



# PBNI Quarterly Caseload Statistics, Quarter 1, 2024/25

28 August 2024

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## About this report

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) Annual Caseload Statistics reports provide an overview of the number of service users and the caseload i.e. the number of individual Orders and Licences supervised by PBNI at the end of each financial year, as well as providing comparisons with previous years. The latest annual report and accompanying data tables are available [here](#).

This quarterly series is a subset of the annual information with data provided for key aspects of the work carried out by PBNI. Not all tables presented in the annual report have been replicated quarterly, as in some cases there is minimal change in the figures from quarter to quarter. For example, the gender breakdown of service users and victims remains largely consistent over time.

The quarterly updates for reports completed and victims registered should be treated as provisional as they may be revised when figures are finalised during the production of the end of year annual report.

Statistics on PBNI caseload are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to PBNI from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing [Stats&Research@probation-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Stats&Research@probation-ni.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the [OSR website](#).

Background information about the different types of Orders and Licences, as well as the different reports completed by PBNI, is available in [Appendix 1](#). Technical notes about the source, presentation and quality of the data are available in [Appendix 2](#).

Data in all tables and charts in this report are available from the [PBNI website](#).

## Key Facts

### Point in time data trends

Key Variable	30 June 2024	Change from previous quarter	Change from equivalent quarter in previous year										
<p><b>Caseload supervised</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Caseload supervised data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Caseload supervised</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>31 Mar 21</td> <td>4,435</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 Mar 22</td> <td>4,970</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 Mar 23</td> <td>5,488</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 Jun 24</td> <td>5,886</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Caseload supervised	31 Mar 21	4,435	31 Mar 22	4,970	31 Mar 23	5,488	30 Jun 24	5,886	5,970	↑ 1.4%	↑ 6.6%
Date	Caseload supervised												
31 Mar 21	4,435												
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<p><b>Service users supervised</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Service users supervised data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Service users supervised</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>31 Mar 21</td> <td>3,740</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 Mar 22</td> <td>3,947</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 Mar 23</td> <td>4,108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 Jun 24</td> <td>4,258</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Service users supervised	31 Mar 21	3,740	31 Mar 22	3,947	31 Mar 23	4,108	30 Jun 24	4,258	4,279	↑ 0.5%	↑ 3.4%
Date	Service users supervised												
31 Mar 21	3,740												
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31 Mar 23	4,108												
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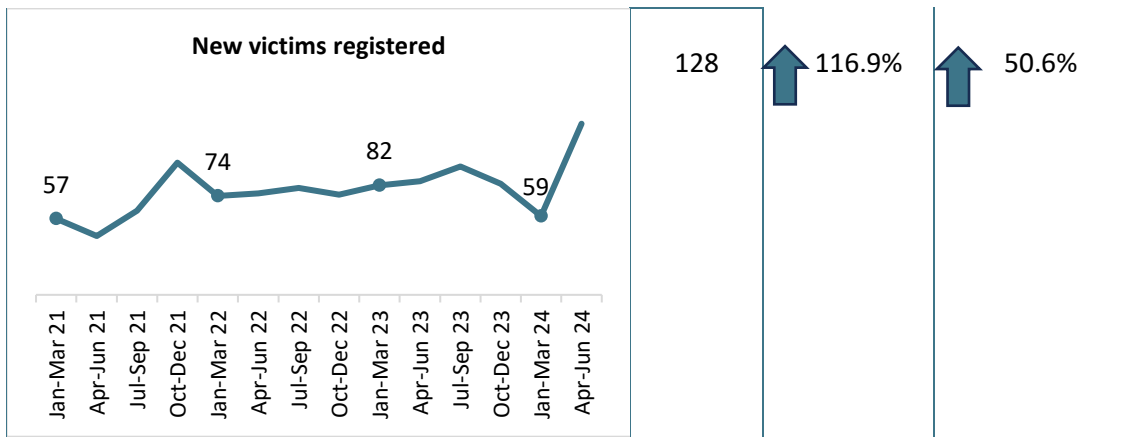
On 30 June 2024:

- 4,279 service users were supervised by PBNI, an increase of 3.4% on the equivalent figure for 30 June 2023 (4,137).
- The caseload i.e. the number of individual Orders and Licences supervised by PBNI was 5,970, an increase of 6.6% on the equivalent figure for 30 June 2023 (5,601).
- Determinate Custodial Sentences (DCS) accounted for the largest proportion of caseload (35.4%) supervised by PBNI, followed by Probation Orders (29.9%).
- over one-third (36.0%) of service users supervised by PBNI were aged 30 to 39.

- Of the service users being supervised by PBNI, 28.8% were identified as high risk under the Assessment, Case Management & Evaluation System (ACE).
- 656 service users (15.3% of all service users supervised by PBNI) were being managed under the Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI).
- 4.1% of service users supervised by PBNI (174 service users) were assessed as Significant Risk of Serious Harm to Others (SROSH).

### Quarterly data trends

Key Variable	April to June 2024	Change from previous quarter	Change from equivalent quarter in previous year										
<p><b>New caseload</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>New caseload data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Caseload</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan-Mar 21</td><td>828</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-Jun 21</td><td>704</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-Sep 21</td><td>850</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-Dec 21</td><td>833</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Caseload	Jan-Mar 21	828	Apr-Jun 21	704	Jul-Sep 21	850	Oct-Dec 21	833	831	↓ -0.2%	↓ -0.4%
Quarter	Caseload												
Jan-Mar 21	828												
Apr-Jun 21	704												
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<p><b>Reports completed (excluding letters)</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Reports completed (excluding letters) data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Reports Completed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan-Mar 21</td><td>1,663</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-Jun 21</td><td>1,589</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-Sep 21</td><td>1,856</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-Dec 21</td><td>1,637</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Reports Completed	Jan-Mar 21	1,663	Apr-Jun 21	1,589	Jul-Sep 21	1,856	Oct-Dec 21	1,637	1,680	↑ 3.0%	↓ -6.4%
Quarter	Reports Completed												
Jan-Mar 21	1,663												
Apr-Jun 21	1,589												
Jul-Sep 21	1,856												
Oct-Dec 21	1,637												



Between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2024:

- PBNI commenced supervision of 831 new Orders and Licences. This new caseload involved 756 service users. This is a slight reduction (0.4%) on the equivalent figure for Quarter 1 2023/24 (834).
- 1,680 reports were completed by PBNI staff (excluding letters); the corresponding figure for 2023/24 was 1,787. There has been an overall reduction in the number of reports completed by PBNI annually. There were 7,101 reports (excluding letters) completed between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 this compares to 6,421 reports between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.
- The number of new victims registered with PBNI was 128, a 50.6% increase on the figure for 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 (85).

## Point in time data trends

Figure 1 Service users and caseload supervised by PBNI, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024

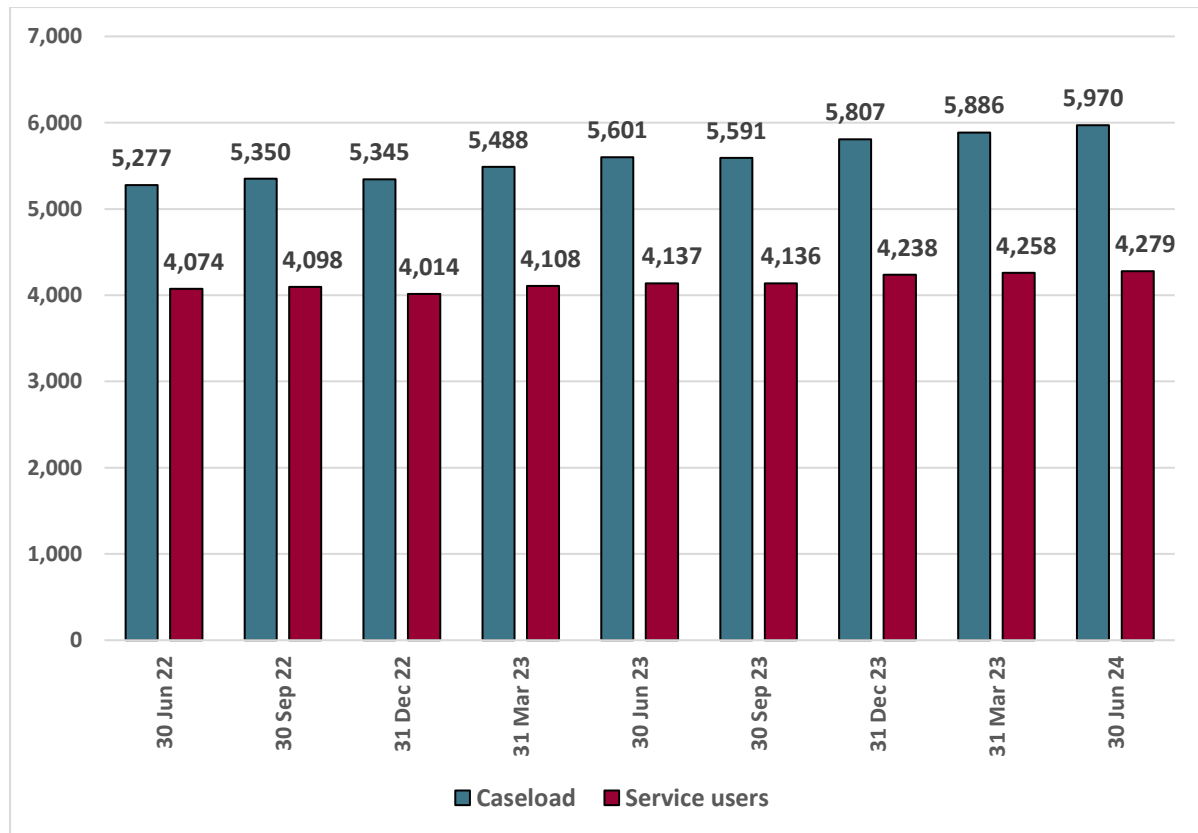
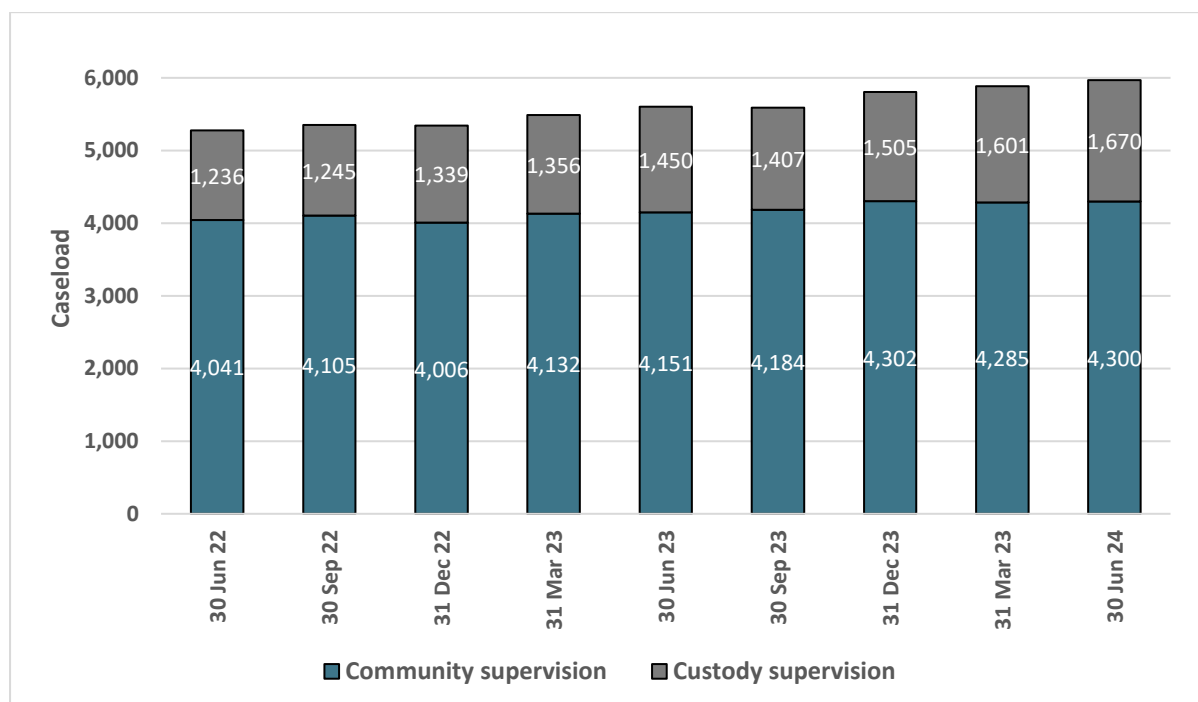
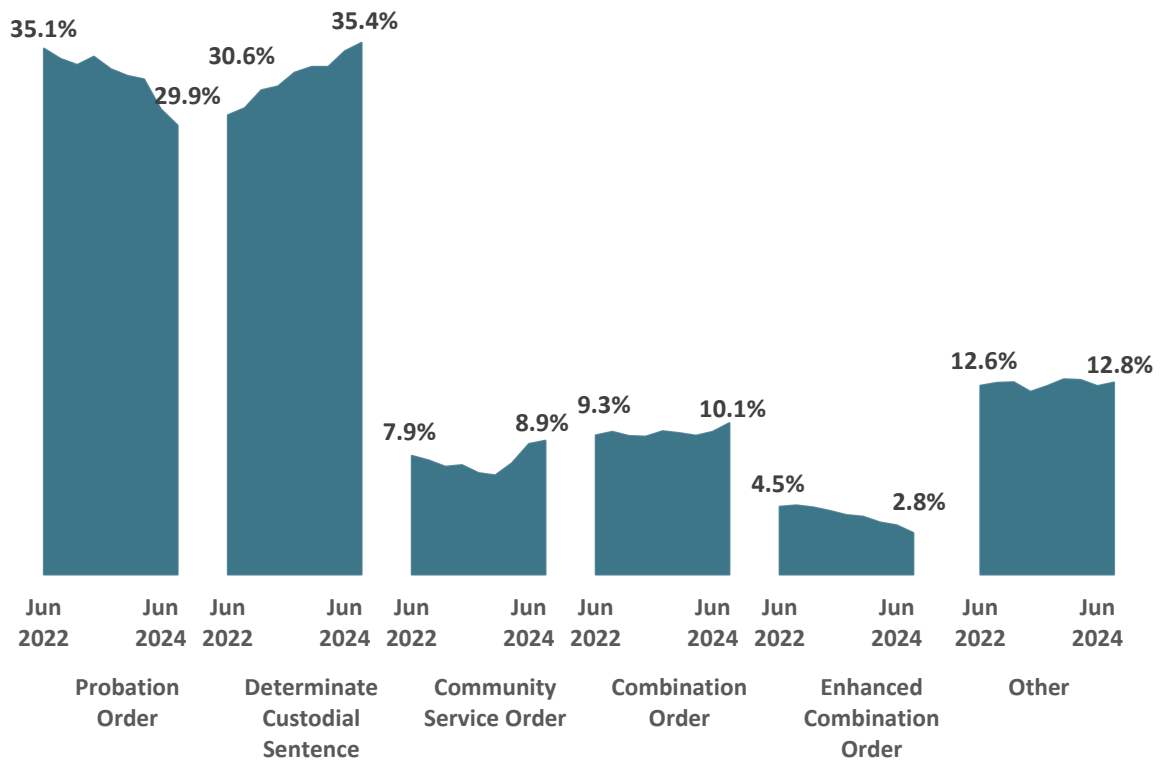


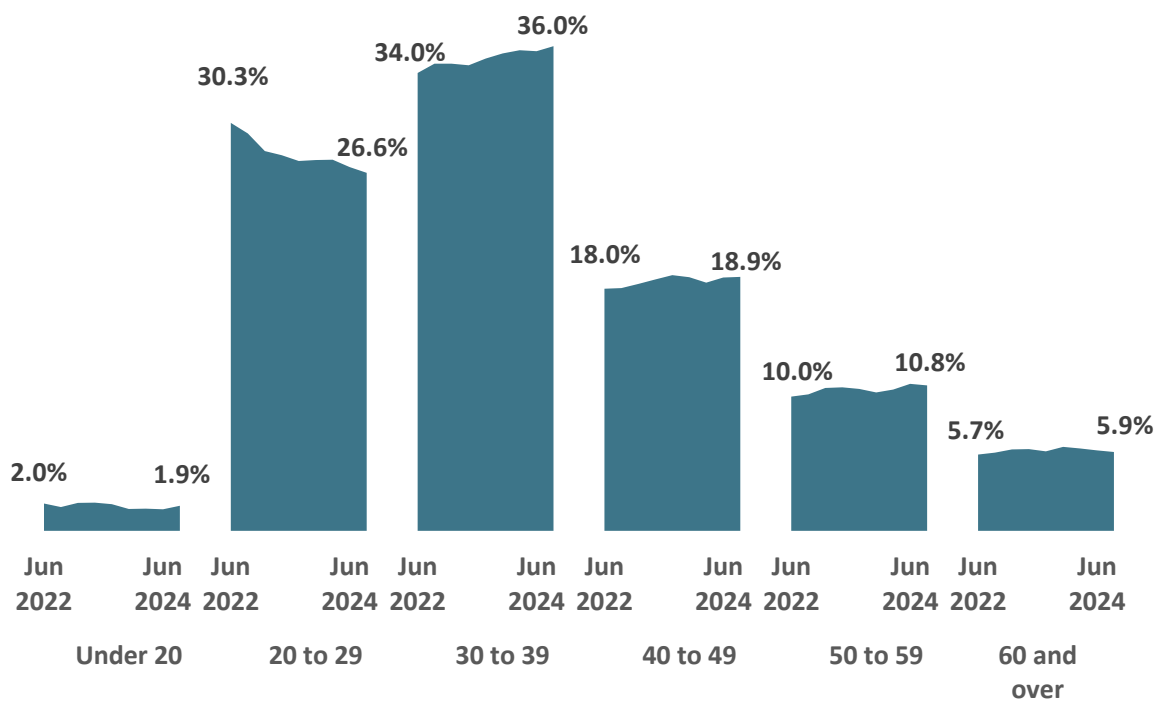
Figure 2 Caseload supervised by PBNI by type of supervision, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024



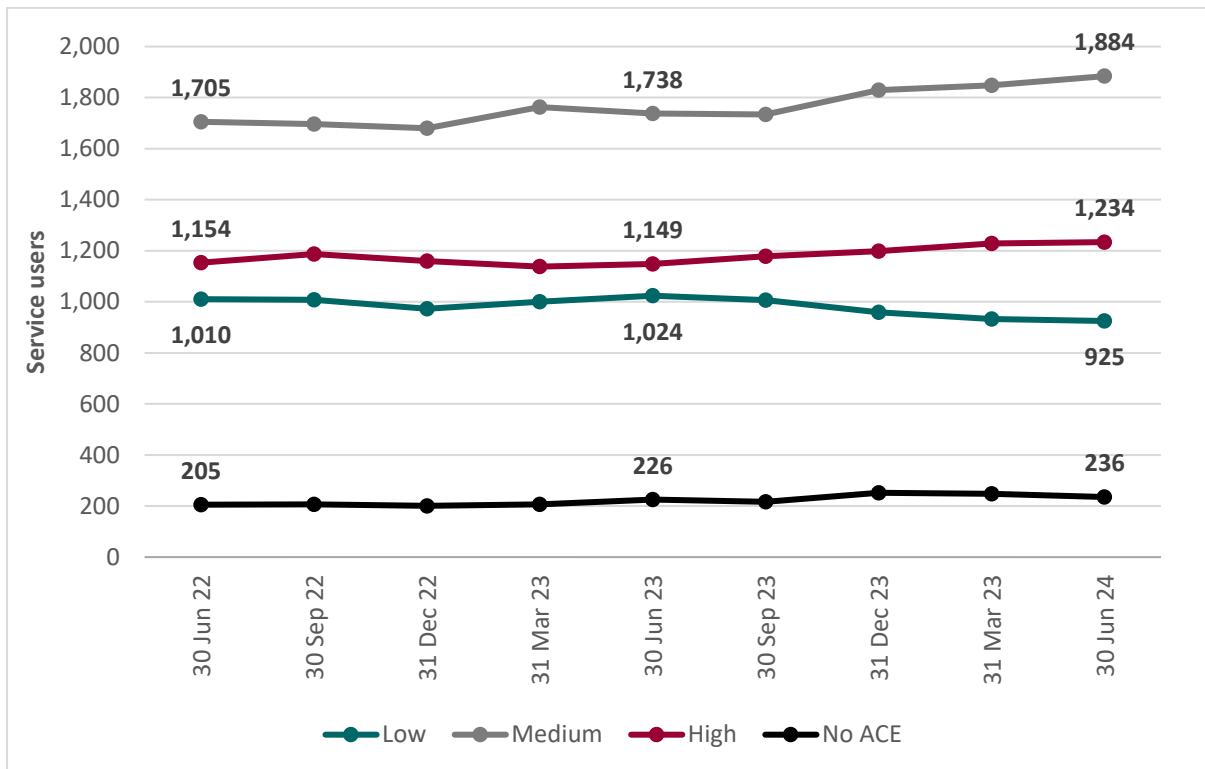
**Figure 3 PBNI caseload by type of Order/Licence, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**



**Figure 4 Service users supervised by PBNI by age, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**



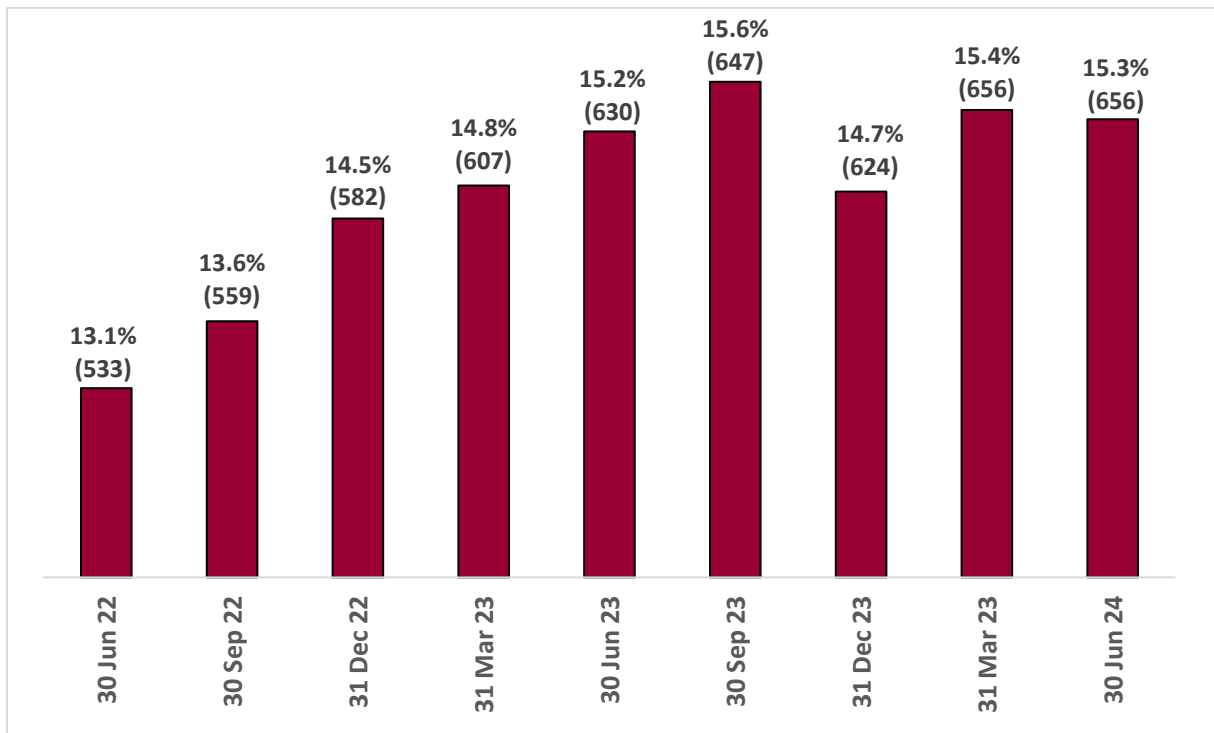
**Figure 5 Service users supervised by PBNI by ACE category, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**



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.

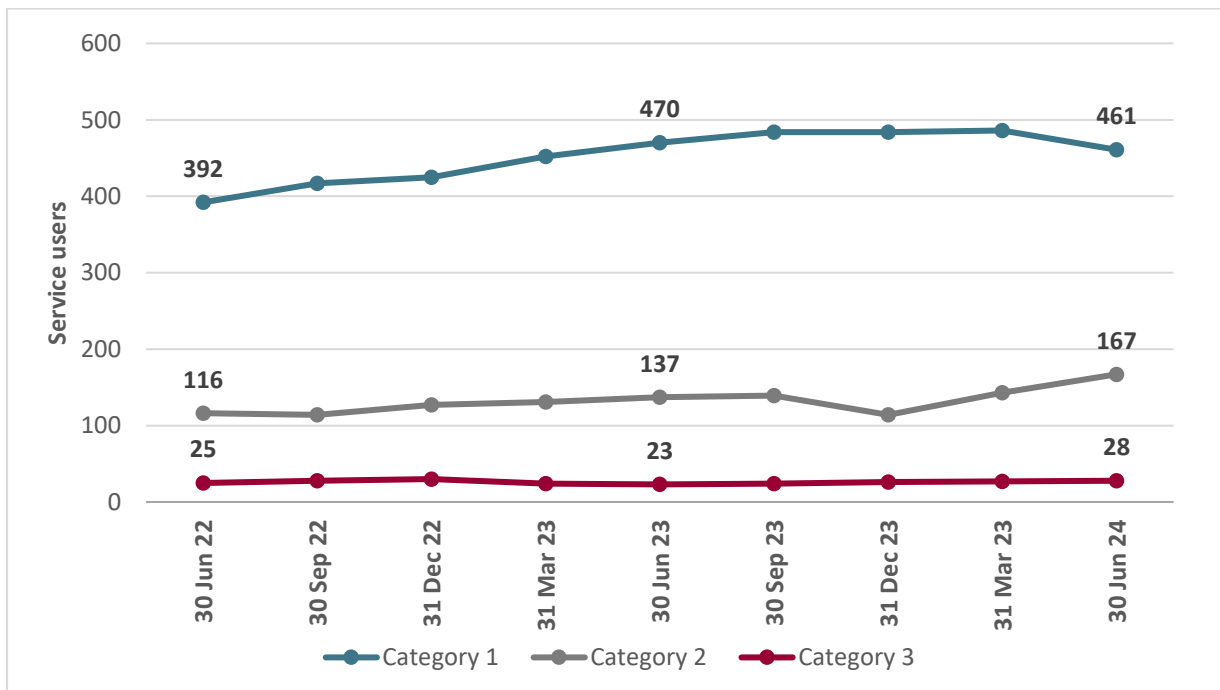


**Figure 6 Percentage of service users managed under PPANI, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**

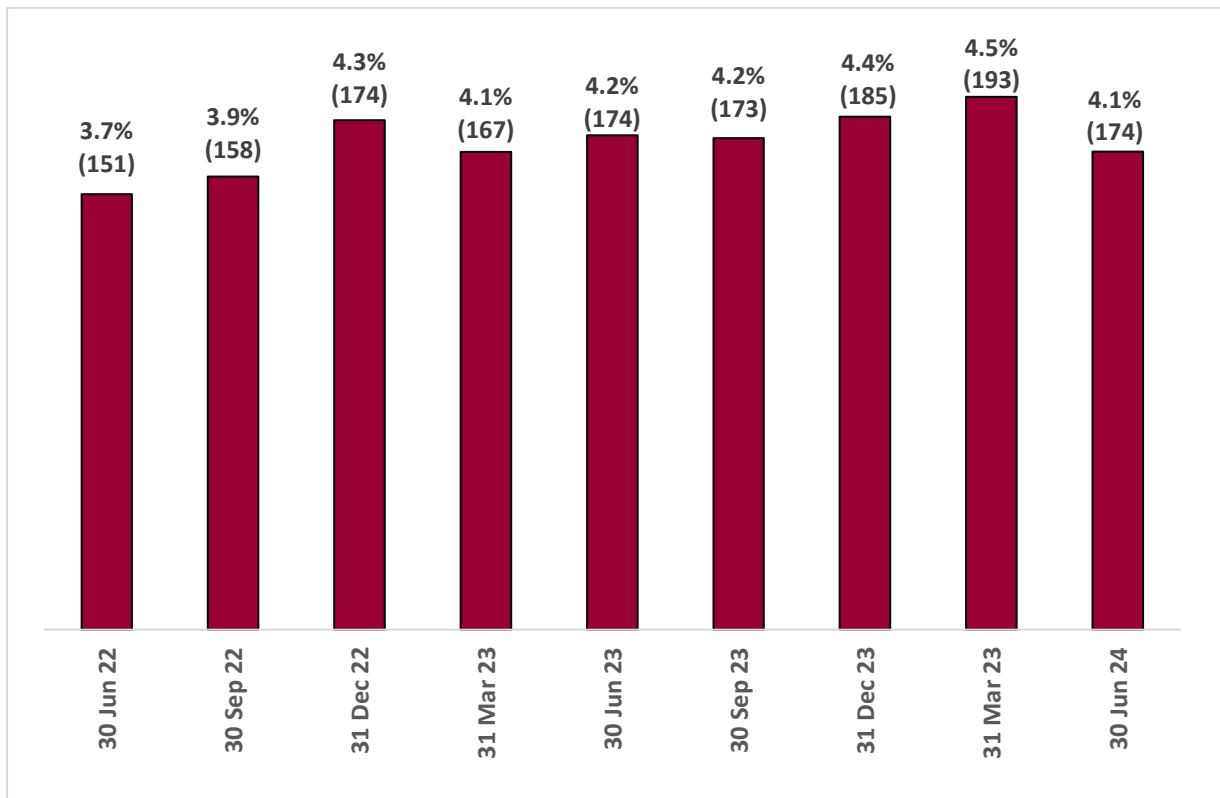


Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) provides assessment and management of the risks posed by certain sexual and violent individuals. Service users managed under PPANI are assigned a category from one to three, with Category 1 indicating low risk and Category 3 indicating high risk.

**Figure 7 Service users managed under PPANI by category, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**



**Figure 8 Percentage of service users assessed as SROSH, 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2024**



Service users 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.

## Quarterly data trends

Figure 9 New caseload supervised by PBNI and count of service users involved, Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 1 2024/25

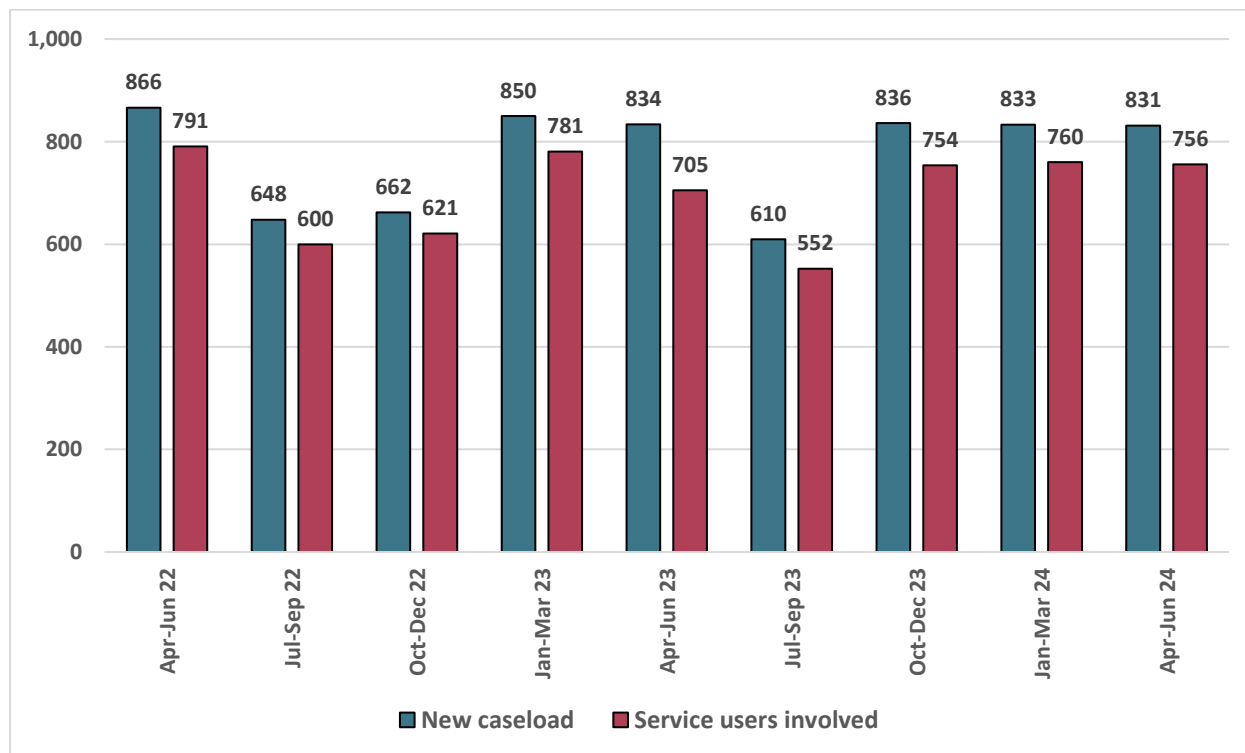
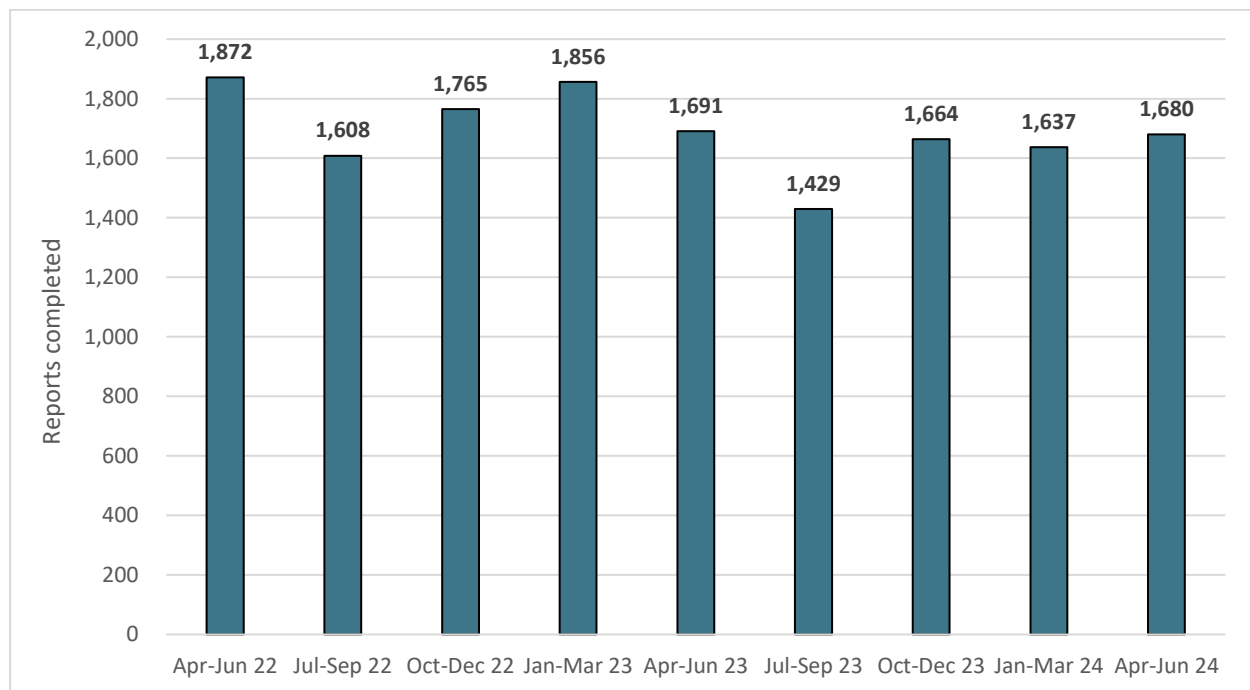


Table 1 New caseload supervised by PBNI by type of Order/Licence, Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 1 2024/25

Type of Order/Licence	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Apr-Jun 2023	Jul-Sep 2023	Oct-Dec 2023	Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024
Combination Order	109	84	74	100	91	85	102	106	106
Community Services Order (CSO)	131	96	122	150	120	132	171	206	175
Probation Order (PO)	353	269	274	341	315	250	329	298	293
Enhanced Combination Order (ECO)	64	35	21	32	27	20	21	23	35
Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)	189	140	144	209	248	104	179	183	203
All Other Orders/Licences [Note 1]	20	24	27	18	33	19	34	17	19
<b>New caseload</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>831</b>

[Note 1] Other Orders/Licences include Custody Probation Orders, Extended Custodial Sentences (ECS), GB Transfer Licences, Indeterminate Custodial Sentences (ICS), Juvenile Justice Centre Orders (JJCO), Life Sentence Licences, Sex Offender Licences, Supervised Activity Orders and Non Statutory Orders.

**Figure 10 Reports completed by PBNI, Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 1 2024/25**



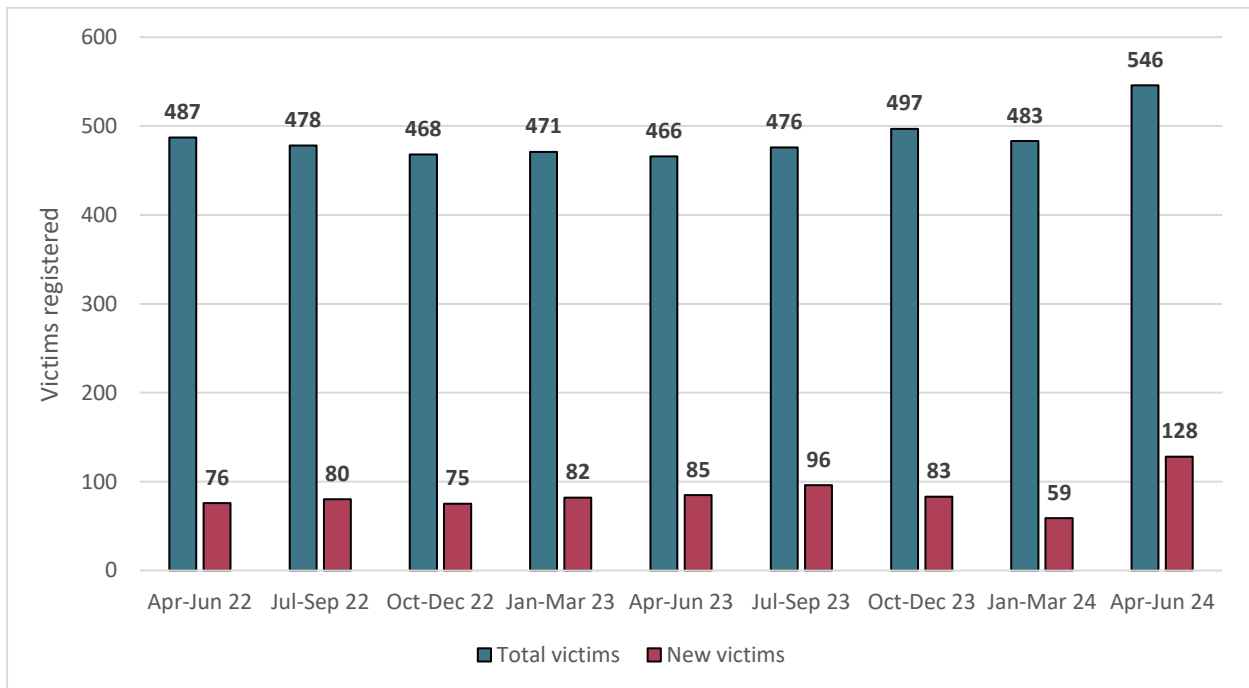
**Table 2 Reports completed by PBNI by type of report, Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 1 2024/25**

Type of Report	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Apr-Jun 2023	Jul-Sep 2023	Oct-Dec 2023	Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024
<b>Addendum Report</b>	187	217	205	210	203	150	189	164	182
<b>Breach Report</b>	190	226	197	194	184	164	158	150	128
<b>Crown Court Report (CCR)/Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)</b>	396	212	321	337	327	193	319	315	341
<b>Magistrates' Court Report (MCR)</b>	1,019	856	897	843	739	749	776	776	762
<b>Short Adjudgment Report (SAR) [Note 2]</b>	z	z	z	88	107	65	133	133	131
<b>Other Reports [Note 3]</b>	78	93	116	86	104	86	57	81	108
<b>Letter to Court</b>	584	512	584	658	477	415	442	398	480
<b>Missing Report Type</b>	2	4	29	98	27	22	32	18	28
<b>Total Reports (including letters)</b>	2,456	2,120	2,349	2,514	2,168	1,844	2,106	2,035	2,160
<b>Total Reports (excluding letters)</b>	1,872	1,608	1,765	1,856	1,691	1,429	1,664	1,637	1,680

[Note 2] Short Adjudgment Reports (SARs) were not introduced until 2023.

[Note 3] Other Reports include Probation Officers Report, Recall Report, Substance Misuse Court (SMC) Progress Report, SMC Suitability Report, SMC Assessment & Intervention Report, Revocation and Home Circumstance Report

**Figure 11 Victims registered with PBNI, Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 1 2024/25**



PBNI operate a Victim Information Scheme to assist victims of crime. This scheme is one of three victim information schemes in Northern Ireland. PBNI's scheme is managed by Probation's Victim Information Unit (VIU) with staff working closely with colleagues in the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) in a co-located team. All schemes are voluntary, so victims won't receive information about the sentence of the person who has offended unless they have registered. Further details on all three schemes can be found [here](#).

## Appendix 1: Definitions

### PBNI Glossary of Orders and Sentences

<p><b>Combination Order</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Community Service Order (CSO)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Custody Probation Order (CPO)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Enhanced Combination Order (ECO)</b></p>	<p>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</p>

	from 40 to 100 hours and must be carried out at an accelerated pace.
<b>Extended Custodial Sentence (ECS)</b>	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.
<b>GB Transfer Licence</b>	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.
<b>Indeterminate Custodial Sentence (ICS)</b>	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.
<b>Inescapable Voluntary</b>	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.
<b>Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)</b>	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.
<b>Life Sentence Licence</b>	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.
<b>Probation Order (PO)</b>	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.
<b>Remand/Sentence</b>	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.
<b>Sex Offender Licence</b>	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.
<b>Supervised Activity Order</b>	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.



<b>Supervision and Treatment Order</b>	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.
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## PBNI Glossary of Reports

<b>Addendum Report</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Breach Report</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Home Circumstances Report</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Home Leave Report</b>	<p>is written by a prison-based Probation Officer and provides a suitability assessment of a prisoner's proposed temporary release from custody.</p>
<b>Magistrates' Court Report (MCR)</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Parole Commissioners/Life Sentence Unit Reports</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)</b>	<p>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</p>

	sentencing decision. From 1 April 2018, this format of report will be presented solely to Crown Courts.
<b>Short Adjournment Report (SAR)</b>	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.
<b>Probation Officers Reports</b>	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.
<b>Recall Report</b>	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.
<b>Revocation Report</b>	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.

## **Appendix 2: Technical Notes**

### **Data Source**

In this report the primary data source is the PBNI's electronic case management system (ECMS), used for the day to day management of cases and orders supervised by PBNI. Prior to April 2020 data was sourced from the Probation Information Management System (PIMS).

Data relating to victims is collated and validated by the PBNI Victim Information Unit and provided to the PBNI Statistics and Research Team on request.

### **Analysis and Presentation of Statistics**

The data used in this report is extracted using the reporting tool within ECMS (Report Studio) and a custom build query tool called 'the Cube' which operates within Microsoft Excel. The data is validated, maintained and analysed using a combination of Microsoft Access and Microsoft Excel.

For ease of use, figures are presented as whole numbers throughout the text, tables and charts. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place. Data tables are published alongside this bulletin in OpenDocument Spreadsheet format.

### **Data Quality and Validation**

The PBNI's electronic case management system (ECMS) is a live system with multiple users that relies on staff to input information. Therefore, like many administrative systems, the resultant statistics are potentially subject to error, timely updating of information or to the system not being able to cater for every scenario encountered. As the system is used for the day to day case management, this helps to moderate these issues. A suite of validation reports have been designed to help administrative staff identify errors and make corrections, where possible.