**Probation Board for Northern Ireland**

**Caseload Statistics Report**

**Quarter One**

**2023/24**

**About PBNI Statistics**

This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the first quarter of the financial year, reflecting PBNI caseload at a point in time at the end of June 2023. There are also comparators to data in previous quarters.

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 is 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:

[Code of Practice for Statistics (statisticsauthority.gov.uk)](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/)

**Contact and Further Information**

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 Orders and People**

There were a total of 5,601 orders and licences, belonging to 4,137 people, under supervision by PBNI at the end of June.

Both Orders and People continue to trend upwards, with a steeper increase being seen in orders and licences.

**PBNI New Orders**

Q1 2023/24 saw 834 new orders, belonging to 705 people, come onto caseload.

**PBNI Reports Completed**

1,787 reports were completed in Q1 23/24, excluding letters to court. MCR’s were the most common report type, accounting for 42% of reports completed in the quarter.

**PBNI Victim Information Scheme**At the end of June there were a total of 466 Victims registered, with 82 having registered in Q1 23/24.

71% of registered victims were female, 29% male.

**PBNI Orders and People**

**Figure 1: Community and Custody Orders on PBNI Caseload Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

PBNI had a total of 5,601 orders, belonging to 4,137 people, on caseload at the end of Q1 23/24. A ratio of 1.35 Orders to people.

Custody orders accounted for 26% (1,450) of all orders on caseload and 22% (924) of people on caseload.

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

**Table 1: Types of Supervisions on PBNI Caseload Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 1: Point in time Type of Order/Licence** | **Q2 21/22** | **Q3 21/22** | **Q4 21/22** | **Q1 22/23** | **Q2 22/23** | **Q3 22/23** | **Q4 22/23** | **Q1 23/24** | **% of caseload** |
| **Combination** | 448 | 440 | 438 | 490 | 509 | 494 | 505 | 535 | **10%** |
| **Community Service** | 459 | 425 | 408 | 418 | 408 | 384 | 401 | 379 | **7%** |
| **Custody Probation** | 58 | 66 | 65 | 71 | 74 | 60 | 69 | 66 | **1%** |
| **Juvenile Justice Centre** | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 35 | **1%** |
| **Probation** | 1693 | 1749 | 1765 | 1850 | 1839 | 1816 | 1894 | 1887 | **34%** |
| **ECO** | 199 | 203 | 211 | 239 | 247 | 240 | 233 | 222 | **4%** |
| **Other Orders\*** | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |   | **-** |
| **DCS** | 1385 | 1475 | 1496 | 1616 | 1663 | 1725 | 1786 | 1874 | **33%** |
| **Life** | 232 | 234 | 232 | 232 | 234 | 234 | 232 | 235 | **4%** |
| **Sex Offender** | 76 | 71 | 68 | 68 | 74 | 76 | 73 | 71 | **1%** |
| **GB** | 40 | 37 | 32 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 24 | 27 | **0%** |
| **Extended Custodial** | 176 | 178 | 187 | 191 | 196 | 207 | 200 | 206 | **4%** |
| **Indeterminate Custodial** | 52 | 53 | 53 | 57 | 57 | 59 | 57 | 58 | **1%** |
| **Remand/Sentence** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |   |   | 0 |   | **-** |
| **Other Non Statutory** |   |   | 9 | 10 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 6 | **0%** |
| **Orders and Licences** | 4824 | 4936 | 4970 | 5277 | 5350 | 5345 | 5488 | 5601 |   |
| **People on an Order**  | 3938 | 3978 | 3947 | 4074 | 4098 | 4014 | 4108 | 4137 |   |
| **\* Other Orders includes Supervised Activity Order, Supervision and Treatment Order, Youth Conference Order** |
| **Percentage is not shown as the denominator is less than 50** |

The number of orders and licences, as well as the number of people on an order continued to trend upward in Q1. However, this increase was not reflected across all Order/Licence types, with Community Service orders trending downward and other orders such as Determinate Custodial Sentences trending upward.

In Q1 23/24 the most common order was a probation order, accounting for 34% of all orders on caseload. This was followed by DCS (Determinate Custodial Sentence) which accounted for 33% of all orders on caseload.

**Table 2: Age and Gender of People on Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of People** | **Q2 21/22** | **Q3 21/22** | **Q4 21/22** | **Q1 22/23** | **Q2 22/23** | **Q3 22/23** | **Q4 22/23** | **Q1 23/24** | **Profile of Caseload** |
| **Female** | **439** | **457** | **451** | **472** | **472** | **455** | **460** | **445** | **11%** |
| **Male** | **3,499** | **3,521** | **3,496** | **3,602** | **3,626** | **3,559** | **3,648** | **3,692** | **89%** |
| **Under 20** | 92 | 84 | 81 | 83 | 72 | 83 | 86 | 82 | 2% |
| **20-24**  | 549 | 518 | 526 | 540 | 516 | 476 | 484 | 475 | 11% |
| **25-29**  | 718 | 704 | 695 | 695 | 694 | 657 | 663 | 662 | 16% |
| **30-39**  | 1,291 | 1,352 | 1,335 | 1,386 | 1,423 | 1,393 | 1,421 | 1,452 | 35% |
| **40-49**  | 719 | 728 | 707 | 733 | 739 | 736 | 767 | 786 | 19% |
| **50-59**  | 373 | 379 | 387 | 406 | 416 | 426 | 438 | 436 | 11% |
| **60 and over** | 196 | 213 | 216 | 231 | 238 | 243 | 249 | 244 | 6% |
| **Total People** | 3,938 | 3,978 | 3,974 | 4,074 | 4,098 | 4,014 | 4,108 | 4,137 | 100% |

At the end of Q1 23/24 there were 4,137 people on caseload. Of those, 89% were male and 11% of people on caseload were female.

The most common age group for people on caseload was 30-39, with 35% of people belonging to this demographic.

Under 20’s remained the smallest age demographic, representing 2% of people on caseload in Q1 23/24, followed by the 60 and over age group which represented 6%.

**Figure 2: Number of Service Users on Ace Bands on PBNI Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

At the end of Q1 23/24, 29% of ACE’s were in the high band, 44% in the medium band and 26% in the low band.

This has remained fairly consistent over the time period, though the number of ACE has increased along with the increasing caseload.

95% (3,911) of caseload at the end of Q1 23/24 had received an ACE assessment and been assigned an ACE band.

**Figure 3: Percentage Categories of PPANI Service Users on PBNI Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

At the end of Q1 23/24, 15% (630) of caseload had been categorised as PPANI.

75% (470) of those categorised as PPANI were assigned Cat 1.

22% (137) of those categorised as PPANI were assigned Cat 2.

4% (23) of those categorised as PPANI were assigned Cat 3.

**Figure 4: Percentage of Caseload categorised as PPANI from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

**Figure 5: Directorates Supervising SROSH in Q1 23/24 and Percentage of Caseload categorised as SROSH from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

At the end of Q1 23/24 there were 174 service users on caseload who were considered to be SROSH. This accounts for 4.2% of caseload.

83% (145) of SROSH service users were under supervision by prison teams, 5% (8) were supervised by specialist teams, 8% (14) were supervised by Belfast teams and 4% (7) were supervised by Rural teams.

**PBNI New Orders and People**

**Figure 6: New Orders and People on New Orders from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

**Table 3: New Orders by Order Type from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **21/22** | **22/23** | **23/24** |
| **New Orders** | **Q2**  | **Q3** | **Q4**  | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3**  | **Q4** | **Q1** |
| **Combination Order** | 63 | 78 | 86 | 109 | 84 | 74 | 100 | 91 |
| **Community Service Order** | 110 | 129 | 124 | 131 | 96 | 122 | 150 | 120 |
| **Enhanced Combination Order** | 26 | 32 | 35 | 64 | 35 | 21 | 32 | 27 |
| **Probation Order** | 281 | 318 | 295 | 353 | 269 | 274 | 341 | 315 |
| **Determinate Custodial Sentence** | 124 | 184 | 139 | 189 | 140 | 144 | 209 | 248 |
| **All Other Orders** | 17 | 26 | 25 | 20 | 24 | 27 | 18 | 33 |
| **Total New Orders** | 621 | 767 | 704 | 866 | 648 | 662 | 850 | 834 |
| **Total New Service Users** | 561 | 722 | 648 | 791 | 600 | 621 | 781 | 705 |
| **Ratio of New Orders to People** | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.1:1 | 1.2:1 |

In Q1 23/24 there were 834 new orders assigned to 705 people, a ratio of 1.2:1. The most common new order was probation orders, followed by determinate custodial sentences.

**PBNI Reports Completed for Courts**

**Figure 7: Total Reports Completed (Excluding letters to court) from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

**Table 4: Reports Completed by Report Type from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Type** | **Q2 21/22** | **Q3 21/22** | **Q4 21/22** | **Q1 22/23** | **Q2 22/23** | **Q3 22/23** | **Q4 22/23** | **Q1 23/24** | **% of Reports (excluding Letters)** |
| **Addendum** | 200  | 232  | 201  | 187  | 217  | 205  | 210  | 231  | 13% |
| **Breach** | 192  | 193  | 188  | 190  | 226  | 197  | 194  | 214  | 12% |
| **CCR/PSR** | 219  | 487  | 335  | 396  | 212  | 321  | 337  | 333  | 19% |
| **MCR** | 858  | 1,014  | 791  | 1,019  | 856  | 897  | 843  | 756  | 42% |
| **Other Reports\*** | 73  | 95  | 69  | 79  | 94  | 119  | 175  | 226  | 13% |
| **Letter to Court** | 517  | 377  | 499  | 584  | 512  | 584  | 658  | 497  |   |
| **Missing Report Type** | 0  | 0  | 2  | 2  | 4  | 29  | 98  | 27  | 2% |
| **Total Including Letters** | 2,059  | 2,398  | 2,085  | 2,457  | 2,121  | 2,352  | 2,515  | 2,284  | - |
| **Total Excluding Letters** | 1,542  | 2,021  | 1,586  | 1,873  | 1,609  | 1,768  | 1,857  | 1,787  | - |
| \*Other Reports include Probation Officers Recall Reports, Report, Short Adjournment Report, SMC Progress Report, SMC Suitability Report, SMC Assessment & Intervention Report, Revocation and Home Circumstance |

Q1 23/24, 1,787 reports were completed when letters to court are excluded. There was a total of 2,284 reports completed when letters to court are considered.

MCR’s made up the highest proportion of reports completed within the quarter, accounting for 42% of all reports (excluding letters).

**PBNI Victim Information Scheme**

**Figure 8: New Victims Registered in the quarter from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

**Figure 9: Gender of Registered Victims from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

At the end of Q1 23/24 there were 466 victims registered to the Victim Information Scheme, with 82 new victims registered in the quarter.

Of those registered to the victim information scheme at the end of Q1 23/24, 71% (333) were female and 29% (133) were male.

**Data Tables**

**Table 5: ACE Bands on Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| **ACE Band** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** |
| **High** | 1085 | 1112 | 1112 | 1154 | 1187 | 1160 | 1138 | 1149 |
| **Medium** | 1643 | 1671 | 1680 | 1705 | 1696 | 1680 | 1763 | 1738 |
| **Low** | 991 | 987 | 947 | 1010 | 1008 | 973 | 1000 | 1024 |
| **Total ACE** | 3719 | 3770 | 3739 | 3869 | 3891 | 3813 | 3901 | 3911 |
| **Total Caseload** | 3938 | 3978 | 3947 | 4074 | 4098 | 4014 | 4108 | 4137 |
| **Total % Caseload** | 94% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 95% |

**Table 6: PPANI Categories on Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| **PPANI** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** |
| **Cat 1** | 337 | 359 | 379 | 392 | 417 | 425 | 452 | 470 |
| **Cat 2** | 136 | 141 | 133 | 116 | 114 | 127 | 131 | 137 |
| **Cat 3** | 18 | 13 | 21 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| **Total PPANI** | 491 | 513 | 533 | 533 | 559 | 582 | 607 | 630 |
| **Total Caseload** | 3938 | 3978 | 3947 | 4074 | 4098 | 4014 | 4108 | 4137 |
| **% PPANI** | 12% | 13% | 14% | 13% | 14% | 14% | 15% | 15% |

**Table 7: Directorates of SROSH on Caseload from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **23/24** |
| **Significant Risk of Serious Harm** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** |
| **Belfast** | 8 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 14 |
| **Rural** | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| **Specialist** | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 8 |
| **Prison** | 107 | 112 | 118 | 126 | 130 | 139 | 131 | 145 |
| **Total** | 134 | 139 | 141 | 151 | 158 | 174 | 167 | 174 |
| **Total Caseload** | 3938 | 3978 | 3947 | 4074 | 4098 | 4014 | 4108 | 4137 |
| **% Caseload** | 3.4% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.7% | 3.9% | 4.3% | 4.1% | 4.2% |

**Table 8: Registrations to the Victim Information Scheme from Q2 21/22 to Q1 23/24**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **New Victims Registered** | **Victims Registered** | **Male Victims** | **Female Victims** | **Female** | **Male** |
| **2021/22** | **Q2** | 63 | 396 | 130 | 266 | 67% | 33% |
| **Q3** | 99 | 430 | 163 | 267 | 62% | 38% |
| **Q4** | 74 | 496 | 153 | 343 | 69% | 31% |
| **2022/23** | **Q1** | 76 | 487 | 152 | 335 | 69% | 31% |
| **Q2** | 80 | 478 | 138 | 340 | 71% | 29% |
| **Q3** | 75 | 468 | 130 | 338 | 72% | 28% |
| **Q4** | 82 | 471 | 125 | 343 | 73% | 27% |
| **2023/24** | **Q1** | 82 | 466 | 133 | 333 | 71% | 29% |

**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 a 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 |