



Christmas drink drive campaign 2021/22

Northern Ireland

This bulletin summarises available information in relation to the PSNI Christmas drink driving campaign 2021/22, which ran from 1st December 2021 to 1st January 2022 inclusive, specifically the outcomes in terms of Preliminary Breath Tests (PBTs), arrests and evidential procedures. These figures are provisional and subject to change, particularly for PBTs which are likely to increase as more information is uploaded to the system.

Key points:

- During the Christmas drink drive campaign from 1st December 2021 to 1st January 2022, initial figures show that PSNI officers conducted over 6,699 preliminary breath tests (PBTs), a decrease of 498 (6.9%) on the same period last year.
- Of the 6,699 PBTs conducted, 4.6% (305) resulted in a fail or failed to provide, a similar proportion when compared with the 2020/21 campaign (4.9%).
- A total of 295 people were arrested for drink/drug driving related offences during this year's campaign, representing an increase of 5.4% compared with the same period last year (280).
- The highest number of arrests were made in Belfast (45), while Ards and North Down experienced the largest increase in arrests when compared with the same period last year (from 8 to 27).
- A total of 250 evidential procedures were completed, on persons ranging from 16 to 74 years old. Males accounted for the majority, with 196 (78.4%) subject to evidential procedures.
- The highest breath reading recorded over the campaign was 124µg/100ml.

Background

There is no one measure of counting alcohol or drug driving offences as this is a complex process and there is no unique source of data. This bulletin has presented the information on the basis that those who have a Preliminary Breath Test with a result of 'Fail' or 'Failure to Provide' are a proxy measure for driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Police will arrest people, collect further evidence via breath, blood or urine and present this to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) who will ultimately decide on the prospect of a successful case.

In terms of the 2021/22 statistics, the PBT figures are based on an extract of the data on 19th January 2022 and are likely to increase as more information is uploaded to the system. The arrest figures and evidential figures were extracted on 5th January 2022. These figures are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Preliminary Breath Tests

Table 1 Number of Preliminary Breath Tests carried out by PSNI by result

Result	1 st Dec 2020 – 1 st Jan 2021		1 st Dec 2021 – 1 st Jan 2022		% change between 2020/21 and 2021/22
	Number	%	Number	%	
Zero	6,638	92.2	6,226	92.9	-6.2
Pass	181	2.5	154	2.3	-14.9
Warning	25	0.3	14	0.2	-44.0
Fail	236	3.3	205	3.1	-13.1
Failed to Provide	117	1.6	100	1.5	-14.5
Total	7,197	100.0	6,699	100.0	-6.9

Arrests

Table 2 Number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences by District

District	1 st Dec 2020 – 1 st Jan 2021	1 st Dec 2021 – 1 st Jan 2022
Antrim and Newtownabbey	28	19
Ards and North Down	8	27
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	26	36
Belfast City	49	45
Causeway Coast and Glens	22	15
Derry City and Strabane	24	24
Fermanagh and Omagh	25	23
Lisburn and Castlereagh	16	26
Mid and East Antrim	19	10
Mid Ulster	29	34
Newry, Mourne and Down	34	36
Total	280	295

Evidential Procedures²

Table 3 **Details of evidential procedures completed for drink / drug driving offences**

1 st Dec 2020 – 1 st Jan 2021	1 st Dec 2021 – 1 st Jan 2022
Total procedures = 253	Total procedures = 250
Youngest: 16 years old	Youngest: 16 years old
Oldest: 82 years old	Oldest: 74 years old
Male: 217 (86%)	Male: 196 (78%)
Female: 36 (14%)	Female: 54 (22%)
Zero: 18	Zero: 7
1 - 34µg/100ml: 32	1 - 34µg/100ml: 27
35 - 49µg/100ml: 31	35 - 49µg/100ml: 39
50+µg/100ml: 112	50+µg/100ml: 129
No breath result: 60	No breath result: 48
Highest breath reading: 139µg	Highest breath reading: 124 µg

²Evidential figures include completed procedures only and do not include those drivers who provided a blood/urine sample only and were not entered onto Police Works system.

Source: PSNI Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh