

Probation Board for Northern Ireland Caseload Statistics Report

**Quarter Two
2021/22**

Published 22nd October 2021



About PBNI Statistics

This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the second quarter of the financial year, reflecting PBNI caseload at points in time at the end of July, August and September 2021. There are also comparators to data in previous years.

Statistics on the number of reports completed, the number of new orders made, and PBNI Victim Information Scheme registrations, are subject to change, particularly for the latest month. When revisions are necessary, the updates occur in each quarterly publication and considered final in the annual publication for the financial year. Percentages presented in this report are subject to rounding.

The data source for all tables and charts presented in this publication from April 2020 onwards is the PBNI's electronic case management system (ECMS). Prior to this date, a different, but compatible case management system was in place. Although care taken when processing and analysing data increases quality assurance, it is however, subject to inaccuracies inherent in an administrative manual data recording system.

The collation and production of PBNI statistics is by seconded statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Statistical production is subject to a UK code of practice, the details of which are available here: [About the Code – Code of Practice for Statistics \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-code-code-of-practice-for-statistics/)

Special Note about PBNI Statistics in 2020/21

There was a negative impact on PBNI caseload from the introduction of lockdown measures on 23rd March 2020, due to temporary court closures and reduced sittings. From the beginning of the financial year 2020/21, there were significantly fewer new orders made or requests for reports from court. PBNI operations are almost back to pre-covid activity in September 2021, with an increase in new orders noticeable from September 2020; however, one should exercise caution when examining trend information during the 2020/21 financial year.

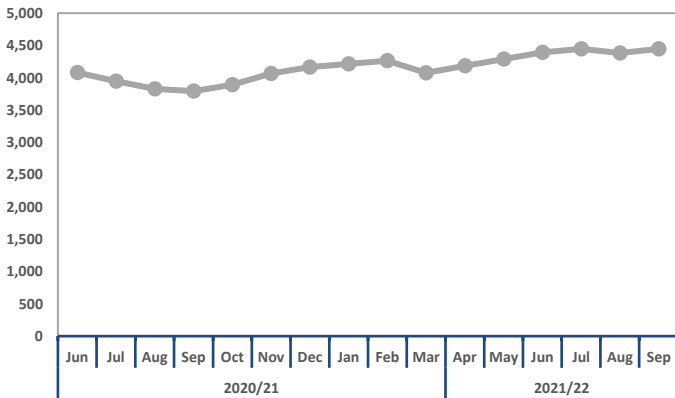
Contact and Further Information

PBNI statistics production is undergoing updates to the systems used to collate and organise the data for dissemination. During this time, it may be possible to provide regular updates to data not previously included in our publications. PBNI welcome feedback on these statistics and encourage requests for additional information users may wish to have included in future publications.

If you would like to forward your views / requests, contact PBNI Statistics & Research Branch e-mail: statistics&research@probation-ni.gov.uk

Summary

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

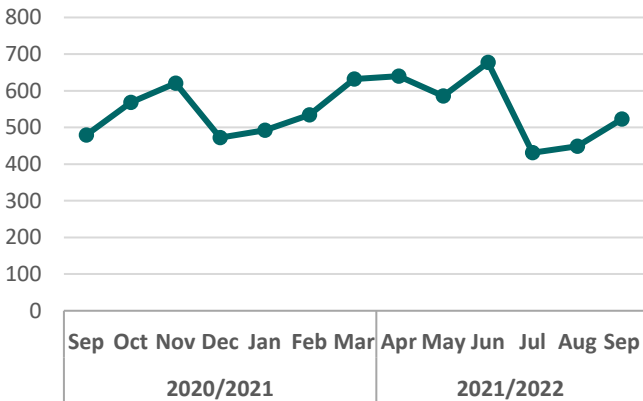


PBNI Orders and People

PBNI had **4,477 supervisions** on caseload at the end of September, an **increase of 17%** since last year. Probation Orders **increased** by **40%**, Determinate Custodial Sentences **increased** by **16%**, and Community Service Orders **decreased** by **6%** over the year. Orders relate to **3,649 people**, an **increase of 9%** from September 2020. Females on caseload continue to **increase** at a disproportionate rate (almost **5 times greater**) compared with males in September 2020.

PBNI New Orders

September 2021 had a similar number of new orders compared with last year. New orders substantially fell during July and August where August was half the number in June. Overall, Q2 had **27%** fewer new orders than Q1.



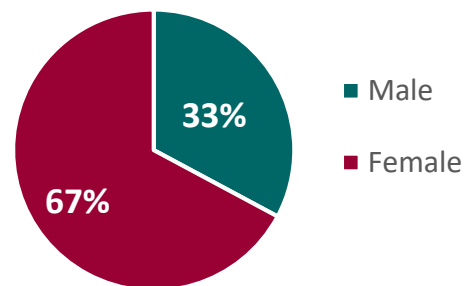
PBNI Reports Completed for Court

523 reports were completed in September 2021, which is higher than the previous 2 months and September 2020. July had a large decrease in reports completed with a reduction of **80%** in pre-sentence reports compared with June. The majority of report completions, **61%** were for the Magistrates Courts.

PBNI Victim Information Scheme

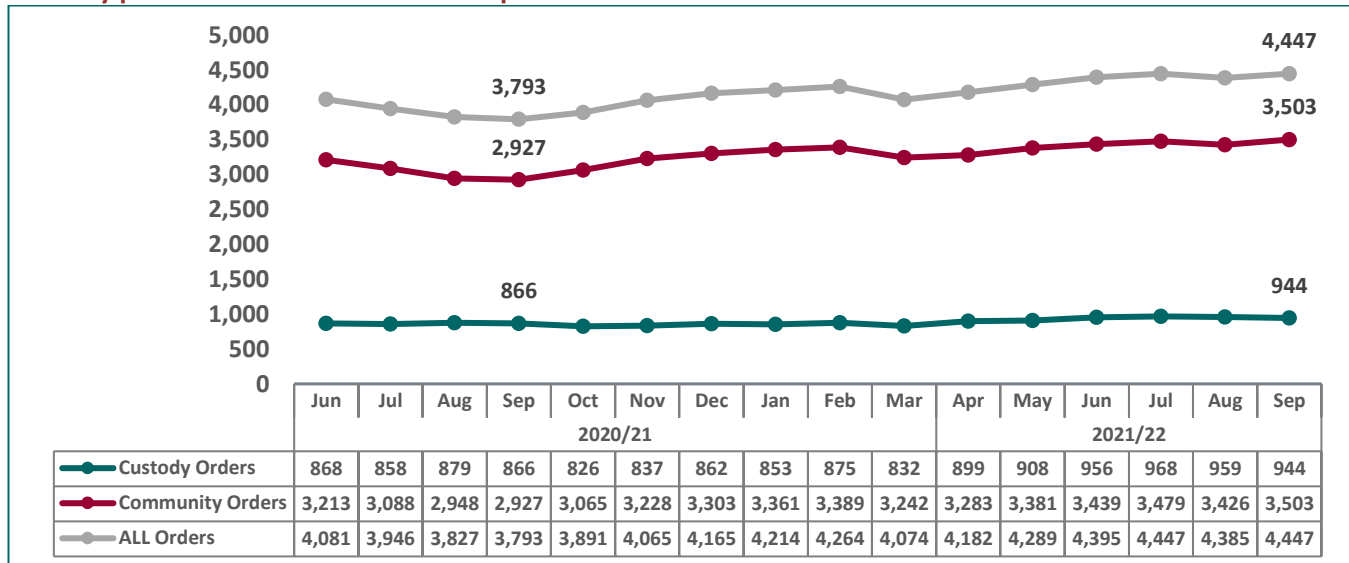
At the end of June 2021 there were **396** victims registered on the PBNI Victim Information Scheme with **63** added to the scheme in Q2 2021/22. The majority of victims registered are female.

Registered Victims



PBNI Orders and People

Figure 1: Community and Custody Orders on PBNI Caseload
Monthly points in time - June 2020 to September 2021



PBNI had **4,447** supervisions on caseload at the end of September, up **17%** since last year and down **1%** from September 2019. It relates to **3,649** people, a ratio of **1.22** orders to people. Please note an individual may be subject to more than one type of order and multiple orders of the same type.

From March 2020 to September 2020 there were significantly fewer new orders added (see New Orders). With fewer new orders added and existing orders completing, the overall caseload began a downward trend. Apart from usual seasonal fluctuations in March, the trend has continued in an upward motion to where September 2021 caseload is the same as September 2019.

Table 1: Types of Supervision

Monthly points in time - July 2021 to September 2021 with comparison to September 2020

Type of Supervision	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Sep-20	% change Sep-20 on Sep 21	
Orders	Combination Order	408	402	411	313	31%
	Community Service Order	424	404	395	418	-6%
	Custody Probation Order	51	50	57	54	6%
	Probation Order	1566	1571	1608	1,150	40%
	Juvenile Justice Centre Order	2	3	4	7	-
	Determinate Custodial Sentence	1,272	1,237	1,245	1,076	16%
	Enhanced Combination Order	178	174	183	201	-9%
	Other Orders*	0	0	0	3	-
Licences	Life Sentence/ Licence	227	227	227	238	-5%
	Sex Offender Licence	74	74	75	72	4%
	GB Licence	31	31	30	42	-
Public Protection Sentences	Extended Custodial Sentence	160	159	159	162	-2%
	Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	53	52	52	53	-2%
Non-statutory	Inescapable Voluntary	0	0	0	0	-
	Remand/Sentence	1	1	1	4	-
Total Orders	4,447	4,385	4,447	3,793	17%	
Total People(Unique Count)	3,695	3,617	3,649	3,343	9%	

- Percentage change is not shown as the denominator is less than 50.

*Includes Community Responsibility Order, Supervision & Treatment Order and Supervised Activity Order.

Decreases in percentage change are shown in red .

Commentary on Orders

- Orders where the people are in custody, 944, have risen by **9%** since September 2020, up from 866.
- Community Service Orders are **6%** lower than in September 2020 and have seen a downward trend in the past quarter. Community Service Orders are **29%** lower than they were in September 2019.
- Probation Orders are **40%** higher than this time last year, and **8.5%** higher than September 2019. Probation orders are **36%** of caseload, compared with **33%** in September 2019.
- Determinate Custodial Sentences have increased by **16%** since September 2020 and **11%** since September 2019.
- Combination Orders increased by almost a third since last year.

Table 2: Age and Gender of People on Caseload
Monthly points in time - July 2021 to September 2021 with comparison to September 2020

Number of people	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Sep-20	% change Sep 20 on Sep 21	Profile of Caseload
Female	417	409	414	313	32%	11%
Male	3,278	3,208	3,235	3030	7%	89%
Less than 18	11	11	12	9	-	0.3%
18-19	88	84	76	58	31%	2%
20-24	493	482	503	432	16%	14%
25-29	664	655	658	618	6%	18%
30-39	1,192	1,155	1,164	1084	7%	32%
40-49	695	684	684	622	10%	19%
50-59	362	359	360	326	10%	10%
60 +	190	187	192	194	-1%	5%
Total People	3,695	3,617	3,649	3,343	9%	100%

- Percentage change is not shown as the denominator is less than 50.

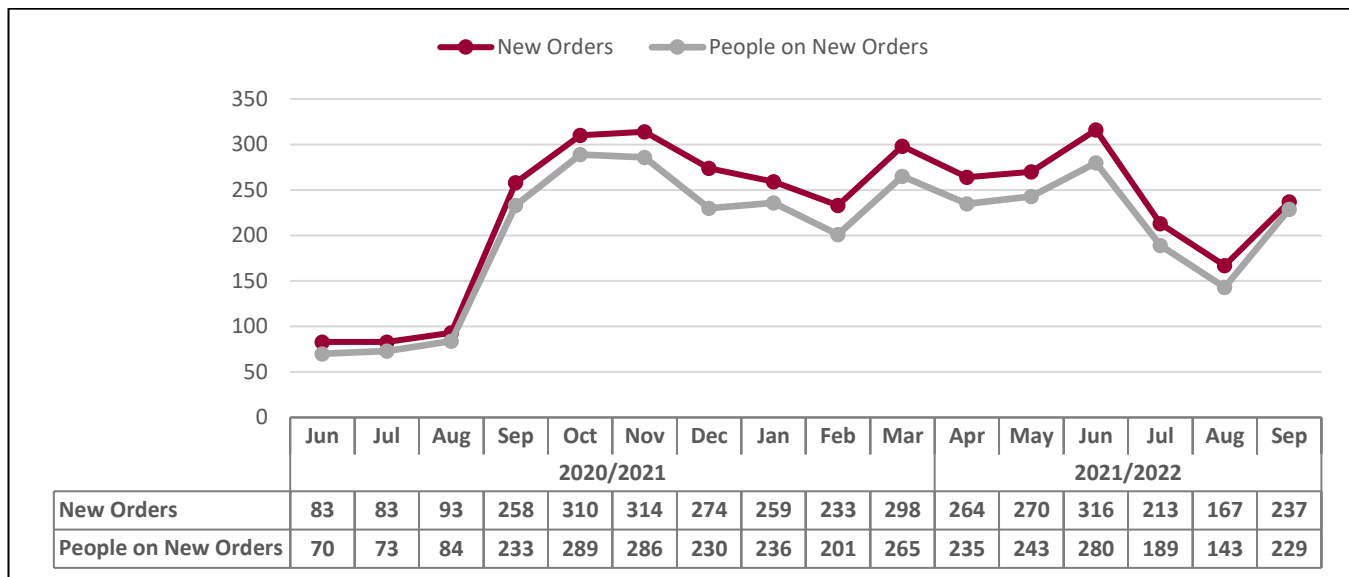
Decreases in percentage change are shown in red

Commentary on People

- The number of people on orders at the end of September 2021 was **3,649** representing a **9% increase** since last year.
- The number of females on caseload has **increased** by **32%** since September 2020. Females on caseload have been growing at a higher rate of increase than males over the months since September 2020. Increases in males of 7%, in the past year indicate females on caseload are now growing at a rate approaching 5 times greater than males.
- All age groups, with the exception of those aged 60 and over increased since last year. The most noticeable percentage increase is in the 18 – 19 year old age group, with **31%**. This quarter, the 18-19 year olds have been **decreasing** month on month.
- Looking at the 5 year trend from September 2016, there has been a 7 point **decrease** in the proportion of people aged under 25 (reducing from **23%** to **16%** of caseload) and a 2 point **increase** in the proportion of people aged 50 and over (increasing from **13%** to **15%** of caseload).

PBNI New Orders

Figure 2: New Orders and People on New Orders
Monthly June 2020 to September 2021



Commentary on New Orders

- The graph and data table beneath show all new orders and people on new orders from June 2020 to September 2021. From September 2020, new orders increased at a more normal rate than was seen in the early months of the pandemic. Peaks in November, March and June are similar to previous years. In the previous quarterly report, there was commentary on the upward trend in new orders this financial year. However, new orders substantially fell in July and August (where new orders in August were almost half those in June). The new orders to people ratio for September 2021 was **1.03**
- There are fewer new orders issued this month compared with last year, although the difference is small (21 orders). The next edition, Q3 will report on the seasonal peak in the run up to the end of the calendar year
- There were **27%** fewer new orders from Jul – Sept 2021 than Apr – Jun 2021, with variations in order type within this decrease, the most notable, Determinate Custodial Sentences, which decreased by **43%**. Probation Orders decreased by **19%** between the first and second quarter of 2021/2022.

Table 3: New Orders starting between April and September 2021

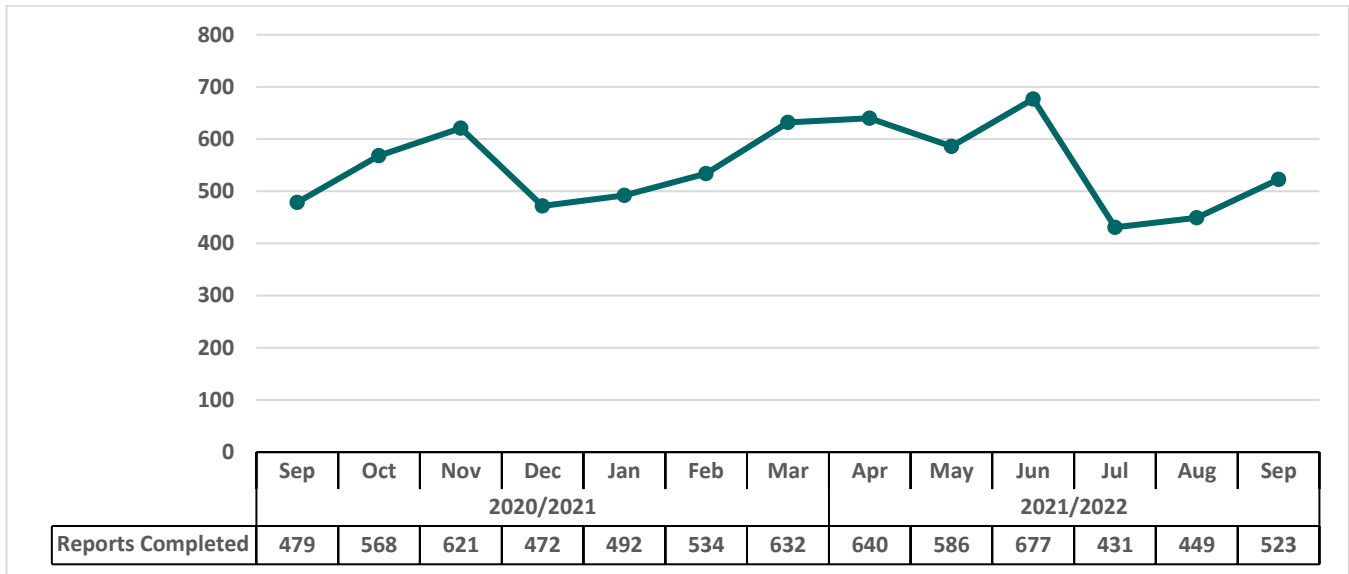
Number of New Orders	Apr - Jun Q1 2021	Jul - Sep Q2 2021	% change from Q1
Combination Order	102	61	-40%
Community Service Order	130	109	-16%
Enhanced Combination Order	35	26	-
Probation Order	344	277	-19%
Determinate Custodial Sentence	218	124	-43%
All Other Orders	21	20	-
All New Orders	850	617	-27%

- Percentage change is not shown as the denominator is less than 50.

Decreases in percentage change are shown in red

PBNI Reports completed for Courts

Figure 3: Reports Completed September 2020 to September 2021

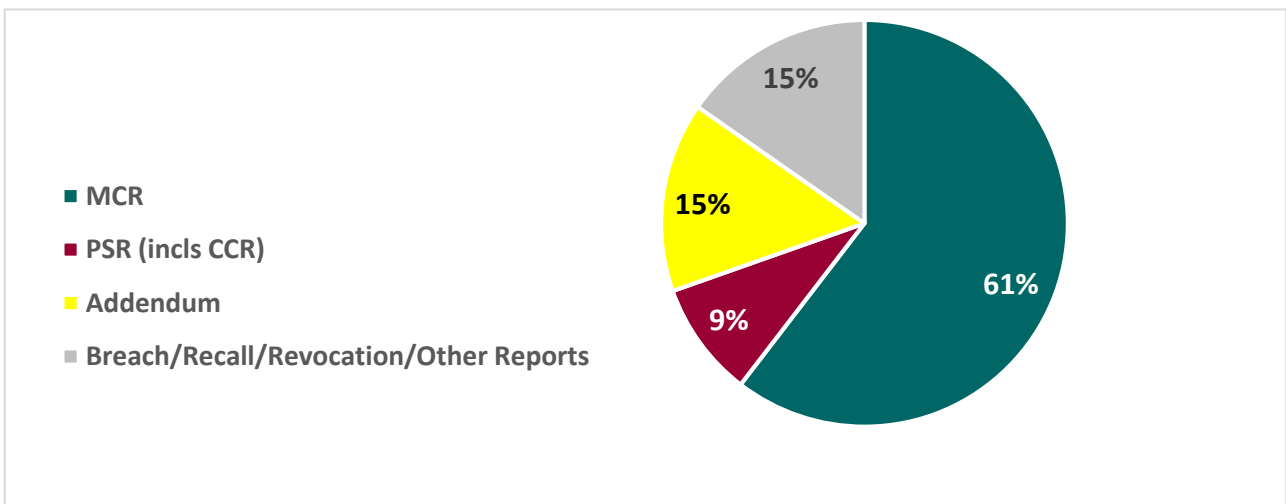


Commentary on Reports Completed

- **523** reports were completed in September 2021, which is higher than the previous 2 months and September 2020. There was a large decrease in the number of reports completed in July with almost an **80%** decrease in pre-sentence reports, which mirrors the large decrease in new orders in July and August.
- The majority of report completions, **61%** were for the Magistrates Courts. This is up from **53%** at the end of June 2021. The proportion of Addendums also rose from **9%** in June to **15%** in September 2021.

Reports completed do not include letters to court. 28% of all reports completed in September were letters to court.

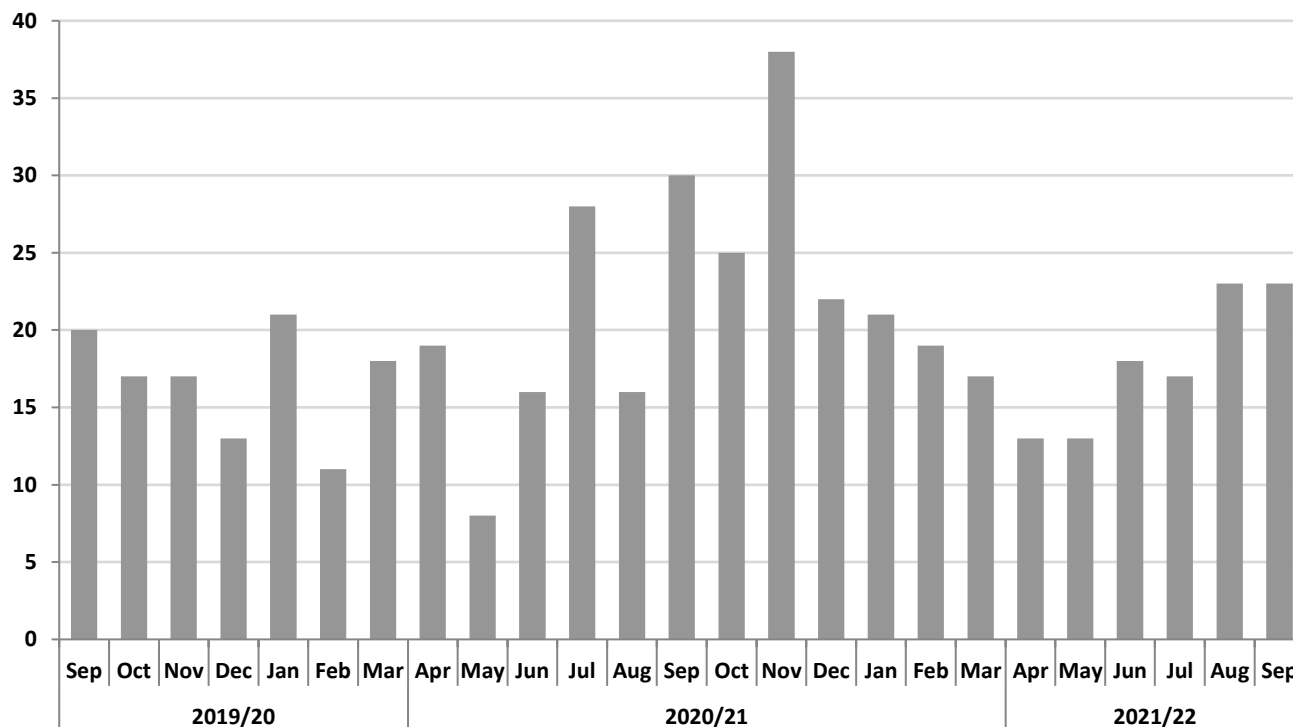
Figure 4: Reports Completed by report type in September 2021



Reports completed do not include explanatory letters to courts. Other Reports include Parole Commissioners/Life Sentence Unit Reports, Home Circumstances Report, Probation Officers Report, Prison Release Plan, and Home Leave Report.

PBNI Victim Information Scheme

Figure 5: New Registrations to the PBNI Victim Information Scheme Monthly from September 2019 to September 2021



Please note that Victim Registrations are person based, each person may have multiple contacts and reports across different years. The information relates to the PBNI Victim Information Scheme only and does not include statistics relating to the co-located NI Prison Service or Department of Justice Victims Schemes.

Commentary on Victims Registered

- There were **396** people registered on the scheme at the end of September 2021, which is an **increase** of 26 people since last reported at the end of June 2021.
- In the first quarter of 2021/22 there were **44** new registrations and in the second quarter there were **63** new registrations.
- Victims registered consist of **33%** male and **67%** female in September 2021. Male registration has increased by 2 percentage points since last reported in June 2021.

PBNI Glossary of Orders and Sentences

Combination Order	Combines a Probation Order and a Community Service Order. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be completed as instructed.
Community Service Order	Requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents, and is between 40 and 240 hours and must be completed within 12 months.
Custody Probation Order	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community (the period of supervision will be 1 to 3 years commencing on date of release), and is unique to Northern Ireland. This order cannot be made unless the offender consents. Although Custody Probation Orders remain on the statute books, Determinate Custodial Sentences were made available from 1 April 2009. This is only a valid disposal where the offence was committed prior to April 2009.
Determinate Custodial Sentence	Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community. The court will specify the length of both custody and community supervision at sentencing. This will be the standard determinate sentence for all offenders, and has been available to the courts from 1 April 2009.
Enhanced Combination Order	A pilot Order with a focus on rehabilitation, reparation, restorative practice, and desistance, and has been available to a number of pilot court divisions from October 2015. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be carried out at an accelerated pace.
Extended Custodial Sentence	This may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence or Indeterminate Custodial Sentence is not appropriate. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause serious harm to members of the public. The sentence involves a portion of time spent in custody (at least 1 year) and a period under licence conditions (extension period). Prisoners will be referred to the Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (PCNI) approximately 6 months prior to the mid-point of their sentence and must demonstrate that they can be safely released into the community. If PCNI direct release, the prisoner will remain on licence for the remainder of the custodial term as well as the licence period set by the court.
GB Transfer Licence	An individual subject to licence may, given the agreement of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, transfer to Northern Ireland from another jurisdiction in Great Britain.
Indeterminate Custodial Sentence	It may be given at court if the offender has been convicted on indictment of a specified offence, where a life sentence is not appropriate but an Extended Custodial Sentence is not sufficient. The court must be of the opinion that there is a significant risk that the offender will re-offend and that such re-offending is likely to cause

serious harm to members of the public. No release date is given for an ICS. Offenders serving an ICS will be given a “tariff” date which is the earliest date that they may become eligible for consideration for release by the PCNI. The tariff is a minimum of 2 years. An ICS prisoner will remain in custody until they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the PCNI that they can be released safely into the community.

Inescapable Voluntary

These are offenders who continue to be supervised by PBNI on a voluntary basis following the end of their sentence, usually for the purposes of completing programmes. These are not statutory orders.

Juvenile Justice Centre Order

It requires a young offender (aged between 10 and 17 years) to spend time, normally three months, in a Juvenile Justice Centre and then be supervised in the community by a probation officer, normally for three months.

Life Sentence Licence

An offender serving a life sentence will be released from custody on licence. An individual must comply with the conditions of his licence in order to remain in the community and not be returned to custody.

Probation Order

It can last between 6 months and 3 years, and puts the offender under the supervision of a Probation Officer for that period. The order may have extra requirements. Offender consent is required.

Remand/Sentence

It refers to persons who are remanded in custody awaiting sentence or who are subject to a custodial sentence not involving PBNI supervision on release with whom PBNI works in order to assess individual risks and needs.

Sex Offender Licence

Article 26 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 makes provision for all offenders convicted of a sexual offence to be released on licence under the supervision of a Probation Officer.

Supervised Activity Order

It requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents, and lasts between 10 hours and 100 hours and must be completed within 12 months.

Supervision and Treatment Order

It requires the specified person to be under supervision for a period of not more than 2 years; and to submit, during that period to treatment under the direction of a medical practitioner with a view to the improvement of his mental condition.

PBNI Glossary of Reports

Addendum Report	is provided to courts to supplement information contained within a Pre-Sentence report, where one has been completed within the previous 12 month period, or to address a specific issue at the request of the Court.
Breach Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the circumstances leading to breach, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed options available to the court.
Home Circumstances Report	is written by a Probation Officer, usually following a home visit, and provides a suitability assessment of an offender's proposed residence prior to their release from custody.
Home Leave Report	is written by a prison based Probation Officer, and provides a suitability assessment of an prisoner's proposed temporary release from custody.
Magistrates' Court Report (MCR)	is a brief focussed report written by a Probation Officer supplied to Magistrates' courts to assist in sentencing decisions and can be completed on the day. This report type was piloted in five Courts between 1 November 2016 and 31 March 2018 but has been available to all Magistrates the courts from 1 April 2018.
Parole Commissioners/Life Sentence Unit Reports	provide Parole Commissioners with information prior to release; covering offender's attitude to supervision, response to PBNI interventions, risk assessment, post-release supervision plan, and recommendations for release.
Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)	is written by a Probation Officer on an offender before sentencing at court. The purpose of the report is to provide the Judge with information to assist in the sentencing decision. From 1 April 2018, this format of report will be presented solely to Crown Courts.
Probation Officers Reports	are generic reports that Probation Officers provide to courts, for the purposes of providing an update to Sentencers or request an amendment or an extension of an order.
Recall Report	is provided to Parole Commissioners of Northern Ireland (and copied to the Public Protection Branch of the Department of Justice) when the decision to initiate recall proceedings has been taken by PBNI. The report provides an account of the circumstances leading to recall, details of the non-compliance, an outline of actions taken by the supervising officer, and proposed actions to reduce risk in future.
Revocation Report	is provided to courts to provide an account of the offender's circumstances, an explanation for the need for revocation of the order and to assist in the re-sentencing decision.