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Road Safety

## **Courses for Drink-Drive Offenders**

Working Group Annual Report 2016



# **Courses for Drink-Drive Offenders**

**Annual Report 2016**

**September 2017**

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Courts in Northern Ireland can offer drink drive offenders the opportunity to attend a drink drive rehabilitation course as a sentencing option. Where an offender is disqualified for 12 months or more in respect of an alcohol-related driving offence, the court may order that the period of disqualification be reduced if the offender satisfactorily completes an approved Course for Drink Drive Offenders (CDDO/the course). Attendance is voluntary, costs are met by the offender and those successfully completing the course receive a reduction of up to 25% in the period of disqualification.

The underlying aim of the CDDO scheme is to provide drink-drive offenders who are referred onto a course with expert training, in a group situation, about the problems associated with drink-driving, thus enabling them to develop future non-offending behaviour and thereby reduce re-offending.

In 2016, 55 courses were delivered by Telford Training Consultants (TTC) on behalf of the Department in 11 locations across Northern Ireland. A total of 655 people completed a course.

## **The CDDO Working Group**

In the reporting period (2016) the CDDO scheme was managed by the Department for Infrastructure<sup>1</sup> (the Department) through a Working Group. The Working Group has responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the delivery of the scheme throughout Northern Ireland. The Working Group was chaired by the Department and its membership drawn from a range of organisations with a role to play in the rehabilitation of offenders including Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division, Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch and the Driver Vehicle Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland; the NI Courts and Tribunals Service<sup>1</sup> the Public Prosecution Service as well as the course provider, TTC.

The Working Group met on four occasions in 2016 and dealt with a range of issues relating to the governance and delivery of the CDDO scheme which ensured that the operation of the course remained effective.

## **Performance Indicators**

The success of the CDDO scheme can be measured in terms of the courts' use of the scheme as a sentencing option by making a referral, offenders' completion of a course once referred, and the effect of course attendance on subsequent reconviction rates.

The percentage of convicted drink drivers who were referred by a court to attend a course in 2016 (50%) was marginally higher than reported in

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of the Environment managed the scheme prior to being incorporated into the Department for Infrastructure in May 2016 following reorganisation of the NICS

2015 (49%).<sup>2</sup> A list of the number of referrals by court is set out at page 16. The take-up rate (course attendees as a percentage of referrals) remained constant between 2015 and 2016 at 57% (590 out of 1,038 and 655 out of 1,143 respectively).

The Working Group remains concerned about low referral rates. Courts need to be further encouraged to refer more offenders to the scheme as approximately half of those convicted are not offered a course. The Working Group acknowledged that efforts to raise awareness among offenders and legal representatives of the availability of the course as a sentencing option have to date yielded disappointing results. Once referred, offenders also need to be encouraged to avail of the opportunity to complete the course.

The main criterion for determining if CDDOs are successful is whether offenders who attend a course are less likely to re-offend than those who do not. Three reconviction studies have been carried out in Northern Ireland to assess the value of the courses and to determine whether CDDO has any effect on the relative reconviction rates of those referred onto and completing a course compared with those referred onto but not completing a course.

The first study was carried out in 2005 and a further study was carried out in 2010. Both studies showed that those who had attended a course reported significant improvements in attitudes. More importantly,

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<sup>2</sup> Convictions data for 2015 and 2016 was provided by Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service (NICTS) Statistics and Research Unit: Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS). These data are generated on the basis of defendants convicted at the Crown and Magistrates Courts during 2016 of at least one offence relating to drink driving. Official statistics on criminal convictions are published by the Department of Justice using a 'primary offence' methodology. Consequently, these data are not directly comparable with Official Statistics published on criminal convictions.

reconviction analysis showed that those who attended a course were less likely to re-offend. A third study was undertaken in 2015 and published in March 2016. This more recent analysis indicated that completing the course significantly reduced the one and two year reoffending rates of course completers compared to a matched sample of non-attending offenders and supported the results of the previous studies in showing that the scheme is an effective intervention for reducing subsequent drink/drive convictions.

Unlike the previous reports the 2010/11 study compared those referred onto but not completing a course and those in the matched control group. That there was no significant difference in reoffending between these groups was an important finding as it showed that it is the course intervention itself that is having the impact rather than it being simply attributable to the referral process. The most recent report is available from:

[www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/ni-data-lab-bulletin-1-2016-reoffending-analysis-participants-who-completed-course](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/ni-data-lab-bulletin-1-2016-reoffending-analysis-participants-who-completed-course)

## **1. Introduction**

Courses for Drink Drive Offenders have been used as a sentencing option in courts across Northern Ireland since January 2006. Where an offender is disqualified for 12 months or more in respect of an alcohol-related driving offence, the court may order that the period of disqualification be reduced if the offender satisfactorily completes an approved CDDO course. Currently attendance is voluntary, costs are met by the offender and those successfully completing the course receive a reduction of up to 25% in the period of disqualification.

Referral to courses is at the discretion of the District Judge (Magistrates' Courts). No offender may participate in the scheme without a referral from the court. It is up to the offender, or their legal representative, to ensure that the District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) has the relevant facts to enable an informed decision on whether to make the referral. The offender decides whether or not to accept an offer of referral and there is no penalty for not doing so.



## **2. Delivery of Courses in Northern Ireland**

### **2.1 The CDDO Working Group**

The CDDO Working Group, established by the Department, has responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the delivery of the scheme throughout Northern Ireland. The Working Group, chaired by the Department, comprised representatives from Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch, NI Courts and Tribunals Service, Public Prosecution Service, PSNI and DVA. The course provider, TTC, was represented at meetings by its Managing Director and Regional Manager.

The Working Group's primary role is to ensure that the content and operation of courses are carried out by the provider in line with the terms and conditions of its contract and that the activities and processes remain effective. In particular, it must ensure the effectiveness of the scheme is regularly measured and evaluated. The terms of reference for the Working Group are provided at Annex B.

The Working Group met on a quarterly basis and dealt with a range of issues relating to drink drive educational interventions generally and the course specifically. A summary of these meetings is provided in Section 4.

### **2.2 Course Provider**

Following competitive tendering in 2013, Telford Training Consultants (TTC) was appointed as the provider of courses for drink drive offenders in Northern Ireland. The initial contract took effect from 1 October 2013 and ran to 30 September 2016 at which

time the contract was extended for a period of one year to September 2017. A further and final one year extension option is available under the contract and this will be evaluated in 2017.

All course administration is managed through TTC headquarters in Telford, England. Training in Northern Ireland is co-ordinated through a regional manager.

### **2.3 Attending a Course**

To be eligible to attend a course, a person must be at least 17 years old and have been convicted of a relevant drink-driving offence for which they have been disqualified from driving for 12 months or more. A relevant conviction is one made under any of the following provisions of the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995<sup>3</sup>:

- Article 14 (causing death, or grievous bodily injury, by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs);
- Article 15 (driving or being in charge when under influence of drink or drugs);
- Article 16 (driving or being in charge with excess alcohol); or
- Article 18 (failing to provide a specimen).

The court has the power to make a referral order for any offender whom it considers should be placed on a course. A person can decide whether to accept or reject the offer of a referral. Similarly, having accepted a referral a person may decide whether or not to attend a course. There is no penalty for not attending and the original period of disqualification, as stated in court, is applied.

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<sup>3</sup> Although some of the offences relate to both drink and drug-driving, the Department has approved no courses in respect of drug driving. People convicted solely of drug-driving offences should not be referred to an approved drink drive course as this would not serve the purpose of the legislation and bring no gains for road safety.

There are eleven course venues in Northern Ireland (listed at Annex A). The Working Group is satisfied that the geographical spread continues to be appropriate with locations offering reasonable access to courses that are within practical travelling distances for most potential attendees.

The Working Group is also satisfied that the course provider continues to meet the requirements set out in the Guide for Course Providers to encourage the highest possible rate of course take-up. Among other things, they provide:

- a prompt personalised letter within 48 hours of referral being received;
- course information for all venues in Northern Ireland;
- full office support Monday to Friday and at weekends;
- simplified procedures for booking on courses on-line with a secure payment gateway and telephone support to assist and accepting telephone bookings;
- variety of course structures to maximise equality of opportunity i.e. weekdays and weekends;
- rural venues;
- leaflets in magistrates courts and in police custody suites;
- support, where possible, for offenders whose first language is not English;
- facilities for interpreters to attend courses with non English speaking offenders;
- signers on courses, for hearing impaired offenders;

- assistance with literacy issues on courses;
- professional work books; and
- completion packs that summarise important information from the course and information on how to apply for a licence, the High Risk Offenders (HRO) scheme and insurance companies who recognise the completion certificate.

## **2.4 Course Policy**

Completion of a course, and the consequent reduction in the period of disqualification, will depend on regular attendance and completion of all sessions, payment of the appropriate course fee and compliance with the course provider's reasonable requirements. It is important that all course attendees participate and contribute within the sessions and in doing so respect and keep confidences shared on the course. It is important also that those attending the course do not turn up for the course under the influence of alcohol or drugs and do not consume alcohol or drugs before or during the course (including break times).

Measures are in place to ensure the attendee is the offender and not an imposter.

## **2.5 Course Fees**

Each attendee must pay the course fee. In 2016, the full fee was £155 and the concessionary fee was £110. The concessionary fee was offered to anyone over state pension age or on unemployment or incapacity/sickness benefit or a full time student.

To reduce the potential for cost to be a barrier to attendance at a course, fees may be paid by instalment at no extra cost. Failure to

pay the course fee or any part of it will, however, result in the issue of a notice of non-completion.

## **2.6 Course Completions**

To successfully complete a course, a participant must attend all ten modules delivered over three sessions. On the few occasions when attendees have unavoidably missed a session due to personal circumstances, arrangements will be made to place the person on a new course.

No more than two weeks after having completed the course, an attendee will be issued with a Certificate of Completion. This certificate is taken or sent to the sentencing court who will, in turn, notify licensing authorities at DVA as confirmation that, through attendance at the course, the attendee is eligible for the reduction in the period of disqualification as stated on his/her original Certificate of Conviction.

**Table 1: Courses and course completions during 2016, by venue**

Venue	Courses Planned	Courses Cancelled	Courses Run	Completions*
<b>Ballymena</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Coleraine</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Downpatrick</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Dundonald</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Dungannon</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Enniskillen</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Londonderry</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Newry</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Omagh</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Portadown</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>655</b>

\* A total of 1,143 referrals were made in 2016.

During 2016, 55 courses were run throughout Northern Ireland. Belfast ran the most courses (11). Seven courses ran in Portadown, 6 in Coleraine and Dundonald, 5 in Ballymena and Newry, 4 in Omagh, 3 in Downpatrick, Enniskillen and Londonderry and 2 in Dungannon. Some rural venues are run at a loss but continue to be offered to ensure all clients have an equal opportunity to attend a course at an accessible location.

These courses were completed by 655 people, of whom 151 (23%) attended in Belfast, 88 (13%) in Portadown, 77 (12%) in Dundonald, 65 (10%) in Ballymena, 62 (9%) in Coleraine, 57 (9%)

in Newry, 40 (6%) in Omagh, 33 (5%) in Londonderry, 32 (5%) in Downpatrick, 28 (4%) in Enniskillen and 22 (3%) in Dungannon.

Course completers were overwhelmingly male – 75% (491) men as compared to 25% (164) women. Age band analysis shows that 16% (105) of those completing the course were aged 17-24 years, 80% (522) were aged 25-64 years and 4% (28) were aged 65+ years. Enniskillen (36%) and Omagh (33%) had the highest percentage of young people (aged 17 to 24 years) attending a course in their area. Londonderry had the fewest young people attending a course (6%).

### **3. Performance Indicators**

The success of the CDDO scheme can be judged by the extent to which the courts make referrals, whether these referrals actually lead to places on courses being taken up, and, ultimately, whether offenders who attend a course are less likely to re-offend than those who do not. This is supplemented by further performance data captured from the pre and post course questionnaires, completed by each attendee, to assess pre and post course knowledge of alcohol and attitudes to drinking and driving.

#### **3.1 Referral Rate**

Between 1 January and 31 December 2016 a total of 1,143 referrals were made. Court data obtained from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) report that during 2016<sup>4</sup>, there were 2,287 convictions for relevant drink drive offences at courts throughout Northern Ireland. This is equivalent to a referral rate for the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 of approximately 50%. The referral rate was marginally higher than in 2015 (49%). During this period there were 2,140 convictions and 1,038 referrals made.

A breakdown of the referral rate for each court venue (Magistrates' Court and Crown Court) in Northern Ireland is included in Table 2

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<sup>4</sup> Convictions data for 2015 and 2016 was provided by Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service (NICTS) Statistics and Research Unit: Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS). These data are generated on the basis of defendants convicted at the Crown and Magistrates Courts during 2016 of at least one offence relating to drink driving. Official statistics on criminal convictions are published by the Department of Justice using a 'primary offence' methodology. Consequently, these data are not directly comparable with Official Statistics published on criminal convictions.



below. Referral rates are calculated using the 2016 data on convictions as provided by the NICTS Statistics and Research Unit and the number of referrals during 2016 provided by TTC.

**Table 2: Referral rate, by court**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Convictions<sup>5</sup> 2016</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Referral Rate (%)</b>
Antrim	88	63	72%
Armagh	74	53	72%
Ballymena	102	51	50%
Banbridge	32	9	28%
Coleraine	153	75	49%
Craigavon	158	61	39%
Downpatrick	104	45	43%
Dungannon	171	58	34%
Enniskillen	101	81	80%
Laganside Courts	510	267	52%
Limavady	38	21	55%
Lisburn	117	64	55%
Londonderry	115	53	46%
Magherafelt	49	22	45%
Newry	173	78	45%
Newtownards	197	115	58%
Omagh	65	20	31%
Strabane	40	7	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>50%</b>

<sup>5</sup> Convictions data for 2016 was provided by Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service (NICTS) Statistics and Research Unit: Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS). These data are generated on the basis of defendants convicted at the Crown and Magistrates Courts during 2016 of at least one offence relating to drink driving. Official statistics on criminal convictions are published by the Department of Justice using a 'primary offence' methodology. Consequently, these data are not directly comparable with Official Statistics published on criminal convictions.

When considering referral data it is important to consider data in context of actual number of convictions which declined year on year from 2,996 convictions in 2010 to 2,140 convictions in 2015 (a decrease of 29%); however, in the most recent year, convictions have increased by 7% to 2,287. Over the same period, referrals onto courses fell by 23% from 1,344 in 2010 to 1,038 referrals in 2015; in 2016 they have increased by 10% to 1,143.

The referral rate, however, has remained reasonably constant over the years. In 2012 and 2013 the referral rate was 47%; in 2014, it increased to 52%. The referral rate fell again slightly to 49% in 2015, before rising to 50% in 2016. The average referral rate over the five year period 2012 to 2016 was 49%.

### **3.2 Take Up Rate**

Of the 1,143 referrals made during 2016, a total of 655 (57%) took up and completed a course in 2016 - some of those referred in the latter part of 2016 would have completed the course in 2017. By the same count, some of the completions in 2016 would have been referred in 2015.

The Working Group noted that although the number of referrals was up by 10% in 2016 (1,143 compared with 1,038 in 2015) the take up rate and number of non-completion rates remained unchanged (take up rate 57% in both years and non-completions 39% in 2015 compared with 40% in 2016).

### **3.3 Reconviction Rates**

The main criterion for judging whether the scheme has been successful is whether offenders who attend a course are less likely

to re-offend (within three years) than those who do not. Three reconviction studies have been carried out in Northern Ireland to assess the value of courses for drink drive offenders and to determine whether CDDO has any effect on the relative reconviction rates of those referred onto and completing a course compared with those referred onto but not completing a course.

The first study was carried out in 2005 and looked at the period between 1 April 1998 and 31 December 2000 for the initial conviction date for the criterion offence and 30 June 2004 for any subsequent offence. For 3 years (36 months) after their original conviction, the reconviction rate of those who did not complete a course was 3.8 times the rate of those who did complete a course.

A further study was carried out in 2010 and looked at the period 1 January 2001 to 30 June 2006 for the initial conviction date for the criterion offence and 30 June 2009 for any subsequent offence. This study showed that up to three years (36 months) after their original conviction, 3.4% of offenders who had completed a course had been reconvicted of a subsequent drink/drive offence, compared with 8% of those who did not complete a course. This equates to a reconviction rate for those who did not complete a course as 2.3 times higher than the rate of those who did complete a course.

In 2015 the study was repeated but compared the treatment group of participants who completed CDDO during 2010/11 to a matched control group of people who had neither been referred to or completed the course but who had engaged in similar drink drive offences during 2010/11. Further analysis was also completed to compare a treatment group of participants who were referred to but

did not complete CDDO during 2010/11, to a matched control group of people who had neither been referred to or completed the course but who had engaged in similar drink drive offences during 2010/11.

As with the previous studies, the current analysis indicates that completing the scheme significantly reduced the one and two year reoffending rates of course completers compared non-attending offenders. In the most recent study, however, although the reconviction rate of non-completers was marginally higher than those who completed the course by year 3, this was not considered statistically significant.

Whilst it is disappointing that no statistically valid differential could be found by year 3, it is considered likely that this is a limitation of the sample size. While there is insufficient evidence at this time to draw conclusion about the longer term impact of the course in Northern Ireland, research carried out in Britain has demonstrated that course effectiveness can decay over the first few years before stabilizing over the longer-term from around year 5.

The Working Group was, however, reassured that the course itself can have a positive impact on re-offending rates as the differences to the one, two and three year reoffending rates were not statistically significant between offenders who were referred but did not complete and those who were not referred at all. This demonstrates that it is the course intervention itself that is having the impact rather than it being simply attributable to the referral process – an important finding which could not be concluded from the previous research. The report can be accessed from the

following link: [www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/ni-data-lab-bulletin-1-2016-reoffending-analysis-participants-who-completed-course](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/ni-data-lab-bulletin-1-2016-reoffending-analysis-participants-who-completed-course).

The Working Group has requested that the study is repeated in 2016/17 and subsequent years to provide more robust data and help determine longer term reoffending rates.

To share experience with a wider audience the Group also agreed to the publication of the report through the Road Safety Knowledge Centre - a web-based library, with source material primarily from UK-based road safety organisations - for anyone with a professional interest in road safety.

### **3.4 Pre and Post Course Questionnaires**

A knowledge check at the beginning and end of each course is used to assess effectiveness of education in changing participants' understanding of drink driving issues. This is done by way of a quiz-formatted questionnaire in which the pre- and post- course scores are recorded to demonstrate level of achievement by each participant. An analysis of pre- and post- course questionnaire scores is carried out by ASRB and more detail can be found in Annex C.

### **3.5 Client Evaluations**

An evaluation of the course and its delivery by participants was introduced in 2015 and continued in 2016. The process is carried out following the completion of the course and seeks to gauge clients' experience and to assess the personal benefits for those attending courses as a means of measuring effectiveness. Clients are contacted several weeks after they complete the course and

are asked to reflect on their experience by completing a questionnaire.

The results are compiled into quarterly reports and provided to the Working Group. A significant number of clients, more than 81% in each quarter, reported a reduced level of alcohol consumption following attendance on the course and more than 96% each quarter reported a more positive attitude towards driving.

The overall experience was reported to be very positive with at least 96% reporting good or excellent in each quarter. The Working Group welcomed the reports as additional evidence to underpin the success of the course in changing behaviours.

## **4. The CDDO Working Group**

### **4.1 Summary of Working Group Meetings**

4.1.1 The Working Group met on four occasions in 2016:

- 16 February 2016;
- 24 May 2016;
- 20 September 2016; and
- 22 November 2016.

#### **4.1.2 Quarterly Reports**

Information on the number of referrals received from the Courts, the number of courses run and the number of course completions is routinely provided to the Working Group through quarterly reports prepared by TTC. The reports assist the Working Group to assess trends in take up of the course and to identify and address emerging issues and potential risks to the successful delivery of the scheme.

The reports also provide relevant information on venues used for courses, any trainer issues, any complaints upheld within the quarter and any other matters of interest.

#### **4.1.3 Referral Rates**

The average referral rate over the five years 2012 to 2016 is 49%, ranging from 47% in 2012 to 52% in 2014. The Working Group regrets the continuing relatively low rates overall – of those referred onto a course each year an average of 44% (between 2012-2016) opt not to attend.

In order to assist the Courts and maintain referral levels TTC is asked, as part of the terms of the contract, to ensure that Courts are fully briefed on the details of the approved course, including details of the locations at which courses will be held and, where possible, to give oral presentations to the judiciary.

TTC, assisted by the NICTS, offer all Court User Groups the opportunity to find out more about the scheme, typically by means of a presentation. In 2016 presentations were given to the Belfast and Newry Court User Groups and were received positively. A presentation was also delivered to the Ards and North Down Local Solicitor Association. While invitations to present to other Local Solicitor Associations were sought, take up was disappointing. The Working Group is aware of the constraints on the time these groups can offer but will continue to request further opportunities to raise awareness.

While the Working Group continues to monitor referral numbers, the introduction of automatic referrals following legislative changes to the drink drive regime will perhaps have the greatest impact on referral rates. Attendance on the course will, however, remain optional and it will remain important that referrals can be converted into attendance and course completions.

#### **4.1.4 Course Venues**

There are currently eleven venues across Northern Ireland, covering both urban and rural areas. Following a review, the venue location in Coleraine was found to be unsuitable and the course relocated in June 2016 to a new venue more accessible by public transport.



Ten courses had to be cancelled in 2016 – 5 more than in 2015 when 5 courses had to be cancelled (Dundonald 3; Enniskillen 1; and Coleraine 1). Four cancellations were due to insufficient client numbers. A further six dates were cancelled but the courses subsequently ran on different dates. With the exception of Belfast, Omagh and Portadown all other venues had to cancel at least one course during the year (see Table 1, page 13). There were no complaints made to the Department or TTC about either the arrangements for booking onto, or attending, any of the courses run in 2016.

#### **4.1.5 Changes to the drink drive laws in Northern Ireland**

The Road Traffic (Amendment) Act received Royal Assent on 23 March 2016 and includes a number of new and enhanced measures to tackle drink driving in Northern Ireland. The Act includes two new lower drink drive limits. The lower limit of 20mg/100ml of blood (9µg/100ml of breath or 27mg/100ml of urine) will apply to novice and professional drivers and the limit of 50mg/100ml of blood (22µg/100ml in breath or 67 mg/100ml of urine) will apply to all other drivers. The Act also provides the police with new powers to establish dedicated checkpoints to stop and test drivers for alcohol consumption and removes the driver's right to opt for a blood or urine sample to replace a breath sample, in circumstances where the breath sample is marginally above the limit. The new graduated penalty regime introduced by the Act includes fixed penalties for first offences at the new lower limits and court prosecution for high-level first offences or second or subsequent offences.

Most significant to the work of the Group is the automatic referral of first time offenders onto a drink drive rehabilitation course. Although attendance will remain voluntary, drivers caught up to a limit of 80mg/100ml will be encouraged to complete the course through a mitigated Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) offered by the police at side of the road - subject to introduction of Roadside Testing Devices. Anyone who is convicted in court will also receive an automatic referral to attend the course, unless the judge decides that it would be inappropriate. Automatic referral is a positive step forward and will widen the opportunity for more offenders to benefit from this proven intervention.

The Working Group recognised the importance of partners working together to ensure effective implementation of the new drink drive laws. It agreed to act as a stakeholder forum to facilitate information exchange between their respective organisations and will continue to do so as measures transition into operation on the ground. As such the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act is a standing item on the Working Group agenda.

Discussions focused on processes for administrating the graduated fixed penalty system, making referrals, potential changes or adaptation of course content and delivery. The Working Group also monitored progress towards the approval and procurement of evidential roadside breath testing equipment. Throughout, the Working Group noted the importance of training and raising awareness among key front line personnel including solicitors, police officers as well as fixed penalty office and court staff.

Sections 3 and 4 of the Act, which include powers to establish dedicated drink drive police check points, were commenced on 25 November 2016 to coincide with the PSNI's annual winter anti drink drive campaign. This was welcomed by the Working Group not least as a means of raising awareness of new laws with the public.

The Working Group will continue to monitor progress towards full implementation of the new drink drive measures and ensure operational readiness once outstanding provisions are enacted.

#### **4.1.6 Driver Impairment Courses**

Throughout the year the Working Group noted the development of a driver impairment course by the Department for Transport (Britain) to tackle drug driving. The course is to follow the same format as the drink drive rehabilitation course and is to be piloted by TTC from December 2016 to March 2017. While there are no plans to introduce a similar course in Northern Ireland the Working Group would continue to watch experience in England with interest.

## Northern Ireland Course Venues Up to December 2016

Ballymena	<p>The Braid Town Hall, Museum Arts Centre</p> <p>1-29 Bridge Street</p> <p>Ballymena, BT43 5EJ</p>
Belfast	<p>Groundwork Northern Ireland</p> <p>63-75 Duncairn Gardens</p> <p>Belfast, BT15 2GB</p>
Coleraine	<p>The Sandel Centre</p> <p>Knocklynn Road</p> <p>Coleraine, BT52 1WT</p> <p>(From January – May)</p> <p>Causeway Rural &amp;Urban Network</p> <p>1 Brook Street</p> <p>Coleraine, BT52 1PW</p> <p>(From June – December)</p>
Downpatrick	<p>Down Business Centre</p> <p>46 Belfast Road</p> <p>Downpatrick, BT30 7UP</p>
Dundonald	<p>Inspire Business Park</p> <p>Carrowreagh Road</p> <p>Dundonald, BT16 1QT</p>

Dungannon	Breakthru 18 Killymeal Road Dungannon, BT71 6LJ
Enniskillen	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service 2-4 Tempo Road Enniskillen, BT74 6HR
Londonderry	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service 10 Crescent Link Londonderry, BT47 5FR
Newry	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Win Business Park Canal Quay Newry, BT35 6PH
Omagh	Omagh Library 1 Spillars Place Irishtown Road Omagh, BT78 1HL
Portadown	Portadown Town Hall 15 Edward Street Portadown, BT62 3LX

## **Terms of Reference for CDDO Working Group**

The Working Group's role is to:

- ensure the content and operation of courses are carried out in line with the terms and conditions stipulated in the current contract;
- ensure current activities and internal processes remain effective; agreeing or proposing corrective action as appropriate;
- in conjunction with course provider, seek to identify appropriate marketing and PR activity aimed at raising the profile of the scheme and thereby maintaining and/or increasing the referral and take-up rates;
- ensure the delivery of related action measures contained in the Road Safety Strategy to 2020;
- ensure the effectiveness of the scheme is regularly measured and evaluated, namely,
  - the proportion of convicted drink/drive offenders referred to the scheme by courts ('referral rate'),
  - the proportion of referred offenders who go on to complete a course ('take-up rate'), and
  - the effect of course attendance on convictions for a subsequent drink/drive offence ('reconviction rate');
- consider 1) the annual reports on the operation of the CDDO scheme and 2) periodic reconviction rate analyses reports produced by Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch;
- consider, on an ongoing basis, how best drink driving in Northern Ireland can be reduced through the use of remedial training; and

- consider how best drink driving in Northern Ireland can be reduced through other measures.

**Knowledge Check – Pre and Post Course Questionnaires**

1. To assess the effectiveness of the course in improving knowledge, attendees are asked to complete a pre and post course quiz questionnaire. The ‘Questionnaire and Alcohol Knowledge Quiz’ asks respondents about their attitudes to drinking and driving and drink/drive legislation; their drinking behaviour; and their knowledge of alcohol and its effects on the body.
2. A single summary sheet is completed by TTC following the completion of each course. The summary provides overall scores obtained on the alcohol knowledge pre and post quizzes split by gender and age. Results can be analysed to identify changes in levels of the participants understanding of the issues covered. Offenders typically score significantly higher in the post course questionnaire.

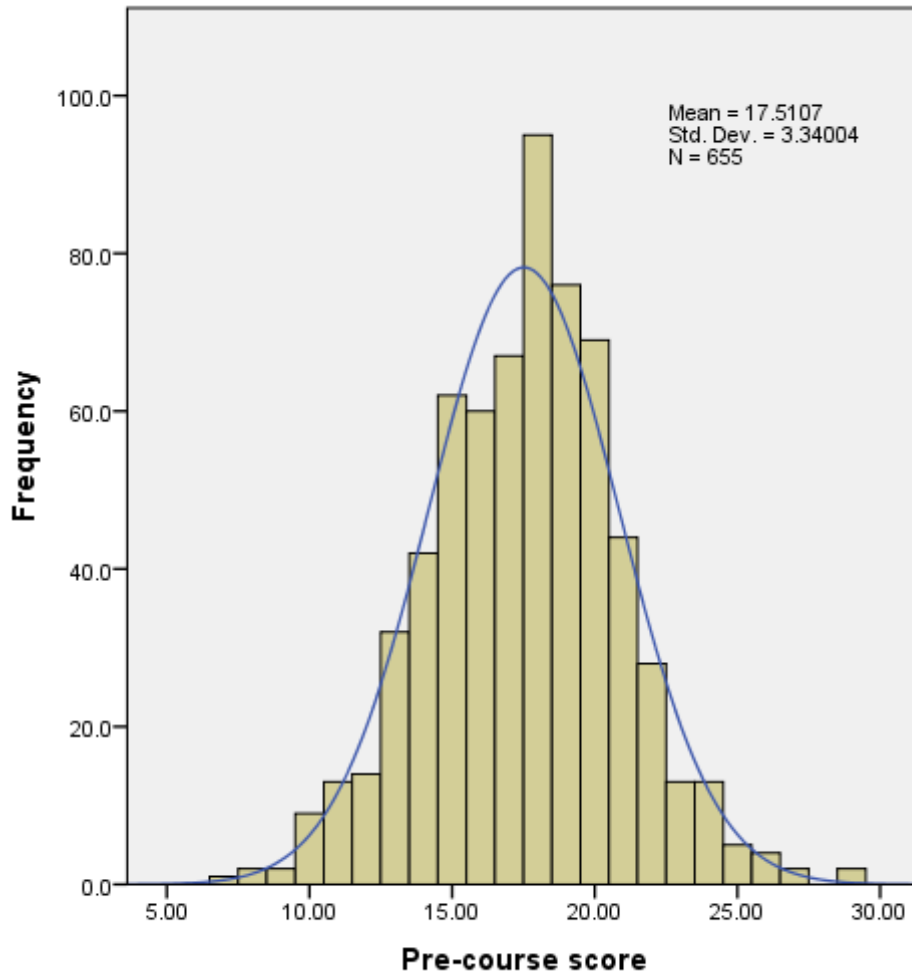
2016 Questionnaire

3. Results from the 2016 questionnaires, provided by TTC to ASRB for analysis, are detailed below.
4. During 2016 pre and post course quiz sheets were completed, in full, by all offenders who completed the course. Overall scores are recorded from the pre and post quizzes for each participant. During 2016 the average score on the pre course quiz was 18 out of a possible 30. On completion of the course the average score on the post course quiz was 27 correct answers out of a possible 30, an average increase of approximately 58%.



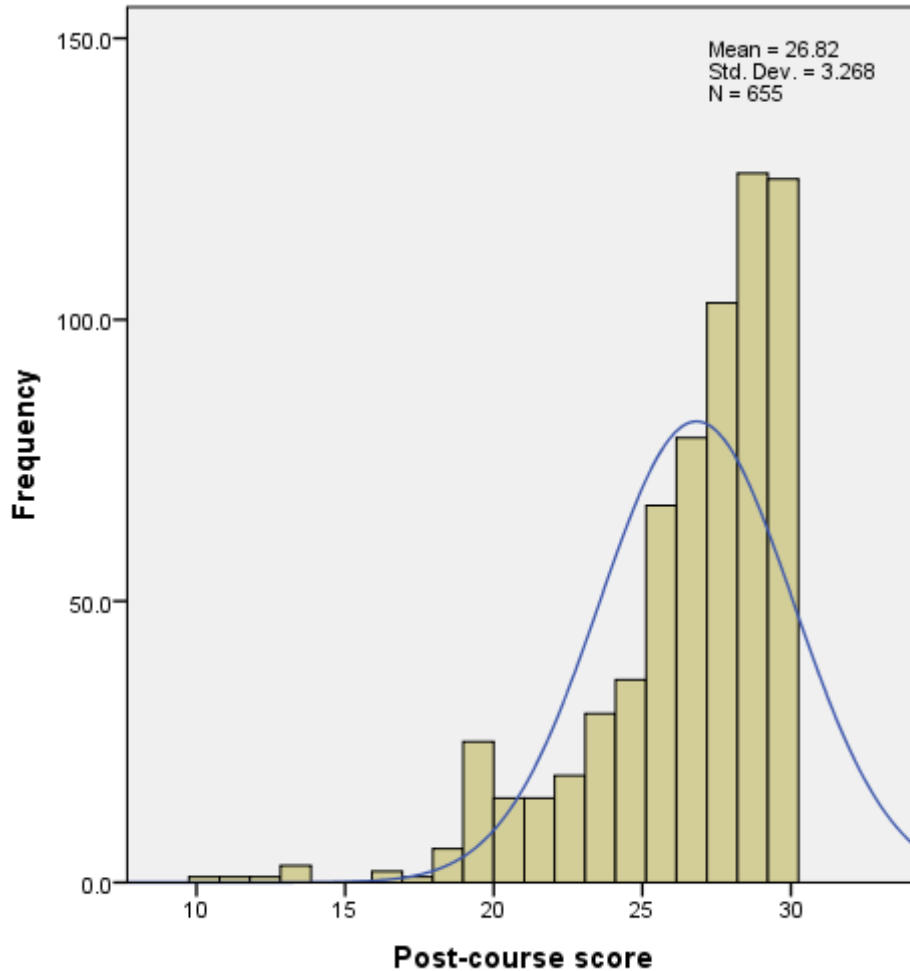
## Chart 1 – Histogram illustrating pre course quiz scores

Pre course quiz scores obtained by attendees of CDDO courses -



## Chart 2 – Histogram illustrating post course quiz scores

Post course quiz scores obtained by attendees of CDDO courses -



- Twenty-seven percent of attendees (177) achieved a score of 15 or less in the pre course quiz. In contrast, after completing the course, less than 1% of attendees (6) obtained a score of 15 or less. Of these, 3 scored higher than their pre-course result, 2 scored less and 1 remained unchanged.
- Overall, one percent of participants (7) scored less on the post course quiz with 0.5% (3) remaining unchanged. Ninety-eight percent of attendees' scores improved between the pre and post quizzes, with 59% (384) improving their scores by 50% or more.



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