

Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics

1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

Key Statistics

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During 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019:

- there were 2 security related deaths, the same number as during the previous 12 months. The number of shooting incidents was also the same as the previous 12 months, while the number of bombings decreased slightly.
- there were 18 casualties of paramilitary style shootings compared to 17 in the previous 12 month period. After a 4 month period between April and July with no such attacks, the last 5 months have seen 12 such shootings. Of the 18 attacks during the last 12 months, 8 occurred in Derry City and Strabane and 8 in Belfast. All 18 casualties were aged 18 years or older.
- there were 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, compared to 51 in the previous 12 months. The majority of these assaults occurred in Antrim and Newtownabbey (20 casualties) and Belfast (15 casualties). Of the 67 casualties, 5 were under 18 years old.
- there were 15 bombing incidents, compared to 17 in the previous year and the same number of shooting incidents (39).
- there were 147 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 148 during the previous 12 months.
- The number of persons subsequently charged increased from 16 to 18 over the same period.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe

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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

Police Recorded Statistics on the Security Situation for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).

Police recorded statistics relating to the security situation in Northern Ireland are the main source of official information on trends and statistics relating to the security situation throughout the Troubles and up to the present day. The PSNI produces statistics on incidents relating to the security situation that are reported to the police, including security related deaths, shooting and bombing incidents, paramilitary style attacks and arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

This monthly bulletin presents the most recent security situation statistics for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. Figures for the financial year 2019/20 are provisional and subject to minor amendment. An accompanying [spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this bulletin and historic trends. Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Security Situation Statistics User Guide](#) available on the [PSNI website](#). The next monthly update will be published on 7 February 2020.

The security situation figures relate to those incidents that took place within Northern Ireland, they do not include any security related incidents that may have happened either in the Republic of Ireland or in Great Britain.

These statistics only include those incidents that are brought to the attention of the police and some such incidents may not have been reported. Therefore a level of under-reporting may exist and users of the statistics should exercise caution when examining trends based on these police statistics.

National Statistics

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in June 2012 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

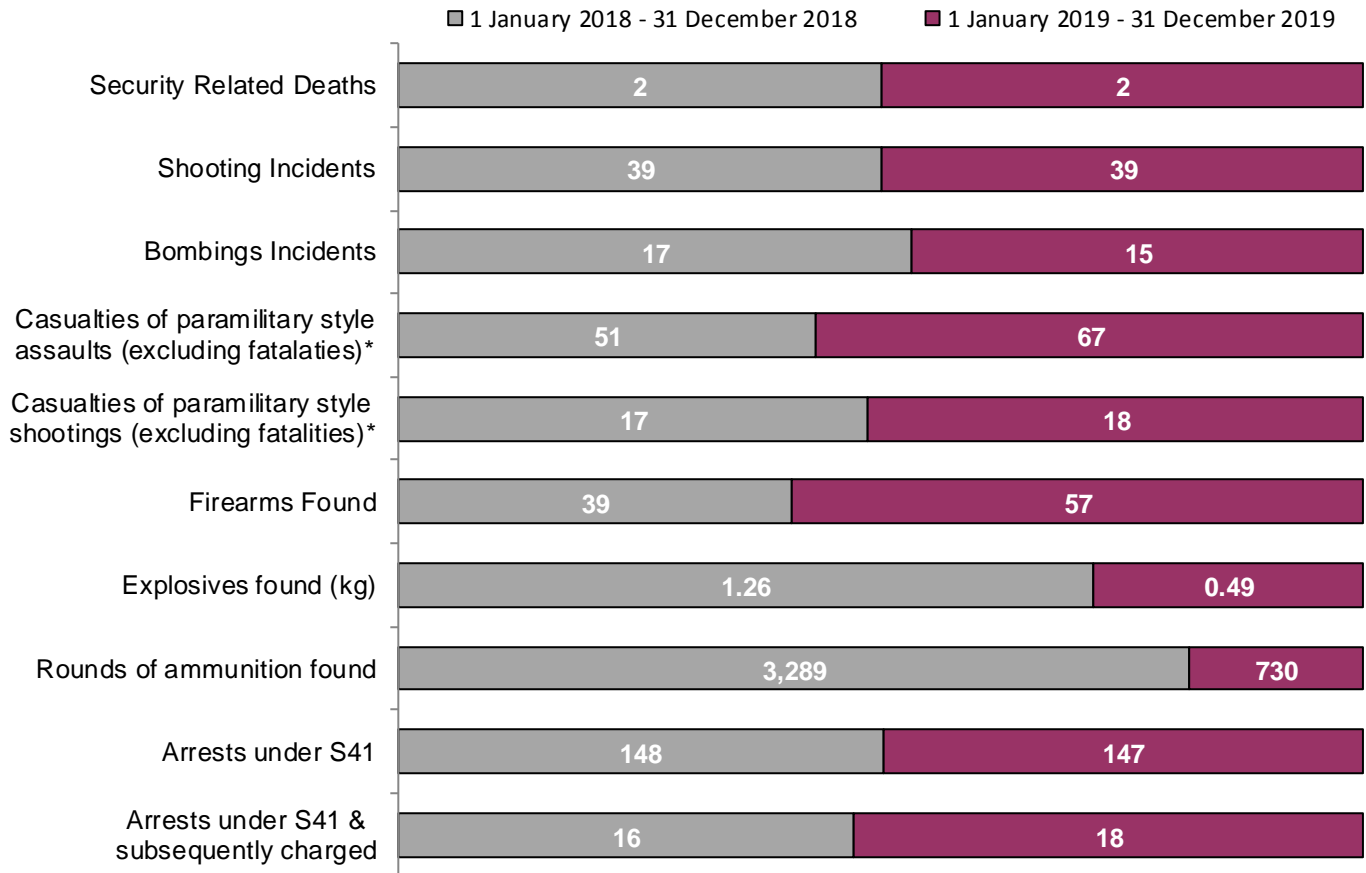
Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Enhanced the amount of information available to users, for example inclusion of longer trend information and District breakdown in annual reports.
- Reviewed and enhanced the format of the monthly bulletins.
- Improved accessibility by introducing user friendly methods of data presentation, for example tables, maps and charts, and providing tables in open document spreadsheet format.
- Continued to conduct regular consultation with internal and external users, for example via a customer satisfaction survey to obtain feedback and suggestions for improvements, with [results](#) published on the PSNI statistics website.
- Assessment against the Administrative Data Quality Assurance framework in 2018 to ensure ongoing quality of outputs and identify improvements.

2. Summary statistics

Figure 1 summarises the number of security related incidents during the past 12 months compared to the previous 12 months.

Figure 1: Comparison of security incidents between 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018 and 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019.



* Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

3. Ten year trends

Figure 2: Number of deaths due to the security situation 2009/10 – 2018/19

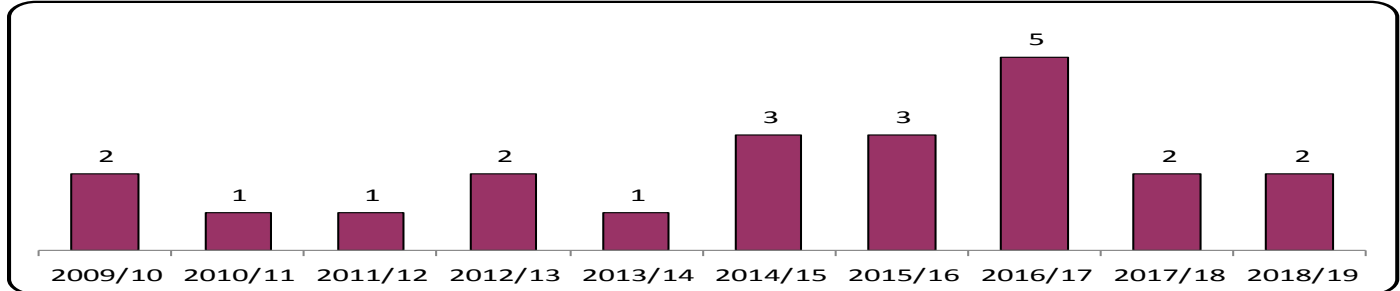


Figure 3: Number of shooting and bombing incidents 2009/10 – 2018/19

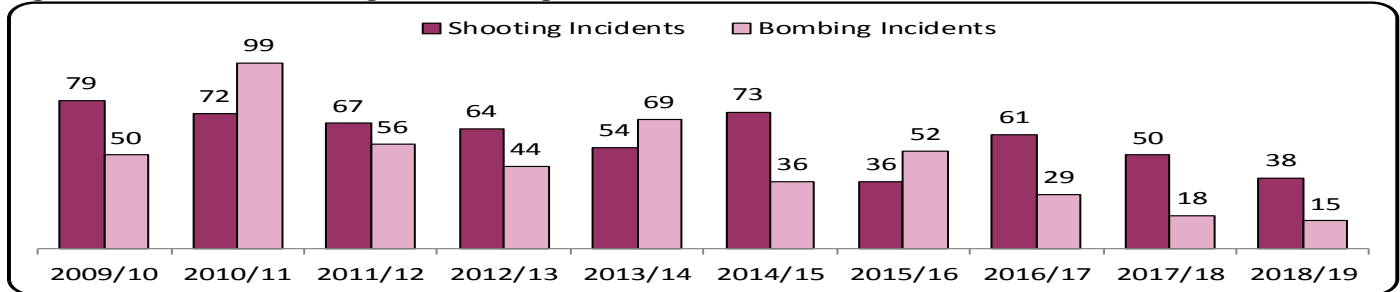


Figure 4: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary style shootings^(1,2) 2009/10 – 2018/19

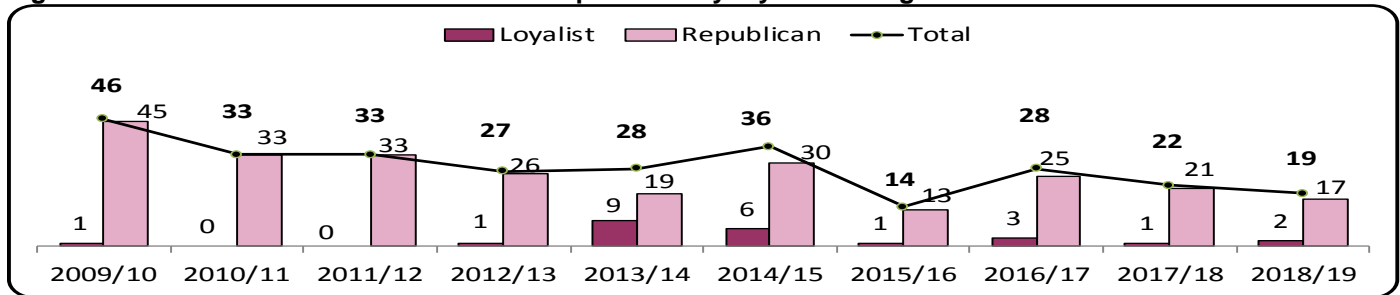


Figure 5: Number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style assaults^(1,2) 2009/10 – 2018/19

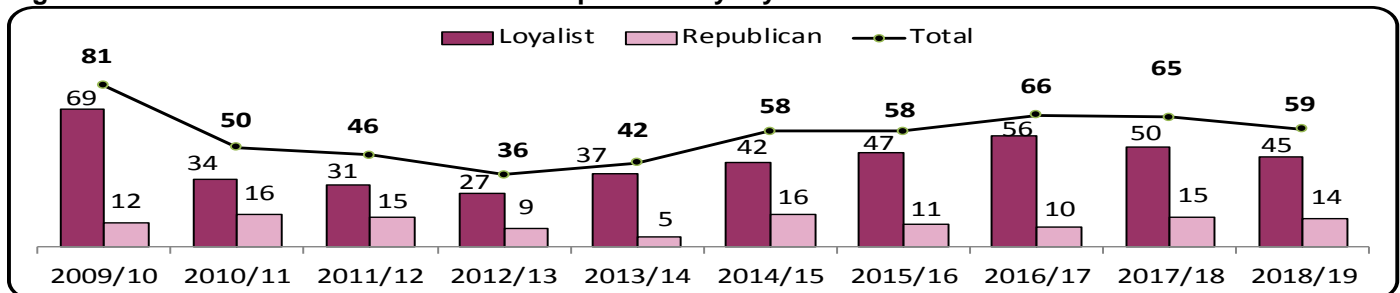
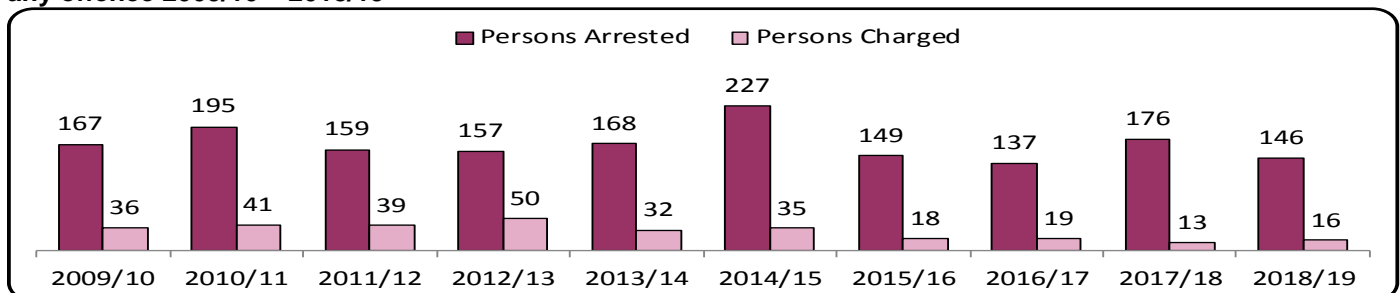


Figure 6: Number of persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act & subsequently charged with any offence 2009/10 – 2018/19⁽³⁾



(1) Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault/shooting figures. (2) Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available at the time of the incident and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation. (3) Following examination of pre 2017/18 data in October 2018, the number of persons arrested under S41 TACT in 2009/10 was revised from 169 to 167.

4. Commentary

4.1 Security Related Deaths

Security related deaths are those which are considered at the time of the incident to be directly attributed to terrorism, where the cause has a direct or proximate link to subversive / sectarian strife or where the death is attributable to security force activity.

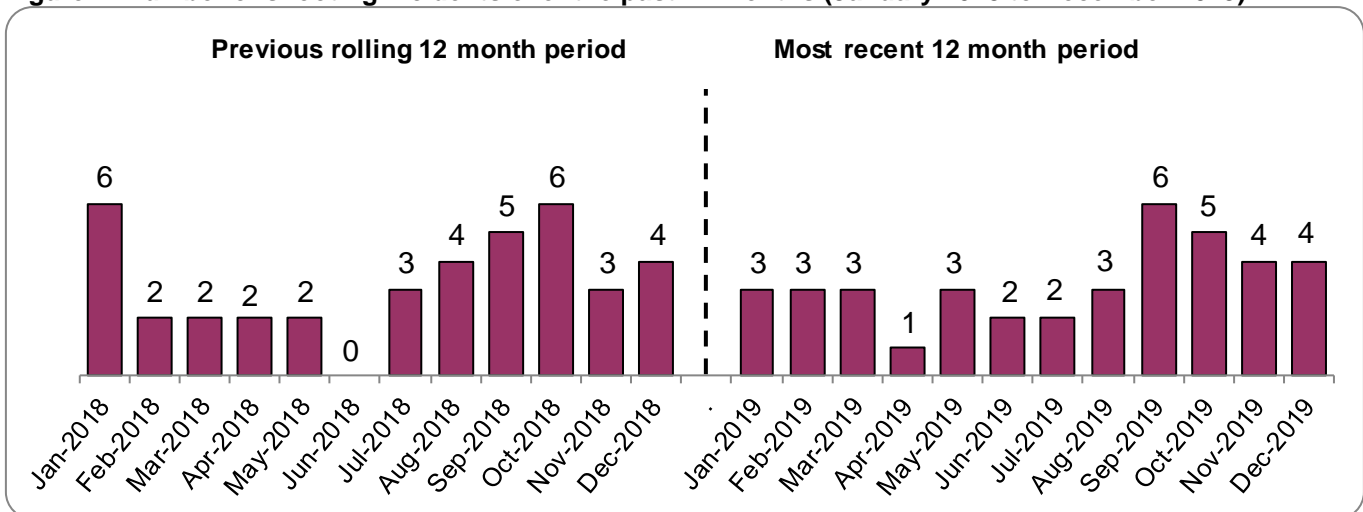
- There were two security related deaths during the last 12 month period, the same number as during the previous 12 months. One of these deaths occurred in Belfast in January 2019 and the other occurred in Derry City and Strabane in April 2019.

4.2 Shooting Incidents

These include any shooting incident relating to the security situation and include shots fired by terrorists, shots fired by the security forces, paramilitary style attacks involving shootings and shots heard (and later confirmed by other sources).

- There were 39 shooting incidents during the last 12 months, the same number as during the previous 12 months. See Figure 7 for a monthly breakdown.
- Of the 39 shooting incidents in the last 12 months, Belfast experienced 18 such incidents and Derry City and Strabane experienced 13; see Section 5 for a district breakdown.

Figure 7: Number of shooting incidents over the past 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)

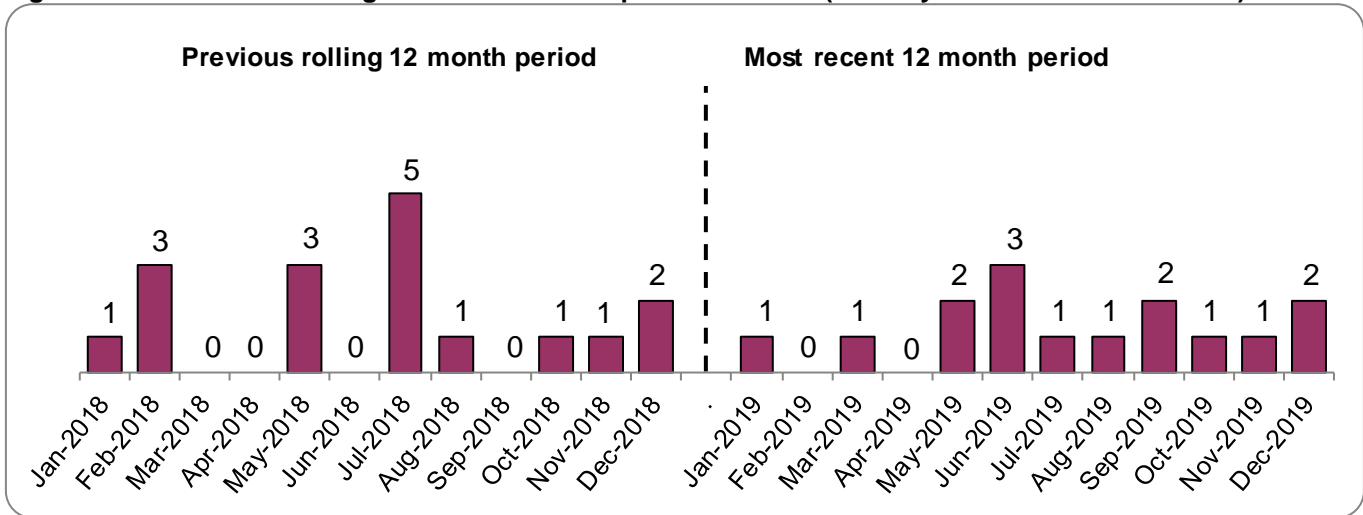


4.3 Bombing Incidents

These include all incidents where a bombing device explodes or is defused. If a device is found that is not complete or armed, then it is recorded as a 'find' and not as a bombing.

- There were 15 bombing incidents during the last 12 months, compared to 17 during the previous 12 months. See Figure 8 for a monthly breakdown. Similar to shooting incidents, Belfast and Derry City and Strabane accounted for the majority of bombing incidents that occurred (5 incidents in each District), see Section 5.

Figure 8: Number of bombing incidents over the past 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)

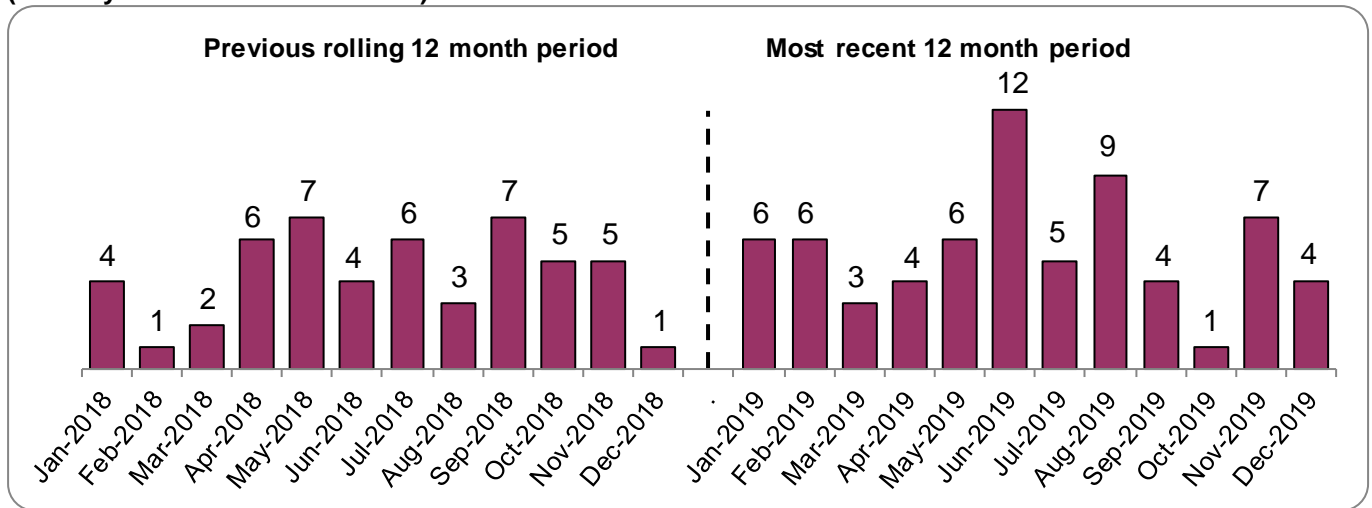


4.4 Paramilitary Style Assaults

Paramilitary style assaults are usually carried out by Loyalist or Republican groups on members of their own community as a so-called punishment. The assault will involve major or minor physical injury to the injured party typically involving a group of assailants armed with, for example, iron bars or baseball bats. Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style assault figures.

- There were 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the last 12 months compared to 51 during the previous 12 months. The majority of these assaults were carried out in Antrim and Newtownabbey (20 casualties) and Belfast (15 casualties). Antrim and Newtownabbey saw the number of assaults double (10 to 20) compared to the previous year, while in Derry City and Strabane the number of such assaults increased from 2 to 10.
- Of the 67 casualties of paramilitary style assaults during the last 12 months 5 were aged under 18 years old.

Figure 9: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)



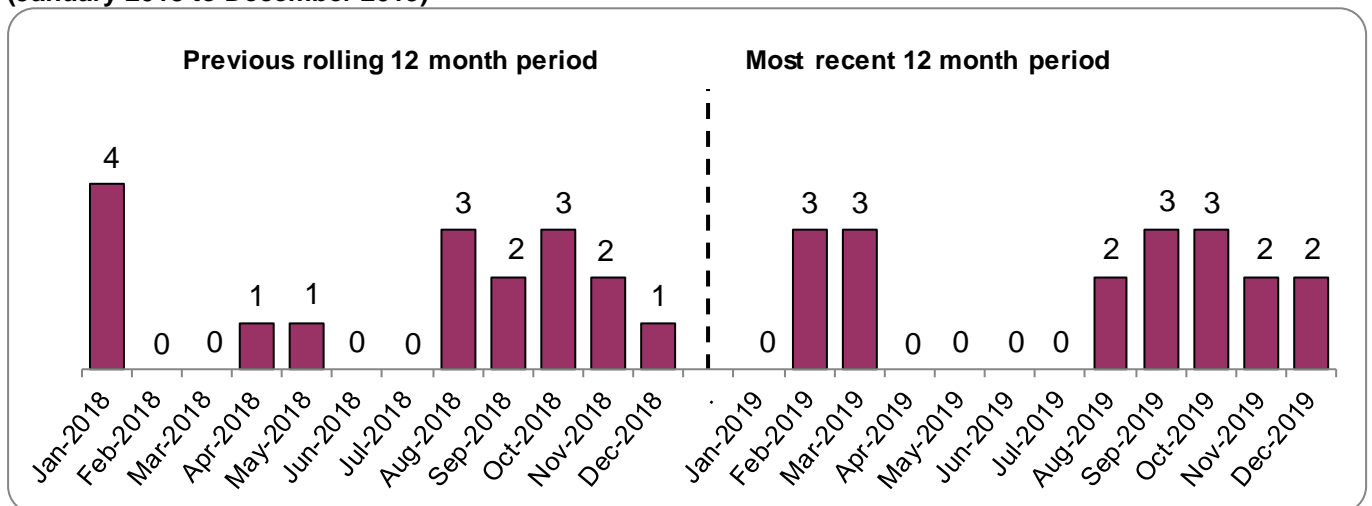
(1) Paramilitary style assaults that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults figures.

4.5 Paramilitary Style Shootings

Paramilitary style shootings usually result in the injured party being shot in the knees, elbows, feet, ankles or thighs and the motive is supposedly to punish the person for anti-social activities. These paramilitary style shootings are generally conducted by Loyalist or Republican paramilitary groups on members of their own community. Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as 'security related deaths' and are not reflected in the paramilitary style shooting figures.

- There were 18 casualties from paramilitary style shootings during the last 12 months, compared to 17 during the previous 12 months. Of these 18 shootings, 8 occurred in Derry City and Strabane and 8 in Belfast. After a 4 month period between April and July which saw no such attacks, the last 5 months have seen 2 or 3 such shootings each month.
- Of the 18 casualties of paramilitary style shootings during the last 12 months, all were aged 18 years and above.

Figure 10: Number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style shootings⁽¹⁾ over the last 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)



(1) Paramilitary style shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style shootings figures.

4.6 Finds of Firearms, Explosives and Ammunition

These refer to the seizure or recovery of all illegal firearms, ammunition, explosives, rocket/mortar launchers, detonators and bomb making material/equipment. Replica/blank firing firearms, petrol bombs and petrol bomb making materials, grenades and munitions from World War 1 or World War 2 found on the beach or in attics etc. are not recorded as finds.

Firearms Finds

- There were more firearms found during the past 12 months (57) compared to the previous 12 months (39).
- The numbers of firearms seized per month has ranged from a low of none (July 2019) to a high of 18 (December 2019) over the last 24 months, see Table 1. On average 5 firearms have been found per month during the past 12 month period.

Explosive Finds

- There were fewer explosives found during the past 12 months (0.5kg) compared to the previous 12 months (1.3kg).

Ammunition Finds

- There were fewer rounds of ammunition found during the past 12 months (730 rounds) compared to during the previous 12 months (3,289 rounds). This decrease is mostly explained by the large quantity of ammunition found during a single recovery in March 2018.

Table 1: Number of firearms, explosives and rounds of ammunition seized by PSNI over the last 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)

	Previous 12 month period			Most recent 12 month period			
	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	Firearms	Explosives (kg)	Rounds of Ammunition	
Jan-18	5	0.00	75	Jan-19	5	0.00	34
Feb-18	2	0.00	20	Feb-19	6	0.01	105
Mar-18	2	0.10	2,153	Mar-19	4	0.00	104
Apr-18	1	0.01	171	Apr-19	3	0.00	14
May-18	9	0.30	67	May-19	1	0.00	48
Jun-18	1	0.09	35	Jun-19	5	0.00	122
Jul-18	6	0.00	183	Jul-19	0	0.00	35
Aug-18	5	0.05	15	Aug-19	4	0.00	46
Sep-18	4	0.10	48	Sep-19	5	0.48	57
Oct-18	2	0.00	386	Oct-19	3	0.00	53
Nov-18	1	0.61	89	Nov-19	3	0.00	66
Dec-18	1	0.00	47	Dec-19	18	0.00	46
Total	39	1.26	3,289	Total	57	0.49	730

4.7 Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests and Subsequent Charges

Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 enables police officers to arrest persons whom they reasonably suspect to be a terrorist. Following arrest under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act an individual may be charged with any offence (e.g. attempted murder) and not necessarily an offence listed under the Terrorism Act.

- There were 147 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 during the past 12 months compared to 148 during the previous 12 months.
- Of the 147 arrests, 74 of them occurred in Belfast and 52 occurred in Derry City and Strabane.
- There were 18 persons arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequently charged (with any offence) during the past 12 months compared to 16 during the previous 12 months (see Figure 12).

Figure 11: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act over the last 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)

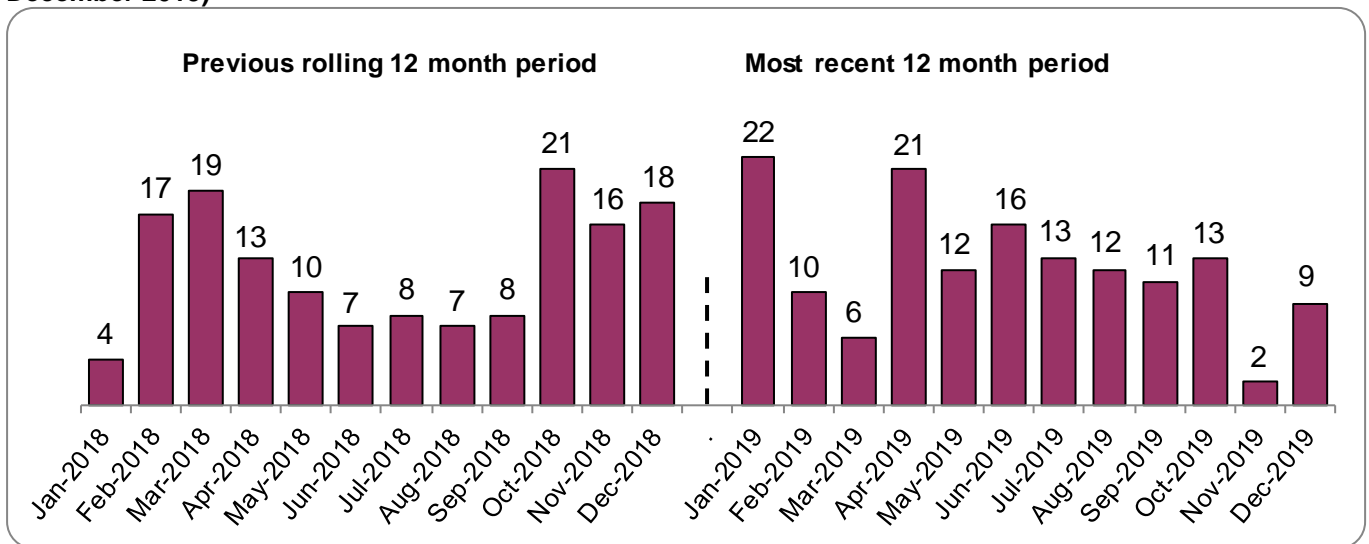
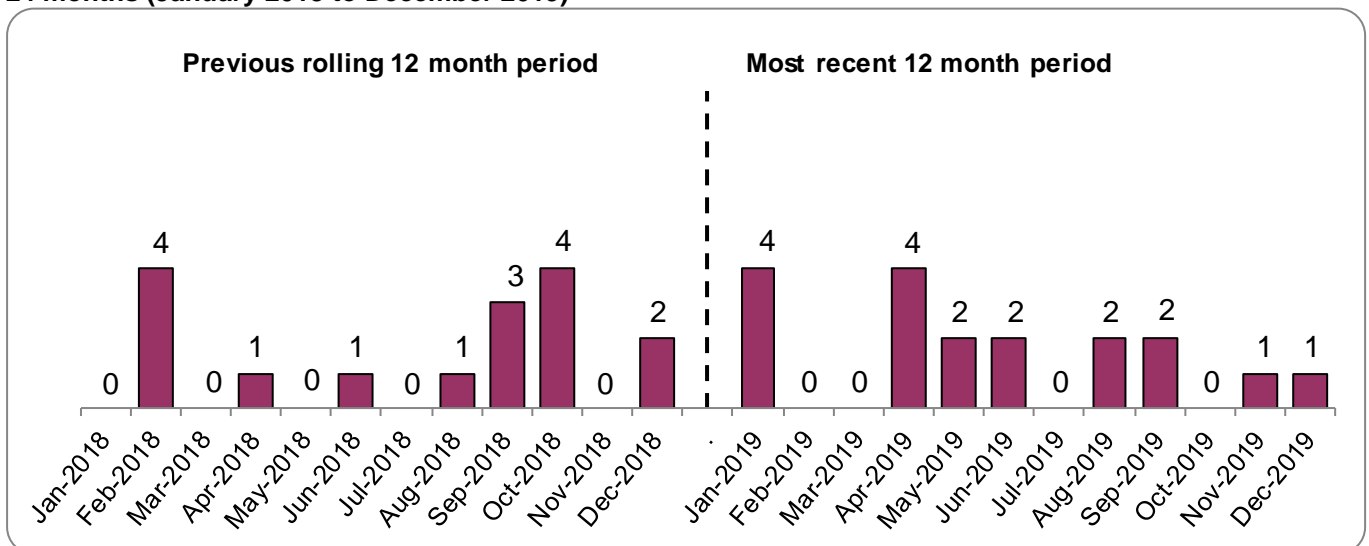


Figure 12: Number of persons arrested under S41 Terrorism Act and subsequently charged over the last 24 months (January 2018 to December 2019)



5. District level tables

Bombing and Shooting Incidents

	Bombing Incidents ¹			Shooting Incidents ²		
	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	Change	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	Change
Belfast City	9	5	-4	19	18	-1
North Area	5	7	2	17	15	-2
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	2	1	0	1	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	0	0	3	0	-3
Derry City & Strabane	3	5	2	14	13	-1
Mid & East Antrim	1	0	-1	0	1	1
South Area	3	3	0	3	6	3
Ards & North Down	0	0	0	0	3	3
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	2	2	1	1	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	1	0	1	1	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1	0	-1	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	1	0	-1	0	1	1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Northern Ireland	17	15	-2	39	39	0

(1) Individual bombing incidents may involve one or more explosive devices. Incidents include explosions and defusings. Incidents involving hoax devices, petrol bombings or incendiaries are excluded.

(2) The following types of incidents are included:

- Shots fired by terrorists
- Shots fired by the security forces
- Paramilitary-style attacks involving shootings
- Shots heard (and later confirmed).

Casualties of Paramilitary-Style Attacks

Policing Area/District	Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Shootings ³			Casualties Resulting from Paramilitary-Style Assaults ³		
	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	Change	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	Change
Belfast City	9	8	-1	20	15	-5
North Area	8	9	1	19	40	21
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	0	0	10	20	10
Causeway Coast & Glens	2	0	-2	2	1	-1
Derry City & Strabane	6	8	2	2	10	8
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	1	5	9	4
South Area	0	1	1	12	12	0
Ards & North Down	0	1	1	8	9	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	0	0	0	3	3
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Northern Ireland	17	18	1	51	67	16

(3) Paramilitary style assaults/shootings that result in death are counted as security related deaths and are not included in the casualties of paramilitary style assaults/shootings figures.

Arrests under Section 41 TACT and subsequent charges

Policing Area/District	Section 41 Terrorism Act Arrests			Persons Charged subsequent to S41 Arrest		
	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	<i>Change</i>	12 months to December 18	12 months to December 19	<i>Change</i>
Belfast City	82	74	-8	11	9	-2
North Area	49	60	11	3	7	4
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1	3	2	1	0	-1
Causeway Coast & Glens	6	3	-3	1	0	-1
Derry City & Strabane	42	52	10	1	7	6
Mid & East Antrim	0	2	2	0	0	0
South Area	17	13	-4	2	2	0
Ards & North Down	3	4	1	0	1	1
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	8	5	-3	1	0	-1
Fermanagh & Omagh	1	2	1	0	1	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	0	2	2	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	5	0	-5	1	0	-1
Newry, Mourne & Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland	148	147	-1	16	18	2

5. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website. Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until figures for the full financial year are published. This means that the totals for each month from April 2018 can change each time the figures are published during the financial year. These amendments can happen for a number of reasons, such as an incident being included or excluded following further investigation by an officer.

Since the publication of the previous bulletin in December 2019 there has been 1 revision made to the data, as outlined below:

- The number of casualties of paramilitary style assaults recorded by the PSNI increased by two in November (from 5 casualties to 7).