

Statistical Report No. 1

RECORDED CRIME AND CLEARANCES

1st April 2005 - 31st March 2006

A National Statistics Publication

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Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

1. Recorded Crime

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A National Statistics Publication

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1. Recorded Crime

Summary

Overall Crime

- A total of 123,194 offences were recorded during 2005/06 compared with 118,124 in 2004/05. This represents an increase of 5,070 (+4.3%).
- The overall clearance rate was 30.6%, 2.4 percentage points higher than that achieved in the previous year.

Violent Crime (i.e. offences against the person, sexual offences & robbery)

- There was an increase of 1,896 (+5.8%) in the number of violent crimes recorded during 2005/06. Offences against the person rose by 1,614 (+5.5%) and sexual offences rose by 25 (+1.5%).
- Robbery showed an overall increase of 257 (+17.3%), with ordinary robbery rising by 53 (+9.5%) and armed robbery rising by 30 (+3.7%). Hijacking offences contributed most to the overall increase with 290 offences recorded during 2005/06 compared with 116 offences in 2004/05 (+174 offences).
- The violent crime clearance rate rose from 51.1% to 53.9%.

Burglary

- Overall, burglary offences fell by 552 (-4.1%). Domestic burglary fell slightly by 43 (-0.6%) while non-domestic burglary fell by 493 (-8.3%).
- The clearance rate for domestic burglary decreased from 13.4% to 11.0%, with a similar decrease for non-domestic burglary from 15.2% to 13.2%.

Theft

- Theft offences fell by 1,616 (-5.2%). Within this class there were decreases across the majority of categories. There was a decrease of 1,702 (-17.3%) in the number of vehicle crimes recorded. Vehicle crime is comprised of theft from motor vehicles, which fell by 967 (-18.0%) and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, which fell by 735 (-16.5%). Similarly, vehicle tampering /interference showed a decrease of 498 (-19.9%).
- There was a notable increase in shoplifting offences, up 771 from 4,967 during 2004/05 to 5,738 in 2005/06 (+15.5%).
- The clearance rate for all theft offences increased from 17.4% to 20.0%.
- The clearance rate for vehicle crime rose from 10.1% to 12.3%.

Criminal Damage

- Offences of criminal damage rose by 3,369 (+10.7%).
- Within this class the number of criminal damage/malicious damage offences contributed most to this increase with 31,832 offences recorded during 2005/06 compared with 28,924 in 2004/05 (+10.1%).
- The clearance rate for all criminal damage offences rose from 14.4% to 15.2%.

Fraud and Forgery

- Fraud and forgery offences fell slightly by 92 (-1.8%).
- Within fraud and forgery, making off without payment offences saw the largest decrease, falling from 2,151 in 2004/05 to 1,962 in 2005/06 (-8.8%). Deception and forgery & counterfeiting offences rose slightly; +4.4% and +9.9% respectively.
- The clearance rate for fraud and forgery offences decreased from 36.0% to 34.3%.

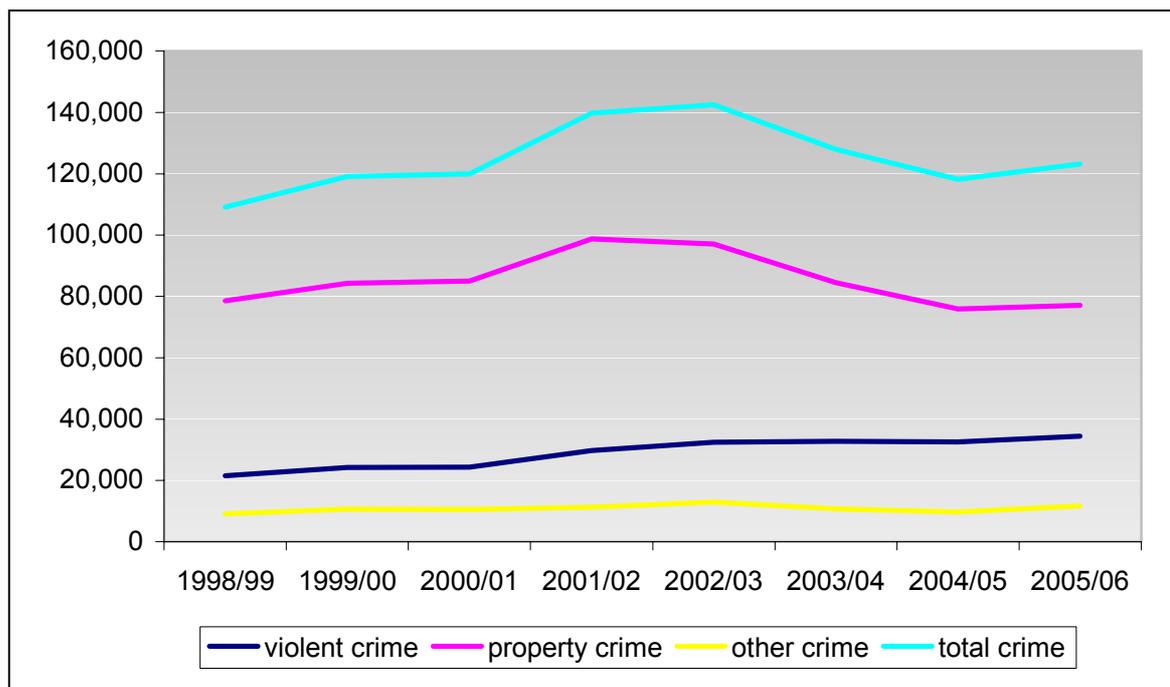
Offences Against the State

- Offences against the State showed an increase of 116 (+9.8%).
- There was an increase of 4.4 percentage points in the clearance rate, from 45.9% to 50.3%.

Other Notifiable Offences

- Other notifiable offences showed an increase of 1,949 (+58.8%), mainly due to the inclusion of breach of order offences into the recorded crime statistics from 1st April 2005. There were 1,426 breach of orders recorded during 2005/06, 1,423 breach of non-molestation orders and 3 breach of anti-social behaviour orders.
- Drug offences increased by 322 (+12.3%). Within the drug category, trafficking offences fell by 26 (-6.9%), however non-trafficking offences rose by 348 (+15.5%).
- The overall clearance rate for other notifiable offences rose from 72.8% to 74.6%.

Figure 1.1: Recorded Crime 1998/99¹ - 2005/06



¹ On the 1st April 1998 the Home Office introduced a number of major revisions in the counting rules under which crime is recorded. Figures prior to this date are not comparable.

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2004/05 and 2005/06

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	change in % pts ⁴
Offences against the person (class 1)									
Murder ¹	34	25	-9	-26.5	27	48	79.4	192.0	+112.6
Manslaughter	6	3	-3	-50.0	5	1	83.3	33.3	-50.0
Infanticide	1	1	0	0.0	1	0	100.0	0.0	-100.0
Attempted murder	129	172	+43	+33.3	67	84	51.9	48.8	-3.1
Threat or conspiracy to murder	1,371	1,392	+21	+1.5	834	874	60.8	62.8	+2.0
Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking	79	79	0	0.0	72	56	91.1	70.9	-20.2
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent ¹	403	417	+14	+3.5	164	491	40.7	117.7	+77.0
Wounding/GBH ¹	768	689	-79	-10.3	249	523	32.4	75.9	+43.5
AOABH	14,820	15,261	+441	+3.0	7,009	7,684	47.3	50.4	+3.1
Common assault / aggravated assault	7,463	7,904	+441	+5.9	4,501	4,794	60.3	60.7	+0.4
Assault on police	2,118	2,423	+305	+14.4	1,894	2,111	89.4	87.1	-2.3
Obstructing police ²	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	-	-
Intimidation	1,038	1,131	+93	+9.0	130	103	12.5	9.1	-3.4
Harassment	947	1,274	+327	+34.5	551	688	58.2	54.0	-4.2
Explosives offences endangering life	25	25	0	0.0	3	3	12.0	12.0	0.0
Firearms offences endangering life	49	58	+9	+18.4	33	38	67.3	65.5	-1.8
Other offences against the person	88	99	+11	+12.5	44	33	50.0	33.3	-16.7
Totals	29,339	30,953	+1,614	+5.5	15,585	17,531	53.1	56.6	+3.5
Sexual offences (class 2)									
Rape	347	356	+9	+2.6	156	155	45.0	43.5	-1.5
Attempted rape	33	35	+2	+6.1	16	24	48.5	68.6	+20.1
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	13	16	+3	+23.1	7	3	53.8	18.8	-35.0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl 14 years and under 17 years	52	51	-1	-1.9	16	19	30.8	37.3	+6.5
Indecent assault on a female	283	295	+12	+4.2	131	124	46.3	42.0	-4.3
Indecent assault on a female child	331	351	+20	+6.0	200	153	60.4	43.6	-16.8
Indecent assault on a male	36	47	+11	+30.6	18	19	50.0	40.4	-9.6
Indecent assault on a male child	96	115	+19	+19.8	63	39	65.6	33.9	-31.7
Indecency between males	13	27	+14	107.7	11	12	84.6	44.4	-40.2
Indecent exposure	393	317	-76	-19.3	114	135	29.0	42.6	+13.6
Indecent conduct towards a child	15	34	+19	+126.7	9	19	60.0	55.9	-4.1
Other sexual offences	74	67	-7	-9.5	35	39	47.3	58.2	+10.9
Totals	1,686	1,711	+25	+1.5	776	741	46.0	43.3	-2.7

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2004/05 and 2005/06 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	change in % pts ⁴
Burglary (class 3)									
Domestic Burglary (Total)	7,302	7,259	-43	-0.6	981	796	13.4	11.0	-2.4
Burglary in a dwelling	7,245	7,214	-31	-0.4	954	778	13.2	10.8	-2.4
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	57	45	-12	-21.1	27	18	47.4	40.0	-7.4
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	5,965	5,472	-493	-8.3	904	725	15.2	13.2	-2.0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	5,963	5,467	-496	-8.3	903	724	15.1	13.2	-1.9
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	2	5	+3	+150.0	1	1	50.0	20.0	-30.0
Going equipped	121	105	-16	-13.2	103	95	85.1	90.5	+5.4
Totals	13,388	12,836	-552	-4.1	1,988	1,616	14.8	12.6	-2.2
Robbery (class 4)									
Robbery	559	612	+53	+9.5	72	97	12.9	15.8	+2.9
Armed robbery	812	842	+30	+3.7	157	157	19.3	18.6	-0.7
Hijacking	116	290	+174	+150.0	19	16	16.4	5.5	-10.9
Totals	1,487	1,744	+257	+17.3	248	270	16.7	15.5	-1.2
Theft (class 5)									
Theft, one person from another	1,162	774	-388	-33.4	65	65	5.6	8.4	+2.8
Theft in a dwelling	868	781	-87	-10.0	207	215	23.8	27.5	+3.7
Theft by an employee	316	305	-11	-3.5	188	164	59.5	53.8	-5.7
Theft of pedal cycles	912	1,024	+112	+12.3	49	59	5.4	5.8	+0.4
Shoplifting	4,967	5,738	+771	+15.5	2,682	3,085	54.0	53.8	-0.2
Vehicle Crime (Total)	9,827	8,125	-1,702	-17.3	988	999	10.1	12.3	+2.2
Theft from motor vehicles	5,371	4,404	-967	-18.0	234	267	4.4	6.1	+1.7
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	4,456	3,721	-735	-16.5	754	732	16.9	19.7	+2.8
Vehicle tampering/interference	2,505	2,007	-498	-19.9	206	171	8.2	8.5	+0.3
Handling of stolen goods	311	240	-71	-22.8	258	182	83.0	75.8	-7.2
Other thefts	10,229	10,487	+258	+2.5	758	961	7.4	9.2	+1.8
Totals	31,097	29,481	-1,616	-5.2	5,401	5,901	17.4	20.0	+2.6
Fraud and forgery (class 6)									
Deception	2,151	2,245	+94	+4.4	792	833	36.8	37.1	+0.3
Forgery and counterfeiting	403	443	+40	+9.9	185	147	45.9	33.2	-12.7
Making off without payment	2,151	1,962	-189	-8.8	540	407	25.1	20.7	-4.4
Other frauds	493	456	-37	-7.5	354	365	71.8	80.0	+8.2
Totals	5,198	5,106	-92	-1.8	1,871	1,752	36.0	34.3	-1.7

Table 1.2: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2004/05 and 2005/06 continued

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	change in % pts ⁴
Criminal damage (class 7)									
Arson	2,011	2,333	+322	+16.0	177	179	8.8	7.7	-1.1
Petrol bombing offences	107	147	+40	+37.4	15	16	14.0	10.9	-3.1
Explosives offences	35	32	-3	-8.6	10	8	28.6	25.0	-3.6
Criminal damage / Malicious damage offences	28,924	31,832	+2,908	+10.1	4,117	4,808	14.2	15.1	+0.9
Other criminal damage offences	355	457	+102	+28.7	202	264	56.9	57.8	+0.9
Totals	31,432	34,801	+3,369	+10.7	4,521	5,275	14.4	15.2	+0.8
Offences against the state (class 8)									
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	24	16	-8	-33.3	10	29	41.7	181.3	+139.6
Firearms offences	149	161	+12	+8.1	47	47	31.5	29.2	-2.3
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	486	565	+79	+16.3	385	477	79.2	84.4	+5.2
Other offences against the public order	526	559	+33	+6.3	102	102	19.4	18.2	-1.2
Totals	1,185	1,301	+116	+9.8	544	655	45.9	50.3	+4.4
Other notifiable offences (class 9)									
Blackmail	34	39	+5	+14.7	4	10	11.8	25.6	+13.8
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	68	48	-20	-29.4	18	10	26.5	20.8	-5.7
Drug offences (Total)	2,622	2,944	+322	+12.3	1,927	2,207	73.5	75.0	+1.5
Trafficking offences	375	349	-26	-6.9	313	300	83.5	86.0	+2.5
Non-Trafficking offences	2,247	2,595	+348	+15.5	1,614	1,907	71.8	73.5	+1.7
Dangerous driving	550	728	+178	+32.4	435	633	79.1	87.0	+7.9
Breach of orders ³	-	1,426	-	-	-	1,025	-	71.9	-
Other notifiable offences	38	76	+38	+100.0	26	38	68.4	50.0	-18.4
Totals	3,312	5,261	+1,949	+58.8	2,410	3,923	72.8	74.6	+1.8
Violent Crime (classes 1, 2 and 4)	32,512	34,408	+1,896	+5.8	16,609	18,542	51.1	53.9	+2.8
Grand Total (all classes)	118,124	123,194	+5,070	+4.3	33,344	37,664	28.2	30.6	+2.4

¹ The offences of murder, wounding with intent and wounding arising from the Omagh bomb were cleared during 2005/06.

² From April 2003 the offence of obstructing police is no longer recordable. While there was 1 offence cleared during 2004/05 for obstructing police offences recorded prior to April 2003, it is not considered appropriate to provide clearance rates.

³ From 1st April 2005, breaches of orders have been counted as offences within the recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules.

⁴ While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 1.3: Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared by District Command Unit 2004/05 and 2005/06

	Total offences recorded				Total offences cleared		% Clearance rate		
	2004/05	2005/06	change	% change	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	Change in % pts ²
Antrim	3,209	3,056	-153	-4.8	802	957	25.0	31.3	+6.3
Ards	3,718	3,577	-141	-3.8	1,020	1,066	27.4	29.8	+2.4
East Belfast	5,455	5,372	-83	-1.5	1,493	1,492	27.4	27.8	+0.4
North Belfast	8,637	8,435	-202	-2.3	1,769	1,951	20.5	23.1	+2.6
South Belfast	14,500	13,080	-1,420	-9.8	3,183	3,260	22.0	24.9	+2.9
West Belfast	5,337	6,625	+1,288	+24.1	1,219	1,465	22.8	22.1	-0.7
Carrickfergus	1,760	1,724	-36	-2.0	640	629	36.4	36.5	+0.1
Castlereagh	2,917	3,227	+310	+10.6	725	702	24.9	21.8	-3.1
Larne	1,569	1,517	-52	-3.3	557	555	35.5	36.6	+1.1
Lisburn	8,009	8,431	+422	+5.3	2,082	2,194	26.0	26.0	0.0
Newtownabbey	5,275	5,300	+25	+0.5	1,116	1,100	21.2	20.8	-0.4
North Down	4,372	4,558	+186	+4.3	1,337	1,620	30.6	35.5	+4.9
Urban Region	64,758	64,902	+144	+0.2	15,943	16,991	24.6	26.2	+1.6
Armagh	2,594	2,927	+333	+12.8	1,064	1,208	41.0	41.3	+0.3
Ballymena	4,231	4,096	-135	-3.2	1,589	1,250	37.6	30.5	-7.1
Ballymoney	1,062	1,102	+40	+3.8	361	389	34.0	35.3	+1.3
Banbridge	2,187	2,350	+163	+7.5	805	883	36.8	37.6	+0.8
Coleraine	4,822	5,043	+221	+4.6	1,580	1,976	32.8	39.2	+6.4
Cookstown	1,996	2,192	+196	+9.8	847	877	42.4	40.0	-2.4
Craigavon	5,594	6,077	+483	+8.6	1,478	1,706	26.4	28.1	+1.7
Down	3,758	4,280	+522	+13.9	1,191	1,322	31.7	30.9	-0.8
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,591	2,816	+225	+8.7	854	1,036	33.0	36.8	3.8
Fermanagh	2,503	3,065	+562	+22.5	598	1,191	23.9	38.9	+15.0
Foyle	7,796	8,664	+868	+11.1	2,152	2,552	27.6	29.5	+1.9
Limavady	2,226	2,497	+271	+12.2	770	943	34.6	37.8	+3.2
Magherafelt	1,338	1,750	+412	+30.8	580	644	43.3	36.8	-6.5
Moyle	821	952	+131	+16.0	231	324	28.1	34.0	+5.9
Newry & Mourne	5,362	5,915	+553	+10.3	1,395	1,904	26.0	32.2	+6.2
Omagh ¹	2,462	2,545	+83	+3.4	1,052	1,611	42.7	63.3	+20.6
Strabane	2,023	2,021	-2	-0.1	854	857	42.2	42.4	+0.2
Rural Region	53,366	58,292	+4,926	+9.2	17,401	20,673	32.6	35.5	+2.9
Grand Total	118,124	123,194	+5,070	+4.3	33,344	37,664	28.2	30.6	+2.4

¹ The offences of murder, wounding with intent and wounding arising from the Omagh bomb were cleared during 2005/06.

² While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Table 1.4: Recorded Crime: Offences Cleared by Method of Clearance 2004/05 and 2005/06

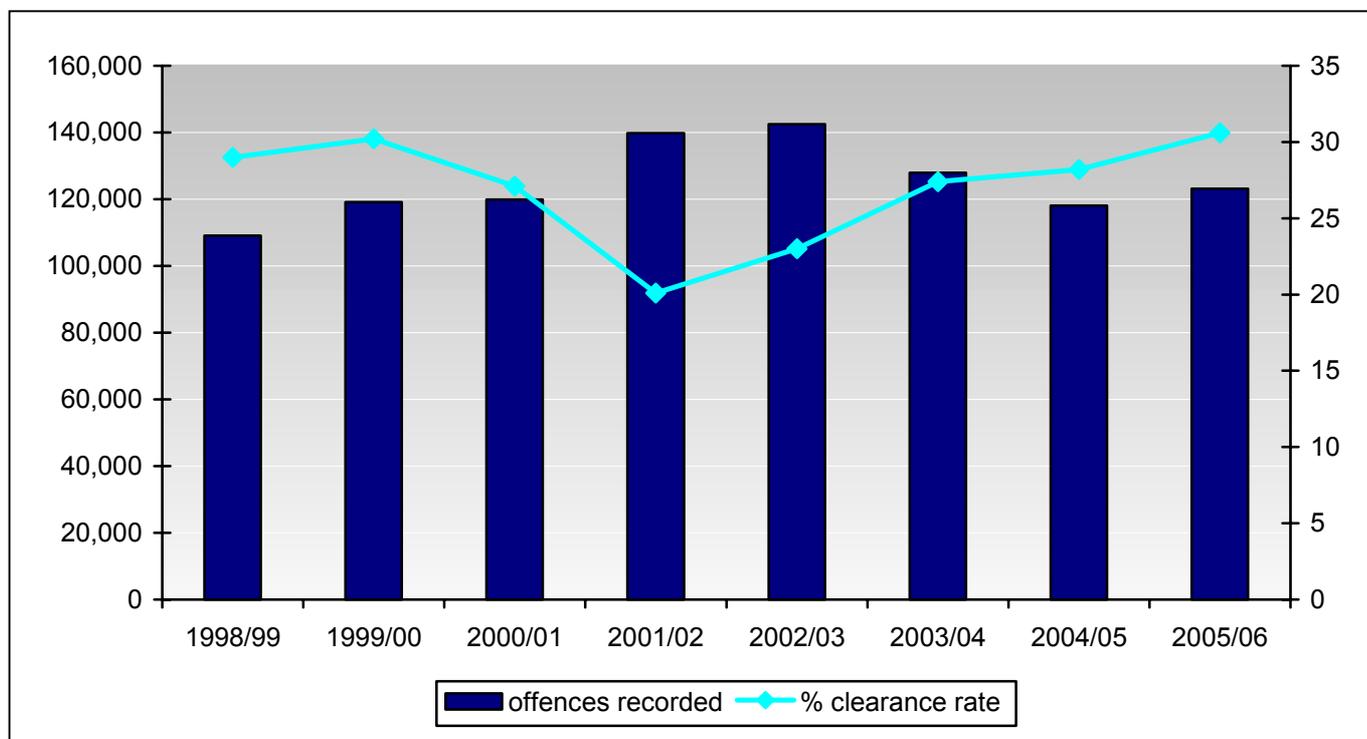
	Number		Rates		
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	change in % pts ³
Total offences recorded	118,124	123,194	-	-	-
Total offences cleared	33,344	37,664	28.2	30.6	+2.4
Sanction clearances					
Charge / summons	14,631	16,874	12.4	13.7	+1.3
Caution – adults ¹	2,206	2,437	1.9	2.0	+0.1
Caution – juveniles ²	1,421	1,741	1.2	1.4	+0.2
Taken into consideration	457	437	0.4	0.4	0.0
Totals	18,715	21,489	15.8	17.4	+1.6
Non sanction clearances					
Complainant declines to prosecute	12,230	13,386	10.4	10.9	+0.5
No prosecution directed	1,788	2,141	1.5	1.7	+0.2
Otherwise disposed of	611	648	0.5	0.5	0.0
Totals	14,629	16,175	12.4	13.1	+0.7

¹ Adult cautions include adult cautions and adult informed warnings.

² Juvenile cautions include juvenile restorative cautions, juvenile informed warnings and juvenile prosecutorial diversions.

³ While the clearance rates are rounded to one decimal place, the clearance rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded clearance rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

Figure 1.5: Recorded Crime and Clearance Rate 1998/99¹ - 2005/06



¹ On the 1st April 1998 the Home Office introduced a number of major revisions in the counting rules under which crime is recorded. Figures prior to this date are not comparable.

Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

- **Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;
- **Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;
- **Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

Clearances

Clearances (or detections as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'cleared or detected' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one clearance. Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and go free, this also counts as one clearance. In this respect clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while clearance data counts crimes.

The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning or restorative caution.

Offences not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared up' are those where the police take no further action for the following reasons:

- Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
- Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
- Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
- Police or PPS decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;
- Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

Violent Crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings: offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims eg threats to kill.