

MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AND OFFENCES

In addition to those offences recorded so far in this report, which require recording as crimes, there are other offences for which people are prosecuted (including being issued with fixed penalty notices). The number of offences prosecuted in recent years is summarised below (by year of prosecution, not necessarily year of offence). Any offences not prosecuted in the last three years are excluded. These figures have been recalculated for all three years to ensure that late recording of offences prosecuted is reflected in the figures.

It should be noted that responsibility for prosecutions lies with H.M. Attorney General. A cautioning policy agreed by all parties involved in criminal justice continues to apply. In general terms this has taken around 30% of low level offenders out of the justice system.

Note that this is not a count of the number of prosecutions (which can include multiple offences charged), nor people prosecuted (who similarly can be prosecuted for multiple offences), and also these figures includes all results – including, for instance, where the offence is withdrawn, dismissed or person is acquitted. Categories of offence, and specific offences, already covered by recorded crime are excluded.

The data requires little explanation. Enforcement levels have settled after a period of change. Fewer people are being prosecuted in the traditional fashion for offences such as exceeding the speed limit, as the use of endorseable fixed penalty notices becomes more widespread across the Constabulary. This is better for everyone concerned.

Some other issues arising from the data require brief comment:

- A notable and welcome increase in the enforcement of road traffic legislation, especially but not solely exceeding speed limits.
- Increase in Income Tax offences prosecuted.
- Increases in prosecutions for Breach of Bail, and Resist Arrest.

The detailed data shows how safe the Island is, but it is worth noting that a police officer is assaulted every two weeks or so. Thankfully, no one was seriously assaulted in this way in the last year, but officers have retired as a direct result of being badly assaulted on duty.

Offences* Prosecuted	16-17	17-18	18-19	Change with previous year
Total	2917	3054	3488	+14%

*As noted above, this excludes offences recorded as crimes.