

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Stop and Search Statistics

Quarter 2 2018/19

1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018

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Key Statistics

Legislation	Number of persons stopped during previous quarter Q1 2018/19 ⁽¹⁾	Number of persons stopped during this quarter Q2 2018/19 ⁽¹⁾	% change in persons stopped
PACE	829	922	+11%
Misuse of Drugs Act	4,021	4,288	+7%
Firearms Order	15	13	-13%
TACT S43	17	13	-24%
TACT S43A	7	3	-57%
TACT 47A	0	0	-
JSA Section 21	360	294	-18%
JSA Section 24	1,385	1,453	+5%

(1) As more than one legislative power can be used to stop and search/question a person, the sum of the powers used will be greater than the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned (for example, an individual stopped under PACE and Misuse of Drugs Act will be counted as one person stopped and searched but will have a count of 1 in both the PACE and Misuse of Drugs categories in the table above). Table excludes less frequently used powers; these are summarised in the main body of the report.

During the period 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018,

- 6,901 persons were stopped and searched/questioned, 6% more than the previous quarter; however during each of the previous 3 years the total number of persons stopped during Q2 was higher than preceding Q1 period. Over a quarter (28%) of all stops were in Belfast City policing district during Q2.
- 491 stops (7%) resulted in an arrest. This remains relatively consistent with the arrest rate for the previous 4 financial years, when it has ranged from 6% to 8%.

Persons can be stopped and searched or stopped and questioned under a number of legislative powers in Northern Ireland, or combinations of those powers. These powers include the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) (Northern Ireland) Order, Misuse of Drugs Act, Firearms Order, Justice and Security Act and the Terrorism Act. During the period 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018,

- there were 922 persons stopped and searched under PACE (including a combination of PACE and other powers) of whom 204 (22%) were subsequently arrested. There were 13 persons stopped and searched under the Firearms Order (including a combination with other powers) of whom 1 (8%) was subsequently arrested.
- almost 2 out of every 3 stops (4,288 or 62%) were conducted under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers). Of these, 269 (6%) resulted in an arrest.
- counter-terrorism related powers (The Terrorism Act and The Justice Security Act) were used 3% less than during the previous quarter.
- 14% (942 persons) of all stops were on persons aged 17 and under. Of those 942 persons, 70% stopped and searched were under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers).
- 88% of all those stopped and searched were male, while over 42% were aged 18 to 25.

Contents

Section One: Persons stopped and searched (*Pages 4 to 6*)

This section highlights the numbers of persons stopped / searched by each legislative power (or combination of powers) and the total number of persons stopped / searched by Police Area and District and age.

Section Two: PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order stops and searches (*Pages 7 to 8*)

This section focuses on the number of persons stopped and searched under PACE, the Misuse of Drugs Act S23 and the Firearms Order S53. Tables in this section include a breakdown of the reason for the PACE stop and search (stolen articles, articles with blade of point, prohibited articles or fireworks), and a breakdown by Police Area and District of the persons stopped and searched.

Section Three: Trend Information (*Pages 9 to 11*)

This section includes longer term trend information on the use of all legislative powers from 2004/2005.

Note: The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 commenced on 26th May 2016. The number of stop and searches carried out under this Act has been small since its commencement and so in this report such stops are reported under 'Other legislative powers'. We will continue to monitor the frequency of its use and consider for inclusion as a power on its own.

An accompanying [Excel Spreadsheet](#) is available on our website which outlines the data in this report.

Comparability: An internal review was carried out to assess the PSNI's compliance with PACE legislation governing the recording of stop and searches under Articles 3-5. The review found that searches under the authority of a warrant and searches carried out after an arrest had been recorded, and subsequently reported, as searches under Articles 3–5 when in fact they are governed by other articles of PACE. In order to fully comply with PACE legislation and more accurately report the usage of stop and search powers, searches under the authority of a warrant and searches that have been carried out after an arrest have been excluded from the 2017/18 figures onwards. Figures reported for the period pre-2017/18 still contain such searches. The impact is an approximate 2.5% reduction in the total number of persons stopped and searched/questioned from 2017/18 onwards.

Data Quality: This report uses information extracted from the PSNI's integrated database designed to capture stop & search information. Officers can either populate this database directly by using their mobile data device when performing a stop & search or complete a hard copy form to be input by local police districts. Validation checks are performed on the information before publishing this data and duplicate entries are removed.

Section One – Persons stopped and searched

Section 1 Table 1 – Number of persons stopped and searched/stopped and questioned by each legislative power: 2017/18 and 2018/19 (Q1 & Q2)

Persons stopped under:	2017/18					2018/19		
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	TOTAL	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	TOTAL
PACE	1,211	1,172	1,534	1,058	4,975	814	904	1,718
PACE & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	13	14	25	17	69	9	14	23
PACE & Firearms Order S53	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	1
PACE & Firearms Order S53 & TACT S43	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PACE & JSA S21	0	0	5	0	5	2	0	2
PACE & JSA S24	2	0	0	2	4	2	2	4
PACE & JSA S24 & Other legislative power	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
PACE & Other legislative power	1	3	0	1	5	1	2	3
Misuse of Drugs Act S23	4,278	4,761	4,323	3,967	17,329	4,002	4,265	8,267
Misuse of Drugs Act S23 & Other legislative power	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Firearms Order S53	19	19	25	29	92	13	13	26
Firearms Order S53 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	1	0	3	1	5	1	0	1
TACT S43	17	16	11	15	59	6	7	13
TACT S43A	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	2
TACT S47A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TACT S43 & TACT S43A	14	4	5	1	24	7	1	8
TACT S43 & TACT S43A & JSA S21	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
JSA 21	252	262	259	259	1,032	248	225	473
JSA S21 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	0
JSA S21 & JSA S24	128	99	120	105	452	103	65	168
JSA S21 & JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	3	4	0	7	5	0	5
JSA S24	1,317	1,165	1,478	1,772	5,732	1,269	1,375	2,644
JSA S24 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	15	11	15	7	48	4	8	12
JSA S24 & TACT S43A	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
TACT S43 & JSA S21	3	1	0	0	4	2	2	4
TACT S43 & JSA S24	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
TACT S43 & Misuse of Drugs Act S23	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other legislative powers ⁽¹⁾	5	10	3	7	25	13	12	25
Total Persons stopped and searched/questioned	7,282	7,540	7,811	7,249	29,882	6,504	6,901	13,405

1) 'Other legislative powers' captures stops / searches conducted under the following less frequently used powers: Section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, Article 6 Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. Searches under Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, which are searches under warrant, are excluded from the 2017/18 figures onwards.

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned and subsequently arrested under all legislative powers by Police Area and District:
1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018**

Section 1 Table 2

	Persons Stopped	Persons Subsequently Arrested
	Total Persons	Total Persons
Belfast City Policing	1,911	185
North Area Policing	1,752	113
Antrim & Newtownabbey	337	27
Causeway Coast & Glens	342	26
Derry City & Strabane	784	40
Mid & East Antrim	289	20
South Area Policing	3,238	193
Ards & North Down	217	19
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,000	78
Fermanagh & Omagh	391	15
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	672	39
Mid Ulster	398	22
Newry, Mourne & Down	560	20
Northern Ireland	6,901	491

**Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers by Police Area and District by age group:
1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018**

Section 1 Table 3

Persons Stopped	Total Persons	Age not specified	Aged 17 and under	Aged 18 to 25	Aged 26 to 35	Aged 36 to 45	Aged 46 to 55	Aged 56 to 65	Aged over 65
Belfast City Policing	1,911	0	179	750	611	236	105	28	2
North Area Policing	1,752	0	233	691	393	228	154	44	9
Antrim & Newtownabbey	337	0	45	178	66	34	8	4	2
Causeway Coast & Glens	342	0	64	128	69	41	23	12	5
Derry City & Strabane	784	0	70	262	205	115	109	22	1
Mid & East Antrim	289	0	54	123	53	38	14	6	1
South Area Policing	3,238	0	530	1,453	729	291	166	54	15
Ards & North Down	217	0	22	93	45	22	25	8	2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,000	0	148	456	244	96	42	10	4
Fermanagh & Omagh	391	0	80	158	77	48	18	9	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	672	0	132	284	154	53	33	12	4
Mid Ulster	398	0	55	187	82	33	29	8	4
Newry, Mourne & Down	560	0	93	275	127	39	19	7	0
Northern Ireland	6,901	0	942	2,894	1,733	755	425	126	26

Number of persons stopped and searched/questioned under all legislative powers by gender and age: 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018

Section 1 Table 4

Persons Stopped	Total Persons	Age												
		Not specified	12 and under	13	14	15	16	17	18 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45	46 to 55	56 to 65	Over 65
Male	6,085	0	4	23	74	107	244	374	2,569	1,527	652	381	107	23
Females	811	0	2	5	11	17	35	43	325	204	103	44	19	3
Unknown / Other	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total persons	6,901	0	6	28	85	124	279	420	2,894	1,733	755	425	126	26

Section Two – Police and Criminal Evidence legislation (PACE) / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order

Number of persons stopped/searched under PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order ⁽¹⁾ and persons subsequently arrested by reason for search: 2017/18 – 2018/19 (Q1 & Q2)

Section 2 Table 1

	2017/18										2018/19					
	Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		Oct-Dec		Jan-Mar		TOTAL		Apr-Jun		Jul-Sep		TOTAL	
	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests	Search	Arrests
Stolen property / articles	620	92	555	101	709	126	557	100	2,441	419	436	105	463	99	899	204
Offensive weapon / Blade or point	277	95	298	83	230	68	227	71	1,032	317	209	73	198	71	407	144
Going equipped / Prohibited articles	333	49	292	43	356	58	286	38	1,267	188	178	27	204	34	382	61
Fireworks	0	0	44	0	269	2	10	0	323	2	6	0	57	0	63	0
Drugs	4,309	247	4,789	266	4,370	311	3,996	259	17,464	1,083	4,021	256	4,288	269	8,309	525
Firearms	23	4	19	7	28	9	31	10	101	30	15	6	13	1	28	7

1) Multiple powers for some searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched and arrested may not equal the sum of all powers.

Number of persons stopped/searched under PACE, Misuse of Drugs Act and Firearms Order ⁽¹⁾ by reason for search by Police Area and District: 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2018

Section 2 Table 2

	PACE				Non-PACE	
	Stolen Articles	Articles With Blade or Point	Prohibited Articles	Fireworks	Misuse of Drugs Act S23	Firearms Order
Belfast City Policing	181	72	54	1	1,312	4
North Area Policing	83	51	49	17	835	4
Antrim & Newtownabbey	19	12	10	4	228	1
Causeway Coast & Glens	23	7	14	6	208	0
Derry City & Strabane	19	21	14	5	246	2
Mid & East Antrim	22	11	11	2	153	1
South Area Policing	199	75	101	39	2,141	5
Ards & North Down	15	12	10	0	111	0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	55	24	37	15	657	0
Fermanagh & Omagh	21	7	10	3	301	1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	51	13	14	3	430	0
Mid Ulster	14	9	11	18	227	2
Newry, Mourne & Down	43	10	19	0	415	2
Northern Ireland	463	198	204	57	4,288	13

1) Multiple powers for some searches can be recorded. Therefore, the total number of persons searched and arrested may not equal the sum of all powers.

Section Three – Trend Information

The following table and figures illustrate longer-term trend information for the number of stop and searches/stop and questions carried out since 2004/2005.

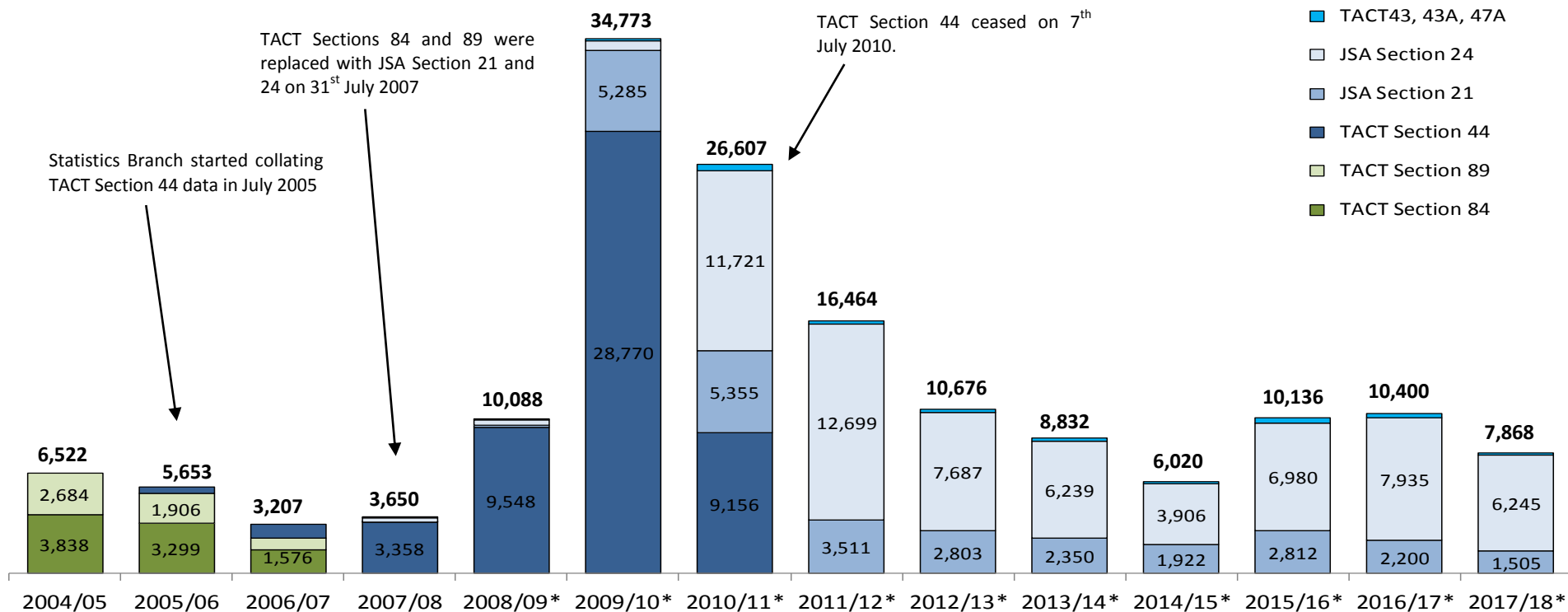
Number of persons stopped/searched or stopped/questioned under each legislation between 1st April 2004 and 31st March 2018 by financial year.

Section 3 Table 1

Legislation	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 ⁽¹⁾	2009/10 ⁽¹⁾	2010/11 ⁽¹⁾	2011/12 ⁽¹⁾	2012/13 ⁽¹⁾	2013/14 ⁽¹⁾	2014/15 ⁽¹⁾	2015/16 ⁽¹⁾	2016/17 ⁽¹⁾	2017/18 ^(1,9)
PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order	14,434	16,036	16,174	15,362	20,011	23,990	22,785	20,746	20,910	24,428	22,189	25,151	21,876	22,628
TACT - Section 84 ⁽²⁾	3,838	3,299	1,576											
- Section 89 ⁽²⁾	2,684	1,906	718											
- Section 44 ⁽³⁾		448	913	3,358	9,548	28,770	9,156							
- Section 43/43A ⁽⁴⁾				13	56	97	375	254	186	173	192	344	265	118
- Section 47A ⁽⁵⁾								0	0	70	0	0	0	0
JSA - Section 21 ⁽²⁾				28	112	5,285	5,355	3,511	2,803	2,350	1,922	2,812	2,200	1,505
- Section 24 ⁽²⁾				251	372	621	11,721	12,699	7,687	6,239	3,906	6,980	7,935	6,245
Other legislative powers ⁽⁶⁾									294	417	190	97	140	32
Total uses of each legislative power⁽⁹⁾	20,956	21,689	19,381	19,012	30,099	58,763	49,392	37,210	31,880	33,677	28,399	35,384	32,416	30,528
Total no. of persons stopped and searched/questioned^(7,9)	20,956	21,689	19,381	19,012	30,099	53,885	45,394	35,268	30,502	32,590	27,539	34,171	31,274	29,882
PACE / Misuse of Drugs Act / Firearms Order	69%	74%	83%	81%	66%	41%	46%	56%	66%	73%	78%	71%	67%	74%
All Terrorism Act Powers	31%	26%	17%	18%	32%	49%	19%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<0.5%
All JSA Powers	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	10%	35%	44%	33%	26%	21%	28%	31%	25%
Other legislative powers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
All Powers⁽⁸⁾	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- (1) Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.
- (2) Part VII of the Terrorism Act lapsed from midnight on the 31st July 2007. As a result Section 84 of TACT was replaced by Section 24 of the Justice and Security Act (JSA) and Section 89 of TACT was replaced by JSA Section 21 (power to stop and question).
- (3) Statistics Branch started collating TACT Section 44 data in July 2005. TACT Section 44 ceased on 7th July 2010.
- (4) Statistics Branch started collating TACT Section 43 and 43A during quarter 3 of 2007/08.
- (5) TACT Section 47A has been in place since March 2011 although the power has only been authorised for use during one period in May 2013.
- (6) On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the PSNI's STOPS database to ensure that stop/searches conducted under less frequently used powers would be captured under an 'Other legislative powers' category. 'Other legislative powers' captures stops / searches conducted under the following less frequently used powers: Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, Section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, Article 6 Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. Searches under Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, which are searches under warrant, are excluded from 2017/18 figures onwards. Further details can be found under Comparability on page 3.
- (7) The difference between total use of each power and total no. of persons stopped/searched will be due to persons stopped under combinations of powers being counted under each legislation used (i.e. someone stopped under JSA S21 and JSA S24 will have a count of one under each of these powers).
- (8) Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
- (9) An internal review was carried out to assess the PSNI's compliance with PACE legislation governing the recording of stop and searches under Articles 3-5. The review found that searches under the authority of a warrant and searches carried out after an arrest had been recorded, and subsequently reported, as searches under Articles 3-5 when in fact they are governed by other articles of PACE. In order to fully comply with PACE legislation and more accurately report the usage of stop and search powers, searches under the authority of a warrant and searches that have been carried out after an arrest have been excluded from the 2017/18 figures. This reduces the **Total uses of each legislative power** during 2017/18 by 2.5% from 31,307 to 30,528 and reduces the **Total no. of persons stopped and searched/questioned** during 2017/18 by 2.5% from 30,636 to 29,882.

Use of Terrorism-related Stop and Search/Stop and Question Legislation between 2004/05 and 2017/18

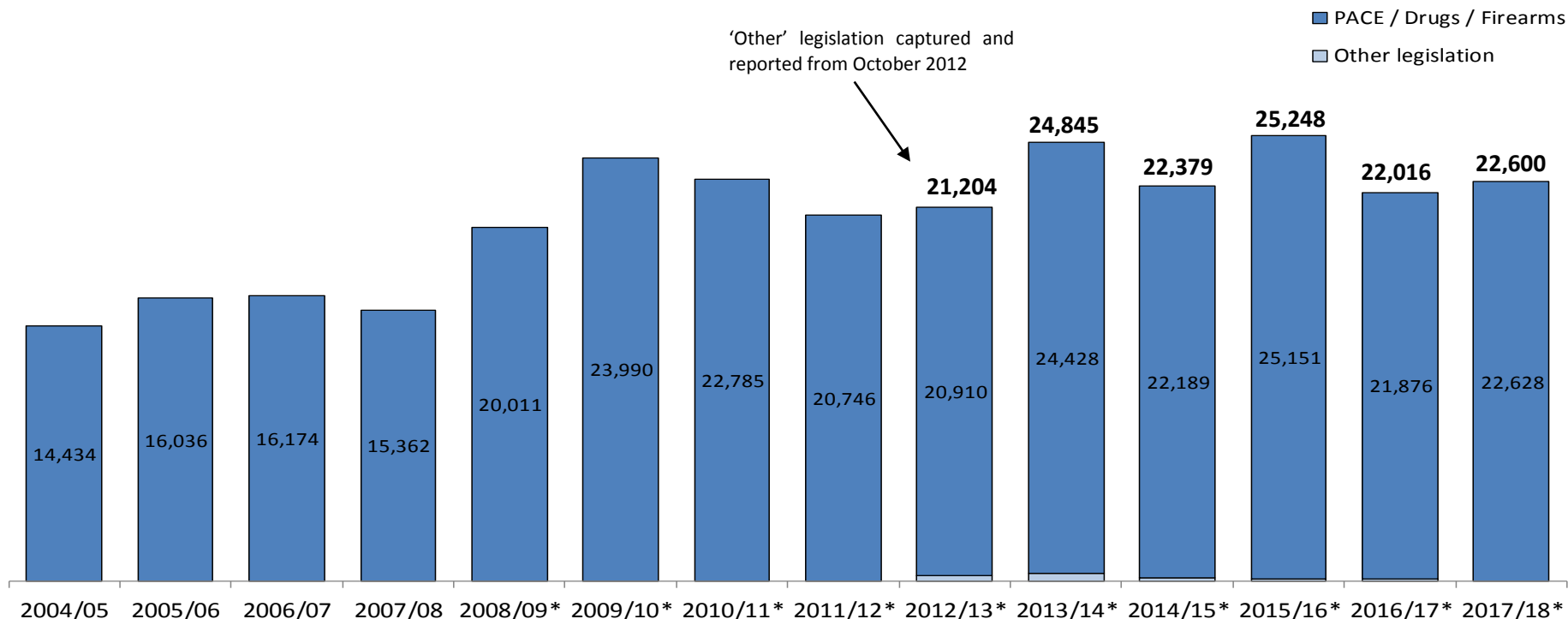


* Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.

** For presentational purposes the count of less frequently used powers are not displayed in the graph above (e.g. TACT S44 in 2005/2006) but are included in the overall totals at the top of each bar. For a count of those less frequently used powers refer to Section 3 Table 1.

Non-Terrorism related legislation - Section 3 Figure 2

Use of Non-Terrorism-related Stop and Search Legislation between 2004/05 and 2017/18



* Combinations of powers were not counted pre-08/09 therefore these figures are a count of the number of persons stopped. Figures from 08/09 are a count of the number of times each individual power was used.

** On the 31st October 2012 changes were made to the PSNI's STOPS database to ensure that stop/searches conducted under less frequently used powers would be captured under an 'Other legislative powers' category. 'Other legislative powers' captures stops / searches conducted under the following less frequently used powers: Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, Section 139B of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, Article 6 Crossbows (Northern Ireland) Order 1988, Article 25 Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Article 23B of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. Searches under Schedule 5 to the Terrorism Act 2000, which are searches under warrant, are excluded from 2017/18 figures onwards. Further details can be found under Comparability on page 3.

*** For presentational purposes the count of 'Other legislation' (recorded from October 2012) is not displayed in the graph above but is included in the overall totals at the top of each bar. For a count of 'Other legislation' refer to Section 3 Table 1.

**** Persons searched under the authority of a warrant and searches that have been carried out after an arrest have been excluded from the 2017/18 figures. As a result the total use of non-terrorism-related powers during 2017/18 in the chart above has reduced by 2.9%.