

## **FOI Request (received 26 February 2026) - Reference: DFI/2026-0144**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to receive details on:

The number of Driving licences (Both Full & Provisional) in Northern Ireland the:

Have 12 or more penalty points, but are not banned from driving

Also if possible the number of licences that have been revoked due to

- Penalty point tot up
- Court Ban

Including a breakdown of how many are Male and Female and age brackets (17-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65 65 and over)

If possible, I would like a breakdown of the areas these licences are issued, by county.

## **Response (issued 27 March 2026)**

Thank you for your email dated 26 February 2026 requesting under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 any information held by this office to include:

- 1. The number of driving licences (both Full and Provisional) in Northern Ireland that have 12 or more penalty points but are not banned from driving, including a breakdown of how many are males and females, age brackets and by county.*
- 2. The number of driving licences that have been revoked due to penalty point tot up and court ban including a breakdown of how many are males and females, age brackets and by county.*

It may be helpful to advise, by way of background, that the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) is responsible for the administration of driver licensing in Northern Ireland, including the endorsement of convictions and penalty points on a licence holder's driving record as notified to us by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (NICTS) or by the Fixed Penalty Office (FPO).

To facilitate this process, we receive information from the NICTS and the FPO in respect of convictions and fixed penalty notices issued. This information sets out the driving licence number indicating offence details, disqualification periods and/or the number of penalty points to be endorsed on the licence.

You have requested information regarding *the number of driving licences (both full and provisional) in Northern Ireland that have 12 or more penalty points but are not banned from driving. You have also asked that these be broken down by male, female, age brackets and county.*

Please note that the figures presented in this response are based on DVA management information collated on 23 March 2026. These are not official statistics and have not been subject to data validation.

In response to your request, I can confirm that 15 licence holders in Northern Ireland holding 12 or more penalty points were not banned from driving. Of these, 10 were male and 5 were female. The age breakdown and County breakdown are provided in the tables below. In relation to County, information is based on the address held on the record for the driver and not the court which imposed the penalty.

Please see tables below for the breakdown by age brackets and county as requested:

<b>Age Band</b>	
<17	0
17-25	5
26-35	<5
36-45	<5
46-55	<5
56-65	0
66+	0

<b>County</b>	
Antrim	4
Down	5
Other Counties*	6

*\*Other Counties include Armagh, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone and these have been collated to protect the identity of individual drivers.*

I would advise that DVA does not have the power to disqualify a person from driving - a disqualification can only be ordered by the court.

Where a court convicts a person of an offence where the penalty points to be taken into consideration number 12 or more, the court is required, in accordance with Article 40 of the Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 ("the Offenders Order"), to impose a period of disqualification. However, if the court is satisfied that there are grounds for mitigating the normal consequences of the conviction (referred to colloquially as "special reasons"), the court may decide, on a discretionary basis, not to order such a disqualification.

The court is not required to communicate the nature of the special reasons for not ordering a disqualification under Article 40 of the Offenders Order. DVA does not, therefore, have access to this information.

You have also requested information regarding *the number of driving licences that have been revoked due to penalty point tot up and court ban including a breakdown of how many are males and females, age brackets and by county.*

Please see tables below for the breakdown of penalty point tot up and court ban by male, female, age brackets and county as requested:

<b>Gender Breakdown</b>	<b>Penalty Point Tot Up</b>	<b>Court Ban</b>	<b>Total</b>
Male	200	4,851	5,051
Female	38	965	1,003
Unknown**	8	194	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>6,256</b>

*\*\*Unknown relates where the record has been created to record endorsements against a driver who does not hold a Northern Ireland Licence. Therefore, full details are not available.*

<b>Age Band</b>	<b>Penalty Point Tot Up</b>	<b>Court Ban</b>	<b>Total</b>
<17	0	17	17
17-25	57	1,386	1,443
26-35	90	1,697	1,787
36-45	57	1,595	1,652
46-55	20	726	746
56-65	14	396	410
66+	8	193	201
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>6,256</b>

<b>County</b>	<b>Penalty Point Tot Up</b>	<b>Court Ban</b>	<b>Total</b>
Antrim	93	2,100	2,193
Armagh	20	623	643
Down	66	1,381	1,447
Fermanagh	7	208	215
Londonderry	32	733	765
Tyrone	20	722	742
Unknown/Unmapped***	8	243	251
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>6,256</b>

*The 'Unknown/Unmapped' line represents the cases without an ACTIVE NI postcode (GB/ROI/partial/malformed) which cannot be aligned with an individual County.*

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