



# Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order Statistics

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

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**Key Statistics**

- In the 12 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, there were 2,809 stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, of which the greatest number (41%) were in relation to stolen articles.
- There were 7 road checks authorised in 2022/23, all of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a witness to an indictable offence.
- There were 21,474 arrests<sup>1</sup> made under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order during 2022/23, 82% of which were males.
- During 2022/23 there were 49 persons detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. During the same period there were 22 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention.

<sup>1</sup> 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 and Statistics 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 2022 to 31 March 2023, 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 2022 and 31 March 2023**

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Stolen Property / Articles	Searches	98	69	91	100	73	85	78	163	112	77	113	87	<b>1,146</b>
	Arrests <sup>2</sup>	29	23	27	22	17	26	24	42	34	18	29	17	<b>308</b>
Offensive Weapon / Blade	Searches	59	76	55	73	83	66	55	84	47	72	55	67	<b>792</b>
	Arrests <sup>2</sup>	12	14	15	20	14	21	10	13	16	14	13	8	<b>170</b>
Going Equipped / Prohibited	Searches	64	61	62	70	61	75	81	101	49	84	56	92	<b>856</b>
	Arrests <sup>2</sup>	11	4	16	11	9	16	10	10	13	19	10	13	<b>142</b>
Fireworks	Searches	0	6	1	0	2	40	197	23	5	1	1	13	<b>289</b>
	Arrests <sup>2</sup>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Searches<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>204</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>2,809</b>
	<b>Arrests<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>569</b>

(1) As more than one reason can be used to carry out a stop and search, the sum of the reasons may be greater than the total number of stop and searches under PACE.

(2) Arrests as a result of stop and search. Arrest may not be related to the initial reason for the stop and search.

### 3. PACE Article 6 – Road Checks

There were 7 road checks authorised in 2022/23, all of which were for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle was carrying a witness to 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 2022/23**

	Arrests under PACE <sup>1</sup>				Of which there was a request for	
	Total	Gender			Friend / relative etc.	Solicitor
		Male	Female	Unknown / Other		
April 22 – June 22	5,331	4,370	958	3	1,646	3,700
July 22 – September 22	5,764	4,731	1,031	2	1,800	3,967
October 22 – December 22	5,297	4,390	906	1	1,743	3,675
January 23 – March 23	5,082	4,169	911	2	1,731	3,571
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,474</b>	<b>17,660</b>	<b>3,806</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6,920</b>	<b>14,913</b>

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

**Extended Detention:** During 2022/23 there were 49 persons who were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge.

**Magistrate's Warrants:** There were 22 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention in 2022/23, in relation to 17 individuals. Six of these applications were for 24 hours or less, 5 were for between 25 and 35 hours and the other 11 were for a period of 36 hours.

Of the 22 applications to Magistrates Courts for warrants of further detention, 5 of these were for a second warrant of further detention.

Of the 17 persons subject to a warrant of further detention, 9 spent less than 24 hours under its authority, while 3 spent between 24 hours and 36 hours and the remaining 5 people were detained over 36 hours under the authority of these warrants. A total of 10 persons were subsequently charged.

**Intimate Searches:** There was one intimate search recorded during 2022/23, which had a negative result.

**X-rays & ultrasound scans:** During 2022/23 5 x-rays were carried out, 2 of which were positive and 3 which were negative. No ultrasound scans were recorded.