



KEY FACTS

Changing Lives for Safer Communities

WHO WE ARE

Probation is a central part of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and works in courts, the community, in prisons and with victims of crime through our victim information scheme.

We work to address the causes of offending to help prevent people coming back into the system again and protect the public from harm caused by re-offending.

The services we provide enables individuals to change their behaviour which in turn reduces the likelihood of re-offending, reduces the numbers of victims, and makes communities safer.

We are implementing a trauma informed approach to how we deliver services and look after our staff. All Probation Officers are social work qualified and registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

WHAT WE DO

- We are primarily responsible for the management of people on probation - those serving a community sentence or who have been released from prison subject to licence.
- We prepare assessments through pre-sentence reports for judges and magistrates in the courts to assist them to impose the most appropriate sentence.
- We provide offending behaviour programmes that support desistance by strengthening non-offending attitudes, thinking, and behaviours.
- We work in prisons preparing people for release into the community.
- If individuals subject to Community Orders / Licences do not comply, we will return them to Court / initiate recall.
- We provide an information service for victims of crime and restorative interventions where appropriate.

OUR CASELOAD

At the end of financial year 2024:

- We supervised **4,258 service users** on a combined total of **5,886 Orders and licences**.
- The caseload supervised by PBNI **increased by 7.3%** since 2023.
- During 2023/24, **6,746 reports** were completed by PBNI staff.
- **64%** of Probation's caseload is under 40.
- **89.1%** of Probation's caseload was male.
- The number of new victims registered with PBNI during 2023/24 was 323, a **3.2% increase** on the 2022/23 figure (313).
- The total number of victims registered with PBNI **increased by 2.5%** from 471 on 31 March 2023 to 483 on 31 March 2024.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

- We are a key agency in the Public Protection Arrangements NI which assesses and manages certain sexual and violent offenders.
- We sit in every Policing and Community Safety Partnership in NI.
- We are part of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) a forum where practitioners share information about high-risk domestic abuse cases.
- We work with the community and voluntary sector who assist us provide support to tackle mental health, addictions and homelessness
- We are part of Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP) which strives to help make communities safer and reduce reoffending through diversion, intervention and rehabilitation.
- We are a member of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) which works to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

HOW WE ARE DOING (2021/22 COHORT)

- **72.1%** of those supervised by Probation through a community sentence did not go on to reoffend within one year.
- The one year proven reoffending rate for adult community disposal (supervision) was **27.9%**
- Community supervision makes a key difference to reducing reoffending and the reoffending statistics provide important evidence of meaningful outcomes.

IMPACT

I never gave up because you made me believe in myself.

While being on the order I have done so many beneficial things and met great people along the way. They've help me beat and manage addictions, talk about things I never thought I could ever get off my chest and feel better in myself. I now believe that I can do things that I always thought would be impossible.

"The victim information scheme has been of great benefit to me in negotiating a very difficult time in my life. It has both provided me with practical information and advice and helped me understand the circumstances in which I find myself.

When I first engaged with probation the officer who helped me was really the first person, I had in my life who gave me any confidence. I learned how to say no to people and take control of my own life, beforehand that wasn't something I was ever able to do.

I would have died without the Substance Misuse Court. I know that for 100%.

I was worried about Probation, I was expecting to be treated like some kind of monster but my probation officer has treated me with nothing but courtesy and respect.

Probation has been a place where no-one is looking down on you for the mistakes and offending you've done. The people have nothing but best intentions and have been extremely supportive throughout the entire process.

CONTACT DETAILS



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