

Probation Board for Northern Ireland Caseload Statistics Report Quarter Three 2023/24



About PBNI Statistics

This report provides statistics on PBNI caseload for the third quarter of the financial year, reflecting PBNI caseload at a point in time at the end of December 2023. There are also comparators to data in previous quarters.

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.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing data, 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:

[Code of Practice for Statistics \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice-for-statistics/)

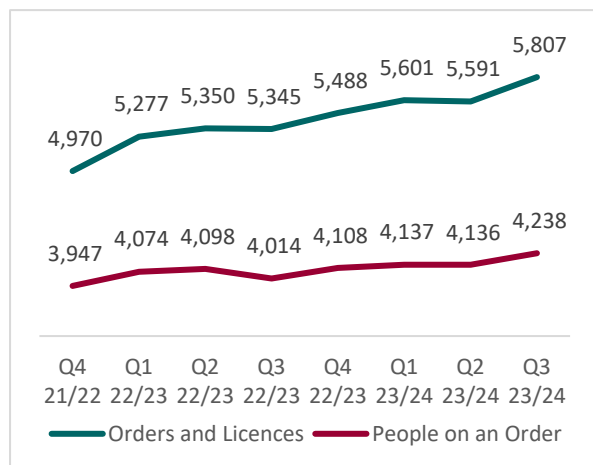
Contact and Further Information

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

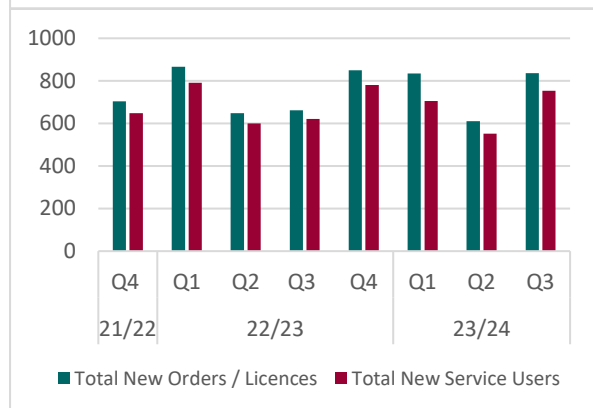
Summary

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



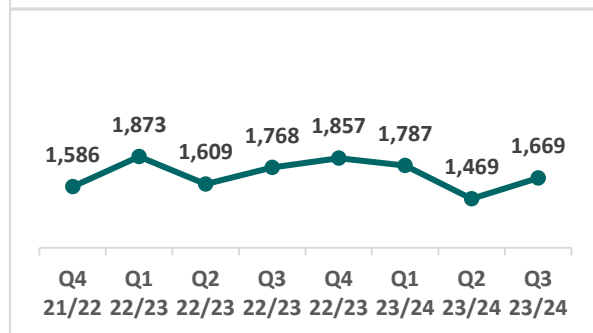
PBNI Orders and Licences, and People on Caseload

There were a total of 5,807 orders and licences, belonging to 4,238 people, under supervision by PBNI at the end of December.



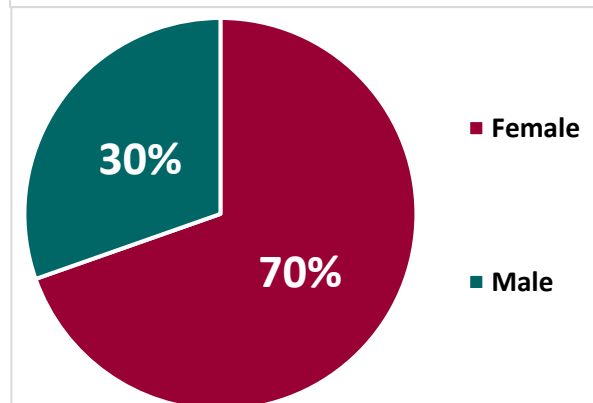
PBNI New Orders and Licences

Q3 2023/24 saw 836 new orders and licences, belonging to 754 people, come onto caseload.



PBNI Reports Completed

1,669 reports were completed in Q3 23/24, excluding letters to court. Magistrates Court Reports (MCRs) were the most common report type, accounting for 46% of reports completed in the quarter.



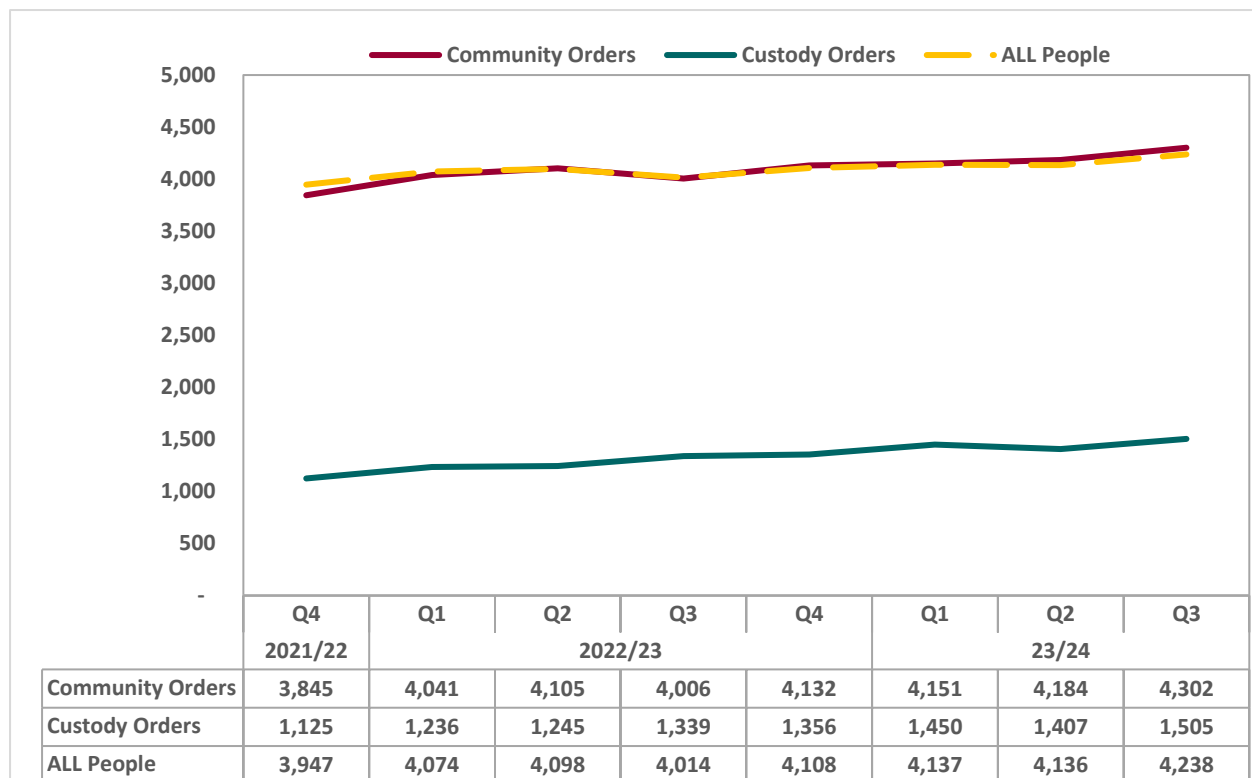
PBNI Victim Information Scheme

At the end of December there were a total of 497 victims registered, with 83 having registered in Q3 23/24.

70% of registered victims were female, 30% male.

PBNI Orders and People

Figure 1: Community and Custody Orders on PBNI Caseload Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



PBNI had a total of 5,807 orders and licences, belonging to 4,238 people, on caseload at the end of Q3 23/24.

Custody orders accounted for 26% (1,505) of all orders on caseload and 22% (933) of people on caseload.

*An individual may be subject to more than one type of order, and multiple orders of the same type.

Table 1: Types of Orders / Licence on PBNI Caseload Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

Type of Order/Licence	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	% of caseload
Combination	438	490	509	494	505	535	527	538	9%
Community Service	408	418	408	384	401	379	370	431	7%
Custody Probation	65	71	74	60	69	66	71	68	1%
Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)*	3	4	4	6	6	35	46	53	1%
Probation	1,765	1,850	1,839	1,816	1,894	1,887	1,858	1,917	33%
Enhanced Combination Order (ECO)	211	239	247	240	233	222	216	202	3%
Supervised Activity	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0%
Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)	1,496	1,616	1,663	1,725	1,786	1,874	1,892	1,965	34%
Life Sentence	232	232	234	234	232	235	240	246	4%
Sex Offender	68	68	74	76	73	71	71	77	1%
GB Transfer	32	29	29	30	24	27	26	23	-
Extended Custodial	187	191	196	207	200	206	207	219	4%
Indeterminate Custodial	53	57	57	59	57	58	59	58	1%
Remand/Sentence	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other Non-Statutory	9	10	15	13	8	6	8	10	-
Orders and Licences	4,970	5,277	5,350	5,345	5,488	5,601	5,591	5,807	100%
People on an Order	3,947	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238	..
* Counts are reported by number of orders rather than individuals involved i.e. individuals can be subject to multiple orders. For this reason, figures can't be directly compared to those produced by the Youth Justice Agency. In Q3 2023/24 the 53 JJCOs relate to 7 individuals.									
- Percentage is not shown as the denominator is less than 50									

The number of Orders and licences, as well as the number of people under supervision saw an increase in Q3, continuing the slight trend upwards in the previous quarters.

In Q3 23/24 the most common type of supervision was a Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS), accounting for 34% of the caseload. This was followed by Probation Orders which accounted for 33% of the caseload.

Table 2: Age and Gender of People on Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

Number of People	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	Profile of Caseload
Female	451	472	472	455	460	445	447	456	11%
Male	3,496	3,602	3,626	3,559	3,648	3,692	3,689	3,782	89%
Under 20	81	83	72	83	86	82	67	70	2%
20-24	526	540	516	476	484	475	459	468	11%
25-29	695	695	694	657	663	662	681	701	17%
30-39	1,335	1,386	1,423	1,393	1,421	1,452	1,467	1,513	36%
40-49	707	733	739	736	767	786	779	782	18%
50-59	387	406	416	426	438	436	425	445	11%
60 and over	216	231	238	243	249	244	258	259	6%
Total People	3,947	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238	100%

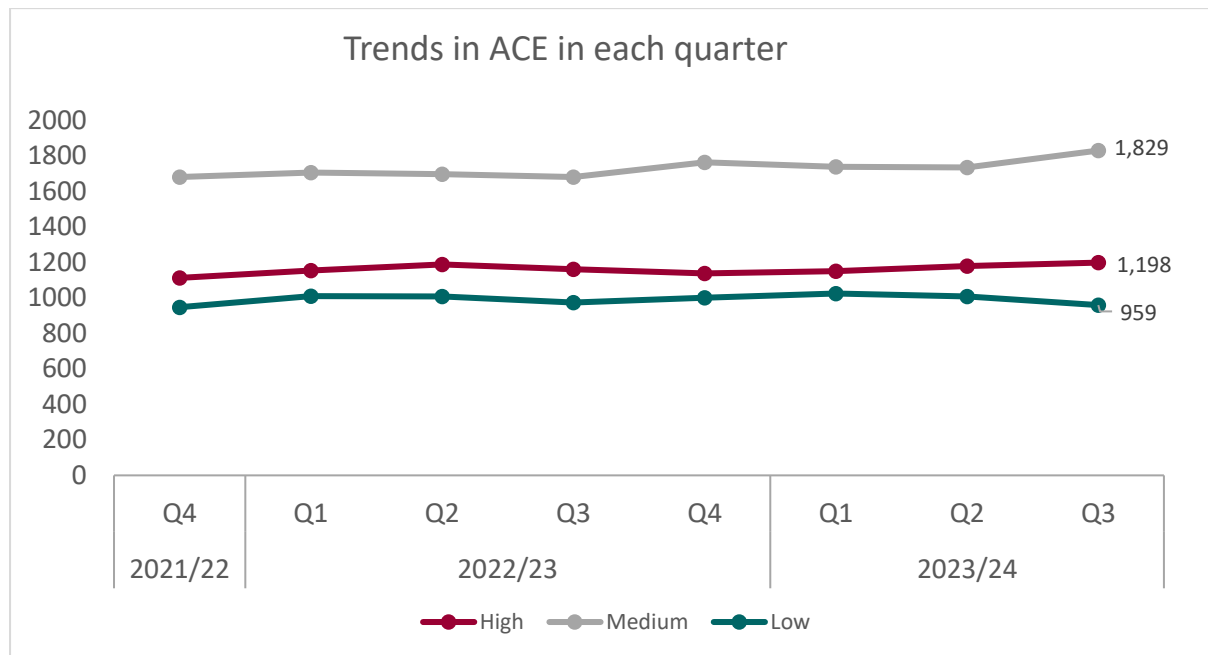
At the end of Q3 23/24 there were 4,238 people on caseload. Of those, 89% were male and 11% of people on caseload were female.

The most common age group for people on caseload was 30-39, with 36% of people belonging to this demographic.

Under 20's remained the smallest age demographic, representing 2% of people on caseload in Q3 23/24, followed by the 60 and over age group which represented 6%.

Assessment, Case Management & Evaluation System (ACE) is used to assess the likelihood of re-offending within a two-year period, based on the prevalence of various social, personal, and offending related issues. A scoring system is used to identify the likelihood of re-offending with a score of 0 to 15 indicating a low risk, a score of 16 to 29 indicating a medium risk and a score of 30 or more indicating a high risk.

Figure 2: Number Ace Bands of Service Users on PBNI Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



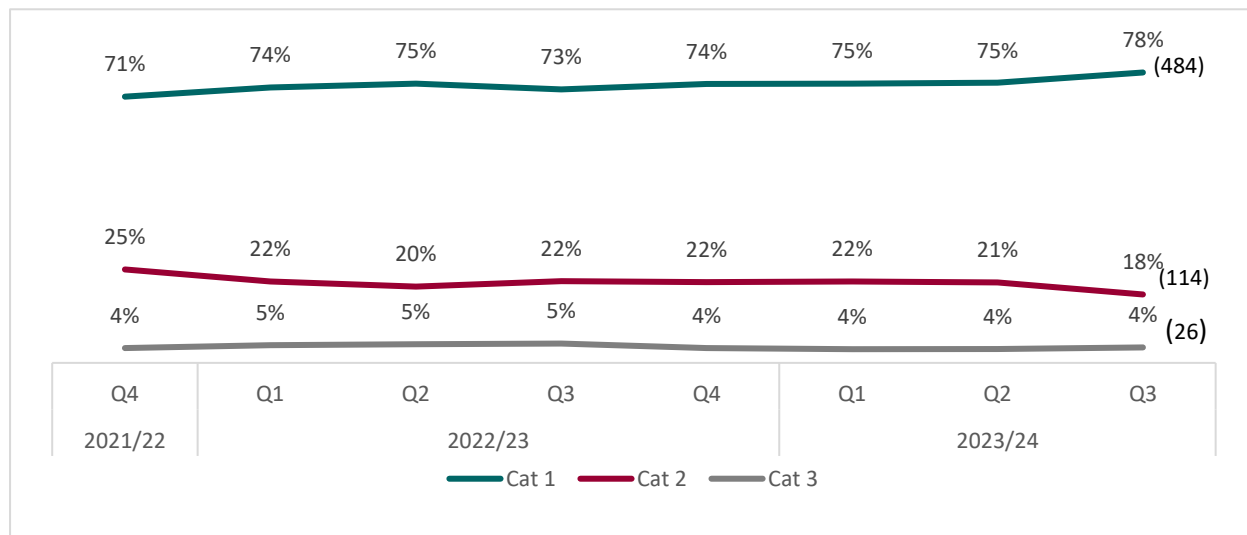
At the end of Q3 23/24, 30% of ACEs were in the high band, 46% in the medium band and 24% in the low band.

This has remained fairly consistent over the time period, though the numbers of ACE completions have increased along with the increasing caseload.

94% (3,986) of caseload at the end of Q3 23/24 had received an ACE assessment and been assigned an ACE band.

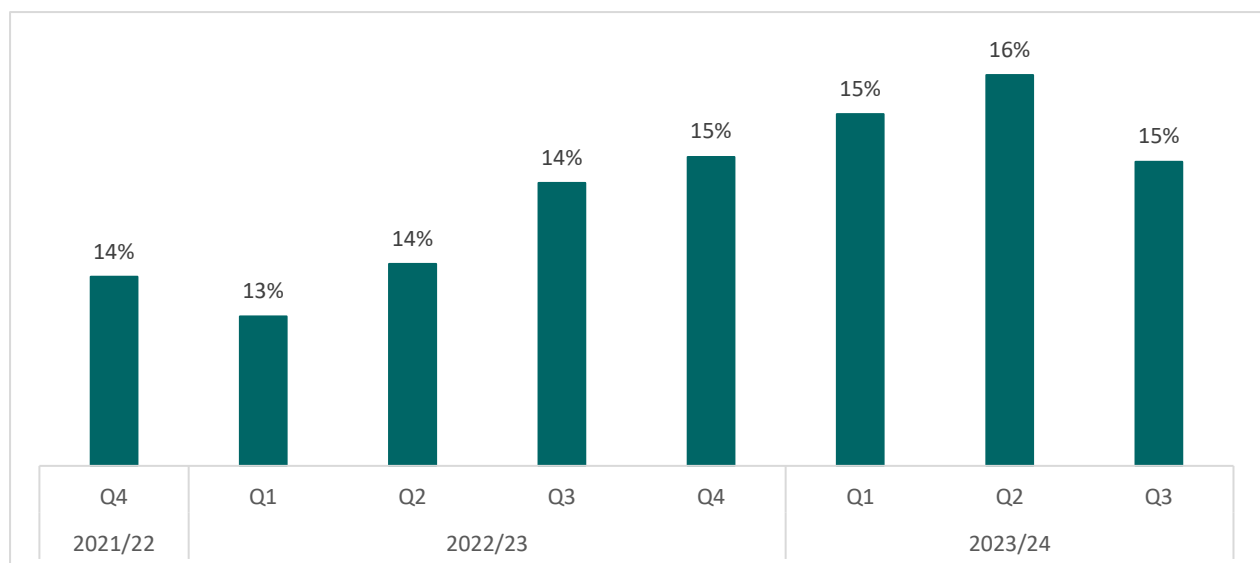
Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) provides assessment and management of the risks posed by certain sexual and violent individuals. Service users who fall under PPANI are assigned a category from 1 – 3, with 1 being the category with the lowest risk and 3 being the category with the highest risk.

Figure 3: Percentage Categories of PPANI Service Users on PBNI Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



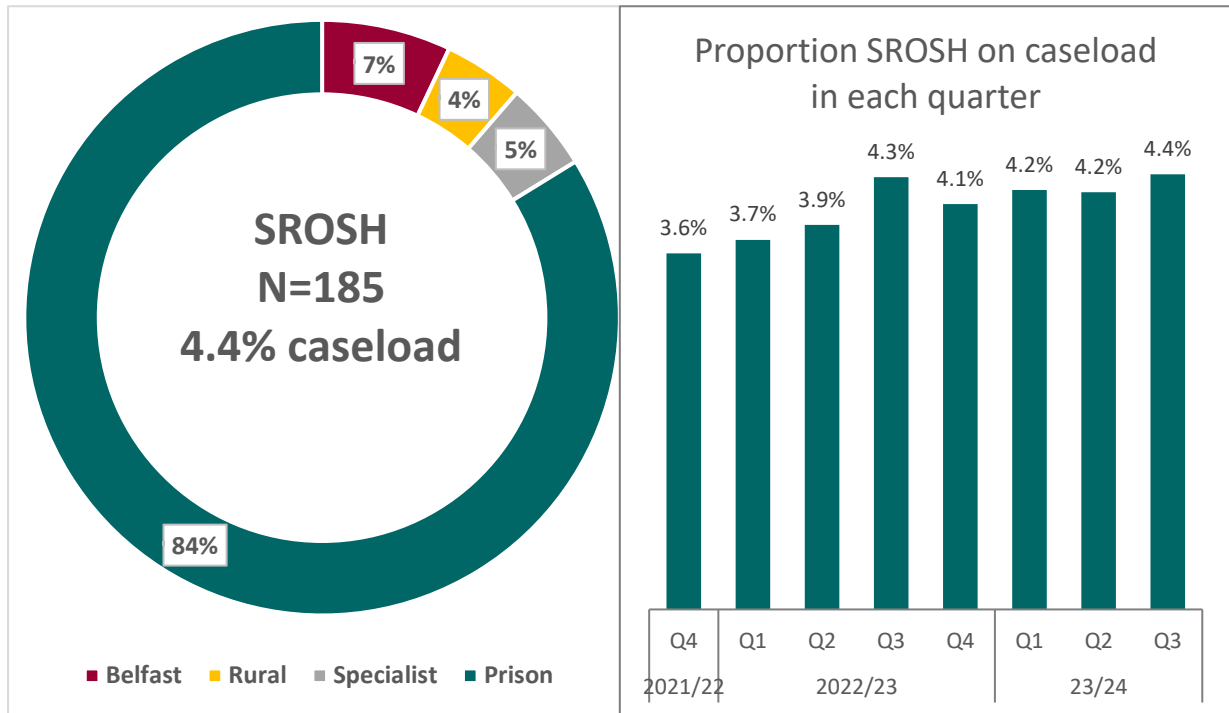
At the end of Q3 23/24, 15% (624) of caseload were categorised under PPANI. 78% (484) of those categorised as PPANI were assigned Category 1, 18% (114) were assigned Category 2 and 4% (26) were assigned Category 3.

Figure 4: Percentage of Caseload categorised as PPANI from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



Service Users who have been assessed as Significant Risk of Serious Harm to Others (SROSH), are considered to present a high likelihood of committing a further offence, causing serious harm.

Figure 5: Directorates Supervising SROSH in Q3 23/24 and Percentage of Caseload categorised as SROSH from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



At the end of Q3 23/24 there were 185 service users on caseload who were assessed as SROSH. This accounts for 4.4% of caseload.

84% (155) of SROSH service users were under supervision by prison teams, 5% (9) were supervised by specialist teams, 7% (13) were supervised by Belfast teams and 4% (8) were supervised by Rural teams.

PBNI New Orders / Licences and People

Figure 6: New Orders / Licences and People on New Orders / Licences from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



Table 3: New Orders / Licences by Order / Licence Type from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

	21/22	22/23				23/24		
New Orders / Licences	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Combination Order	86	109	84	74	100	91	85	102
Community Service Order	124	131	96	122	150	120	132	171
Enhanced Combination Order	35	64	35	21	32	27	20	21
Probation Order	295	353	269	274	341	315	250	329
Determinate Custodial Sentence	139	189	140	144	209	248	104	179
All Other Orders / Licences*	25	20	24	27	18	33	19	34
Total New Orders / Licences	704	866	648	662	850	834	610	836
Total New Service Users	648	791	600	621	781	705	552	754

*Other Orders/Licences include Custody Probation Order, Extended Custodial Order, GB Licences, Indeterminate Custodial Sentence, Juvenile Justice Centre Orders, Life Licence and Non-Statutory Case

In Q3 23/24 there were 836 new orders assigned to 754 people. The most common new order / licence in the quarter was Probation Orders, followed by Determinate Custodial Sentences.

PBNI Reports Completed for Courts

Figure 7: Total Reports Completed (Excluding letters to court) from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

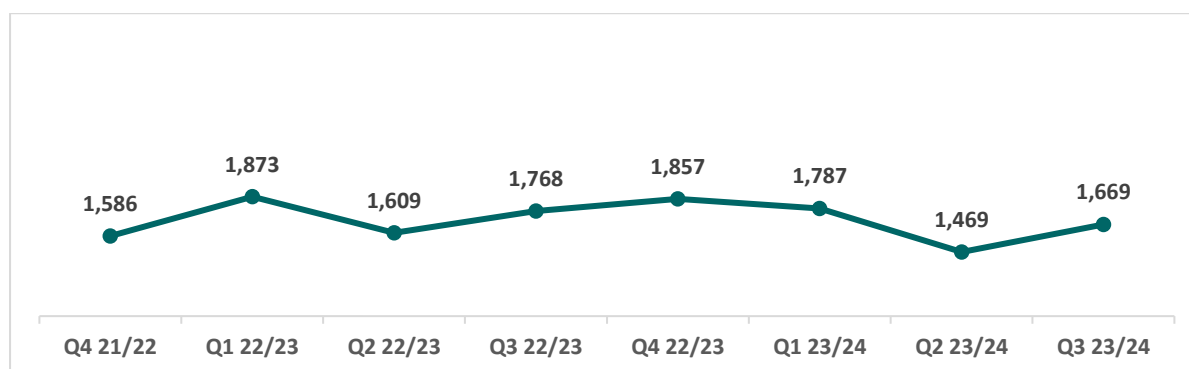


Table 4: Reports Completed by Report Type from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

Report Type	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	% of Reports (excluding Letters)
Addendum	201	187	217	205	210	231	161	192	12%
Breach	188	190	226	197	194	214	179	165	10%
CCR/PSR	335	396	212	321	337	333	195	319	19%
MCR	791	1,019	856	897	843	756	756	767	46%
SAR*	-	-	-	-	85	105	63	122	7%
Other Reports**	69	79	94	119	90	121	93	72	4%
Letter to Court	499	584	512	584	658	497	425	433	..
Missing Report Type	2	2	4	29	98	27	22	32	2%
Total Including Letters	2,085	2,457	2,121	2,352	2,515	2,284	1,894	2,102	..
Total Excluding Letters	1,586	1,873	1,609	1,768	1,857	1,787	1,469	1,669	100%

* Short Adjournment Reports (SARs) were not introduced until 2023.
 ** Other Reports include Probation Officers Report, Recall Reports, Short Magistrates Court (SMC) Progress Report, SMC Suitability Report, SMC Assessment & Intervention Report, Revocation and Home Circumstance.

In Q3 23/24, 1,669 reports were completed when letters to court are excluded. There was a total of 2,102 reports completed when letters to court are considered.

Magistrates Court Reports (MCRs) made up the highest proportion of reports completed within the quarter, accounting for 46% of all reports (excluding letters).

PBNI Victim Information Scheme

Figure 8: New Victims Registered in the quarter from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

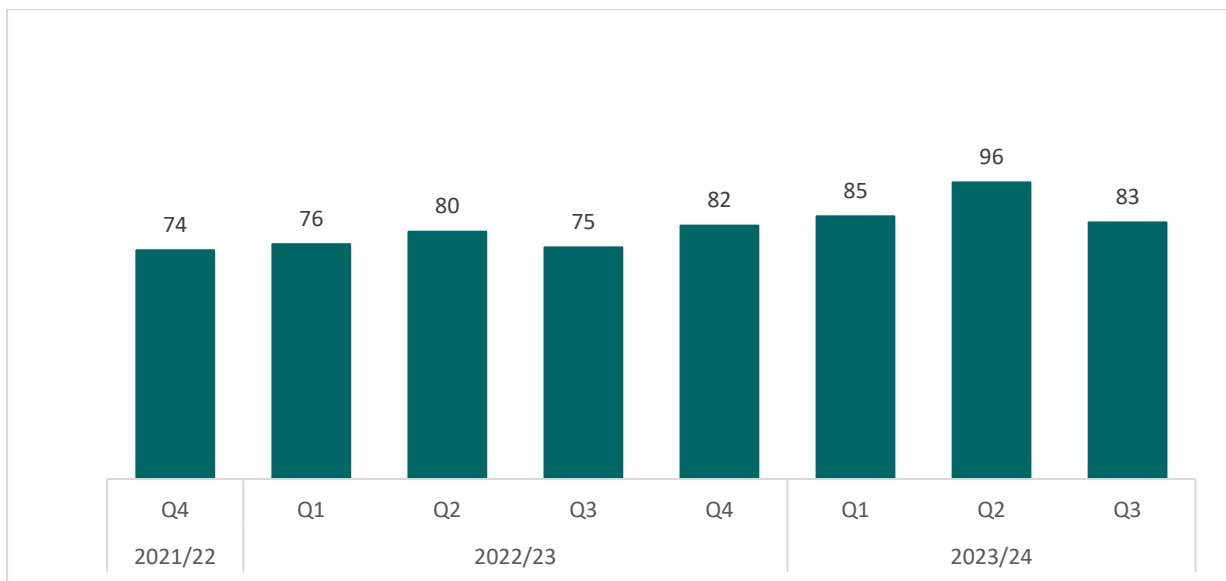


Figure 9: Gender of Registered Victims from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24



At the end of Q3 23/24 there were 497 victims registered to the Victim Information Scheme, with 83 new victims registered in the quarter.

Of those registered to the Victim Information Scheme at the end of Q3 23/24, 70% (346) were female and 30% (151) were male.

Data Tables

Table 5: ACE Bands on Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

	2021/22	2022/23				2023/24		
ACE Band	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
High	1,112	1,154	1,187	1,160	1,138	1,149	1,178	1,198
Medium	1,680	1,705	1,696	1,680	1,763	1,738	1,734	1,829
Low	947	1,010	1,008	973	1,000	1,024	1,007	959
Total ACE	3,739	3,869	3,891	3,813	3,901	3,911	3,919	3,986
Total Caseload	3,947	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238
Total % Caseload	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	94%

Table 6: PPANI Categories on Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

	2021/22	2022/23				2023/24		
PPANI	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Cat 1	379	392	417	425	452	470	484	484
Cat 2	133	116	114	127	131	137	139	114
Cat 3	21	25	28	30	24	23	24	26
Total PPANI	533	533	559	582	607	630	647	624
Total Caseload	3,947	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238
% PPANI	14%	13%	14%	14%	15%	15%	16%	15%

Table 7: Directorates of SROSH on Caseload from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

	2021/22	2022/23				23/24		
Significant Risk of Serious Harm	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Belfast	6	8	7	11	10	14	12	13
Rural	5	6	5	7	9	7	8	8
Specialist	12	11	16	17	17	8	9	9
Prison	118	126	130	139	131	145	144	155
Total SROSH	141	151	158	174	167	174	173	185
Total Caseload	3,947	4,074	4,098	4,014	4,108	4,137	4,136	4,238
% Caseload	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	4.3%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%

Table 8: Registrations to the Victim Information Scheme from Q4 21/22 to Q3 23/24

		New Victims Registered	Victims Registered	Male Victims	Female Victims	Female	Male
2021/22	Q4	74	496	153	343	69%	31%
2022/23	Q1	76	487	152	335	69%	31%
	Q2	80	478	138	340	71%	29%
	Q3	75	468	130	338	72%	28%
	Q4	82	471	125	343	73%	27%
2023/24	Q1	85	466	133	333	71%	29%
	Q2	96	476	138	338	71%	29%
	Q3	83	497	151	346	70%	30%

PBNI Glossary of Orders and Sentences

<p>Combination Order</p>	<p>Combines a Probation Order and a Community Service Order. The period of Probation supervision can last from 1 to 3 years. The Community Service part of the Order can range from 40 to 100 hours and must be completed as instructed.</p>
<p>Community Service Order</p>	<p>Requires an offender to do unpaid work in the community. It may be given to someone 16 or over if the offender consents and is between 40 and 240 hours and must be completed within 12 months.</p>
<p>Custody Probation Order</p>	<p>Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community (the period of supervision will be 1 to 3 years commencing on date of release) and is unique to Northern Ireland. This order cannot be made unless the offender consents. Although Custody Probation Orders remain on the statute books, Determinate Custodial Sentences were made available from 1 April 2009. This is only a valid disposal where the offence was committed prior to April 2009.</p>
<p>Determinate Custodial Sentence (DCS)</p>	<p>Requires an offender to serve a period of imprisonment followed by a period of supervision in the community. The court will specify the length of both custody and community supervision at sentencing. This will be the standard determinate sentence for all offenders and has been available to the courts from 1 April 2009.</p>
<p>Enhanced Combination Order (ECO)</p>	<p>A pilot Order with a focus on rehabilitation, reparation, restorative practice, and desistance, and has been available to a number of pilot court divisions from October 2015. The period of Probation supervision can</p>

	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.

<p>Indeterminate Custodial Sentence (ICS)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Inescapable Voluntary</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Life Sentence Licence</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Probation Order (PO)</p>	<p>Probation Orders can last between 6 months and 3 years and puts the offender under the supervision of a Probation Officer for that period. The order may have extra requirements. Offender consent is required.</p>

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 a 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 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.