

Probation Board for Northern Ireland Caseload Statistics Report

**Quarter Two
2022/23**

Published 14th November 2022



About PBNI Statistics

This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the second quarter of the financial year, reflecting PBNI caseload at points in time at the end of September 2022. There are also comparators to data in previous years.

Statistics on the number of reports completed, the number of new orders made, and PBNI Victim Information Scheme registrations, are subject to change, particularly for the latest month. When revisions are necessary, the updates occur in each quarterly publication and considered final in the annual publication for the financial year. Percentages presented in this report are subject to rounding.

The data source for all tables and charts presented in this publication from April 2020 onwards is the PBNI's electronic case management system (ECMS). Prior to this date, a different, but compatible case management system was in place. Although care taken when processing and analysing data increases quality assurance, it is however, subject to inaccuracies inherent in an administrative manual data recording system.

The collation and production of PBNI statistics is by seconded statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Statistical production is subject to a UK code of practice, the details of which are available here: About the Code – Code of Practice for Statistics ([statisticsauthority.gov.uk](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk))

Special Note about PBNI Statistics in 2020/21

There was a negative impact on PBNI caseload from the introduction of lockdown measures on 23rd March 2020, due to temporary court closures and reduced sittings. From the beginning of the financial year 2020/21, there were significantly fewer new orders made or requests for reports from court. While new orders and reports requested have returned to pre-pandemic levels, one should exercise caution when examining trend information during the 2020/21 financial year.

Contact and Further Information

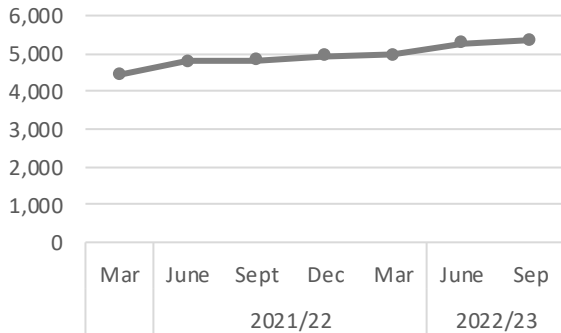
PBNI statistics production is undergoing updates to the systems used to collate and organise the data for dissemination. During this time, it may be possible to provide regular updates to data not previously included in our publications. PBNI welcome feedback on these statistics and encourage requests for additional information users may wish to have included in future publications.

If you would like to forward your views / requests, contact PBNI Statistics & Research Branch e-mail:

statistics&research@probation-ni.gov.uk

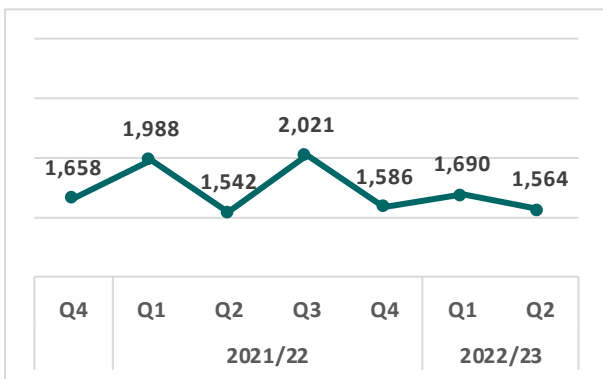
Summary

A glossary of order and report types is available at the end of this publication



PBNI New Orders

Q2 22/23 had **648** new orders, an increase of **4%** compared to the same period in 2021/22. There were **600** new Service users on caseload in Q2 2022/23, up **7%** from last year.

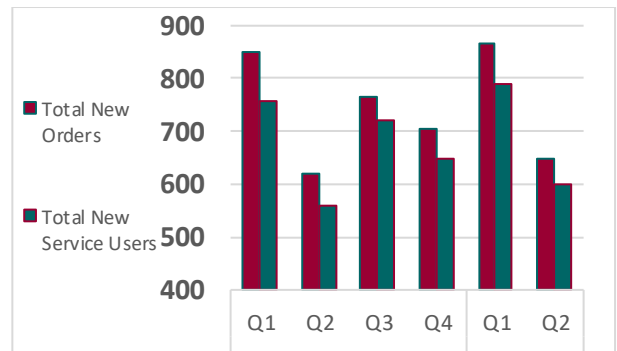


PBNI Victim Information Scheme

At the end of September 2022 there were 478 victims registered on the PBNI Victim information scheme with 80 added in Q2 22/23. 71% of victims registered were female, 29% male.

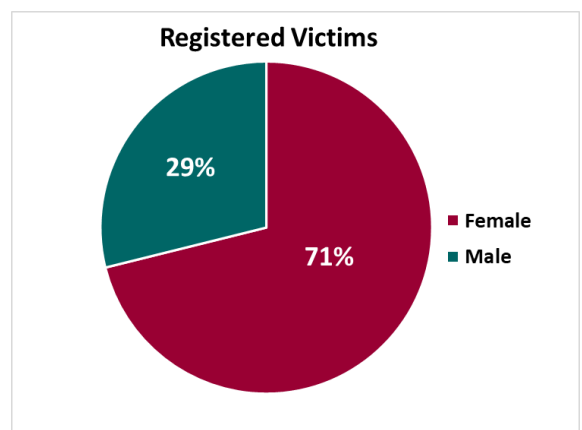
PBNI Orders and People

PBNI had **5,350** supervisions on caseload at the end of September, an **increase of 11%** since last year. Custody Probation Orders **increased by 28%**, Enhanced Combination Orders **increased by 24%**, and Community Service Orders **decreased by 11%** over the year. Orders relate to **4,098** people, an **increase of 4%** from September 2021. Females on caseload continue to increase at a disproportionate rate, with females **increasing by 8%** from September 2021, while males **increased by 4%**.



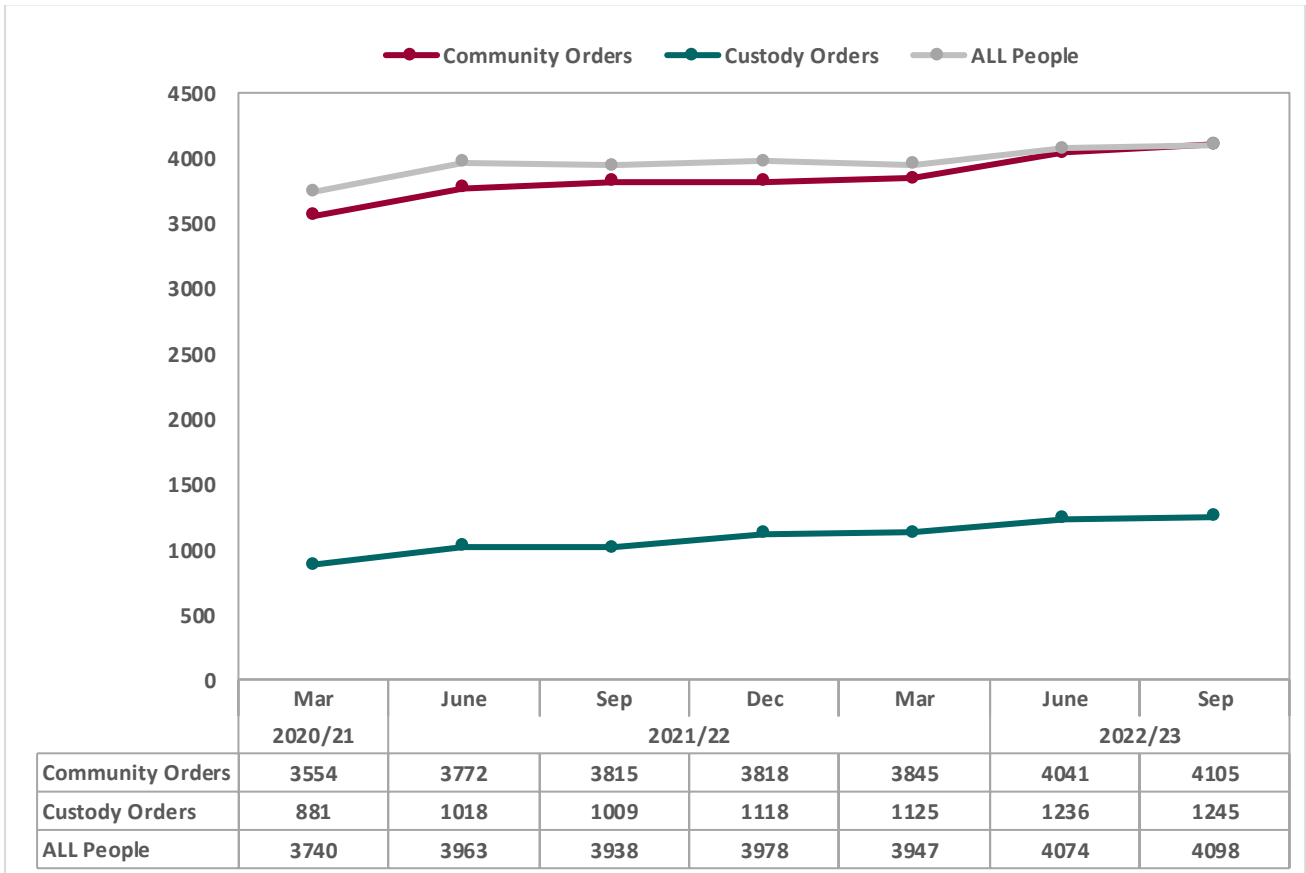
PBNI Reports Completed for Court

1,564 reports were completed in Q2 22/23, which is consistent with the same period last year. There was a **14% increase** in the number of breach reports completed in Q2 2022/23 compared to the same period in the previous year. Most report completions, **53%**, were for the Magistrates Courts.



PBNI Orders and People

**Figure 1: Community and Custody Orders on PBNI Caseload
31st March 2021 to 30th September 2022**



Commentary on Trend

- PBNI had a total of **5,350** orders on caseload at the end of September: an increase of **11%** on September 2021 and the continuation of an upward trend in orders.
- Custody orders account for **23%** of all orders on caseload and **830 (20%)** of people on caseload. Prison teams are managing an additional **16%** of service users since this time last year
- There were **4,098** people on orders: a ratio of 1.3 orders to people. The increase in the number of people on caseload compared with September 2021 was **4%**.

An individual may be subject to more than one type of order and multiple orders of the same type.

**Table 1: Types of Supervision
March 2021 to September 2022 with comparison to September 2021**

Table 1: Point in time Type of Order/Licence		2020/21	2021/22				2022/23		% Change Sep 21 on Sep 22
		Mar	June	Sept	Dec	Mar	June	Sep	
Order	Combination	403	463	448	440	438	490	509	14%
	Community Service	449	475	459	425	408	418	408	-11%
	Custody Probation	42	53	58	66	65	71	74	28%
	Juvenile Justice Centre	6	5	4	3	3	4	4	-
	Probation	1,471	1,621	1,693	1,749	1765	1850	1839	9%
	ECO	203	197	199	203	211	239	247	24%
	Others*	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	-
Licence/Sentence	DCS	1,288	1,394	1,385	1,475	1496	1616	1663	20%
	Life	235	232	232	234	232	232	234	1%
	Sex Offender	71	75	76	71	68	68	74	-3%
	GB	43	42	40	37	32	29	29	-
Public Protection	Extended Custodial	167	178	176	178	187	191	196	11%
	Indeterminate Custodial	55	53	52	53	53	57	57	10%
Non Statutory	Remand/Sentence	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
	Other					9	10	15	-
Point in Time Orders and Licences		4,435	4,790	4,824	4,936	4970	5277	5350	11%
Point in time - People on an Order		3,740	3,963	3,938	3,978	3947	4074	4098	4%
* Other includes Supervised Activity Order, Supervision And Treatment Order, Youth Conference Order									
Percentage is not shown as the denominator is less than 50									

Commentary on Orders

- Enhanced Combination Orders have steadily increased since the beginning of April 2021, with **247 ECOs** on caseload at the end of September 2022: **24%** more than on caseload this time last year.
- There has been a steady upward increase in Combination orders, particularly in the first quarter of the year. Overall, combination orders increased by **14%** since last year.
- Probation orders make up the highest proportion of orders at **34%** of caseload, followed by Determinate Custodial Sentences which account for **31%**. While probation orders have increased by **9%** since last year, this is a lower rate of increase than Determinate Custodial Sentences which rose by **20%** during the same time frame.
- Community Service Order trend continues in a downward trajectory, although the reduction has slowed compared to previous quarters. There are now **11% (51)** fewer CSOs than in September 2021. The reduction in CSO is likely, in part, to be due to the ECO and CO orders issued to service users who presented with additional needs during the time-period.

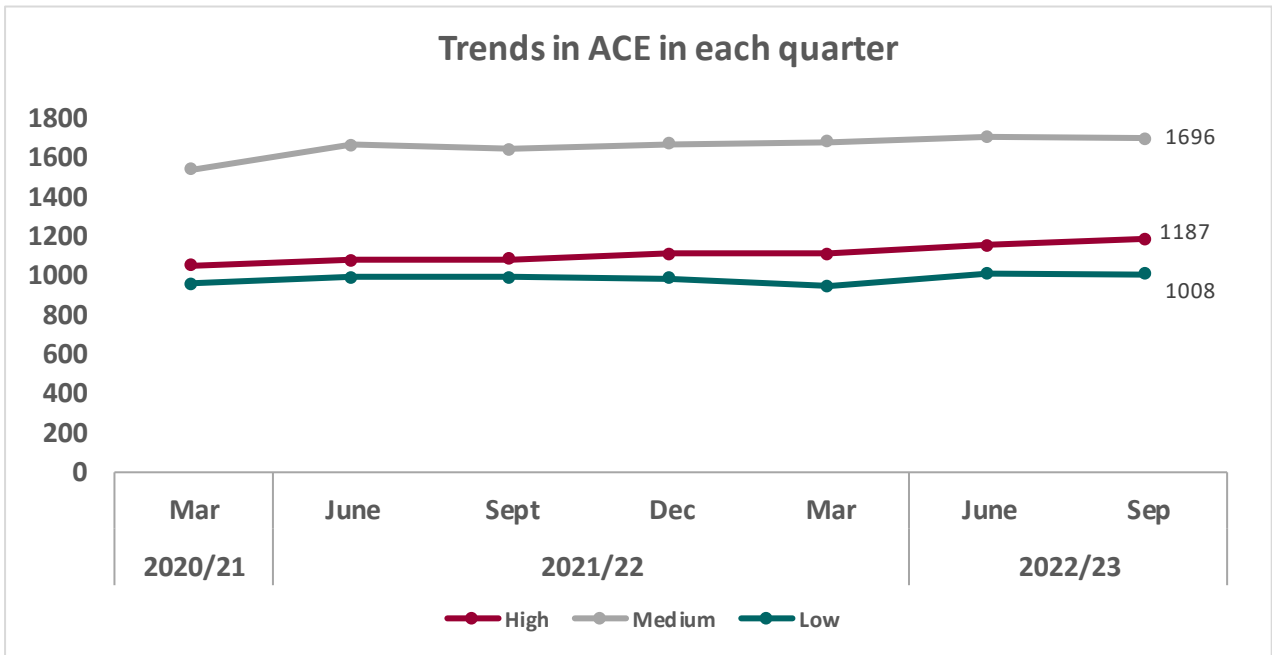
**Table 2: Age and Gender of People on Caseload
March 2021 to September 2022 with comparison to September 2021**

Number of People	2020/21	2021/22				2022/23		% Change Sep 21 on Sep 22	Profile of Caseload
	Mar	June	Sep	Dec	Mar	June	Sep		
Female	389	435	439	457	451	472	472	8%	12%
Male	3,351	3,528	3,499	3,521	3,496	3,602	3,626	4%	88%
Under 20	105	109	92	84	81	83	72	-22%	2%
20-24	518	533	549	518	526	540	516	-6%	13%
25-29	697	733	718	704	695	695	694	-3%	17%
30-39	1,194	1,300	1,291	1,352	1,335	1,386	1,423	10%	35%
40-49	699	733	719	728	707	733	739	3%	18%
50-59	339	362	373	379	387	406	416	12%	10%
60 and over	188	193	196	213	216	231	238	21%	6%
Total People	3,740	3,963	3,938	3,978	3,974	4,074	4,098	4%	100%

Commentary on People

- The number of people on orders at the end of September 2022 was **4,098** representing a **4%** increase since last year.
- The number of females on caseload has **increased by 8%** since September 2021. Females on caseload have been growing at a higher rate of increase than males over the months since March 2021. **Increases in males of 4%**, in the past year indicate females on caseload are now growing at double the rate than males.
- All age groups 30+ increased in the past year, with the **3 youngest age groups** all seeing a **decrease**.
- **The Under 20 age group** has seen the biggest decrease, **down 22% in the last year**. It now accounts for just **2%** of caseload

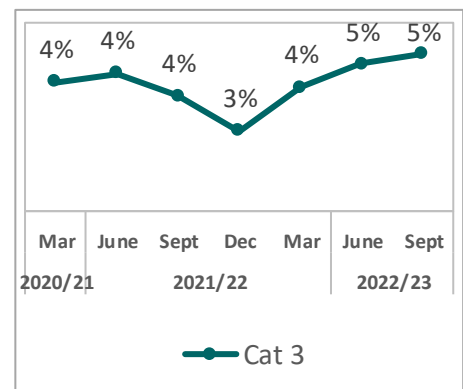
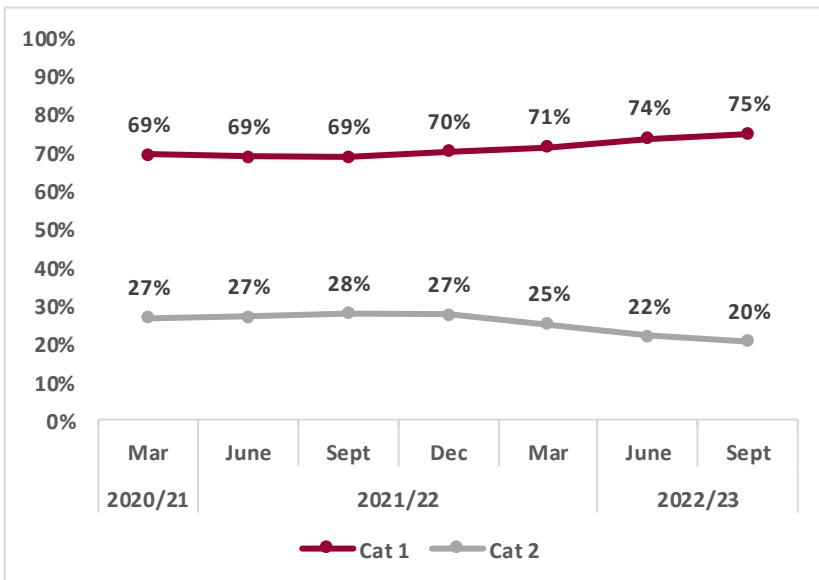
**Figure 2: ACE Bands of Service Users on PBNI caseload.
March 2021 to September 2022**



Commentary on ACE

- ACE bands have remained fairly consistent over the time period.
- High ACE bands accounted for 30% of ACE’s this quarter, compared with 29% the same time last year, Medium ACE bands accounted for 26% of ACE’s this quarter, compared with 27% the same time last year and there was no change in 44% of low ACE bands.

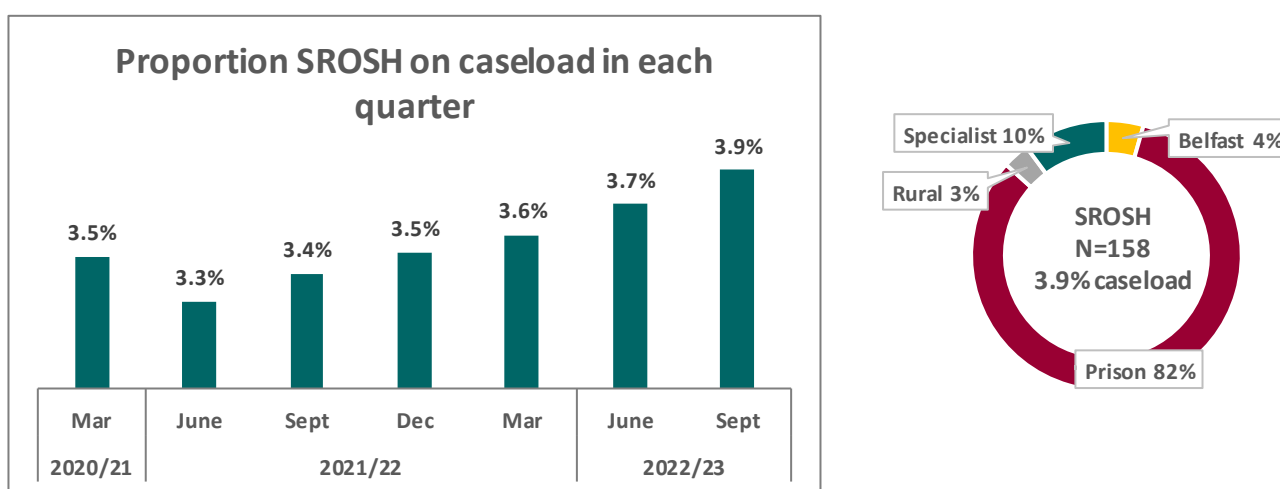
**Figure 3: PPANI Categories of Service Users on PBNI caseload.
March 2021 to September 2022**



Commentary on PPANI

- **14%** of total caseload have been categorised as PPANI, up from **12%** in September 2021.
- **75%** of those categorised as PPANI were assigned as Category 1. There are now 417 services users under PPANI Cat 1, an **increase from 69%** of PPANI this time last year.
- **20%** of those categorised as PPANI were assigned as Category 2. This means there are now 114 services users under PPANI Cat 2 and a **decrease of 27%** from this time last year.
- **5% (28 service users)** were categorised as PPANI Category 3: a slight **increase from 4%** in September 2021.

**Figure 4: SROSH Service Users on PBNI caseload.
March 2021 to September 2022**



Commentary on SROSH

- There are 158 service users on caseload who are considered to be SROSH. This accounts for **3.9%** of current caseload, representing an **increase in proportion of caseload from 3.4%** in September 2021.
- **82%** of SROSH service users are being supervised by Prison teams. This is a slight **increase** from September 2021, when **80%** of SROSH service users were assigned to Prison teams.
- **4%** of SROSH service users are being supervised by Belfast teams, **decreasing from 6%** this time last year.
- **3%** of SROSH service users are being supervised by Rural teams. This is consistent with Q2 last year.
- **10%** of SROSH service users are being supervised by Specialist teams and is **down by 1 percentage point from 11%** in September 2021.

PBNI New Orders and People

Figure 5: New Orders and People on New Orders
Quarter totals Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2022/23

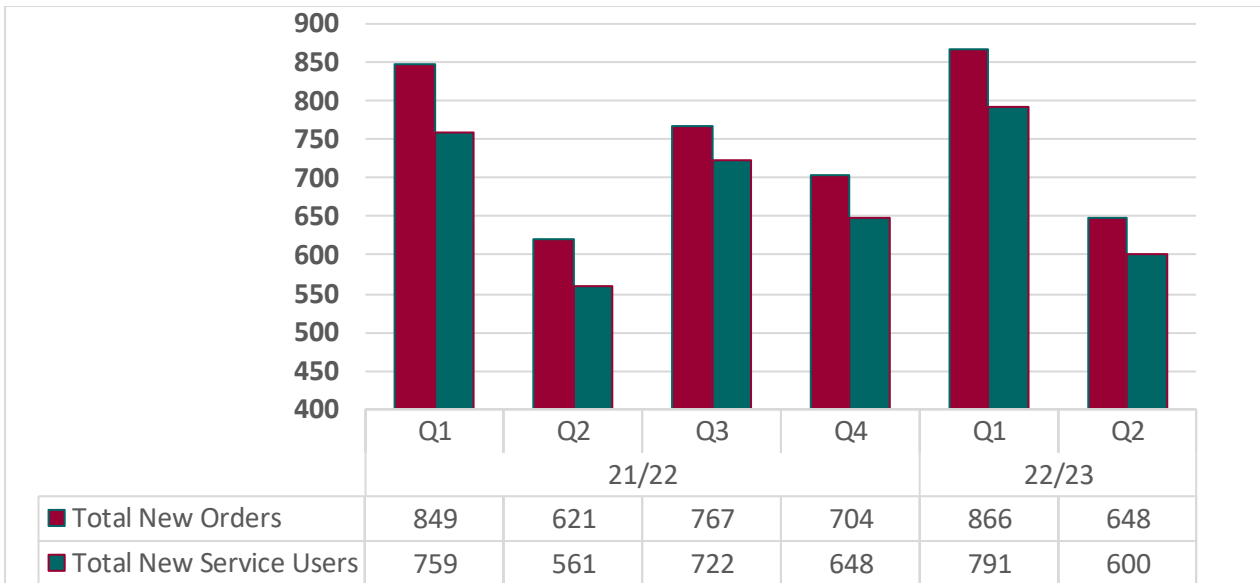


Table 3: New Orders by order type
Quarter totals Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2022/23

New Orders	21/22				22/23		% Change on Q2 21/22 to Q2 22/23
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
Combination Order	107	63	78	86	109	84	33%
Community Service Order	133	110	129	124	131	96	-13%
Enhanced Combination Order	35	26	32	35	64	35	-
Probation Order	349	281	318	295	353	269	-4%
Determinate Custodial Sentence	209	124	184	139	189	140	13%
All Other Orders	16	17	26	25	20	24	-
Total New Orders	849	621	767	704	866	648	4%
Total New Service Users	759	561	722	648	791	600	7%
Ratio of New Orders to People	1.12	1.11	1.06	1.09	1.09	1.08	

Commentary on New Orders

- The graph and data table above show all new orders and people on new orders by each quarter total from Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2022/23. Quarter 2 2022/23 new orders have **reduced** compared with the previous quarter. The decrease between Q1 and Q2 is similar in trend to 2021/22.
- New orders **increased by 4%** from last year, with a **7% increase** in new service users.
- Combination orders saw the biggest **increase** within this time of **33%**.

PBNI Reports completed for Courts

Figure 6: Reports Completed

Quarter totals Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2022/23

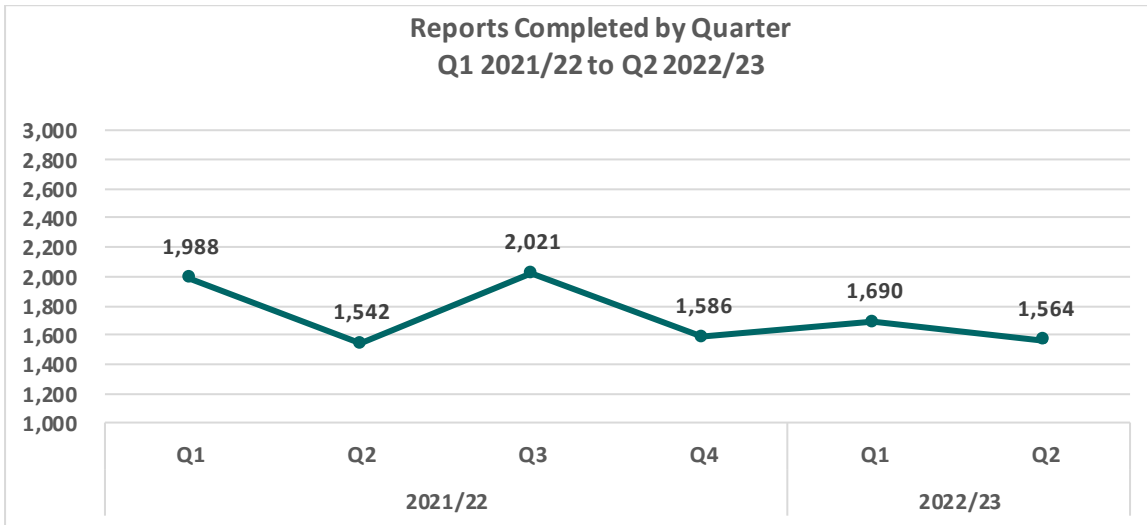


Table 4: Reports Completed by report type in Q2 2022/2023.

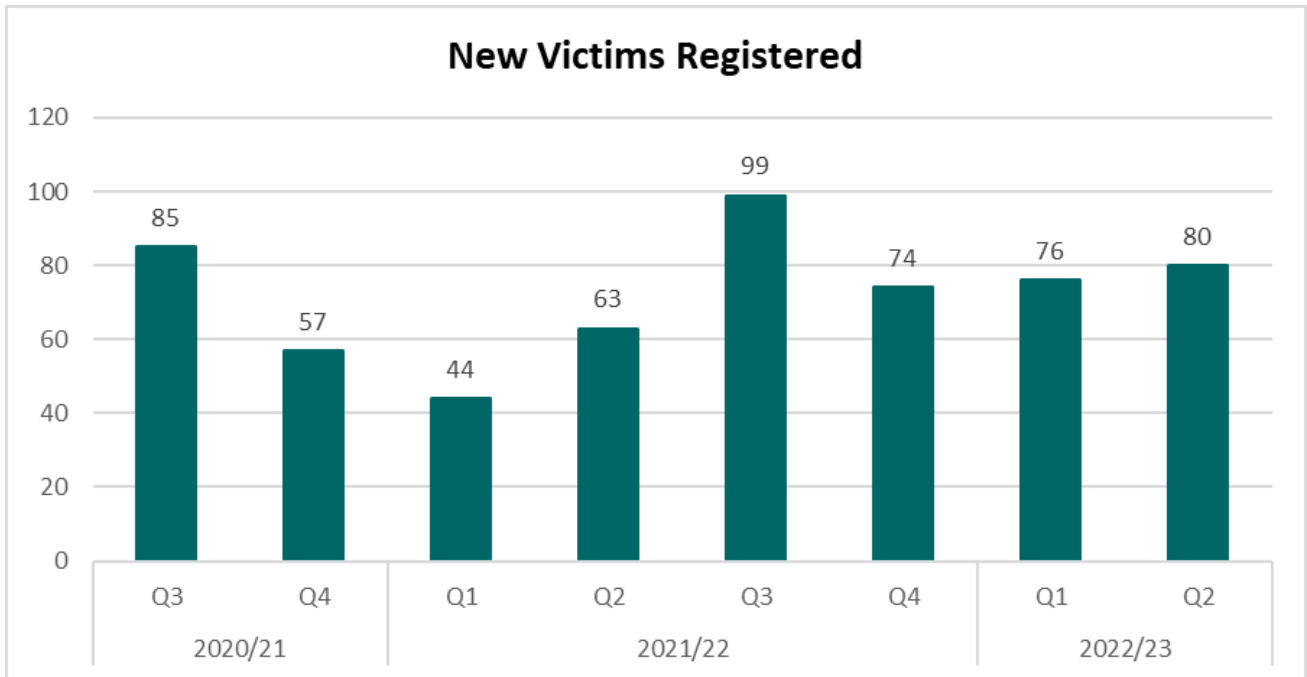
Report Type	2021/22				2022/23		% of Reports (excluding Letters)	Change in last year
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		
Addendum	165	200	232	201	160	210	13%	5%
Breach	166	192	193	188	154	218	14%	14%
CCR/PSR	489	219	487	335	376	208	13%	-5%
MCR	1,093	858	1,014	791	939	835	53%	-3%
Other Reports*	75	73	95	69	61	89	6%	22%
Letter to Court	441	517	377	499	538	498		-4%
Missing Report Type	0	0	0	2		4	0%	
Total Including Letters	2,429	2,059	2,398	2,085	2,228	2,062		0%
Total Excluding Letters	1,988	1,542	2,021	1,586	1,690	1,564		1%

* Other Reports include Probation Officers Report, SMC Progress Report, Revocation and Home Circumstance

Commentary on Reports Completed

- **1,564** reports were completed in Q2 2022/2023 when letters to court are excluded. This is consistent with Q2 21/22, with only a **1% increase**. There was a total of **2,062** reports completed when letters to court are taken into account.
- **MCRs** made up the highest proportion of reports completed within the quarter, accounting for **53%** of all reports. There has been a slight drop in MCRs from the same time last year, **down 3%**.
- **CCR and PSR are down by 5%** compared with the same period last year.
- Letters to court accounted for **24%** of the total reports completed within the quarter. This is **down 4%** from the same period last year.

PBNI Victim Information Scheme



Commentary on Victims Registered

- There were 478 victims registered on the scheme at the end of September 2022, which is down 2% from the previous quarter.
- There was a total of 80 new victims registered in Q2 22/23, which is an increase of 5% from Q1.
- Registered victims consist of 71% females and 29% males. Male registration is down from 31% of victims registered last quarter.

PBNI Glossary of Orders and Sentences

Combination Order	Combines a Probation Order and a Community Service Order. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be completed as instructed.
Community Service Order	Requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents, and is between 40 and 240 hours and must be completed within 12 months.
Custody Probation Order	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community (the period of supervision will be 1 to 3 years commencing on date of release), and is unique to Northern Ireland. This order cannot be made unless the offender consents. Although Custody Probation Orders remain on the statute books, Determinate Custodial Sentences were made available from 1 April 2009. This is only a valid disposal where the offence was committed prior to April 2009.
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community. The court will specify the length of both custody and community supervision at sentencing. This will be the standard determinate sentence for all offenders, and has been available to the courts from 1 April 2009.
Enhanced Combination Order	A pilot Order with a focus on rehabilitation, reparation, restorative practice, and desistance, and has been available to a number of pilot court divisions from October 2015. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be carried out at an accelerated pace.
Extended Custodial Sentence	This may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence or Indeterminate Custodial Sentence is not appropriate. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause serious harm to members of the public. The sentence involves a portion of time spent in custody (at least 1 year) and a period under licence conditions (extension period). Prisoners will be referred to the Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (PCNI) approximately 6 months prior to the mid-point of their sentence and must demonstrate that they can be safely released into the community. If PCNI direct release, the prisoner will remain on licence for the remainder of the custodial term as well as the licence period set by the court.
GB Transfer Licence	An individual subject to licence may, given the agreement of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, transfer to Northern Ireland from another jurisdiction in Great Britain.

Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	It may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence is not appropriate, but an Extended Custodial Sentence is not sufficient. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause serious harm to members of the public. No release date is given for an ICS. Offenders serving an ICS will be given a “tariff” date which is the earliest date that they may become eligible for consideration for release by the PCNI. The tariff is a minimum of 2 years. An ICS prisoner will remain in custody until they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the PCNI that they can be released safely into the community.
Inescapable Voluntary	These are offenders who continue to be supervised by PBNI on a voluntary basis following the end of their sentence, usually for the purposes of completing programmes. These are not statutory orders.
Juvenile Justice Centre Order	It requires a young offender (aged between 10 and 17 years) to spend time, normally three months, in a Juvenile Justice Centre and then be supervised in the community by a probation officer, normally for three months.
Life Sentence Licence	An offender serving a life sentence will be released from custody on licence. An individual must comply with the conditions of his licence in order to remain in the community and not be returned to custody.
Probation Order	POs can last between 6 months and 3 years, and puts the offender under the supervision of a Probation Officer for that period. The order may have extra requirements. Offender consent is required.
Remand/Sentence	It refers to persons who are remanded in custody awaiting sentence or who are subject to a custodial sentence not involving PBNI supervision on release, with whom PBNI works in order to assess individual risks and needs.
Sex Offender Licence	Article 26 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 makes provision for all offenders convicted of a sexual offence to be released on licence under the supervision of a Probation Officer.
Supervised Activity Order	It requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents, and lasts between 10 hours and 100 hours and must be completed within 12 months.
Supervision and Treatment Order	It requires the specified person to be under supervision for a period of not more than 2 years; and to submit, during that period to treatment under the direction of a medical practitioner with a view to the improvement of his mental condition.

PBNI Glossary of Reports

Addendum Report	is provided to courts to supplement information contained within a Pre-Sentence report, where one has been completed within the previous 12 month period, or to address a specific issue at the request of the Court.
Breach Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the circumstances leading to breach, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed options available to the court.
Home Circumstances Report	is written by a Probation Officer, usually following a home visit, and provides a suitability assessment of an offender's proposed residence prior to their release from custody.
Home Leave Report	is written by a prison based Probation Officer, and provides a suitability assessment of an prisoner's proposed temporary release from custody.
Magistrates' Court Report (MCR)	is a brief focussed report written by a Probation Officer supplied to Magistrates' courts to assist in sentencing decisions and can be completed on the day. This report type was piloted in five Courts between 1 November 2016 and 31 March 2018 but has been available to all Magistrates the courts from 1 April 2018.
Parole Commissioners/Life Sentence Unit Reports	provide Parole Commissioners with information prior to release; covering offender's attitude to supervision, response to PBNI interventions, risk assessment, post-release supervision plan, and recommendations for release.
Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)	is written by a Probation Officer on an offender before sentencing at court. The purpose of the report is to provide the Judge with information to assist in the sentencing decision. From 1 April 2018, this format of report will be presented solely to Crown Courts.
Probation Officers Reports	are generic reports that Probation Officers provide to courts, for the purposes of providing an update to Sentencers or request an amendment or an extension of an order.
Recall Report	is provided to Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (and copied to the Public Protection Branch of the Department of Justice) when the decision to initiate recall proceedings has been taken by PBNI. The report provides an account of the circumstances leading to recall, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed actions to reduce risk in future.
Revocation Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the offender's circumstances, an explanation for the need for revocation of the order and to assist in the re-sentencing decision