

PBNI Quarterly Caseload Statistics, Quarter 4, 2023/24

29 May 2024

This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the fourth quarter of the financial year, reflecting PBNI caseload at a point in time at the end of March 2024. There are also comparators to data in previous quarters. Data tables to accompany the report can be downloaded from [our website](#).

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.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing data, it is however, subject to inaccuracies inherent in an administrative manual data recording system.

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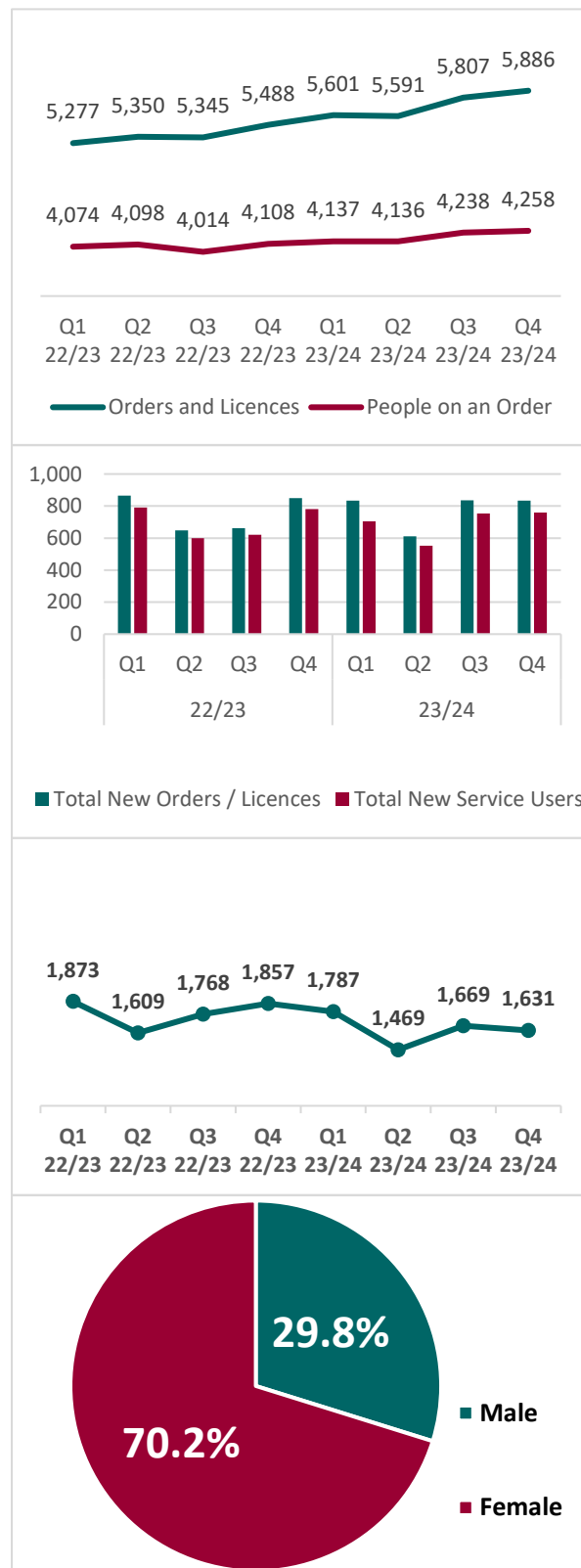
Contact and Further Information

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: Stats&Research@probation-ni.gov.uk

Summary

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



PBNI Orders and Licences, and People on Caseload

There were a total of 5,886 orders and licences, belonging to 4,258 people, under supervision by PBNI at the end of March.

PBNI New Orders and Licences

Q4 2023/24 saw 833 new orders and licences, belonging to 760 people, come onto caseload.

PBNI Reports Completed

1,631 reports were completed in Q4 23/24, excluding letters to court. Magistrates Court Reports (MCRs) were the most common report type, accounting for 47.6% of reports completed in the quarter.

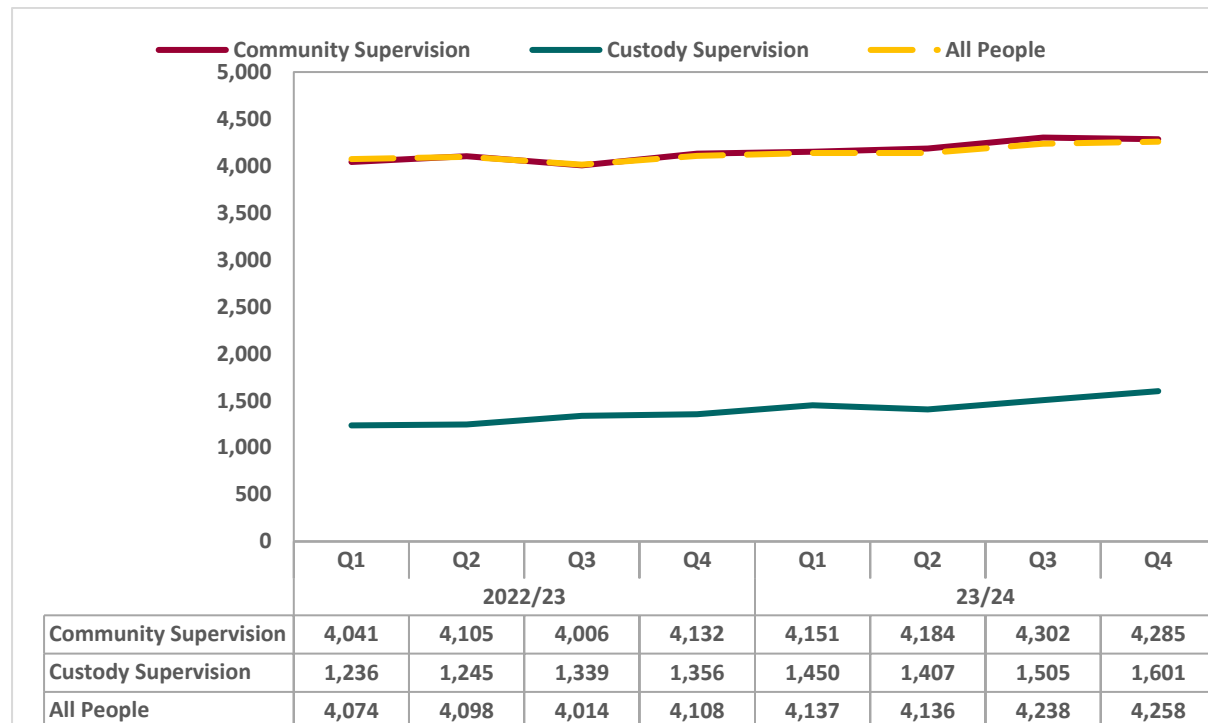
PBNI Victim Information Scheme

At the end of March there were a total of 483 victims registered, with 59 having registered in Q4 23/24.

70.2% of registered victims were female, 29.8% male.

PBNI Orders and People

Figure 1: Orders on Community and Custody Supervision and People, PBNI Caseload Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24



PBNI had a total of 5,886 orders and licences, belonging to 4,258 people, on caseload at the end of Q4 23/24.

Custody supervision accounted for 27.2% (1,601) of all orders on caseload and 23.0% (978) 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 Orders / Licence on PBNi Caseload Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

Type of Order/Licence	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	Q4 23/24	% of total caseload Q4 23/24
Combination	490	509	494	505	535	527	538	560	9.5%
Community Service	418	408	384	401	379	370	431	513	8.7%
Custody Probation	71	74	60	69	66	71	68	66	1.1%
Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)*	4	4	6	6	35	46	53	22	-
Probation	1,850	1,839	1,816	1,894	1,887	1,858	1,917	1,826	31.0%
Enhanced Combination Order (ECO)	239	247	240	233	222	216	202	194	3.3%
Supervised Activity	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	-
Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)	1,616	1,663	1,725	1,786	1,874	1,892	1,965	2,053	34.9%
Life Sentence	232	234	234	232	235	240	246	251	4.3%
Sex Offender	68	74	76	73	71	71	77	77	1.3%
GB Transfer	29	29	30	24	27	26	23	20	-
Extended Custodial	191	196	207	200	206	207	219	237	4.0%
Indeterminate Custodial	57	57	59	57	58	59	58	59	1.0%
Remand/Sentence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Other Non Statutory	10	15	13	8	6	8	10	7	-
Orders and Licences	5,277	5,350	5,345	5,488	5,601	5,591	5,807	5,886	
People on an Order	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238	4,258	
* Counts are reported by number of orders rather than individuals involved i.e. individuals can be subject to multiple orders. For this reason, figures can't be directly compared to those produced by the Youth Justice Agency. In Q4 2023/24 the 22 JJCOs relate to eight individuals.									
- Percentage is not shown as the denominator is less than 50									

The number of Orders and licences, as well as the number of people under supervision saw an increase in Q4, continuing the slight trend upwards in the previous quarters.

In Q4 23/24 the most common type of supervision was a Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS), accounting for 34.9% of the caseload. This was followed by Probation Orders which accounted for 31.0% of the caseload.

Table 2: Age and Gender of People on Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

Number of People	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	Q4 23/24	Profile of Caseload Q4 23/24
Female	472	472	455	460	445	447	456	464	10.9%
Male	3,602	3,626	3,559	3,648	3,692	3,689	3,782	3,794	89.1%
Under 20	83	72	83	86	82	67	70	68	1.6%
20-29	1,235	1,210	1,133	1,147	1,137	1,140	1,169	1,151	27.0%
30-39	1,386	1,423	1,393	1,421	1,452	1,467	1,513	1,518	35.7%
40-49	733	739	736	767	786	779	782	801	18.8%
50-59	406	416	426	438	436	425	445	465	10.9%
60 and over	231	238	243	249	244	258	259	255	6.0%
Total People	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238	4,258	

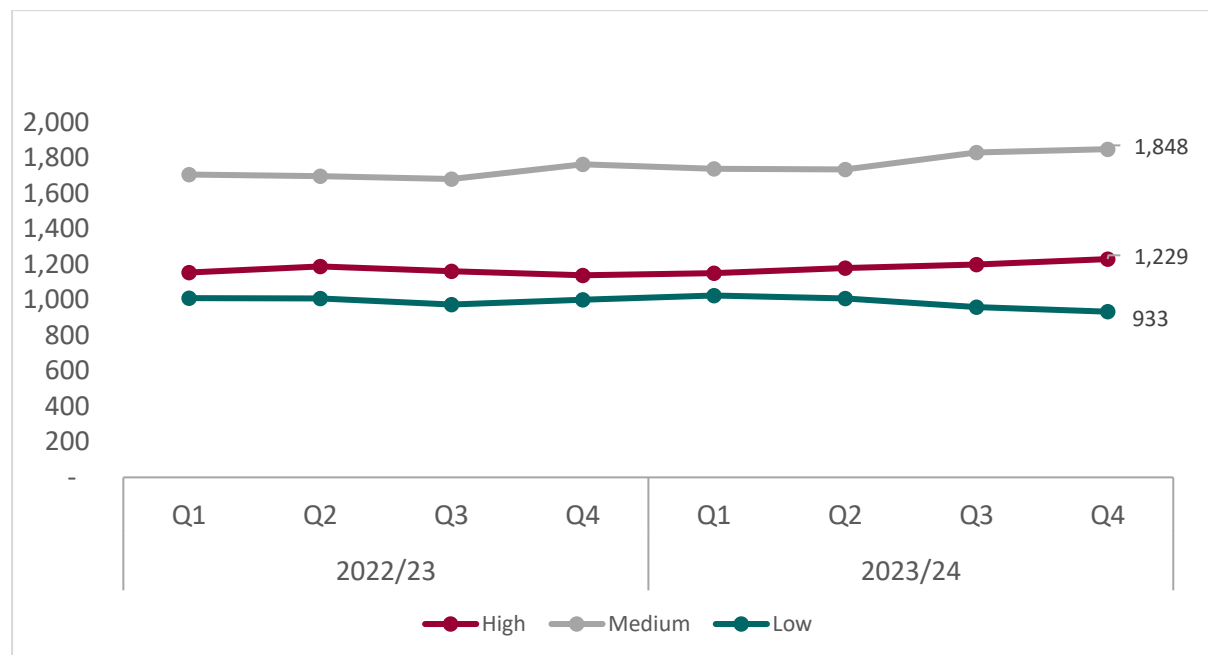
At the end of Q4 23/24 there were 4,258 people on caseload. Of those, 89.1% were male and 10.9% of people on caseload were female.

The most common age group for people on caseload was 30-39, with 35.7% of people belonging to this demographic.

Under 20's remained the smallest age demographic, representing 1.6% of people on caseload in Q4 23/24, followed by the 60 and over age group which represented 6.0%.

Assessment, Case Management & Evaluation System (ACE) is used to assess the likelihood of re-offending within a two-year period, based on the prevalence of various social, personal, and offending related issues. A scoring system is used to identify the likelihood of re-offending with a score of 0 to 15 indicating a low risk, a score of 16 to 29 indicating a medium risk and a score of 30 or more indicating a high risk.

Figure 2: ACE Bands of People on PBNi Caseload from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24



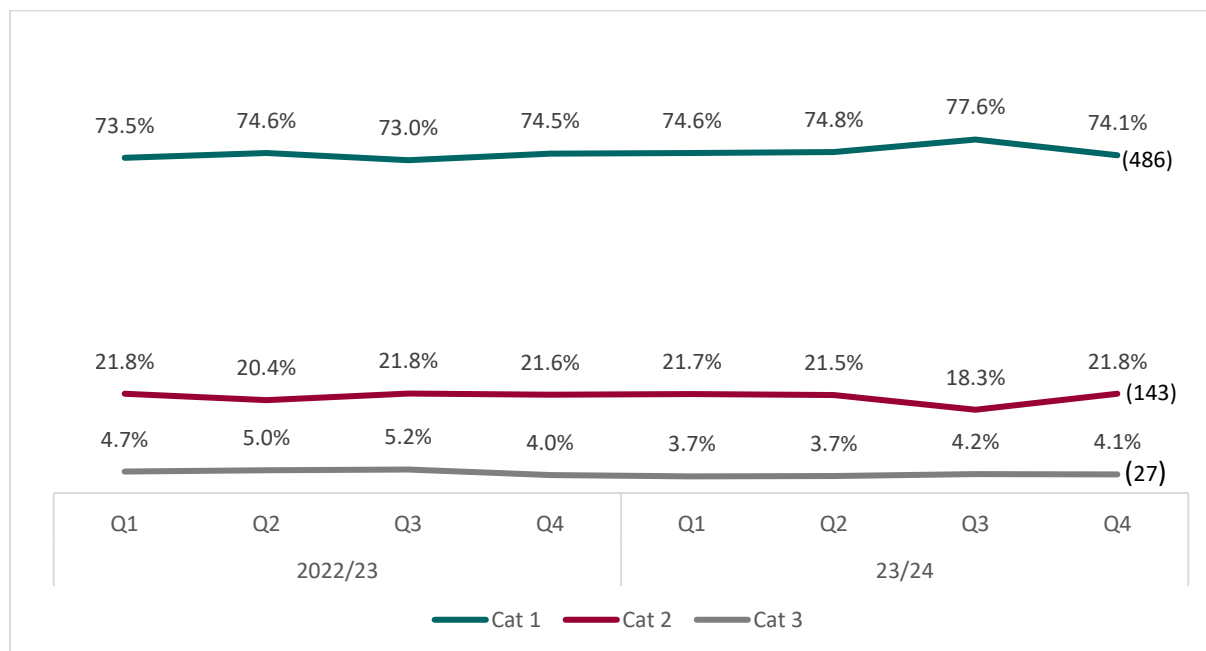
At the end of Q4 23/24, 30.6% of ACEs were in the high band, 46.1% in the medium band and 23.3% in the low band.

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

94.2% (4,010) of caseload at the end of Q4 23/24 had received an ACE assessment and been assigned an ACE band.

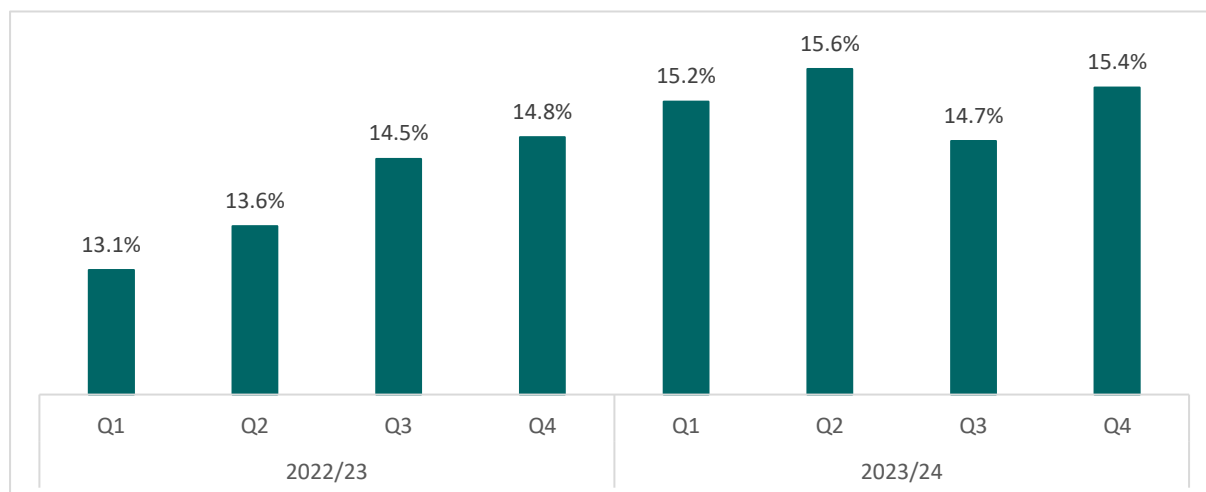
Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) provides assessment and management of the risks posed by certain sexual and violent individuals. People who fall under PPANI are assigned a category from 1 – 3, with 1 being the category with the lowest risk and 3 being the category with the highest risk.

Figure 3: PPANI Categories of People on Caseload from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24



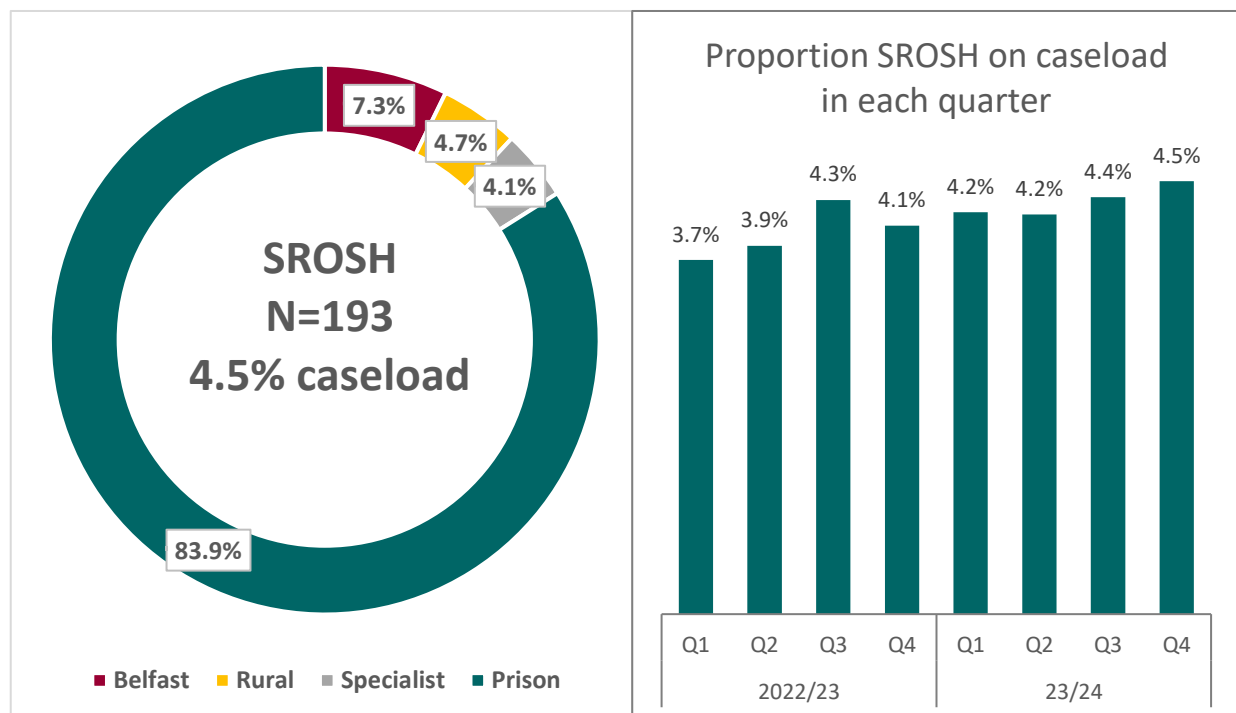
At the end of Q4 23/24, 15.4% (656) of caseload were categorised under PPANI. 74.1% (486) of those categorised as PPANI were assigned Category 1, 21.8% (143) were assigned Category 2 and 4.1% (27) were assigned Category 3.

Figure 4: Percentage of Caseload categorised as PPANI from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24



People who have been assessed as Significant Risk of Serious Harm to Others (SROSH), are considered to present a high likelihood of committing a further offence, causing serious harm.

Figure 5: Directorates Supervising SROSH in Q3 23/24 and Percentage of Caseload categorised as SROSH from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



At the end of Q4 23/24 there were 193 people on caseload who were assessed as SROSH. This accounts for 4.5% of total caseload.

83.9% (162) of SROSH service users were under supervision by prison teams, 4.1% (8) were supervised by specialist teams, 7.3% (14) were supervised by Belfast teams and 4.7% (9) were supervised by Rural teams.

PBNI New Orders / Licences and People

Figure 6: New Orders / Licences and People on New Orders / Licences from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24

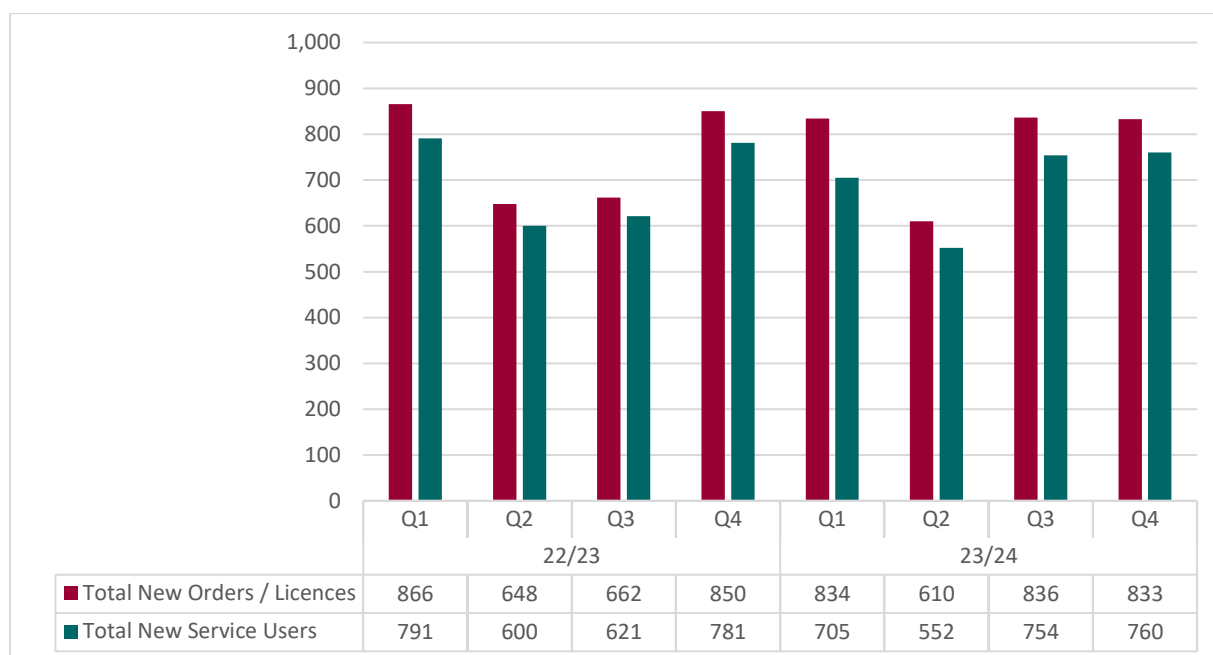


Table 3: New Orders / Licences by Order / Licence Type from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24

New Orders / Licences	22/23				23/24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Combination Order	109	84	74	100	91	85	102	106
Community Service Order	131	96	122	150	120	132	171	206
Enhanced Combination Order	64	35	21	32	27	20	21	23
Probation Order	353	269	274	341	315	250	329	298
Determinate Custodial Sentence	189	140	144	209	248	104	179	183
All Other Orders / Licences*	20	24	27	18	33	19	34	17
Total New Orders / Licences	866	648	662	850	834	610	836	833
Total New Service Users	791	600	621	781	705	552	754	760
*Other Orders/Licences include Custody Probation Order, Extended Custodial Order, GB Licences, Indeterminate Custodial Sentence, Juvenile Justice Centre Orders, Life Licence and Non Statutory Case								

In Q4 23/24 there were 833 new orders assigned to 760 people. The most common new order / licence in the quarter was Probation Orders, followed by Community Service Orders.

PBNI Reports Completed for Courts

Figure 7: Total Reports Completed (Excluding letters to court) from Q1 22/22 to Q4 23/24

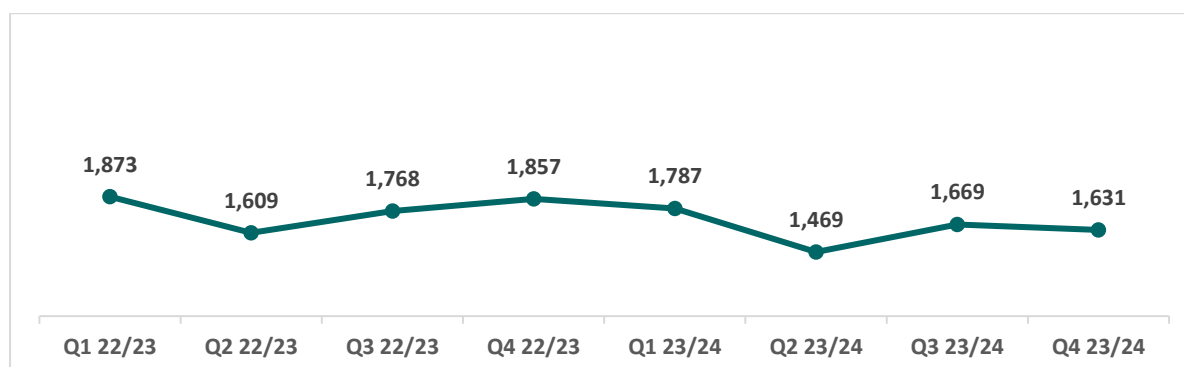


Table 4: Reports Completed by Report Type from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24

Report Type	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	Q4 23/24	% of Reports (excluding Letters) Q4 23/24
Addendum	187	217	205	210	231	161	192	164	10.1%
Breach	190	226	197	194	214	179	165	150	9.2%
CCR/PSR	396	212	321	337	333	195	319	315	19.3%
MCR	1,019	856	897	843	756	756	767	776	47.6%
SAR*	-	-	-	85	105	63	122	128	7.8%
Other Reports**	79	94	119	90	121	93	72	80	4.9%
Letter to Court	584	512	584	658	497	425	433	398	
Missing Report Type	2	4	29	98	27	22	32	18	1.1%
Total Including Letters	2,457	2,121	2,352	2,515	2,284	1,894	2,102	2,029	
Total Excluding Letters	1,873	1,609	1,768	1,857	1,787	1,469	1,669	1,631	

* Short Adjournment Reports (SARs) were not introduced until 2023.

** Other Reports include Probation Officers Report, Recall Reports, Substance Misuse Court (SMC) Progress Report, SMC Suitability Report, SMC Assessment & Intervention Report, Revocation and Home Circumstance

In Q4 23/24, 1,631 reports were completed when letters to court are excluded. There was a total of 2,029 reports completed when letters to court are considered.

Magistrates Court Reports (MCRs) made up the highest proportion of reports completed within the quarter, accounting for 47.6% of all reports (excluding letters).

PBNI Victim Information Scheme

Figure 8: New Victims Registered in the quarter from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24

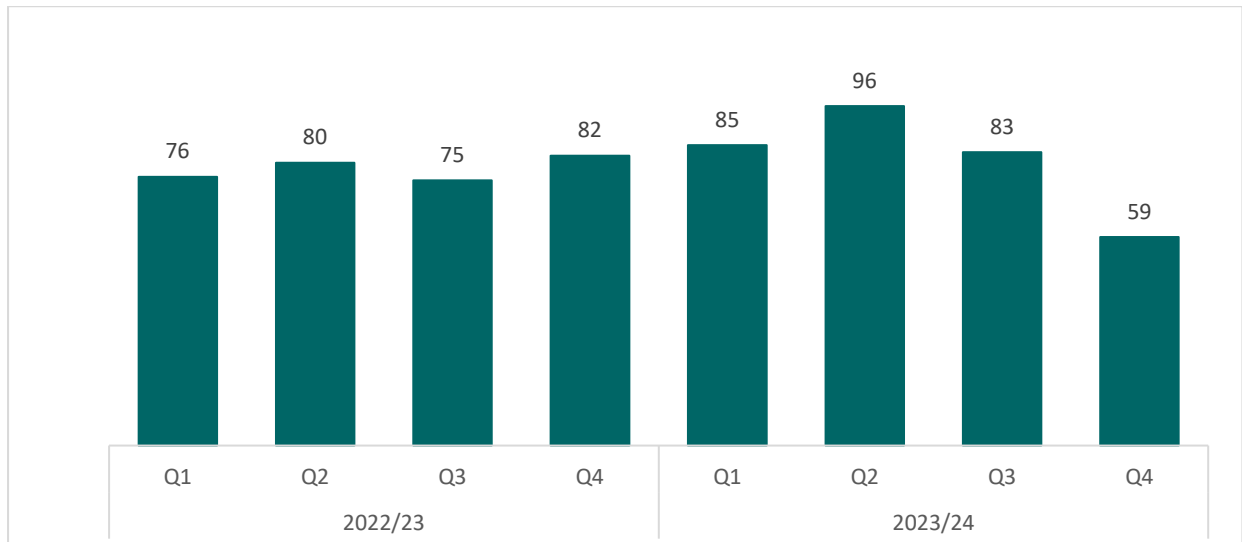
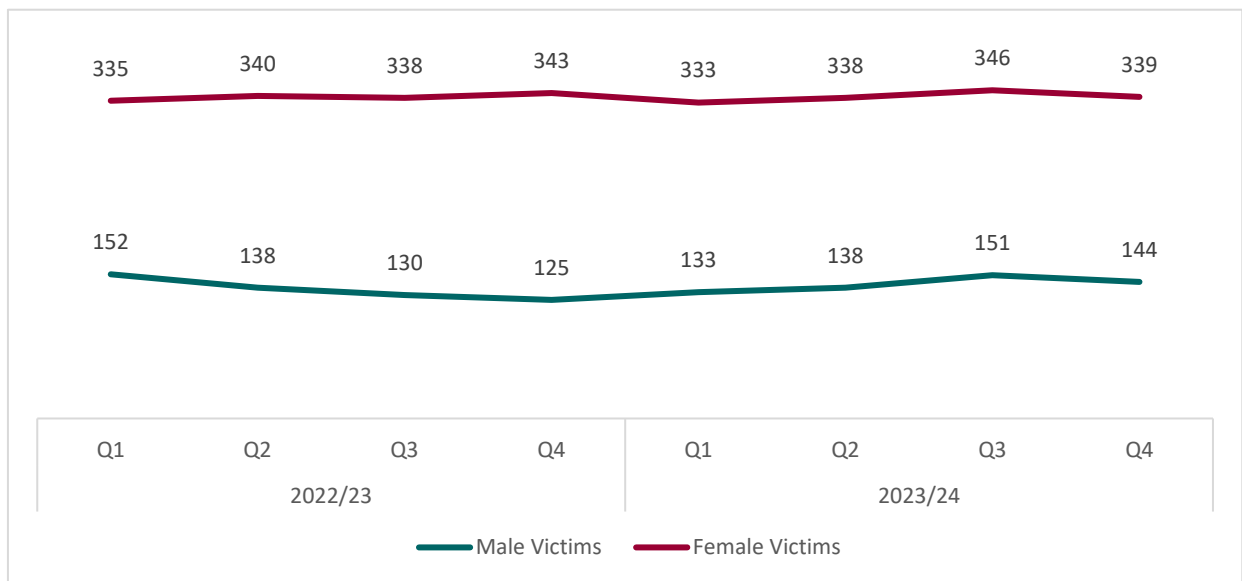


Figure 9: Gender of Registered Victims from Q1 22/23 to Q4 23/24



At the end of Q4 23/24 there were 483 victims registered to the Victim Information Scheme, with 59 new victims registered in the quarter.

Of those registered to the Victim Information Scheme at the end of Q4 23/24, 70.2% (339) were female and 29.8% (144) were male.

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 (CSO)	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 (CPO)	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 (DCS)	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 (ECO)	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 (ECS)	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 (ICS)	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 (JJCO)	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 (PO)	Probation Orders 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 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.
Short Adjournment Report (SAR)	was introduced in February 2023 as a pilot scheme and continues to operate as such. The report is a summarised version of the Magistrates Court Report and was introduced as a measure to assist with the management of resources in relation to PBNi caseload. There are a range of offences which make cases unsuitable for a SAR and the District Judge also has discretion to ask for a full MCR if they wish to do so.
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.