

Police Service of Northern Ireland

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

Prepared 24 January 2017



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This bulletin presents (i) agricultural and (ii) rural crime for the following time periods:

- Latest 12 months 01 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 and previous 12 months 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.
- Current financial year to date 01 April 2016 to 31 December 2016 and previous financial year to date 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015.

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

The agricultural crime figures represent offences of burglary, robbery and theft where the victim is involved in an agricultural-based activity. The urban/rural crime split is based on classification boundaries that are available for Northern Ireland as defined by the Planning Service, these areas being defined from Settlement Development Limits. Further details are available from the NISRA website (<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/UrbanRural.htm>). Crimes are allocated to urban or rural by linking the available postcode information for the crime location to the Central Postcode Directory.

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. The level of 560 recorded during the latest twelve months 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016 shows a fall of 40.2 per cent when compared with 2010/11 [Table 1 in accompanying spreadsheet].
- The latest figures are showing a slight increase, with 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016 being 46 higher than the 514 offences recorded in 2015/16 and 7 higher than the figure of 553 recorded during the previous 12 months 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015 [Table 1 in accompanying spreadsheet].
- During the latest twelve months 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016:
 - burglary and robbery represented 31 per cent of agricultural crime, while theft represented 69 per cent; the proportions found during the previous twelve months were 32 per cent and 68 per cent respectively [Table 4 in bulletin].
 - 97 per cent of agriculture crime was identified as occurring in rural settlement areas, compared with 96 per cent during the previous twelve months¹ [Table 3 in bulletin].
 - agriculture crime represented 1.7 per cent of all burglary, robbery and theft offences, compared with 1.5 per cent during the previous twelve months [Tables 1 and 5A in bulletin].
 - the highest levels of agriculture crime were seen in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon policing district, with 106 offences recorded. This level was followed by Newry, Mourne & Down (86), Mid Ulster (67) and Fermanagh & Omagh (63) [Table 5A in bulletin].
- Five of the policing districts showed increases and five showed decreases in agriculture crime when comparing the current and previous twelve months; Belfast City showed no change with 3 recorded in each time period. The increases were seen in Antrim & Newtownabbey (18), Derry City & Strabane (14), Mid & East Antrim (12), Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (9) and Newry, Mourne & Down (4). The decreases were seen in Lisburn & Castlereagh City (-24), Mid Ulster (-11), Fermanagh & Omagh (-11), Ards & North Down (-3) and Causeway Coast & Glens (-1) [Table 5A in bulletin].

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

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 392 fewer offences when comparing the current and previous twelve months; the level of 5,987 recorded between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016 is one third lower than the 9,211 offences recorded in 2010/11 [Tables 5 and 6 in accompanying spreadsheet].
- 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 comparing the current and previous twelve months, urban settlements showed a decrease of 3,063 (10.5 per cent) in the number of burglary, robbery and theft offences recorded [Tables 5 and 6 in accompanying spreadsheet].
- In Northern Ireland as a whole, burglary, robbery and theft offences fell by 3,455 (9.7 per cent) when comparing the current and previous twelve months [Table 5A in bulletin].
- During the latest twelve months less than 1 per cent of burglary, robbery and theft offences in Belfast City district occurred in rural settlement areas [Table 5A in bulletin].
- In the remaining districts, the percentage of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in rural settlement areas was 56 per cent in Mid Ulster, 48 per cent in Fermanagh & Omagh, 38 per cent in Newry, Mourne & Down, 35 per cent in Causeway Coast & Glens, 29 per cent in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, 29 per cent in Mid & East Antrim, 24 per cent in Lisburn & Castlereagh City, 22 per cent in Antrim & Newtownabbey, 18 per cent in Ards & North Down and 17 per cent in Derry City & Strabane [Table 5A in bulletin].

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 | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | Current and previous 12 months | | | Financial year to date | | |
| | 01 Jan'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Jan'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change | 01 Apr'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Apr'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change |
| Belfast City | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City | 40 | 16 | -24 | 29 | 13 | -16 |
| Ards & North Down | 20 | 17 | -3 | 17 | 15 | -2 |
| Newry, Mourne & Down | 82 | 86 | 4 | 58 | 63 | 5 |
| Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | 97 | 106 | 9 | 64 | 79 | 15 |
| Mid Ulster | 78 | 67 | -11 | 47 | 54 | 7 |
| Fermanagh & Omagh | 74 | 63 | -11 | 56 | 51 | -5 |
| Derry City & Strabane | 31 | 45 | 14 | 24 | 34 | 10 |
| Causeway Coast & Glens | 57 | 56 | -1 | 40 | 38 | -2 |
| Mid & East Antrim | 36 | 48 | 12 | 28 | 44 | 16 |
| Antrim & Newtownabbey | 35 | 53 | 18 | 25 | 42 | 17 |
| Northern Ireland | 553 | 560 | 7 | 389 | 435 | 46 |

Table 2 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by month, 01 April 2010 to 31 December 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 | 55 | 50 | 46 | 35 | 55 | 35 | 66 | 51 | 42 |

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 December 2016

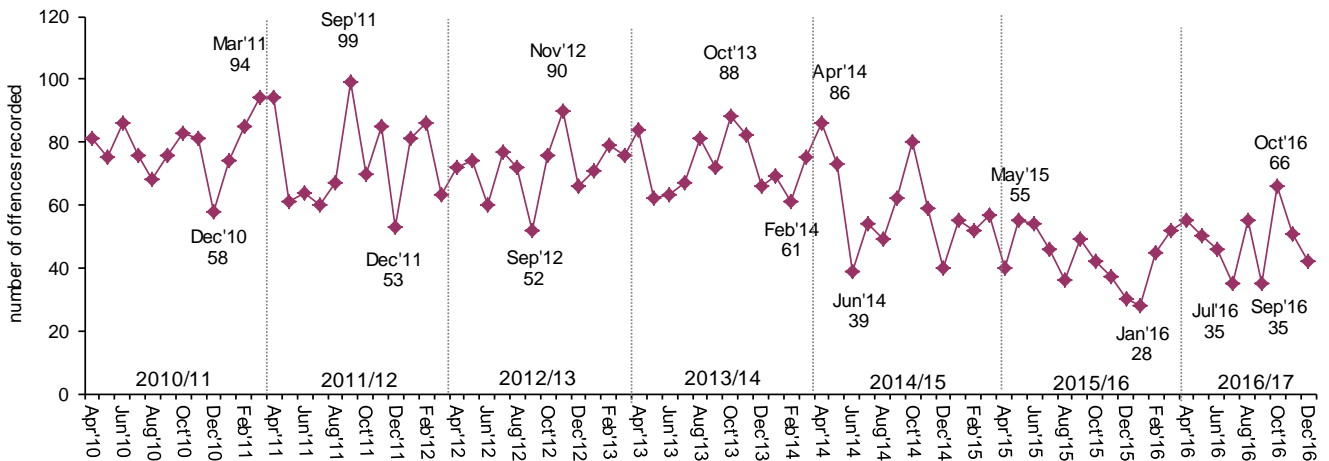
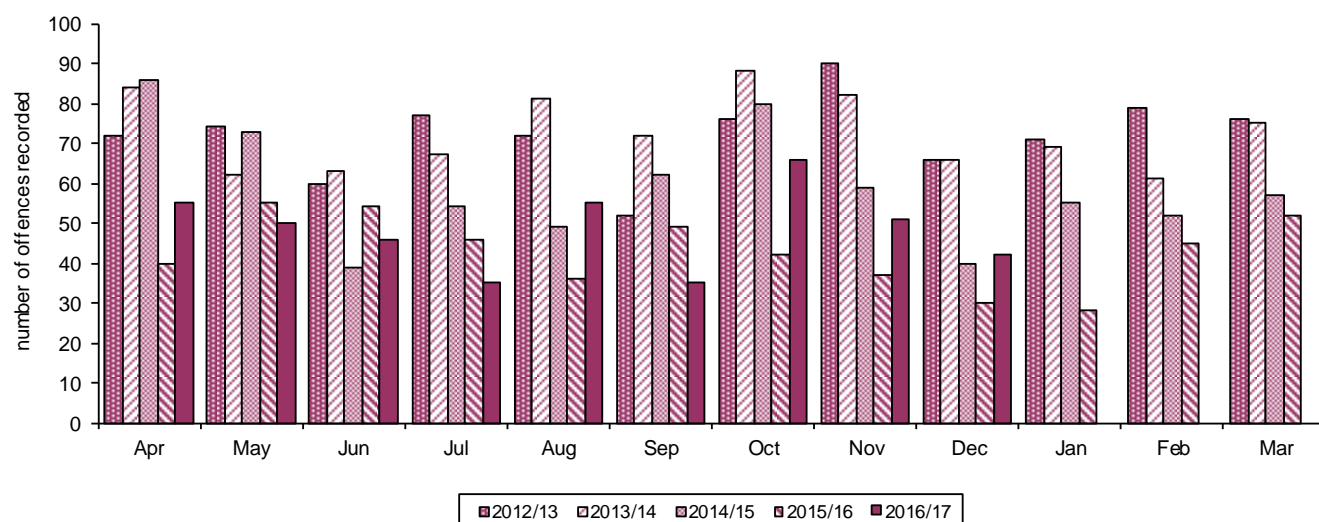


Figure 2 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) by month, 01 April 2012 to 31 December 2016**Table 3 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) split by Urban/Rural settlements**

| | Numbers | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | Current and previous 12 months | | | Financial year to date | | |
| | 01 Jan'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Jan'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change | 01 Apr'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Apr'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change |
| Urban | 24 | 17 | -7 | 18 | 10 | -8 |
| Rural | 529 | 543 | 14 | 371 | 425 | 54 |
| Not known | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 553 | 560 | 7 | 389 | 435 | 46 |

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

| | Numbers | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | Current and previous 12 months | | | Financial year to date | | |
| | 01 Jan'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Jan'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change | 01 Apr'15 - 31 Dec'15 | 01 Apr'16 - 31 Dec'16 | change |
| Burglary / Robbery | 177 | 173 | -4 | 117 | 131 | 14 |
| Theft | 376 | 387 | 11 | 272 | 304 | 32 |
| Total | 553 | 560 | 7 | 389 | 435 | 46 |

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Section 2: Burglary, robbery and theft offences relating to geographical location (based on settlement bands defined as urban and rural).**Table 5A Urban/Rural Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences based on geographical location) by Policing District, Current and previous 12 months**

| | Numbers | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Urban | | Rural | | Total | |
| | 01 Jan'15 | 01 Jan'16 | 01 Jan'15 | 01 Jan'16 | 01 Jan'15 | 01 Jan'16 |
| | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 |
| Belfast City | 14,223 | 12,626 | 66 | 47 | 14,289 | 12,673 |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City | 1,470 | 1,472 | 624 | 469 | 2,094 | 1,941 |
| Ards & North Down | 1,525 | 1,442 | 299 | 318 | 1,824 | 1,760 |
| Newry, Mourne & Down | 1,696 | 1,580 | 1,110 | 986 | 2,806 | 2,566 |
| Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | 2,134 | 2,119 | 939 | 877 | 3,073 | 2,996 |
| Mid Ulster | 625 | 568 | 671 | 720 | 1,296 | 1,288 |
| Fermanagh & Omagh | 809 | 754 | 705 | 707 | 1,514 | 1,461 |
| Derry City & Strabane | 2,379 | 1,904 | 399 | 401 | 2,778 | 2,305 |
| Causeway Coast & Glens | 1,211 | 966 | 585 | 512 | 1,796 | 1,478 |
| Mid & East Antrim | 1,358 | 1,238 | 441 | 507 | 1,799 | 1,745 |
| Antrim & Newtownabbey | 1,881 | 1,579 | 540 | 443 | 2,421 | 2,022 |
| Northern Ireland | 29,311 | 26,248 | 6,379 | 5,987 | 35,690 | 32,235 |

Table 5B Urban/Rural Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences based on geographical location) by Policing District, Current and previous financial years to date

| | Numbers | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Urban | | Rural | | Total | |
| | 01 Apr'15 | 01 Apr'16 | 01 Apr'15 | 01 Apr'16 | 01 Apr'15 | 01 Apr'16 |
| | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 | 31 Dec'15 | 31 Dec'16 |
| Belfast City | 10,883 | 9,568 | 54 | 33 | 10,937 | 9,601 |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City | 1,107 | 1,110 | 461 | 336 | 1,568 | 1,446 |
| Ards & North Down | 1,196 | 1,114 | 238 | 261 | 1,434 | 1,375 |
| Newry, Mourne & Down | 1,217 | 1,160 | 816 | 719 | 2,033 | 1,879 |
| Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | 1,572 | 1,578 | 692 | 657 | 2,264 | 2,235 |
| Mid Ulster | 463 | 412 | 484 | 572 | 947 | 984 |
| Fermanagh & Omagh | 619 | 563 | 515 | 511 | 1,134 | 1,074 |
| Derry City & Strabane | 1,782 | 1,361 | 280 | 302 | 2,062 | 1,663 |
| Causeway Coast & Glens | 892 | 727 | 454 | 390 | 1,346 | 1,117 |
| Mid & East Antrim | 1,008 | 944 | 346 | 388 | 1,354 | 1,332 |
| Antrim & Newtownabbey | 1,393 | 1,186 | 407 | 333 | 1,800 | 1,519 |
| Northern Ireland | 22,132 | 19,723 | 4,747 | 4,502 | 26,879 | 24,225 |

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 2015/16](#) was published on 1st December 2016 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