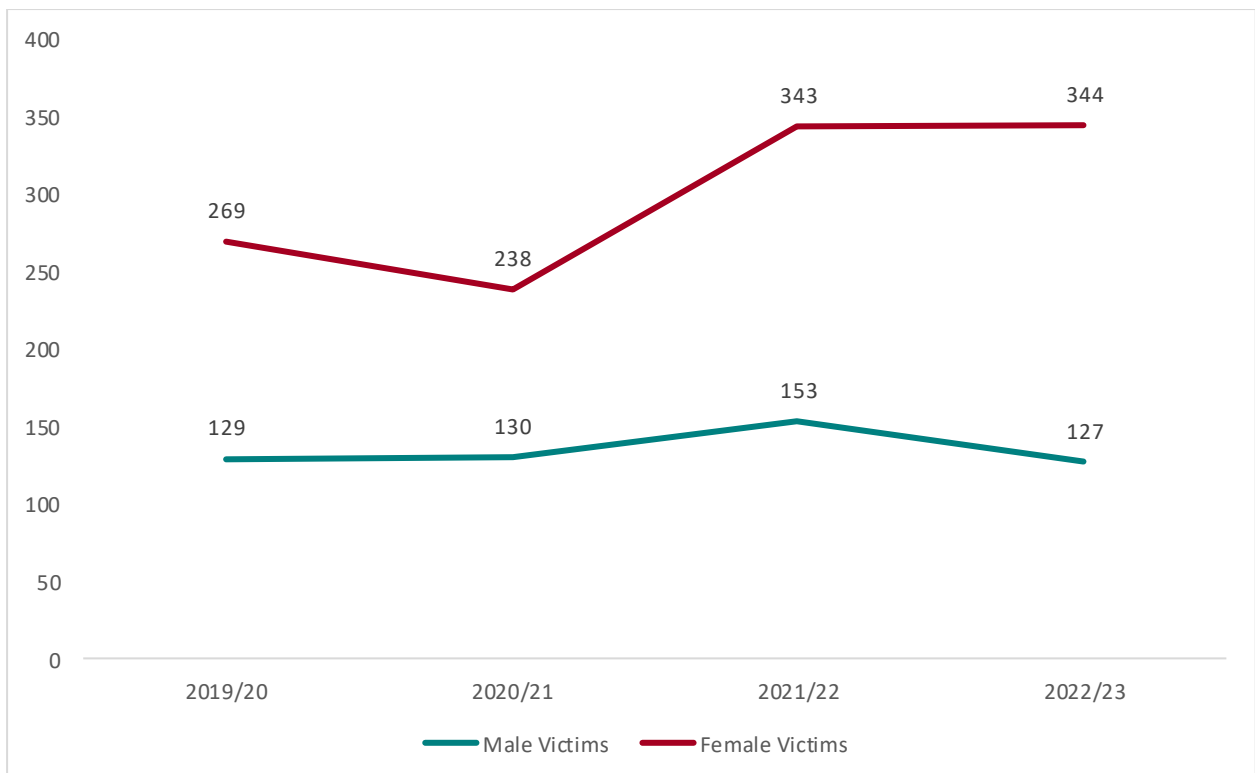
Victim Registration Trends

Figure 16: New Victim Registered in the Year



New Victim Registrations has continued to rise, with registrations in 2022/23 up 68% when compared to 2019/20.

Figure 17: Registered Victims by Gender on 31st March



Trends in Reports Completed

Figure 18: Reports Completed by type from 2019/20 – 2022/23

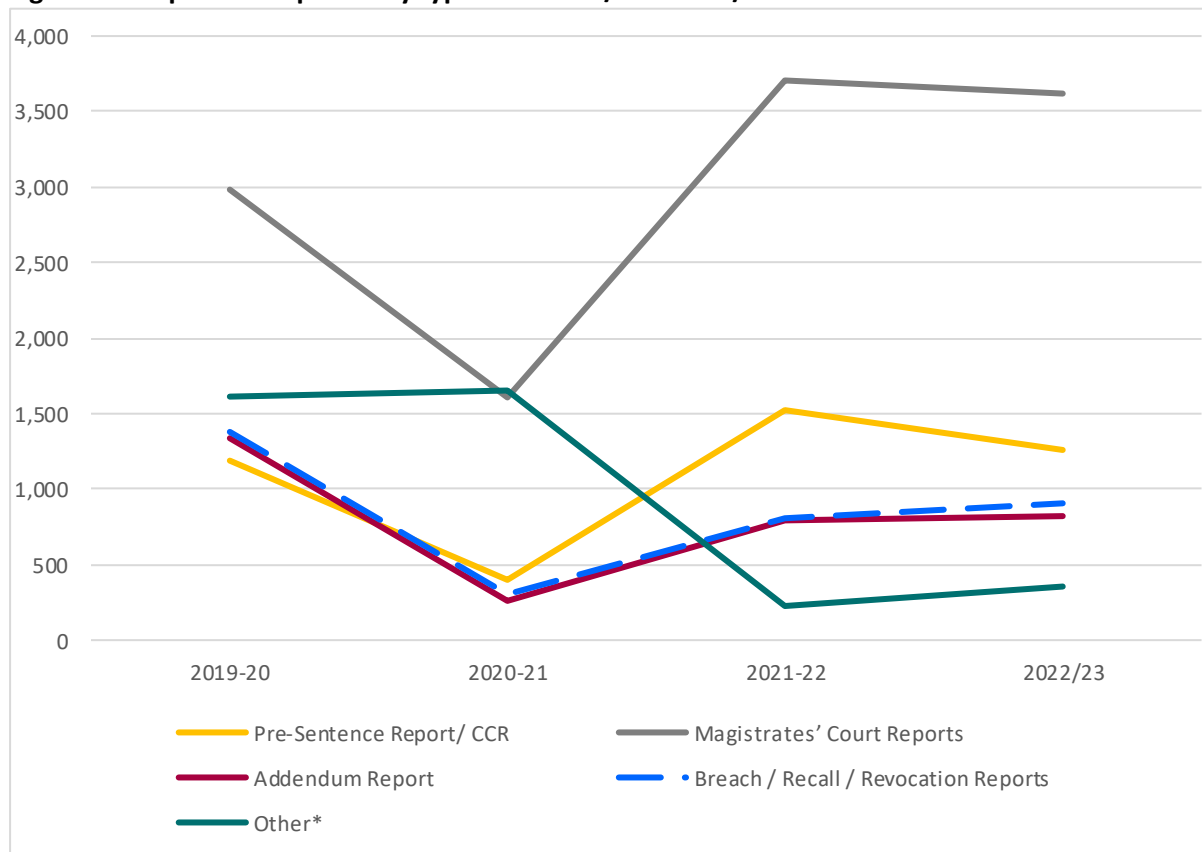


Table 2: Number of Reports Completed by type from 2019/20 – 2022/23

Type of Report	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022/23
Pre-Sentence Report/ CCR	1,191	399	1,523	1,266
Magistrates' Court Reports	2,987	1,607	3,706	3,615
Addendum Report	1,337	260	791	819
Breach / Recall / Revocation Reports	1,379	304	803	912
Other*	1,615	1,653	226	356
Total Reports**	8,509	4,223	7,049	6,968

*Other Reports include Probation Officers Reports, Short Adjournment Reports, SMC Progress Reports and SMC Suitability Reports

**Excluding Explanatory Letters to Court

Data Tables

Table 3: Number of People on Caseload on 31st March by Gender

Gender	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Female	448	389	451	460
Male	3768	3351	3496	3648
Total	4216	3740	3947	4108
Female	11%	10%	11%	11%
Male	89%	90%	89%	89%

Table 4: Females on Caseload on 31st March

Female				
Age Band	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
18 and under	3	2	2	1
18 to 19	15	13	3	15
20 to 24	77	52	70	58
25 to 29	80	72	86	68
30 to 39	129	124	151	166
40 to 49	96	86	88	85
50 to 59	44	31	49	56
60 and over	4	9	2	11
Total	448	389	451	460
18 and under	1%	1%	0%	0%
18 to 19	3%	3%	1%	3%
20 to 24	17%	13%	16%	13%
25 to 29	18%	19%	19%	15%
30 to 39	29%	32%	33%	36%
40 to 49	21%	22%	20%	18%
50 to 59	10%	8%	11%	12%
60 and over	1%	2%	0%	2%

Table 5: Males on Caseload on 31st March

Male				
Age Band	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
18 and under	20	12	8	8
18 to 19	85	78	68	62
20 to 24	543	466	456	426
25 to 29	753	625	609	595
30 to 39	1201	1070	1184	1255
40 to 49	622	613	619	682
50 to 59	347	308	338	382
60 and over	197	179	214	238
Total	3768	3351	3496	3648
18 and under	1%	0%	0%	0%
18 to 19	2%	2%	2%	2%
20 to 24	14%	14%	13%	12%
25 to 29	20%	19%	17%	16%
30 to 39	32%	32%	34%	34%
40 to 49	17%	18%	18%	19%
50 to 59	9%	9%	10%	10%
60 and over	5%	5%	6%	7%

Table 6: Age of People on Caseload 31st March

Age Band	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
18 and under	23	14	10	9
18 to 19	100	91	71	77
20 to 24	620	518	526	484
25 to 29	833	697	695	663
30 to 39	1330	1194	1335	1421
40 to 49	718	699	707	767
50 to 59	391	339	387	438
60 and over	201	188	216	249
Total	4216	3740	3947	4108
18 and under	1%	0%	0%	0%
18 to 19	2%	2%	2%	2%
20 to 24	15%	14%	13%	12%
25 to 29	20%	19%	18%	16%
30 to 39	32%	32%	34%	35%
40 to 49	17%	19%	18%	19%
50 to 59	9%	9%	10%	11%
60 and over	5%	5%	5%	6%

Table 7: Offences of Males on Caseload 31st March

Male				
Offence	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Forgery Fraud and Kindred Offences	107	141	133	165
Children Young Persons and Sexual Offences	333	366	575	735
Dishonesty Offences	410	664	763	724
Drug Offences and Immigration Offences	508	677	898	953
Firearm/Explosives and related Offences	80	145	142	139
Miscellaneous Offences	416	710	815	856
Offences Against Property	238	475	510	581
Offences against the person	555	852	1112	1267
Offences Against the State	485	742	802	825
Third Party Prosecutions	563	667	305	250
Unknown	73	222	106	132
Total	3768	5661	6161	6627

Table 8: Offences of Females on Caseload 31st March

Female				
Offence	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Forgery Fraud and Kindred Offences	28	28	41	36
Children Young Persons and Sexual Offences	9	18	13	26
Dishonesty Offences	84	101	119	124
Drug Offences and Immigration Offences	46	62	110	104
Firearm/Explosives and related Offences	1	3	5	4
Miscellaneous Offences	58	86	89	105
Offences Against Property	28	46	59	73
Offences against the person	46	59	104	116
Offences Against the State	76	106	187	173
Third Party Prosecutions	68	87	33	17
Unknown	4	17	4	5
Total	448	613	764	783

Table 9: ACE Bands by number People on Caseload 31st March

ACE Band	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
High	1050	1112	1138
Medium	1539	1680	1763
Low	959	947	1000
No ACE	192	208	207
Total ACE	3548	3739	3901
Total People on Caseload	3740	3947	4108
% of Caseload with ACE assessment	95%	95%	95%
High	30%	30%	29%
Medium	43%	45%	45%
Low	27%	25%	26%

Table 10: PPANI Categories of those on Caseload on 31st March

PPANI	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Cat 3	23	18	21	24
Cat 2	116	120	125	131
Cat 1	304	295	353	452
Total PPANI	443	433	499	607
Total People on Caseload	4217	3740	3947	4108
% Caseload PPANI	11%	12%	13%	15%
Cat 3	5%	4%	4%	4%
Cat 2	26%	28%	25%	22%
Cat 1	69%	68%	71%	74%

Table 11: SROSH People on Caseload on 31st March

Directorate	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Belfast	3	10	6	10
Prison	11	103	118	131
Rural	1	4	5	9
Specialist	4	13	12	17
Total SROSH	19	130	141	167
Total People on Caseload	4217	3740	3,947	4108
% Caseload SROSH	0.5%	3.5%	3.6%	4.1%
Belfast	16%	8%	4%	6%
Prison	58%	79%	84%	78%
Rural	5%	3%	4%	5%
Specialist	21%	10%	9%	10%

Table 12: People on Caseload on 31st March by Directorate

Directorate	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Belfast	1669	1464	1675	1442
Other	42	50	31	26
Prison	824	666	775	863
Rural	1251	1198	1048	1209
Specialist	430	362	418	568
Total Caseload	4216	3740	3947	4108
Belfast	40%	39%	42%	35%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
Prison	20%	18%	20%	21%
Rural	30%	32%	27%	29%
Specialist	10%	10%	11%	14%

PBNI Glossary of Orders and Sentences

Combination Order	Combines a Probation Order and a Community Service Order. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be completed as instructed.
Community Service Order	Requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents and is between 40 and 240 hours and must be completed within 12 months.
Custody Probation Order	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community (the period of supervision will be 1 to 3 years commencing on date of release) and is unique to Northern Ireland. This order cannot be made unless the offender consents. Although Custody Probation Orders remain on the statute books, Determinate Custodial Sentences were made available from 1 April 2009. This is only a valid disposal where the offence was committed prior to April 2009.
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community. The court will specify the length of both custody and community supervision at sentencing. This will be the standard determinate sentence for all offenders and has been available to the courts from 1 April 2009.
Enhanced Combination Order	A pilot Order with a focus on rehabilitation, reparation, restorative practice, and desistance, and has been available to a number of pilot court divisions from October 2015. The period of Probation supervision can

	last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be carried out at an accelerated pace.
Extended Custodial Sentence	This may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence or Indeterminate Custodial Sentence is not appropriate. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause serious harm to members of the public. The sentence involves a portion of time spent in custody (at least 1 year) and a period under licence conditions (extension period). Prisoners will be referred to the Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (PCNI) approximately 6 months prior to the mid-point of their sentence and must demonstrate that they can be safely released into the community. If PCNI direct release, the prisoner will remain on licence for the remainder of the custodial term as well as the licence period set by the court.
GB Transfer Licence	An individual subject to licence may, given the agreement of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, transfer to Northern Ireland from another jurisdiction in Great Britain.

<p>Indeterminate Custodial Sentence</p>	<p>It may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence is not appropriate, but an Extended Custodial Sentence is not sufficient. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause serious harm to members of the public. No release date is given for an ICS. Offenders serving an ICS will be given a “tariff” date which is the earliest date that they may become eligible for consideration for release by the PCNI. The tariff is a minimum of 2 years. An ICS prisoner will remain in custody until they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the PCNI that they can be released safely into the community.</p>
<p>Inescapable Voluntary</p>	<p>These are offenders who continue to be supervised by PBNI on a voluntary basis following the end of their sentence, usually for the purposes of completing programmes. These are not statutory orders.</p>
<p>Juvenile Justice Centre Order</p>	<p>It requires a young offender (aged between 10 and 17 years) to spend time, normally three months, in a Juvenile Justice Centre and then be supervised in the community by a probation officer, normally for three months.</p>
<p>Life Sentence Licence</p>	<p>An offender serving a life sentence will be released from custody on licence. An individual must comply with the conditions of his licence in order to remain in the community and not be returned to custody.</p>
<p>Probation Order</p>	<p>POs can last between 6 months and 3 years and puts the offender under the supervision of a Probation Officer for that period. The order may have extra requirements. Offender consent is required.</p>

Remand/Sentence	It refers to persons who are remanded in custody awaiting sentence or who are subject to a custodial sentence not involving PBNI supervision on release, with whom PBNI works in order to assess individual risks and needs.
Sex Offender Licence	Article 26 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 makes provision for all offenders convicted of a sexual offence to be released on licence under the supervision of a Probation Officer.
Supervised Activity Order	It requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents and lasts between 10 hours and 100 hours and must be completed within 12 months.
Supervision and Treatment Order	It requires the specified person to be under supervision for a period of not more than 2 years; and to submit, during that period to treatment under the direction of a medical practitioner with a view to the improvement of his mental condition.

PBNI Glossary of Reports

Addendum Report	is provided to courts to supplement information contained within a Pre-Sentence report, where one has been completed within the previous 12-month period, or to address a specific issue at the request of the Court.
Breach Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the circumstances leading to breach, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed options available to the court.
Home Circumstances Report	is written by a Probation Officer, usually following a home visit, and provides a suitability assessment of an offender's proposed residence prior to their release from custody.
Home Leave Report	is written by a prison based Probation Officer, and provides a suitability assessment of an prisoner's proposed temporary release from custody.
Magistrates' Court Report (MCR)	is a brief focussed report written by a Probation Officer supplied to Magistrates' courts to assist in sentencing decisions and can be completed on the day. This report type was piloted in five Courts between 1 November 2016 and 31 March 2018 but has been available to all Magistrates the courts from 1 April 2018.
Parole Commissioners/Life Sentence Unit Reports	provide Parole Commissioners with information prior to release; covering offender's attitude to supervision, response to PBNI interventions, risk assessment, post-release supervision plan, and recommendations for release.
Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)	is written by a Probation Officer on an offender before sentencing at court. The purpose of the report is to provide the Judge with information to assist in the

	sentencing decision. From 1 April 2018, this format of report will be presented solely to Crown Courts.
Probation Officers Reports	are generic reports that Probation Officers provide to courts, for the purposes of providing an update to Sentencers or request an amendment or an extension of an order.
Recall Report	is provided to Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (and copied to the Public Protection Branch of the Department of Justice) when the decision to initiate recall proceedings has been taken by PBNI. The report provides an account of the circumstances leading to recall, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed actions to reduce risk in future.
Revocation Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the offender's circumstances, an explanation for the need for revocation of the order and to assist in the re-sentencing decision