

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Agricultural and Rural Crime in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2016

Prepared 11 May 2016

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This bulletin presents (i) agricultural and (ii) rural crime for the latest financial year 2015/16 and the previous financial year 2014/15.

Figures for financial years dating back to 2010/11 and for calendar years dating back to 2011 are available in a separate spreadsheet.

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. Prior to this, the published figures were based on a best approximation to the new boundaries. Figures presented here are based on the new policing model and will differ slightly from those in previous updates.

The agricultural crime figures represent offences of burglary, robbery and theft where the victim is involved in an agricultural-based activity. Figures on urban and rural crime are based on a geographically-based definition from the Report of the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group February 2005, using settlement bands grouped into urban (bands A to E) or rural (bands F-H). Crimes are allocated to these geographies by using the available postcode information.

Please note: all figures contained in these tables are subject to revision. Further information is provided in the NOTES section on the last page of this bulletin.

Key Points

Agricultural crime figures - burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to agricultural-based activity

- The number of burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to agricultural-based activity has shown an overall downwards trend since 2010/11, when 937 such offences were recorded. At 514, the level in 2015/16 is the lowest recorded and shows a fall of 45.1 per cent when compared with 2010/11. When compared with 2014/15 the latest figure shows a fall of 192 (27.2 per cent).
- During 2015/16:
 - burglary and robbery represented 31 per cent of agricultural crime, while theft represented 69 per cent; similar proportions were found during 2014/15 (32 per cent and 68 per cent respectively);
 - 95 per cent of agriculture crime was identified as occurring in rural settlement areas, compared with 97 per cent during 2014/15¹;
 - agriculture crime represented 1.5 per cent of all burglary, robbery and theft offences, compared with 1.9 per cent during 2014/15.
 - the highest levels of agriculture crime were seen in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon policing district, with 91 offences recorded. This level was followed by Newry, Mourne & Down (81), Fermanagh & Omagh (68), Mid Ulster (60) and Causeway Coast & Glens (58).
- All policing districts showed decreases in agriculture crime when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15 with the exception of Ards & North Down which showed an increase of 4; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (-73), Mid Ulster (-49), Newry, Mourne & Down (-18), Mid & East Antrim (-17), Lisburn & Castlereagh City (-16), Derry City & Strabane (-9), Antrim & Newtownabbey (-6), Fermanagh & Omagh (-4), Causeway Coast & Glens (-2) and Belfast City (-2).

Burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to geographical location (urban/rural settlement bands¹)

- The number of burglary, robbery and theft offences in rural settlements has fallen each year since 2010/11. There were 577 fewer offences when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15 and the level in 2015/16 is nearly a third lower than 2010/11.
- Levels of burglary, robbery and theft offences in urban settlements have fluctuated since 2010/11, falling between 2010/11 and 2012/13, increasing to 2013/14 and falling again in 2014/15 and 2015/16. When

¹ Urban/rural settlement figures are identified through matching the postcode of the occurrence with the Central Postcode Directory.

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comparing 2014/15 and 2015/16, urban settlements showed a decrease of 858 in the number of burglary, robbery and theft offences recorded.

- In Northern Ireland as a whole, burglary, robbery and theft offences fell by 1,435 when comparing the 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- During 2015/16 less than 1 per cent of burglary, robbery and theft offences in Belfast City district occurred in rural settlement areas.
- In the remaining districts, the percentage of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in rural settlement areas was 51 per cent in Mid Ulster, 47 per cent in Fermanagh & Omagh, 40 per cent in Newry, Mourne & Down, 34 per cent in Causeway Coast & Glens, 30 per cent in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, 29 per cent in Lisburn & Castlereagh City, 26 per cent in Mid & East Antrim, 22 per cent in Antrim & Newtownabbey, 16 per cent in Ards & North Down and 14 per cent in Derry City & Strabane.

Section 1: Agricultural crime figures - burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to agricultural-based activity

Table 1 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by Policing District

	Numbers		
	2014/15	2015/16	change
Belfast City	4	2	-2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	48	32	-16
Ards & North Down	15	19	4
Newry, Mourne & Down	99	81	-18
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	164	91	-73
Mid Ulster	109	60	-49
Fermanagh & Omagh	72	68	-4
Derry City & Strabane	44	35	-9
Causeway Coast & Glens	60	58	-2
Mid & East Antrim	49	32	-17
Antrim & Newtownabbey	42	36	-6
Northern Ireland	706	514	-192

Table 2 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by month, 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2016

	Numbers											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	-	-	-	81	75	86	76	68	76	83	81	58
2011	74	85	94	94	61	64	60	67	99	70	85	53
2012	81	86	63	72	74	60	77	72	52	76	90	66
2013	71	79	76	84	62	63	67	81	72	88	82	66
2014	69	61	75	86	73	39	54	49	62	80	59	40
2015	55	52	57	40	55	54	46	36	49	42	37	30
2016	28	45	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 1 below shows the number of agriculture crimes each month since April 2010. The highest and lowest monthly figures within each financial year are highlighted in the chart.

Figure 1 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by month, 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2016

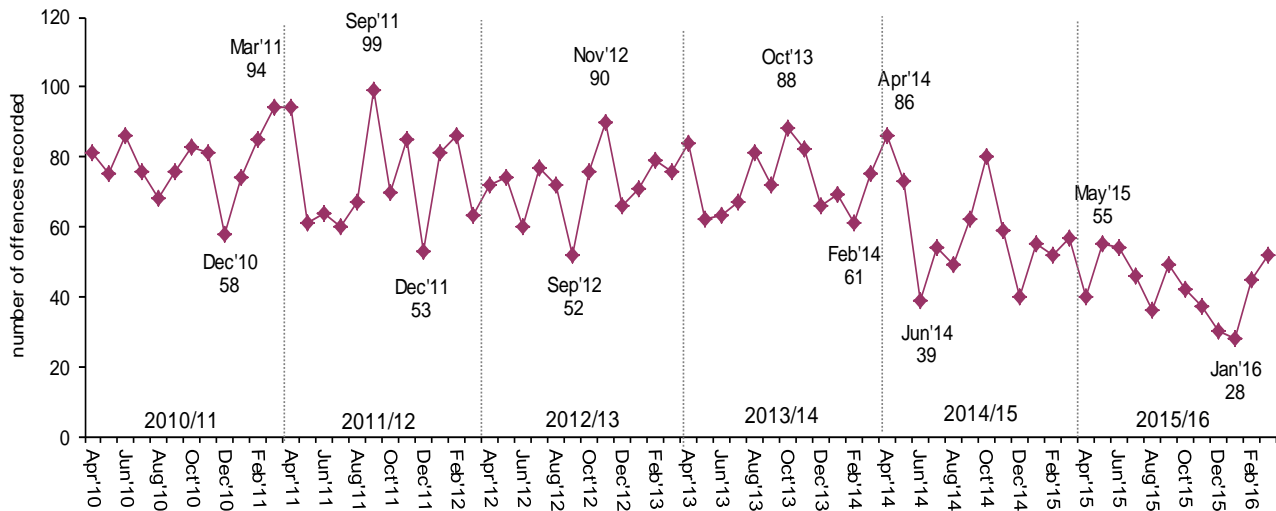
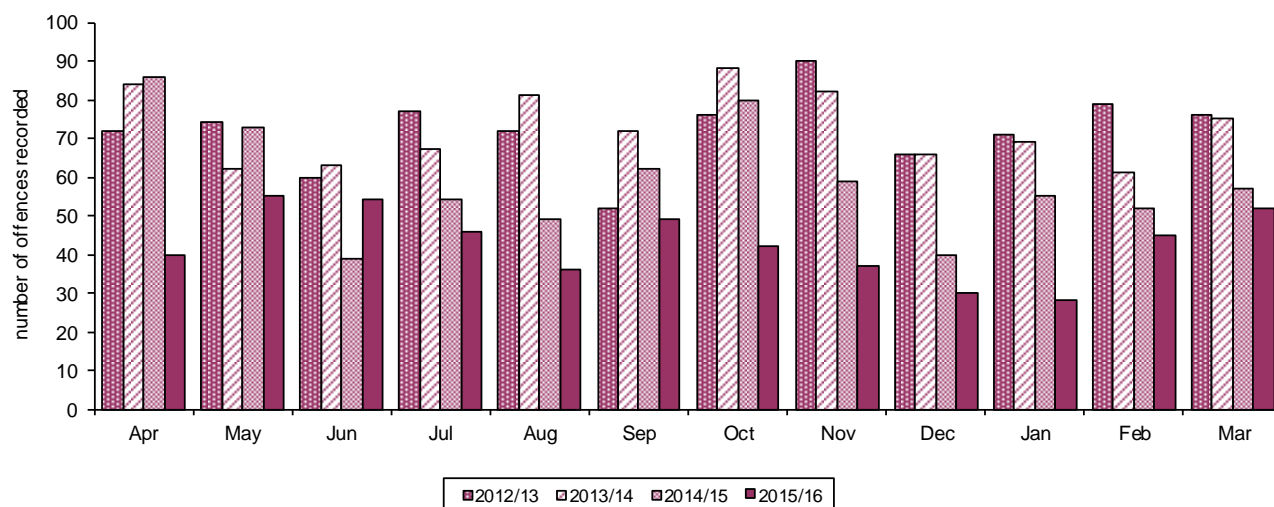


Figure 2 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by month, 01 April 2012 to 31 March 2016**Table 3 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) split by Urban/Rural settlements**

	Numbers		
	2014/15	2015/16	change
Urban	21	25	4
Rural	685	489	-196
Not known	0	0	0
Total	706	514	-192

Table 4 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) split by type of offence

	Numbers		
	2014/15	2015/16	change
Burglary / Robbery	229	159	-70
Theft	477	355	-122
Total	706	514	-192

Section 2: Burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to geographical location (based on settlement bands defined as urban and rural).**Table 5 Urban/Rural Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences based on geographical location) by Policing District**

	Numbers					
	Urban		Rural		Total	
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
Belfast City	14,214	13,941	62	68	14,276	14,009
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1,374	1,469	616	594	1,990	2,063
Ards & North Down	1,561	1,524	335	295	1,896	1,819
Newry, Mourne & Down	1,674	1,637	1,165	1,083	2,839	2,720
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,136	2,113	970	912	3,106	3,025
Mid Ulster	711	619	748	632	1,459	1,251
Fermanagh & Omagh	829	810	757	711	1,586	1,521
Derry City & Strabane	2,533	2,325	461	379	2,994	2,704
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,310	1,131	674	576	1,984	1,707
Mid & East Antrim	1,436	1,302	509	465	1,945	1,767
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1,737	1,786	512	517	2,249	2,303
Northern Ireland	29,515	28,657	6,809	6,232	36,324	34,889

Urban/rural settlement figures are identified through matching the postcode of the occurrence with the Central Postcode Directory.

NOTES

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

Definitions

Agricultural crime covers burglary, robbery and theft offences where the property or vehicles stolen have an agricultural link (eg farm equipment, agricultural vehicles, livestock) or where the location was agricultural (eg farm, farmhouse). This information is identified from both drop down pick lists and free text searches using key agricultural-related words.

Urban/Rural crime covers all burglary, robbery and theft offences, split into these two geographical areas based on an aggregation of settlement bands.

Please note that not all agricultural crime will occur in a rural settlement.

Data Accuracy and Revisions

Agricultural crime figures are based on a range of information extracted from a live crime recording system and, as such, will always be subject to revision.

Within the current financial year revisions may occur because:

- There will be incidents identified as crimes but not processed on the crime recording system by the time the figures are extracted for presentation in these tables.
- Figures may change from month to month due to crimes being reclassified from one crime type to another during the financial year. This may be because quality checks have identified the crime as incorrectly classified, or further information may indicate that the circumstances surrounding the crime were not as initially recorded.
- The Home Office Counting Rules allow crimes initially recorded to be 'no crime'd' or removed from the crime figures.

Revisions to any records within the dataset may also occur as information in relation to property stolen, vehicles stolen and location may be updated on the live system. This may be through adding additional information or updating existing information based on more up-to-date details.

The urban/rural figures are identified through matching the available postcode to the Central Postcode Directory. Postcode accuracy and availability within the current financial year will not be of the same quality or completeness as a full financial year. This is because additional quality checks are completed at the end of each financial year to improve postcode quality and completeness. Further details are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#).

Further information

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2014/15](#) was published on 6th August 2015 and provides detailed trend information covering this time period.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#), and in the [Police Recorded Crime Statistics Quality Report](#). These are reference guides with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135