

# Domestic Abuse Calls Received by Police in Northern Ireland

Weekly management information on domestic abuse calls received by PSNI since Covid-19 lockdown measures were introduced on 23 March 2020

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This is an exceptional release presenting domestic abuse calls received by police at Northern Ireland level, including the period since Covid-19 lockdown measures were introduced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

The data contained in this release is management information and has not undergone the rigorous quality assurance checks that would be carried out prior to the publication of official statistics. It is separate to, and is not a replacement for, the official statistics data series on Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland.

The information in this release is sourced from PSNI's Command and Control System and is based on all calls for service which have either been opened or closed on a code that is used to identify potential domestic abuse.

- The current weekly average number of domestic abuse calls received by police since the first lockdown was introduced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 is 583. This compares with weekly averages of 564 and 588 during 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- Domestic abuse calls were mainly above the weekly average of 583 between the introduction of lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and mid-August 2020. Calls have tended to be below this weekly average since then, with the main exception of the Christmas and New Year period 2020/21. [Figure 1]
- In the 7 days 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the number of domestic abuse calls was 518, 29 lower than the previous week and 65 lower than the weekly average. The level of calls received since the start of 2021 has been lower than the levels seen during the same time period in 2020. [Figure 1]
- With some exceptions, domestic abuse calls made during the latest Christmas and New Year period have tended to be lower than those seen during the previous two periods. [Figure 2]



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## Points to note when using the domestic abuse calls for service management information

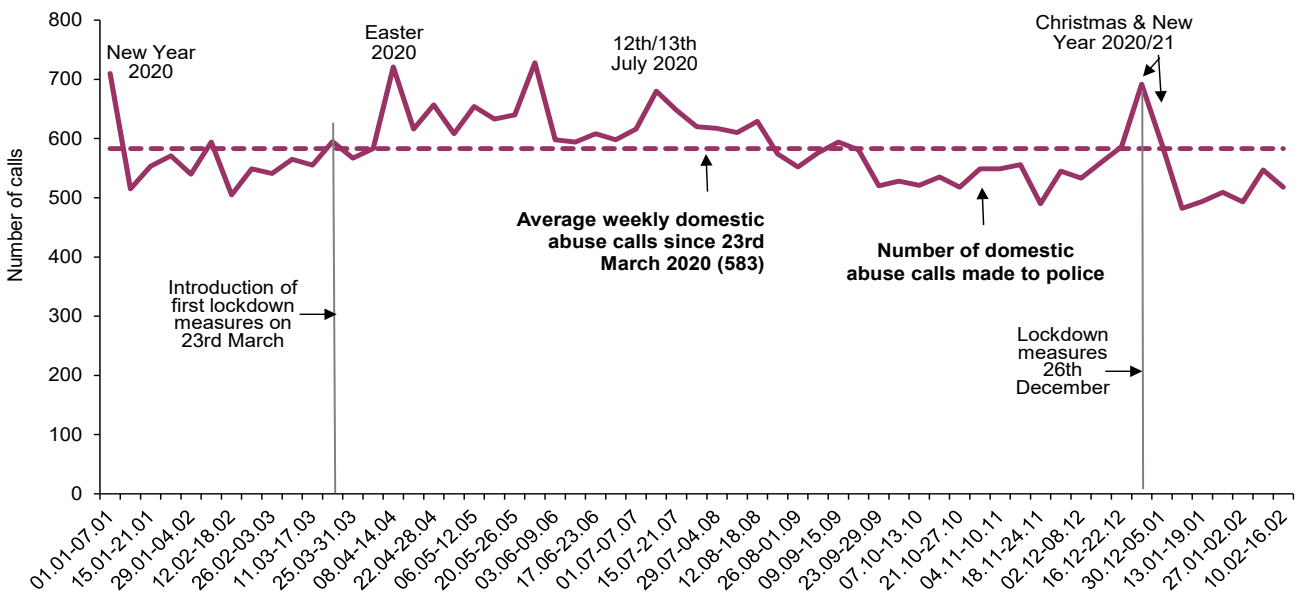
While domestic abuse calls for service are an up-to-date source of information, they are subject to different recording practices from the Domestic Abuse Incident and Crime figures which are published by PSNI's Statistics Branch as Official Statistics. The [definition of domestic abuse](#) is available through the PSNI website.

The official statistics data series includes domestic abuse incidents that have been identified through sources other than a call for service to police. It also excludes calls for service that were initially identified as potential domestic abuse but which turned out not to meet the domestic abuse definition.

In order to incorporate these requirements and improve completeness and accuracy the official statistics data has a longer processing time. This management information is less complete and should only be used to identify an early indication of trends compared against the weekly average, as supplied in Figure 1 below.

Analysis of the five calendar years 2016 to 2020 shows that the number of domestic abuse calls received by police is lower than the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by police by a ratio of 1 to 1.1. This should be taken into consideration when using the figures in this release.

**Figure 1 Domestic abuse calls received by police, weekly trends from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 compared with the average weekly number of calls since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**



**Figure 2 Domestic abuse calls received during the Christmas and New Year period 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, compared with the same dates in the previous two periods**

