Department of
Justice
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Analytical Services Group

First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland 2016/17

Research and Statistical Bulletin 18/2018

I Graham

July 2018

Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2016/17, a total of 29,031 offences were recorded as dealt with by conviction or diversion in the justice system in Northern Ireland. Of these, 8,665 were first offences and 20,366 were further offences. First offences constituted 29.8% of all offences in 2016/17.

- Of first offences, 34.0% (2,943) were dealt with by way of formal diversionary disposal, compared to 66.0% (5,722) which were dealt with by conviction.

- Of the 8,665 first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2016/17, 9.2% (793) were in the 10 – 17 year old age group. First offences accounted for 39.7% of all instances where a conviction or diversion was issued to that age group (793 out of 1,995).

- Similarly, 26.8% (2,325) of the first time entrants were by those in the 18 – 24 year old age group. First offences accounted for 30.8% of all instances where a conviction or diversion was issued to that age group (2,325 out of 7,553).

- First offences accounted for 57.3% (2,943) of all instances where a diversionary disposal was issued in 2016/17. Those in the 10 – 17 year old age group were most likely (88.1%, 699) to receive a diversion for a first offence.

- Of all offences dealt with by conviction or diversion, 26.1% (6,180) by males[1] were first offences, compared to 46.1% (2,485) by females. Of all first offences dealt with by diversion or conviction, 71.3% were by males[1], compared to 28.7% by females.

- Just over half, 54.5% (4,720) of all first offences in 2016/17 were motoring offences. Of all instances where a conviction or diversion was issued for offences in that category in 2016/17, 41.8% were for first offences.

- Monetary disposals made up 51.3% (4,445) of all disposals for first offences in 2016/17. First offences accounted for 34.8% of all instances where a monetary penalty was imposed in relation to a conviction or diversion. However, of all instances where imprisonment was imposed as a penalty in 2016/17, first offences accounted for only 8.1% (250 out of 3,074).

- 57.3% (2,943) of all cases dealt with by diversion were for first offences. Of first offences dealt with by diversion, 80.2% (2,359) were dealt with by way of caution. However, while 57.1% of all cautions were for first offences, 90.9% (331) of all informed warnings issued were for first offences.

---

[1] Figures for Males also include organisations, transgender and gender not specified.

CONTENTS

FIGURES

INDEX OF TABLES

INTRODUCTION

In the 2011-16 Programme for Government, the Minister outlined a commitment to reduce the level of serious crime by reshaping the approach used to tackle factors leading to criminal behaviours within Northern Ireland. A commitment was given to monitor the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.

This bulletin presents data on first time entrants to the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland for the year 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017. It aims to provide an overview of the structure of the known offending population in 2016/17, with information on the breakdown of offences committed by new offenders and the disposals received. Findings for the 2016/17 year will also allow some comparison with figures published previously for 2015/16. The data upon which the publication is based are used to inform policy decisions within the Department of Justice (DoJ), as well as to inform answers to NI Assembly questions and requests from other Government organisations, and the general public.

COUNTING RULES

Who are first time entrants to the criminal justice system?
For the sake of this publication, first time entrants to the criminal justice system are those who are recorded by the criminal justice system as having committed a proven first offence, whether it was dealt with by way of diversionary disposal or by conviction. The term 'first time entrants' equates directly to that of 'first offence', the phraseology used to describe data presented within this document. In order to calculate the proportion of first time entrants, information is also provided for 'further offences'. Note that, under counting rules for this publication, 'further offences' do not relate directly to the number of offenders who have committed further offences, as an offender may have had more than one further conviction or diversionary disposal within the time period covered by the report.

What counts as a first or further offence?
An offence is defined as a 'first offence' if it results in the offender receiving their first diversion, warning, caution or conviction – i.e., they have no previous criminal record in Northern Ireland. Offences resulting in further diversions, warnings, cautions or convictions are known as 'further offences', since the offender already has a recorded criminal history.

Where an offender has had a diversion imposed, been warned, cautioned or convicted of several offences on the same occasion, only one offence, the principal offence, is counted (whether this is in relation to a first offence or, for the purposes of this bulletin, to a further offence). The basis for selection of the principal offence is laid down in rules issued by the Home Office. In summary, these stipulate that only offences with an admission or finding of guilty are included and, the principal offence is usually taken as that for which the greatest penalty was imposed.

The offence counted and used in the compilation of figures in this bulletin is the one on which the court took its final decision, or for which a diversionary disposal was issued and recorded as completed with the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). In relation to convictions, this is not necessarily the same offence as that for which the defendant was initially proceeded against. The decision recorded is that reached by the court and takes no account of any subsequent appeal to a higher court.

Out of court disposals not taken into account in this bulletin are Penalty Notices for disorder (PNDs). PNDs are a fixed penalty designed to tackle low-level, anti-social and nuisance offending for offenders aged 18 and over and are issued for a range of minor offences. They were introduced in Northern Ireland on the 6th June 2012 as a result of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. PNDs provide police with a swift financial punishment to deal with misbehaviour and a practical deterrent to future re-offending. However, they do not require an admission of guilt and do not form part of an individual's criminal record. Further information on PNDs can be accessed at http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/police-issued-penalty-notices.

Data source
The data used in this bulletin were taken from the Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM1). They were extracted primarily based on records contained on the Criminal Records Viewer (CRV). The CRV is held on Causeway and utilises data which originated in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Public Prosecution Service and from Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. Causeway is an interconnected information system, launched as a joint undertaking by the Criminal Justice Organisations (CJOs) in Northern Ireland.

Data quality and validation
Although numerous validation exercises have been conducted in relation to both prosecutions data and diversions data, to ensure data quality, the statistics contained in this publication nevertheless still originate from various administrative data sources and caution should therefore be exercised when considering any figures reported. These data sources have different purposes, aims and objectives and are kept for non-statistical purposes, e.g., CRV is maintained for reviewing and vetting individuals' criminal records.

While the source data are taken from the main management information systems of the relevant criminal justice organisations and they will therefore have a vested interest in their accuracy, the purpose of the quality assurance/validation procedures conducted is to ensure the data extracted are accurate and complete, for the statistical purposes for which they are to be used. Both automated and manual checks are carried out, at individual offence level and data corrected, to ensure that:

• all key fields are complete and logical;
• a general check of the data as a whole suggests no other anomalies.

Any discrepancies identified are checked against the Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS) and the Criminal Records Viewer. Issues are resolved on an individual offence related basis.

Interpreting the data
Figures for first time entrants to the justice system in Northern Ireland, as reported in this bulletin, are based on those who have had a conviction at any time since 1960 and those who had either a conviction or a diversionary disposal since the implementation of the Causeway system DSM1, in December 2009. This means that the reported rate of first offences may be slightly higher than the actuality, as, in some cases, first offences would have been dealt with by means of diversionary disposal, information on which is not available prior to the introduction of DSM1. However, any likely impact of this statistical effect should lessen with the passing of time. Reoffending statistics suggest that, in most crime categories, persons who commit a proven re-offence do so within one year. As a result, the first year when it might be considered that the effect of diversions data being unavailable for the period prior to 2010 might be reduced is 2011/12 and data are available, as part of this series, from that point forward.

In this publication, first offences dealt with by conviction are distinct from those instances counted as a first conviction. This is because an individual receiving a first conviction may have previously been dealt with within the justice system by way of diversion. The following table compares first offences where a conviction has been imposed in 2016/17 with those cases of first convictions where diversions previously received have not been taken into consideration. The difference between the two rates is explained by the inclusion of diversions information for those cases where a diversion was an offender's first true contact with the justice system.

First convictions and first offences dealt with by conviction, 2016/17

First convictions	First offence dealt with by conviction	All convictions	First convictions as % all convictions	First offences as % all convictions
6,905	5,722	23,897	28.9%	23.9%

Statistical coverage
The data included in the bulletin are based on those who were convicted in a court, or who had a diversionary disposal recorded as completed in Northern Ireland for the year 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017. Statistical coverage is restricted to those criminal prosecutions or diversions in which the Police Service for Northern Ireland, the National Crime Agency, the Airport Constabulary or Harbour Police were involved and breaches of community sentences. Prosecutions brought by government departments, public bodies and private individuals are not included.

MAIN FINDINGS

Overview

In 2016/17, a total of 29,031 (first and further) offences were recorded as dealt with by conviction or diversion in the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland, approximately the same as the total number of offences (29,083) recorded as dealt with in this way through the criminal justice system in 2015/16. Of these, 8,665 (29.8%) were first offences and 20,366 (70.2%) were further offences. As detailed in the counting rules, the number of first offences equates directly to the number of first time entrants to the justice system, so the number of first time entrants (first offences) to the criminal justice system in 2016/17 was 8,665 (29.8% of all offences in 2016/17), a reduction of 2.1% (183) on the number of first offences in 2015/16, when the number of first offences was 8,848 (30.4% of all offences in 2015/16).

Of all offences dealt with by diversion or conviction, 17.7% (5,134) were dealt with by way of diversion, compared to 82.3% (23,897) dealt with by way of conviction. Of all first offences, 34.0% (2,943) were dealt with by way of diversionary disposal, compared to 66.0% (5,722) which were dealt with by conviction.

Figure 1: First offences and further offences of all offenders in Northern Ireland, 2016/17
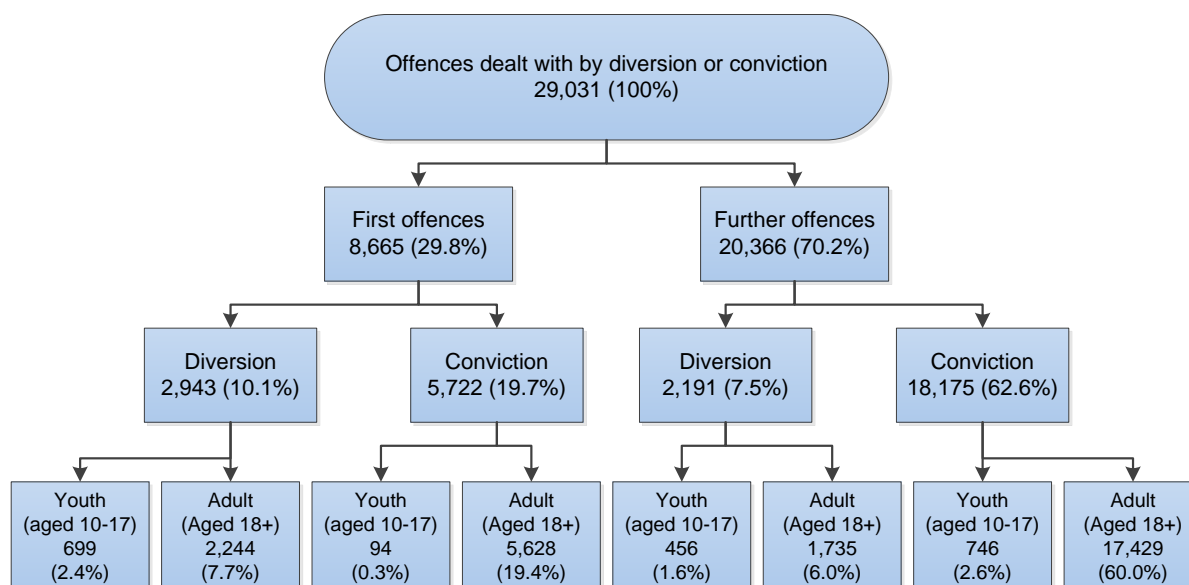
Note:
1. The percentages shown in the diagram relate to the total number of offences committed in the top box in the figure.

Over the period 2012/13 – 2016/17, there has been a marginal decrease in the proportion of first time entrants to the justice system disposed through the courts or via out of court diversionary disposals (in relation to all offenders), falling from a recent high of 31.7% in 2013/14 to 29.8% in 2016/17.

First time entrants to the justice system as percentage of all offenders dealt with at court or by formal diversionary disposal, 2012/13 – 2016/17

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Percentage first time offenders	31.2%	31.7%	30.4%	30.4%	29.8%

Age Group

In 2016/17, 9.2% of all first offences (793 out of 8,665 first offences) were committed by young people in the 10 – 17 year old age group, compared with 5.9% of all further offences (1,202 out of 20,366 further offences). Of all proven convictions and diversions for the 10 – 17 year old age group, 39.7% (793) were first offences (Table 1a).

Figure 2: First offences by age band of offender, 2016/17
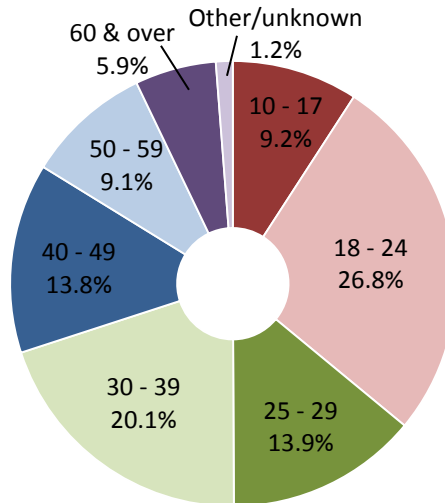
Young people in the 10 – 17 year old age group received 22.5% (1,155) of all diversionary disposals (23.8% (699) of all diversions for first offences), compared to 3.5% (840) of all convictions (1.6% (94) of convictions for first offences) (Tables 1c and 1d).

In 2016/17, 26.8% (2,325) of first offences were by people in the 18 – 24 year old age group. Of these, 37.0% (861) were dealt with by way of diversion and 59.1% of all diversions for 18 – 24 year olds were for first offences. First offences by 18 – 24 year olds made up only 24.0% (1,464) of convictions for that age group in 2016/17, but 25.6% of all convictions for first offences in 2016/17 (Tables 1c and 1d).

Figure 3: First offences as percentage of first/all convictions and diversions by age band of offender, 2016/17
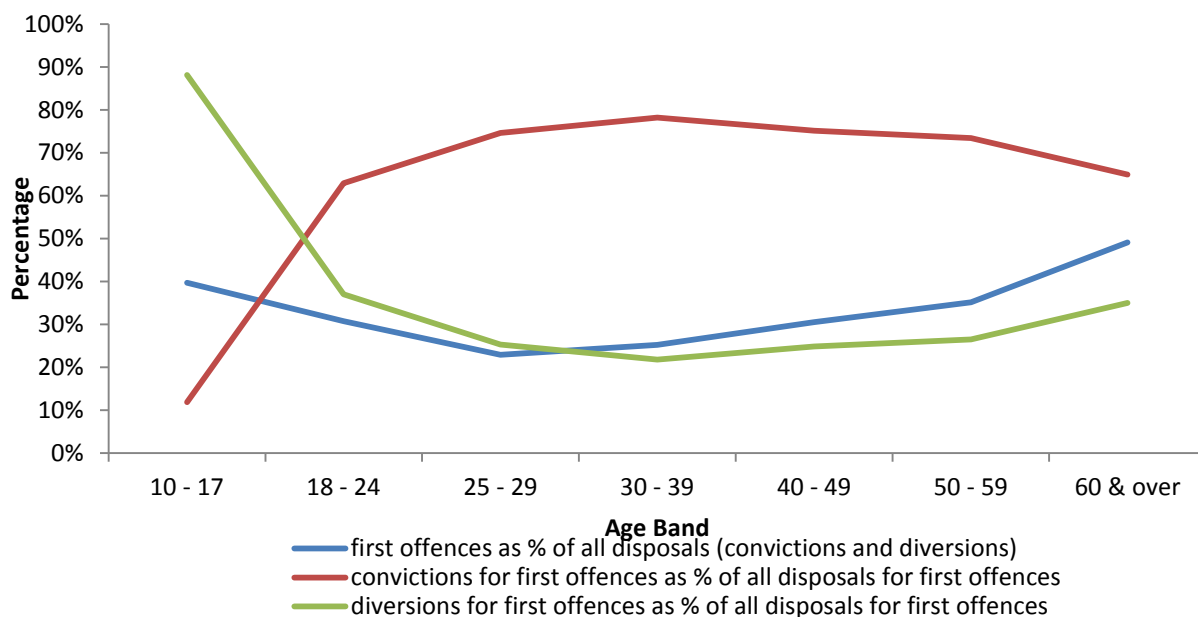
The rate of first convictions in 2016/17, whether or not it was for a first offence, was 28.9% (6,905) overall (compared with 28.7% in 2015/16). This compares to a rate of 23.9% (5,722) for convictions for first offences only (up slightly from the rate of 23.7% in 2015/16).

For those in the 10 - 17 year old age group, the rate of first convictions overall was 26.3% (221), up from 22.8% in 2015/16. For first offences, the rate of conviction for 10 – 17 year olds was 11.2% (94), higher than the rate of 9.0% for 2015/16. People in the 10 – 17 year old age group were most likely (88.1%, 699) to receive a diversion for a first offence in 2016/17 (Tables 1b, 1c and 1d).

Gender

In 2016/17, 26.1% (6,180) of all offences by males[2] dealt with by conviction or diversion were first offences, compared to 46.1% (2,485) by females. Of all first offences dealt with by diversion or conviction, 71.3% were by males, compared to 28.7% by females (Table 2a).

In 2016/17, 52.9% (2,013) of all diversions issued to males[2] were for first offences, while 21.0% (4,167) of all convictions handed down to males in 2016/17 were for first offences. The rate of first convictions in 2016/17, whether or not it was for a first offence, was 25.8% (5,124) for males (Tables 2b, 2c and 2d).

For females, 69.9% (930) of all diversions were for first offences and 38.3% (1,555) of all convictions were for first offences. The rate of first convictions in 2016/17,

---

[2] Figures for Males also include organisations, transgender and gender not specified.

whether or not it was for a first offence, was 43.8% (1,781) for females (Tables 2b, 2c and 2d).

Offence Classification

Of all first offences dealt with by way of diversion or conviction, 54.5% (4,720) were for motoring offences, while 13.4% (1,162) were for violence against the person offences (VAP), 7.8% (680) were for drugs and 6.2% (533) were for offences in the theft category (Table 3a).

Of all offence classifications, sexual offences (49.1%, 108), motoring offences (41.8%, 4,720) and fraud offences (34.8%, 89) were the offence classifications where first offences made up the largest proportion of the total convictions and diversions for offences in those categories in 2016/17 (Table 3a).

Figure 4: First offences by offence classification, 2016/17[1]
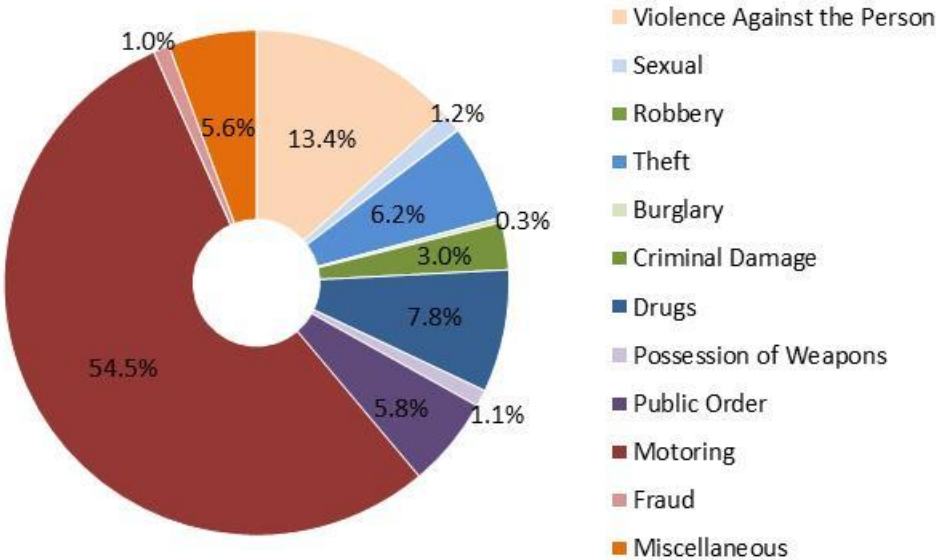
[1] **Does not include robbery as < 0.3%.**

As was the case in 2015/16, robbery (6.7%, 4 cases) and burglary (7.7%, 26) were the offence classifications where first offences made up the smallest proportion of the total convictions or diversions for offences in those categories in 2016/17, while 15.7% (262) criminal damage offences and 16.0% (501) public order offences were first offences (Table 3a).

The offence categories where first offences were dealt with mainly by diversion in 2016/17 were drugs (76.8%, 522), public order (71.1%, 356) and criminal damage (69.1%, 181). Conversely, first offences in the robbery (100.0%, 4), motoring (86.7%, 4,091), sexual (79.6%, 86) and burglary (73.1%, 19) categories were mostly dealt with by conviction in 2016/17 (Table 3e).

Figure 5: First offences as percentage of all convictions and diversions by offence classification, 2016/17
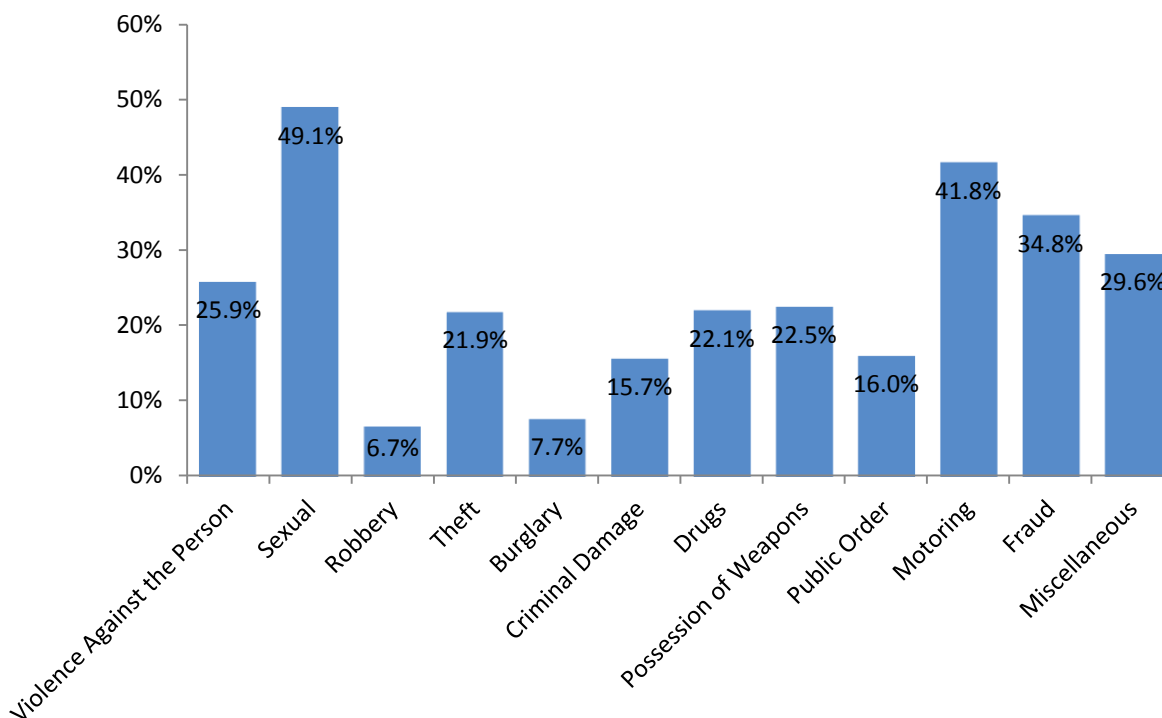
Disposal type

Of all first offences in 2016/17, 34.0% (2,943) were dealt with by way of diversion, compared to 37.9% (3,354) in 2015/16. Diversions accounted for 10.1% of all disposals in 2016/17, whether for first offences or further offences dealt with by diversion or conviction (Table 4a).

Monetary penalties were imposed for 51.3% (4,445) of first offences and first offences accounted for 34.8% of those receiving a monetary penalty upon conviction, down slightly from 35.3% in 2015/16. Imprisonment disposals were the outcome in relation to only 2.9% (250) of all first offences. In fact, only 8.1% of all imprisonment disposals in 2016/17 were for first offences (Table 4a).

Suspended custodial disposals were imposed in relation to 5.1% (444) of all first offences, though of those offences for which a suspended custodial disposal was the outcome, 11.4% were for first offences. Community sentences were imposed in 3.6% (314) of disposals for first offences and, of those offences for which a community sentence was the outcome, 10.6% were for first offences in 2016/17 (Table 4a).

Figure 6: First offences by disposal type, 2016/17
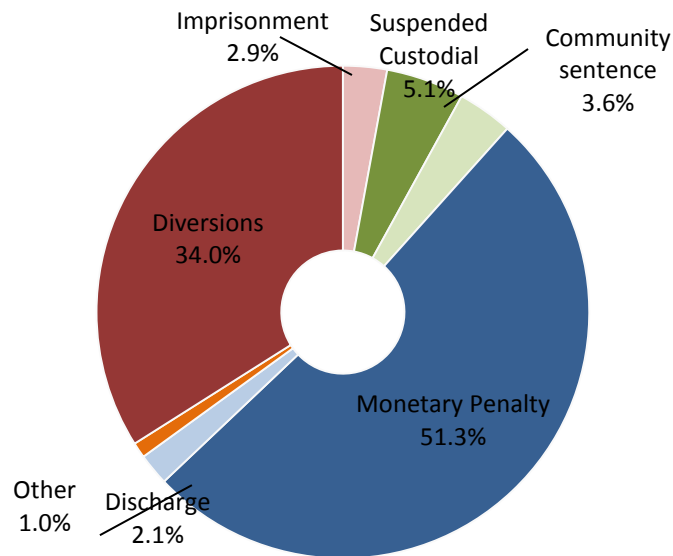
For first offences dealt with by way of diversion in 2016/17, most (80.2%, 2,359) were dealt with by way of caution, whereas informed warnings (11.2%, 331) and PPS ordered youth conference plans (8.6%, 253) accounted for substantially smaller proportions of the total.

First offences made up 90.9% (331 out of 364) of all informed warnings issued in 2016/17. This compares to 57.1% (2,359 out of 4,131) of cautions and 39.6% (253 out of 639) of PPS ordered youth conference plans (Table 4d).

APPENDIX 1

Table 1a: First offences[1,2] as percentage of all convictions and diversions by age band, 2016/17

Age band	2015/16 First offences as % of all convictions and diversions	2016/17 First offences	2016/17 All convictions and diversions	2016/17 First offences as % of all convictions and diversions
10 - 17	38.0%	793	1,995	39.7%
18 - 24	30.8%	2,325	7,553	30.8%
25 - 29	25.3%	1,208	5,276	22.9%
30 - 39	26.2%	1,739	6,900	25.2%
40 - 49	30.9%	1,195	3,912	30.5%
50 - 59	33.1%	788	2,241	35.2%
60 & over	47.4%	511	1,041	49.1%
Other/unknown	92.6%	106	113	93.8%
Total	30.4%	8,665	29,031	29.8%

Table 1b: First convictions as percentage of all convictions by age band, 2016/17

Age band	2015/16 First convictions as % all convictions	2016/17 First convictions	2016/17 All convictions	2016/17 First convictions as % all convictions
10 - 17	22.8%	221	840	26.3%
18 - 24	33.2%	2,122	6,097	34.8%
25 - 29	23.9%	1,079	4,700	23.0%
30 - 39	24.6%	1,486	6,143	24.2%
40 - 49	29.3%	954	3,346	28.5%
50 - 59	30.9%	605	1,895	31.9%
60 & over	42.6%	343	776	44.2%
Other/unknown	95.1%	95	100	95.0%
Total	28.7%	6,905	23,897	28.9%

Table 1c: First offences[1,2] as percentage of all convictions by age band, 2016/17

Age band	2015/16 First offences as % all convictions	2016/17 First offences	2016/17 All convictions	2016/17 First offences as % all convictions
10 - 17	9.0%	94	840	11.2%
18 - 24	22.7%	1,464	6,097	24.0%
25 - 29	21.0%	902	4,700	19.2%
30 - 39	22.3%	1,360	6,143	22.1%
40 - 49	27.5%	898	3,346	26.8%
50 - 59	29.5%	579	1,895	30.6%
60 & over	40.1%	332	776	42.8%
Other/unknown	92.6%	93	100	93.0%
Total	23.7%	5,722	23,897	23.9%

Table 1d: First offences[1, 2, 3] as percentage of all diversions by age band, 2016/17

Age band	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % all diversions	First offences	All diversions	First offences as % all diversions
10 - 17	58.6%	699	1,155	60.5%
18 - 24	58.2%	861	1,456	59.1%
25 - 29	54.1%	306	576	53.1%
30 - 39	53.2%	379	757	50.1%
40 - 49	51.6%	297	566	52.5%
50 - 59	54.0%	209	346	60.4%
60 & over	70.3%	179	265	67.5%
Other/unknown	*	13	13	*
Total	56.9%	2,943	5,134	57.3%

Table 2a: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all convictions and diversions by gender, 2016/17

Gender	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions	First offences	All convictions and diversions	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions
Male[4]	26.7%	6,180	23,639	26.1%
Female	46.9%	2,485	5,392	46.1%
Total	30.4%	8,665	29,031	29.8%

Table 2b: First convictions as percentage of all convictions by gender, 2016/17

Gender	2015/16	2016/17		
	First convictions as % all convictions	First convictions	All convictions	First convictions as % all convictions
Male[4]	25.4%	5,124	19,835	25.8%
Female	45.2%	1,781	4,062	43.8%
Total	28.7%	6,905	23,897	28.9%

Table 2c: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all convictions by gender, 2016/17

Gender	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % all convictions	First offences	All convictions	First offences as % all convictions
Male[4]	20.5%	4,167	19,835	21.0%
Female	39.3%	1,555	4,062	38.3%
Total	23.7%	5,722	23,897	23.9%

Table 2d: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all diversions by gender, 2016/17

Gender	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % all diversions	First offences	All diversions	First offences as % all diversions
Male[4]	53.6%	2,013	3,804	52.9%
Female	67.1%	930	1,330	69.9%
Total	56.9%	2,943	5,134	57.3%

Table 3a: First offences[1, 2, 3] as percentage of all convictions and diversions by offence classification, 2016/17

Offence classification	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions	First offences	All convictions and diversions	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions
Violence Against the Person	27.0%	1,162	4,490	25.9%
Sexual	48.8%	108	220	49.1%
Robbery	*	4	60	6.7%
Theft	22.4%	533	2,436	21.9%
Burglary	13.1%	26	338	7.7%
Criminal Damage	18.3%	262	1,669	15.7%
Drugs	26.2%	680	3,077	22.1%
Possession of Weapons	23.5%	92	408	22.5%
Public Order	15.5%	501	3,124	16.0%
Motoring	42.5%	4,720	11,305	41.8%
Fraud	43.2%	89	256	34.8%
Miscellaneous	28.0%	488	1,648	29.6%
Total	30.4%	8,665	29,031	29.8%

Table 3b: First convictions[3] as percentage of all convictions by offence classification, 2016/17

Offence classification	2015/16	2016/17		
	First convictions as % all convictions	First convictions	All convictions	First convictions as % all convictions
Violence Against the Person	22.5%	794	3,465	22.9%
Sexual	44.8%	94	193	48.7%
Robbery	*	7	60	11.7%
Theft	15.9%	266	1,884	14.1%
Burglary	12.6%	34	318	10.7%
Criminal Damage	13.9%	164	1,284	12.8%
Drugs	15.7%	309	1,994	15.5%
Possession of Weapons	13.6%	39	296	13.2%
Public Order	9.9%	262	2,454	10.7%
Motoring	44.4%	4,544	10,473	43.4%
Fraud	40.5%	67	204	32.8%
Miscellaneous	18.4%	325	1,272	25.6%
Total	28.7%	6,905	23,897	28.9%

Table 3c: First offences[1, 2, 3] as percentage of all convictions by offence classification, 2016/17

Offence classification	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % all convictions	First offences	All convictions	First offences as % all convictions
Violence Against the Person	16.5%	591	3,465	17.1%
Sexual	41.8%	86	193	44.6%
Robbery	*	4	60	6.7%
Theft	11.5%	193	1,884	10.2%
Burglary	8.8%	19	318	6.0%
Criminal Damage	7.6%	81	1,284	6.3%
Drugs	8.1%	158	1,994	7.9%
Possession of Weapons	8.8%	31	296	10.5%
Public Order	4.7%	145	2,454	5.9%
Motoring	40.2%	4,091	10,473	39.1%
Fraud	34.2%	60	204	29.4%
Miscellaneous	13.4%	263	1,272	20.7%
Total	23.7%	5,722	23,897	23.9%

Table 3d: First offences[1, 2, 3] as percentage of all diversions by offence classification, 2016/17

Offence classification	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % all diversions	First offences	All diversions	First offences as % all diversions
Violence Against the Person	55.1%	571	1,025	55.7%
Sexual	*	22	27	*
Robbery	*	-	-	*
Theft	59.0%	340	552	61.6%
Burglary	*	7	20	*
Criminal Damage	48.2%	181	385	47.0%
Drugs	50.6%	522	1,083	48.2%
Possession of Weapons	53.1%	61	112	54.5%
Public Order	52.1%	356	670	53.1%
Motoring	75.1%	629	832	75.6%
Fraud	75.5%	29	52	55.8%
Miscellaneous	63.1%	225	376	59.8%
Total	56.9%	2,943	5,134	57.3%

Table 3e: First offences[1, 2, 3] as percentage of all convictions and diversions by offence classification and disposal, 2016/17

Offence classification	Disposal type	First offences	All convictions and diversions	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions
Violence Against the Person	Convictions	591	4,490	13.2%
	Diversions	571		12.7%
Sexual	Convictions	86	220	39.1%
	Diversions	22		10.0%
Robbery	Convictions	4	60	6.7%
	Diversions	-		0.0%
Theft	Convictions	193	2,436	7.9%
	Diversions	340		14.0%
Burglary	Convictions	19	338	5.6%
	Diversions	7		2.1%
Criminal Damage	Convictions	81	1,669	4.9%
	Diversions	181		10.8%
Drugs	Convictions	158	3,077	5.1%
	Diversions	522		17.0%
Possession of Weapons	Convictions	31	408	7.6%
	Diversions	61		15.0%
Public Order	Convictions	145	3,124	4.6%
	Diversions	356		11.4%
Motoring	Convictions	4,091	11,305	36.2%
	Diversions	629		5.6%
Fraud	Convictions	60	256	23.4%
	Diversions	29		11.3%
Miscellaneous	Convictions	263	1,648	16.0%
	Diversions	225		13.7%
Total	Convictions	5,722	29,031	19.7%
	Diversions	2,943		10.1%

Table 4a: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all convictions and diversions by disposal type, 2016/17

Disposal category	2015/16	2016/17		
	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions	First offences	All convictions and diversions	First offences as % of all convictions and diversions
Imprisonment	4.8%	250	3,074	8.1%
Suspended Custodial	9.9%	444	3,898	11.4%
Community sentence	9.7%	314	2,971	10.6%
Monetary Penalty	35.3%	4,445	12,776	34.8%
Discharge	18.3%	181	964	18.8%
Other	38.7%	88	214	41.1%
Diversions	56.9%	2,943	5,134	57.3%
Total	30.4%	8,665	29,031	29.8%

Table 4b: First convictions as percentage of all convictions by disposal type, 2016/17

Disposal category	2015/16 First convictions as % all convictions	2016/17		
		First convictions	All convictions	First convictions as % all convictions
Imprisonment	5.3%	284	3,074	9.2%
Suspended Custodial	12.6%	539	3,898	13.8%
Community sentence	17.6%	527	2,971	17.7%
Monetary Penalty	40.7%	5,162	12,776	40.4%
Discharge	29.5%	285	964	29.6%
Other	47.0%	108	214	50.5%
Total	28.7%	6,905	23,897	28.9%

Table 4c: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all convictions by disposal type, 2016/17

Disposal category	2015/16 First offences as % all convictions	2016/17		
		First offences	All convictions	First offences as % all convictions
Imprisonment	4.8%	250	3,074	8.1%
Suspended Custodial	9.9%	444	3,898	11.4%
Community sentence	9.7%	314	2,971	10.6%
Monetary Penalty	35.3%	4,445	12,776	34.8%
Discharge	18.3%	181	964	18.8%
Other	38.7%	88	214	41.1%
Total	23.7%	5,722	23,897	23.9%

Table 4d: First offences[1, 2] as percentage of all diversions by disposal type, 2016/17

Disposal category	2015/16 First offences as % all diversions	2016/17		
		First offences	All diversions	First offences as % all diversions
Caution	57.7%	2,359	4,131	57.1%
PPS Ordered Youth Conference Plan	87.4%	253	639	39.6%
Informed warning	34.2%	331	364	90.9%
Total	56.9%	2,943	5,134	57.3%

Source: Department of Justice

Notes:
1. Figures are based on those who have had a conviction at any time since 1960 and those who had either a conviction or a diversionary disposal since the implementation of the Causeway system, DSM1, in December 2009. This means the rate of first time offenders may appear slightly higher than the actuality, as, in some cases, first offences would have been dealt with by means of diversionary disposal. However, any likely impact should lessen with the passing of time.
2. Figures are calculated using principal offence methodology.
3. Percentages cannot be presented where the denominator is less than 50.
4. Includes organisations, transgender and gender not specified.
5. Figures for 2015/16 are included in tables for comparison.