



Police Service of Northern Ireland

Office of the Chief Constable
Police Headquarters
65 Knock Road
Belfast BT5 6LE

Email

Tel:

Our Ref: EST 3806-26

Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Room 345, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
BT4 3XX
(Via email: committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk)

07 August 2026

Dear Kathy,

RE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SENTENCING ETC) BILL – ORAL EVIDENCE

Thank you for your letter dated 25 June 2026. As discussed at the Committee meeting on 18 June, please see below update:

Statistics/data on assaults against public workers, categorised by sector/type of public worker and the severity of the assault

Statistics branch have advised they do not hold information in the police recorded crime data on assaults on 'public workers'. There are specific offences such as assault on police (8S Assault of police with injury & 104 Assault on police without injury) and assault on ambulance worker, assault on fire and rescue officer assault on prison officer (8T Assault with injury on an Emergency Worker)/

The figures for these offences are published in table 15 in the attached spreadsheet which accompanies the Police Recorded Crime monthly update to 31st March 2026 under the crime classifications indicated above.



psni.police.uk

Report online. Call 101. In an emergency call 999

**we care
we listen
we act**



Police Service of Northern Ireland

Details of any types of offences that the PSNI may consider to have received unduly lenient sentences in recent years

We recognise and respect that the power to ask the Court of Appeal to review a sentence in certain types of cases on the grounds that it is unduly lenient rests solely with the Director of Public Prosecution for Northern Ireland. It is in that context that we would not comment on specific cases or types of cases as it would be inappropriate to do so.

We note that the offences that can be referred include the following:

- Murder and manslaughter
- Dangerous driving causing death
- Rape and certain other sexual offences
- Child cruelty
- Threats to kill or cause damage
- Human trafficking
- Certain drugs offences
- Certain fraud and money laundering offences
- Certain further offences linked to terrorism, paramilitarism and organised crime.

By way of assistance, we are aware of the following cases in which the Director of Public Prosecutions referred the sentence to the Court of Appeal on the grounds that it was unduly lenient:

1. 2020 – R v GARY TALBOT – Rape, Making/Possessing Indecent Images of Children, Possessing Extreme Pornographic Images. Sentence increased.
2. 2021 – R v LUKE WELLS – Aggravated Burglary, and other offences. Sentence increased.
3. 2021 – R v O'NEILL – Wounding with Intent to commit Grievous Bodily Harm. Sentence increased.
4. 2022 – R v SHARYAR ALI – for the murder of an 11-month-old child; HUNTER MCGLEENON. Life imprisonment, minimum tariff increased.
5. 2023 – R v JACEK PACYNO – Online sexual offences against 17 children. Probation Order quashed, sentence increased.



Police Service of Northern Ireland

6. 2023 – R v GAVIN COYLE – offences connected with a car bomb attack which left a police officer seriously injured. Sentence increased.
7. 2023 – R v JOHN PAUL WHITLA – for the Murder of Nathan Gibson. Life imprisonment, minimum tariff increased.
8. 2025 – R v WINSTON IRVINE – Firearms and ammunition offences. Sentence increased.
9. 2025 – R v OLIVER MACCORMACK – 40 counts relating to nine female victims re human trafficking, controlling prostitution, obtaining sexual services for payment, being concerned in or offering to supply class A drugs, intimidation and perverting the course of justice. Sentence increased.

Clarification of the numbers of officers injured on duty during the recent riots and disturbances

Submitted by 18.06.26 @ 24.00	
Injury	50
Near Miss	18
Total	68

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Superintendent
Office of the Chief Constable

88D Unnatural sexual offences ¹⁰	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	-				
88E Exposure and voyeurism ^{10,15,45}	119	143	135	333	289	360	405	328	330	315	293	344	310	234	236	280	289	248	272	238	268	230	263	282	290	299	352	416	64	18.2		
Exposure ¹⁰	119	143	135	333	289	360	393	320	318	299	270	322	295	217	211	262	270	225	239	209	214	187	203	226	230	203	195	268	73	37.4		
of which:																																
Cyber-flashing ⁴⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	64	83	19	29.7		
Voyeurism ^{10,15}	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	8	12	16	23	22	15	17	25	18	19	23	33	29	54	43	60	56	60	67	79	61	-18	-22.8		
of which:																																
Up-skirting' / 'down-blousing' ⁴⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	14	4	-10	-		
TOTAL ROBBERY OFFENCES	1,395	1,383	1,767	2,222	2,497	1,973	1,487	1,744	1,574	1,143	1,283	1,276	1,306	1,221	1,014	958	880	732	653	577	639	629	500	478	521	531	420	498	78	18.6		
34A Robbery of business property ⁴⁶	701	712	946	1,253	1,404	955	676	827	620	421	454	468	479	420	303	243	248	182	138	141	141	118	94	73	75	73	64	156	92	143.8		
Armed robbery business	486	505	694	940	1,068	729	553	602	469	256	310	337	333	297	208	169	181	121	96	108	96	78	58	46	46	60	42	54	12	-		
Ordinary robbery business	181	196	228	248	260	175	109	160	127	147	121	113	126	98	74	68	56	54	37	32	35	35	28	21	28	13	21	102	81	-		
Hijacking business	34	11	24	65	76	51	14	65	24	18	23	18	20	25	21	6	11	7	5	1	10	5	8	6	1	0	1	0	-1	-		
34B Robbery of personal property	694	671	821	969	1,093	1,018	811	917	954	722	829	808	827	801	711	715	632	550	515	436	498	511	406	405	446	458	356	342	-14	-3.9		
Armed robbery personal	146	177	233	251	307	313	259	240	282	188	198	220	229	256	199	206	181	157	164	137	180	147	144	126	142	175	122	107	-15	-12.3		
Ordinary robbery personal	333	414	430	567	634	574	450	452	545	460	529	487	496	389	383	413	353	342	296	264	275	310	226	227	277	248	213	220	7	3.3		
Hijacking personal	215	80	158	151	152	131	102	225	127	74	102	101	102	156	129	96	98	51	55	35	43	54	36	52	27	35	21	15	-6	-		
TOTAL THEFT OFFENCES (INCLUDING BURGLARY)	52,143	54,659	55,150	61,544	63,053	54,075	46,235	43,961	41,011	37,694	40,198	40,589	38,472	37,270	35,611	36,023	35,445	34,131	31,006	30,222	30,656	29,145	20,426	21,577	24,555	25,404	22,823	21,591	-1,232	-5.4		
Total theft - burglary offences³²	15,296	15,863	15,667	16,989	18,531	16,260	13,267	12,727	11,461	11,586	12,331	12,460	11,849	10,580	9,581	9,067	8,937	8,773	7,128	6,824	6,127	6,078	4,128	3,832	3,592	3,537	2,868	2,593	-275	-9.6		
Total Burglary - Residential³²	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Residential burglary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Residential burglary - home	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,935	1,543	1,393	-150	-9.7	
Residential burglary - unconnected building	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	251	206	162	-44	-21.4	
Attempted burglary - Residential	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Attempted residential burglary - home	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	342	238	225	-13	-5.5
Attempted residential burglary - unconnected building	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	8	11	3	-
Aggravated residential burglary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Aggravated burglary - residential (home)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	81	51	-30	-37.0
Aggravated burglary - residential (unconnected building)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	-
Total Burglary - Business & Community³²	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
30C Burglary - Business & Community	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
30D Attempted burglary - Business & Community	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
31A Aggravated burglary - Business & Community	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total domestic burglary³²	7,719	7,665	8,372	9,071	10,122	8,943	7,302	7,255	6,831	6,712	7,350	7,269	7,081	6,650	5,945	5,753	5,873	5,856	4,716	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
28A Burglary in a dwelling	7,217	7,150	7,800	8,236	8,942	7,987	6,457	6,457	6,108	5,974	6,457	6,451	6,313	5,884	5,177	4,970	5,047	4,941	3,912	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
28B Attempted burglary in a dwelling	400	444	513	734	1,097	911	758	753	673	664	821	719	704	689	710	706	746	802	697	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	102	71	59	101	83	45	57	45	50	74	72	99	64	77	58	77	80	113	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total non-domestic burglary³²	7,577	8,198	7,295	7,918	8,409	7,317	5,965	5,472	4,630	4,874	4,981	5,191	4,768	3,930	3,636	3,314	3,064	2,917	2,412	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
30A Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	7,138	7,638	6,876	7,291	7,487	6,513	5,413	4,932	4,168	4,381	4,483	4,629	4,229	3,506	3,200	2,941	2,723	2,568	2,147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
30B Attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling	438	554	419	622	918	800	550	535	459	485	487	558	529	423	427	371	338	346	258	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	1	6	0	5	4	4	2	5	3	8	11	4	10	1	9	2	3	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total theft - vehicle offences	16,508	17,940	18,053	20,448	20,850	15,962	12,333	10,135	9,256	8,301	7,906	8,221	6,933	6,017	5,339	5,609	5,089	4,925	4,418	3,879	3,660	3,271	2,495	2,577	2,641	2,626	2,397	2,119	-278	-11.6		
37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking ⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	16	51	94	187	233	250	224	238	178	204	236	218	175	172	199	196	210	199	199	186	151	-35	-18.8		
45 Theft from a motor vehicle	6,075	6,327	5,713	6,584	7,140	7,506	5,371	4,404	3,994	3,395	3,823	4,018	3,350	3,126	2,770	3,070	2,708	2,671	2,328	2,006	1,817	1,398	909	914	990	982	843	753	-90	-10.7		
48 Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle ¹⁶	9,715	10,196	10,806	11,635	8,410	5,369	4,451	3,708	3,367	3,242	2,769	2,743	2,469	2,066	1,900	1,943	1,684	1,428	1,308	1,242	1,275	1,273	1,002	1,064	1,095	993	1,018	901	-117	-11.5		
126 Interfering with a motor vehicle ¹⁶	718	1,417	1,534	2,229	5,300	3,087	2,505	2,007	1,844	1,570	1,127	1,227	864	601	431	418	493	590	564	456	396	401	388	389	357	452	350	314	-36	-10.3		
Total theft from the person	234	288	362	1,534	1,624	1,288	1,162	774	861	791	637	591	530	609	661	576	514	559	413	439	499	475	206	249	299	257	255	291	36	14.1		
39 Theft from the person	234	288	362	1,534	1,624	1,288	1,162	774	861	791	637	591	530	609	661	576	514	559	413	439	499	475	206	249	299	257	255	291	36	14.1		
Total bicycle theft	1,220	1,223	1,121																													

TOTAL PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	216	269	386	691	1,199	673	530	2,007	1,713	1,602	1,895	1,995	1,682	1,679	1,515	1,531	1,442	1,463	1,205	1,093	1,002	1,297	1,281	1,157	1,092	1,058	973	945	-28	-2.9	
62A Violent disorder	80	35	49	185	246	64	30	99	85	96	127	164	125	100	119	67	43	46	27	32	33	72	76	69	40	43	72	72	0	0.0	
Riot	17	7	4	126	138	19	4	12	26	14	5	19	23	23	58	33	12	10	4	6	15	45	65	53	36	41	66	70	4	6.1	
Violent disorder	63	28	45	59	108	45	26	87	59	82	122	145	102	77	61	34	31	36	23	26	18	27	11	16	4	2	6	2	-4	-	
66 Other offences against the State or Public Order	136	234	337	506	953	609	500	1,908	1,628	1,506	1,768	1,831	1,557	1,579	1,396	1,464	1,399	1,417	1,178	1,061	969	1,225	1,205	1,088	1,052	1,015	901	873	-28	-3.1	
Bomb hoax related offences	101	198	301	475	927	582	471	446	405	222	426	475	320	333	191	202	147	200	163	91	94	128	116	104	82	62	39	59	20	-	
Breach of anti-social behaviour order ¹⁹	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	32	58	124	135	119	80	73	57	51	51	15	18	8	16	21	29	23	5	7	5	-2	-	
Breach of non-molestation order ¹⁹	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,423	1,149	1,183	1,121	1,104	950	974	924	1,010	1,023	977	809	725	619	722	751	656	636	624	531	518	-13	-2.4	
Breach sex offender orders etc ¹⁹	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	15	16	50	81	124	124	133	129	103	100	80	110	128	195	185	172	193	179	201	200	-1	-0.5	
Breach of other order	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	14	19	20	13	5	12	19	6	9	3	-	
Offences under anti-terrorist legislation	32	25	31	17	21	26	24	16	7	5	7	7	19	15	19	10	16	10	10	16	9	29	32	23	20	37	15	12	-3	-	
Other ^{20,38}	3	11	5	14	5	1	5	18	20	22	40	29	25	53	56	56	59	79	100	87	92	115	87	99	86	89	102	70	-32	-31.4	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	1,498	1,877	1,885	2,504	2,736	2,296	2,469	2,739	2,509	1,860	2,618	2,729	2,252	2,313	2,193	2,420	2,780	2,912	2,871	2,952	2,825	2,965	2,931	2,938	3,520	3,518	3,224	3,378	154	4.8	
15 Concealing an infant death close to birth	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
24 Exploitation of prostitution ¹⁰	0	2	2	2	1	2	0	4	1	4	3	2	5	8	13	9	16	6	8	6	7	10	3	5	20	7	11	8	-3	-	
26 Bigamy	1	2	1	3	3	2	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	-1	-	
27 Soliciting for prostitution ^{10,21}	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	3	0	0	8	10	4	10	24	17	25	22	14	17	32	15	-	-
Paying for sexual services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	8	10	4	10	24	17	25	22	14	17	32	15	-
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc	178	201	175	153	125	128	121	105	101	112	142	123	93	99	62	82	71	78	50	52	40	59	34	22	39	25	40	30	-10	-	
33A Making, supplying or possessing articles for use in fraud ²²	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	17	20	28	32	38	45	27	14	27	44	27	15	7	9	14	11	15	11	-4	-	
38 Profiting from or concealing proceeds of crime ²³	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	15	11	10	15	14	21	26	29	35	35	54	58	122	169	99	146	156	208	225	218	187	-31	-14.2	
54 Handling stolen goods	435	471	384	283	317	360	311	240	225	191	220	226	194	185	166	168	179	179	128	123	112	105	77	69	134	112	99	92	-7	-7.1	
59 Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage	111	123	150	219	295	324	406	504	495	467	524	583	513	497	405	453	612	669	571	607	628	811	951	970	1,004	922	724	702	-22	-3.0	
60 Forgery or use of drug prescription / 61 Other forgery	427	479	629	1,122	765	417	441	457	293	132	338	235	130	161	156	202	217	140	307	237	212	303	167	81	80	70	103	154	51	49.5	
of which:																															
Counterfeit currency ⁵⁰	264	371	548	1,032	623	241	270	310	154	68	209	140	55	90	113	166	187	123	276	220	189	296	160	73	67	68	100	149	49	49.0	
61A Possession of false documents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	26	57	47	48	28	32	23	24	22	16	12	26	32	29	16	9	14	10	2	-8	-	
67 Perjury	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	6	3	12	6	4	5	3	6	6	5	3	4	1	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	-1	-	
69 Offender Management Act ²⁴	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	21	36	35	40	31	44	33	13	16	26	31	22	30	8	-	
76 Aiding suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-	
79 Perverting the course of justice	23	30	14	44	75	97	99	127	102	144	231	258	234	252	236	257	251	261	255	201	198	205	161	191	189	129	117	130	13	11.1	
80 Absconding from lawful custody	8	17	11	25	28	57	37	58	49	17	30	24	28	17	16	12	8	8	11	8	6	12	7	6	18	32	24	18	-6	-	
83 Bail offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	
86 Obscene publications, etc	14	11	11	23	30	34	34	46	62	60	51	62	59	95	124	143	231	390	439	494	449	471	436	539	703	857	795	984	189	23.8	
Indecent images relating to children	13	11	9	23	30	34	34	46	62	60	51	62	57	94	119	141	228	386	430	472	433	452	426	522	686	843	782	966	184	23.5	
Non-child related indecent image	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	2	3	4	9	22	16	19	10	17	17	14	13	18	5	-	
95 Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc ²⁵	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
99 Other notifiable offences ^{14,34,37,38}	116	305	304	415	761	365	364	378	362	104	110	134	97	94	90	97	209	214	146	139	100	104	121	101	305	319	303	288	-15	-5.0	
of which:																															
Immigration	2	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	9	9	8	15	3	6	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	129	137	144	144	0	0.0	
802 Dangerous driving	148	206	167	166	276	396	550	728	714	513	746	865	699	701	674	674	695	744	678	700	594	488	545	549	575	571	581	541	-40	-6.9	
814 Fraud, forgery associated with driver records	36	29	35	48	57	110	98	74	77	56	119	128	97	109	142	192	163	85	123	167	202	194	215	181	170	176	143	169	26	18.2	
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME - ALL OFFENCES (excluding fraud and computer misuse)	104,647	114,209	115,791	135,814	138,132	124,966	115,965	120,919	119,314	107,490	108,870	107,951	103,676	102,009	98,558	100,917	103,177	104,930	98,032	98,131	100,841	106,471	94,196	106,348	111,391	104,200	95,832	93,601	-2,231	-2.3	
TOTAL FRAUD OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE ²⁷	4,406	4,902	4,122	3,972	4,364	2,987	2,159	2,275	1,830	978	1,224	1,188	1,364	1,380	1,831	1,829	1,896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL Fraud and computer misuse offences recorded by Action Fraud ⁵¹	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,230	3,163	3,592	3,608	4,253	5,856	5,464	4,671	5,400	4,408	n/a			

All footnotes can be found in Notes to accompany Table 15

‘..’ in the table indicates that data are not available.
‘-’ indicates that for offences recorded, a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50.



**Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Justice**

[REDACTED]
Chief of Staff
PSNI Headquarters
65 Knock Road
Belfast
BT5 6LE

25 June 2026

Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc) Bill – oral evidence

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of the Committee for Justice, I wish to thank your colleagues who attended the Committee for Justice meeting on 18 June 2026 to provide oral evidence on the Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc) Bill.

During the evidence session, the Officers agreed to provide the Committee with:

- Statistics/data on assaults against public workers, categorised by sector/type of public worker and the severity of the assault;
- Details of any types of offences that the PSNI may consider to have received unduly lenient sentences in recent years; and
- Clarification of the numbers of officers injured on duty during the recent riots and disturbances.

I should appreciate a response by 28 August 2026.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice

Room 345, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX
Telephone: (028) 905 21033

E-mail: committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk