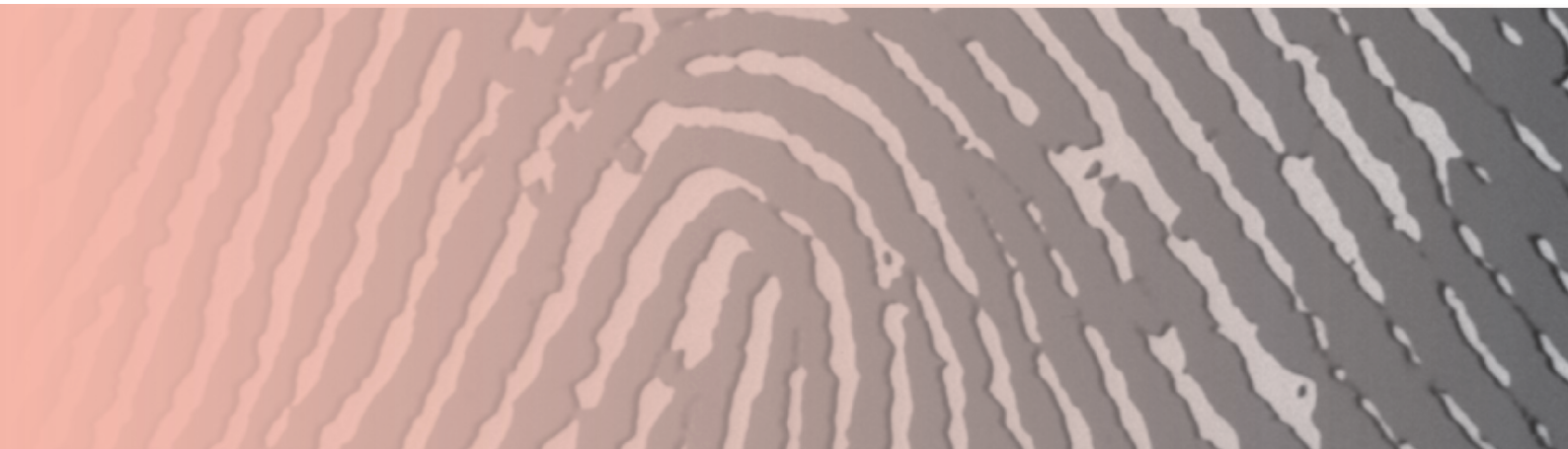


Chapter 10



CRIME AND JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this chapter a range of statistics are presented which relate to crime and justice issues both in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Given, however, that there are major differences between the legal and administrative systems in both jurisdictions, caution is required when interpreting the statistics and particularly when attempting to make direct comparisons between the jurisdictions.

Criminal Justice System – Republic of Ireland (CJS-ROI)

The sole and exclusive power of making laws for the State is vested in the Oireachtas (Parliament), subject to the obligations of European Union membership as provided in the Constitution of Ireland. The Oireachtas consists of the President and two Houses, Dáil Eireann (House of Representatives) and Seanad Eireann (Senate).

The Criminal Justice System of the Republic of Ireland consists of the following elements:

- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- An Garda Síochána (Police Service)
- Courts Service and the Criminal Courts and Judiciary
- Chief State Solicitors Office and Local State Solicitors
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Irish Prison Service

- Probation Service
- Other Justice Agencies e.g. Forensic Science laboratory.

Criminal Justice System – Northern Ireland (CJSNI)

The Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland (CJSNI) includes the following:

- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Public Prosecution Service
- Northern Ireland Court Service
- Northern Ireland Prison Service
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Youth Justice Agency
- Northern Ireland Office.

Pending devolution, the ministerial heads are the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who through the Northern Ireland Office is responsible for overall criminal justice policy, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, who is responsible for the Northern Ireland Court Service, and the Attorney General, who has a number of statutory responsibilities and superintends the Public Prosecution Service.

Table 10.1 (a) Recorded crime: Offences recorded in the Republic of Ireland¹

Numbers and percentages

	Total offences recorded		Year on year % change
	2006	2007	
Homicide offences (incl. dangerous driving leading to death)	134	130	-3
Sexual offences	1,443	1,363	-6
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	15,408	17,355	13
Dangerous or negligent acts (excl. speeding)	19,276	21,005	9
Kidnapping and related offences	80	109	36
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2,486	2,168	-13
Burglary and related offences	24,771	23,543	-5
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	16,293	14,777	-9
Theft and related offences	74,496	75,291	1
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	13,443	14,699	9
<i>Theft/unauthorised taking of vehicles</i>	12,642	11,862	-6
Fraud, deception and related offences	4,167	5,838	40
Controlled drug offences	14,233	18,569	30
<i>Drug trafficking offences</i>	3,632	4,438	22
Weapons and explosives offences	3,117	3,585	15
Damage to property and to the environment	43,570	43,246	-1
Public order and other social code offences	56,648	60,739	7
Offences against government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	9,445	10,338	9

Source Republic of Ireland: Recorded Crime Quarter 1 2008, CSO

¹Based on Garda PULSE system and on Garda Crime Counting Rules.

The total number of offences recorded is not provided as certain categories of offence are not included in this table.

Compared with 2006, there were significant increases in certain types of crime in the Republic of Ireland in 2007. These included fraud, deception and related offences (up by 40 per cent), kidnapping and related offences (up by 36 per cent) and controlled drug offences (up by 30 per cent).

Figure 10.1 (a) Recorded crime: Year on year percentage change, 2006 to 2007, in the Republic of Ireland

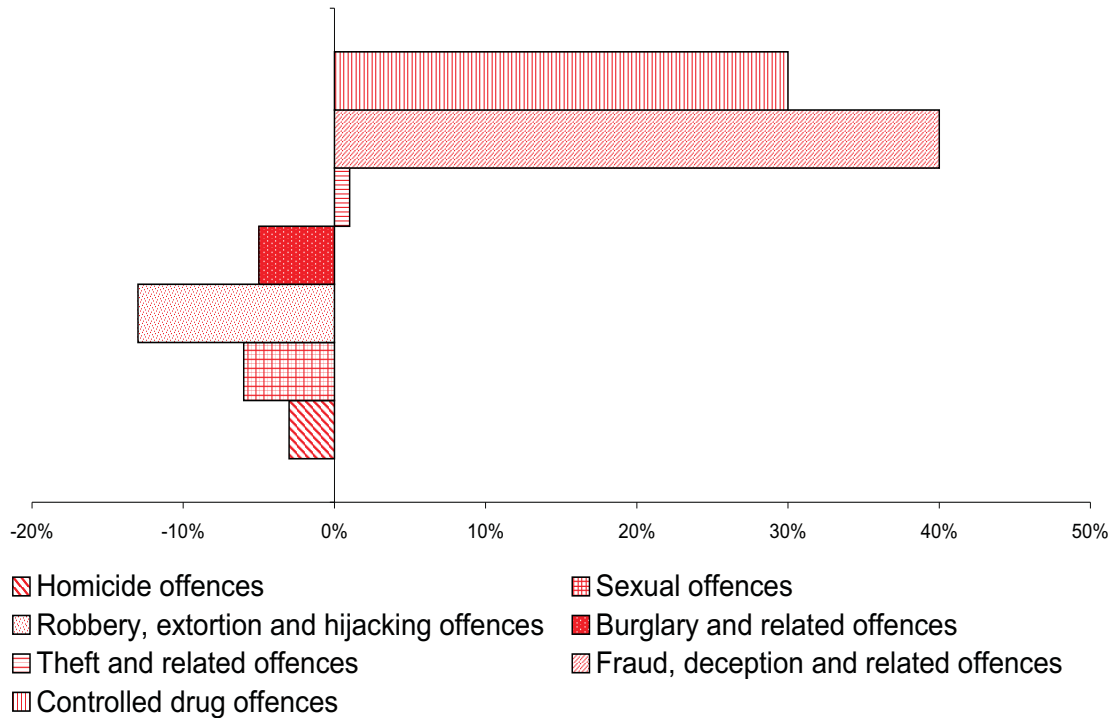


Table 10.1 (b) Recorded crime: Offences recorded in Northern Ireland¹

Numbers and percentages

	Total offences recorded		Year on year % change
	2005-06	2006-07	
Offences against the person	30,953	31,846	3
Sexual offences	1,711	1,803	5
Burglary	12,836	11,562	-10
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	7,259	6,831	-6
Robbery	1,744	1,574	-10
Theft	29,481	27,766	-6
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	4,404	3,994	-9
<i>Theft/unauthorised taking of vehicles</i>	3,721	3,418	-8
Fraud and forgery	5,106	4,495	-12
Criminal damage	34,801	36,321	4
Offences against the state	1,301	1,285	-1
Other notifiable offences	5,261	4,492	-15
<i>Drug trafficking offences</i>	349	473	36
<i>Drug – non-trafficking offences</i>	2,595	1,938	-25
Violent crime (classes 1, 2 and 4)	34,408	35,223	2
Grand total (all classes)	123,194	121,144	-2

Source Northern Ireland: Chief Constable's Annual Report, PSNI

¹Based on Home Office counting rules.

In Northern Ireland there were a total of 121,144 offences recorded during 2006-07. This represents a 2 per cent fall on the 123,194 offences recorded for the previous year.

Compared with the previous year, there were reductions in most types of offences recorded. However, there were increases in the number of offences against the person (up by 3 per cent), criminal damage offences (up by 4 per cent) and sexual offences (up by 5 per cent). Although remaining relatively few in number, the largest proportionate increase (36 per cent) was in the number of drug trafficking offences recorded.

Figure 10.1 (b) Recorded crime: Year on year percentage change, 2005-06 to 2006-07, in Northern Ireland

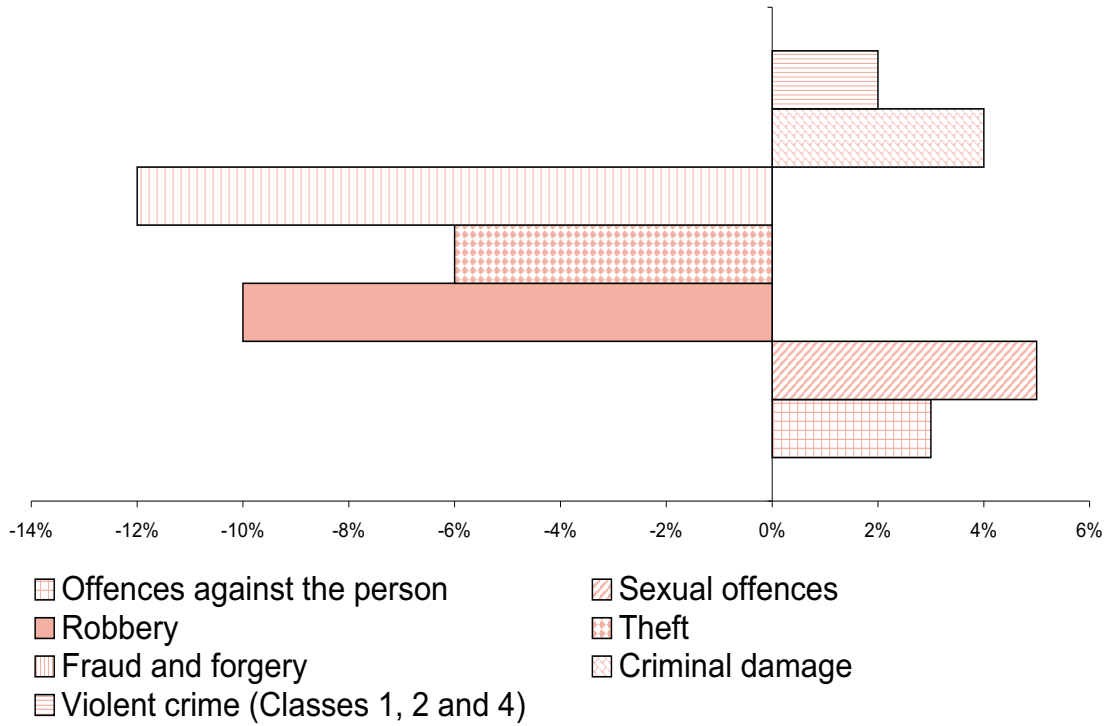


Table 10.2 Drugs seized

Units as indicated

Type of drug	Republic of Ireland (2006)		Northern Ireland (2006-07)	
	Quantity seized	Number of seizures	Quantity seized	Number of seizures
Cannabis resin	6,972 kg	3,587	3,684 kg	1,438
Cannabis herbal	315 kg	609	27 kg	486
Cannabis plants	633	47	1,448	105
Heroin (Diamorphine)	129,640 g	1,254	482 g	41
LSD units (doses + microdots)	1,528	1	127	7
Ecstasy tablets	156,133	858 ¹	118,708	411
Ecstasy powder and crystals	197 g		2,099 g	23
Amphetamine powder	41 kg	277 ²	18 kg	188
Amphetamine tablets	7,743		143	14
Cocaine powder	195 kg	1,500	36 kg	278
Methadone	2,384 mls	24	80 mls	2

Sources Republic of Ireland: Forensic Science Laboratory, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Northern Ireland: Police Service of Northern Ireland

¹This figure relates to the combined number of seizures in ROI involving ecstasy tablets and/or ecstasy powder and crystals.

²This figure relates to the combined number of seizures in ROI involving amphetamine powder and/or amphetamine tablets.

Within both jurisdictions cannabis resin accounted for both the largest number of drug seizures and for the largest quantity of drugs seized. In the Republic of Ireland there were 3,587 seizures in 2006 involving 6,972kg of cannabis resin. In Northern Ireland, there were 1,438 seizures in 2006-07, involving 3,684kg of cannabis resin.

The other types of drugs most frequently seized during 2006 in the Republic of Ireland were cocaine powder (1,500 seizures and 195kg seized) and heroin (diamorphine) (1,254 seizures and 129,640g seized).

In Northern Ireland, the other more frequently seized drugs during 2006-07 were cannabis herbal (486 seizures and 27kg seized) and ecstasy tablets (411 seizures and 118,708 tablets seized).

Table 10.3 Average daily number of prisoners in custody^{1, 2}

										<i>Numbers and rates</i>
1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006
Republic of Ireland										<i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>
2,422	2,610	2,871	2,948	3,112	3,165	3,176	3,199	3,151	3,192	75
Northern Ireland										
1,632	1,507	1,244	1,068	910	1,026	1,160	1,274	1,301	1,433	82

Sources Republic of Ireland: Irish Prison Service
 Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Prison Service

¹Includes both sentenced prisoners and those on trial and on remand.

²ROI figures have been calculated on a daily basis; NI figures have been calculated on the basis of 12 monthly snapshot figures.

In 2006, the average daily number of prisoners in custody (including both sentenced prisoners and those on trial and remand) was 3,192 for the Republic of Ireland and 1,433 for Northern Ireland. This represents a rate of 75 prisoners in custody per 100,000 of the population for the Republic of Ireland and a rate of 82 per 100,000 of the population for Northern Ireland.

In the Republic of Ireland, the average daily number of prisoners in custody showed a steady increase between 1997 and 2004, fell slightly in 2005 and increased again in 2006.

For Northern Ireland, the trend has been such that there was a consistent year on year fall in the average daily number of prisoners in custody between 1997 and 2001. From 2001 onwards there has been a consistent year on year increase.

Table 10.4 Number of sentenced prisoners in custody¹ by age and gender at end of September 2007

Numbers and percentages

Age	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
Republic of Ireland					
15-16	9	9	<0.5	0	0
17-20	329	321	12	8	12
21-24	527	517	20	10	15
25-29	613	592	23	21	31
30-39	677	658	25	19	28
40-49	312	305	12	7	10
50 and over	202	199	8	3	4
Total	2,669	2,601	100	68	100
Northern Ireland					
15-16	2	2	<0.5	0	0
17-20	103	100	11	3	9
21-24	167	162	18	5	16
25-29	152	148	17	4	13
30-39	248	238	27	10	31
40-49	161	152	17	9	28
50 and over	87	86	10	1	3
Total	920	888	100	32	100

Sources Republic of Ireland: Irish Prison Service
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Prison Service

¹Excludes non-criminal prisoners (e.g. immigration detainees) and those on trial and on remand.

Table 10.5 Number of sentenced prisoners in custody¹ by length of sentence and gender at end of September 2007

Numbers and percentages

Length of sentence	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
Republic of Ireland					
Life	240	235	9	5	7
10 years or more	199	196	8	3	4
5 years up to 10 years	619	612	24	7	10
3 years up to 5 years	496	478	18	18	26
2 years up to 3 years	268	260	10	8	12
1 year up to 2 years	340	333	13	7	10
6-12 months	332	319	12	13	19
Under 6 months	175	168	6	7	10
Total	2,669	2,601	100	68	100
Northern Ireland					
Life	157	151	17	6	19
10 years or more	101	100	11	1	3
5 years up to 10 years	180	179	20	1	3
3 years up to 5 years	142	139	16	3	9
2 years up to 3 years	84	81	9	3	9
1 year up to 2 years	83	78	9	5	16
6-12 months	80	76	9	4	13
Under 6 months	93	84	9	9	28
Total	920	888	100	32	100

Sources Republic of Ireland: Irish Prison Service
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Prison Service

¹Excludes non-criminal prisoners (e.g. immigration detainees) and those on trial and on remand.

Within both jurisdictions, the majority of sentenced prisoners in custody at the end of September 2007 had received sentences of up to 5 years. Sentences of 5 years or more accounted for 1,058 of the Republic of Ireland prisoners (or 40 per cent) and for 438 (or 48 per cent) of Northern Ireland prisoners in custody at this date.

Table 10.6 Perceptions of safety walking alone in neighbourhood/this area after dark^{1,2}

Republic of Ireland, 2006

Question: How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark?

<i>Percentages and number</i>	
Very safe	25
Safe	49
Unsafe	21
Very unsafe	5
Base = 100%	29,388

Source: Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey, CSO

Northern Ireland, 2006-07

Question: How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?

<i>Percentages and number</i>	
Very safe	26
Fairly safe	41
A bit unsafe	22
Very unsafe	11
Base = 100%	3,774

Source Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Crime Survey

¹There was some variation in the wording of both the questions and the response options used in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland surveys (see body of table for precise wording used).

²Figures presented in this table relate to the 18+ age group for the Republic of Ireland and to the 16+ age group for Northern Ireland.

Overall, 74 per cent of the Republic of Ireland survey respondents reported that they felt 'very safe' or 'safe' walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents in Northern Ireland reported feeling 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' when walking alone in their area after dark.

Table 10.7 Perceptions of safety alone in own home after dark^{1,2}**Republic of Ireland, 2006**

Question: How safe do you feel alone in your home after dark?

<i>Percentages and number</i>	
Very safe	41
Safe	52
Unsafe	6
Very unsafe	1
Base = 100%	29,450

Source Republic of Ireland: Quarterly National Household Survey, CSO

Northern Ireland, 2006-07

Question: How safe do you feel when you are alone in your home at night?

<i>Percentages and number</i>	
Very safe	47
Fairly safe	41
A bit unsafe	9
Very unsafe	2
Base = 100%	3,789

Source Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Crime Survey

¹There was some variation in the wording of both the questions and the response options used in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland surveys (see body of table for precise wording used).²Figures presented in this table relate to the 18+ age group for the Republic of Ireland and to the 16+ age group for Northern Ireland.

Ninety-three per cent of the Republic of Ireland survey respondents reported that they felt 'very safe' or 'safe' alone in their home after dark.

Among Northern Ireland respondents, 89 per cent reported that they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' when alone in their own home at night.

Table 10.8 Police strength: Full-time equivalent (FTE) officers in each rank at 1 August 2007

	<i>FTE</i>
Republic of Ireland	
Commissioner	16.0
Chief Superintendent	49.0
Superintendent	187.0
Chief Inspector/Inspector	304.0
Sergeant	2,039.5
Gardaí	10,665.5
Total FTE: Regular officers	13,261.0
Full-time equivalence per 100,000 population	312.8
Reserve (part-time) ¹	118.0
Northern Ireland	
Asssistant Chief Constable & above	9.0
Chief Superintendent	25.0
Superintendent	77.0
Chief Inspector/Inspector	536.5
Sergeant	1,081.0
Constable	5,668.5
Total FTE: Regular officers	7,397.0
Full-time equivalence per 100,000 population	424.7
Reserve (full-time) ¹	674.0
Constable (part-time) ^{1,2}	863.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Garda Síochána
Northern Ireland: Police Service of Northern Ireland

¹Number of officers in post. Due to the variable patterns available full-time equivalence cannot be calculated.

²This is the title used for officers including those previously members of the Part-Time Reserve.

Technical Notes

Tables 10.1 (a) and 10.1 (b)

While both jurisdictions collect information on the number of crimes that become known to or are reported to the police, the differences between the legal and administrative systems in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are such that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the absolute levels of crime recorded in both jurisdictions.

Each jurisdiction has its own unique system for the recording of crime and these systems have been subject to change over the years.

Republic of Ireland

Up until 1999 crime figures for the Republic of Ireland were classified as indictable or non-indictable. Following the introduction of the PULSE system in late 1999, there were some major changes to how crime statistics were recorded and compiled. The main change was the replacement of the indictable/non-indictable classification by a classification which distinguished between headline and non-headline crime. However the headline/non-headline distinction was still largely based on historic and legal distinctions and is sometimes taken as referring to “serious” and “less serious” crime incidents.

The CSO, in conjunction with an advisory group on crime statistics, has developed a new classification system in the context of the above points, which is employed in Table 10.1 (a). This is a less legally-based, hierarchical system, where the concepts of headline and non-headline offences are no longer used. Details of the new classifications can be found in the ‘Crime and Justice’ section of the CSO website www.cso.ie.

Crime counting rules are applied to all criminal offences for the purposes of the statistics. The main relevant rules are as follows:

Primary Offence Rule: Where two or more criminal offences are disclosed in a single episode, the offence where the greater penalty may apply (the primary offence) is counted. Where offences have similar penalties, offences against the person take precedence over offences against property for the purpose of determining the primary offence.

One Offence Counts Per Victim: One offence counts per victim involved with the exceptions of cheque/credit card fraud and burglary. Under certain circumstances, the cheque/credit card exception necessitates that a series of these offences counts as one crime where the originating bank ultimately suffers the loss. The burglary exception dictates that one burglary offence is counted where property belonging to two or more victims is stolen (or damaged) during a single burglary.

Continuous Series Involving the Same Victim and Same Offender: A continuous series of offences against the same victim involving the same offender counts as one offence.

It is worth noting that due to the fact that all road collision investigations, particularly for 2007, have not yet concluded, some incidents may be reclassified in the future as homicide.

Northern Ireland

Crime statistics within Northern Ireland are recorded according to the Home Office Counting Rules on crime. They are therefore comparable with those produced by the Home Office or by individual police forces in England and Wales.

Here again, the process by which crime has been recorded has been subject to change over the years. In 1998, for example, changes to the Home Office counting rules clarified the recording of multiple victims of related incidents to the list of those crimes that the police should report in their statistics. Then in 2002-03, the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced with the specific aim of improving the way in which police record crime. This was a major change which brought about a victim-centred approach to crime recording and provided a basis for greater consistency between police forces. In the short-term the cost of introducing these changes has been to artificially inflate estimates of the increase in the number of crimes recorded by the police. In addition to these major changes, other changes and clarifications continue to be made and the rules are revised annually.

Within Northern Ireland 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 indictable¹ or triable-either-way². Certain closely associated summary offences³ are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

Table 10.2

Due to differences in recording practices, it has not been possible to include comparative data for all of the drug types and drug formats recorded in the respective jurisdictions. Figures quoted for the Republic of Ireland are based on data available on 24 September 2007.

Table 10.3

For the Republic of Ireland, the average daily number of prisoners in custody for each year has been calculated by taking the average of the numbers in custody each day. For Northern Ireland, these figures have been calculated by taking the average of 12 monthly snapshot figures. The snapshot figures relate to the number of prisoners in custody on the last Thursday of each month.

The rate per 100,000 of the population has been calculated from the 2006 census figure for the Republic of Ireland (i.e. 4,239,848) and from the 2006 mid-year estimate of the population for Northern Ireland (i.e. 1,741,619).

Tables 10.6 and 10.7

Caution is warranted in making direct comparisons between both jurisdictions due to differences in the methodology used for the surveys from which the figures have been derived.

The Republic of Ireland data was derived from responses to the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). This is a large scale nationwide interview survey. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules each quarter on social topics of interest. The data included in this report was derived from a Crime and Victimisation module included in the survey over the three month period September to November 2006. This module contained over 50 questions addressing crime-related topics at both household and individual level.

The Northern Ireland figures were derived from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey. This is a representative continuous personal interview survey which addresses the experiences and perceptions of crime among adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland.

Table 10.8

The full-time equivalence rate per 100,000 of the population has been calculated from the 2006 census figure for the Republic of Ireland (i.e. 4,239,848) and from the 2006 mid-year estimate of the population for Northern Ireland (i.e. 1,741,619)

¹Indictable offences are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.

²Triable-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.

³Summary offences are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates' Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.