
AN ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN TYNE & WEAR

2007/08

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TYNE & WEAR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

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Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented in this report, TWRI does not accept responsibility for any errors in either the data or its analysis, howsoever they may have been caused.

KEY POINTS

An analysis of criminal damage in Tyne & Wear and its constituent Districts is presented within this report. The analysis covers a range of data sets that can be combined together to give a fuller picture of criminal damage. Data include police recorded criminal damage, deliberate fires, damage to bus shelters/stops, Local Authority data and DEFRA data on fly-tipping.

Data are provided for the latest full year 2007/08, with historical time series data provided where possible. In some cases, only analysis of the latest available data, at time of publication, is provided, for example Local Authority data.

Police Recorded Criminal Damage in Tyne & Wear

- In Tyne & Wear the **number** of criminal damage offences committed and recorded by the Police decreased by 29% between 2003/04 and 2007/08.
- The **rate** of criminal damage crime fell from 32.5 to 22.9 offences per 1,000 population between 2003/04 and 2007/08 (§2.1).
- All five Tyne & Wear districts experienced an overall decrease in the rate per 1,000 population for criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2007/08 (§2.3).
- During 2007/08, less than one third of criminal damage offences were to dwellings in Tyne & Wear. Racial and/or religiously aggravated criminal damage accounted for 1.1% of all criminal damage offences (§2.4).

Deliberate Fires in Tyne & Wear

- In Tyne & Wear the **number** of deliberate primary fires fell by almost one-third to 1,623 between 2004/05 and 2007/08. A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear districts (§3.1).
- In Tyne & Wear the **number** of deliberate secondary fires fell by almost one-third to 7,900 between 2003/04 and 2007/08. A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear districts (§3.2).

Damage to Bus Stops and Shelters in Tyne & Wear

- In Tyne & Wear the **number** of incidents of damage to Nexus bus stops and shelters increased by over 50% between 2004/05 and 2007/08 (§4.1).
- During 2007/08, there were 2,209 incidents recorded by Adshel of damage to bus shelters in Tyne & Wear. Over half of these incidents (54%) were recorded in Newcastle. [This figure is high because only Adshel install and maintain bus shelters in this district.] Broken glass/ damage to glazing accounted for over 40% of all types of damage (§4.3).

Local Authorities and Criminal Damage in Tyne & Wear

- The five Local Authorities in Tyne & Wear record a wealth of data on damage related activities, such as graffiti and fly-tipping. Data provided to TWRI varied from district to district. It is not possible to compare the data like for like (§5).

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Fly tipping incidents

- In Tyne & Wear the estimated clearance cost of illegally dumped waste in 2007/08 was approximately £4,500,000 (§6).

Police Recorded Victims of Criminal Damage

- During 2007/08, almost 50% of victims of criminal damage were between 30 and 49 years of age. 5% of victims were of Asian or Asian British ethnic origin (§7.1).

Police Recorded Offenders of Criminal Damage

- During 2007/08, the majority of offenders of criminal damage (72%) were under 25 years of age. Approximately one-third of those offenders accused of criminal damage had no further action taken against them during 2007/08 (§7.2).

1 INTRODUCTION

Within the ‘Criminal Damage Act’ 1971 Sec 1(1,2), criminal damage is defined as occurring when:

- (1) “A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged ...”
- (2) “A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property, whether belonging to himself or another -
 - (a) intending to destroy or damage any property or being reckless as to whether any property would be destroyed or damaged; and
 - (b) intending by the destruction or damage to endanger the life of another or being reckless as to whether the life of another would be therefore endangered; ...”

Information on criminal damage in Tyne & Wear and its constituent Districts is presented within this report. The analysis covers a range of data sets that can be combined together to give a fuller picture of criminal damage. Data includes police recorded criminal damage, deliberate fires, damage to bus shelters/stops, Local Authority data and DEFRA data on fly-tipping.

Data are provided for the latest full year 2007/08, with historical time series data provided where possible. Criminal damage (police) data are also provided from April 2008 to December 2008, the latest available at the time of publication.

The demographic characteristics of those offenders accused of committing a criminal damage act, as recorded by Northumbria Police and the victims exposed to such offences, for 2007/08 are also included.

1.1 DATA QUALITY ISSUES AND CAVEATS

The data presented within this report raise several data quality issues and caveats inherent to the overall interpretation. These include ‘no-crime’ and ‘statistically-continuous’ records, georeferencing issues and population issues.

1.1.1 ‘No-Crime’ and ‘Statistically-Continuous’ Crimes

The Northumbria Police data within this report exclude ‘statistically continuous’ crimes and ‘no-crimes’ (Note: A statistically continuous crime can also be ‘no-crime’). Therefore, figures may differ from those reported elsewhere.

1.1.2 Geocoding Issues

The Home Office Crime Reduction Toolkits website³ suggests that 35% of all crime data cannot be easily matched to a specific addressable location (e.g. robbery records where the only information

¹ A statistically continuous crime is recorded when a number of crimes are linked together to constitute a single offence.

² A recorded offence is classed as a ‘no-crime’ if one of the following criteria is satisfied:

- The offence was committed outside the jurisdiction of the Police Force in which it was recorded,
- Where following the report of an alleged offence which has subsequently been recorded, it has been determined that no offence has been committed,
- If the offence, as alleged, constitutes part of an offence already recorded,
- If the reported offence was recorded in error.

³ <http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/fa020102.htm>

that is known is that it occurred on the High Street). This data requires sanitising in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

For the purposes of this report all crimes are allocated to ward level. However, a review of the Tyne & Wear crime records for 2007/08 showed that 417 records (0.5%) remained without a grid reference, despite automated matches with Local Authority Land & Property Gazetteers, which are BS7666 compliant, and manual geocoding procedures.

1.1.3 Population Issues

All recorded crimes were aggregated to district and ward boundaries to produce counts and rates per 1,000 population. District rates within this report use the Office for National Statistics' revised MYEs⁴ (mid-year estimates) for the relevant year, which take into account the (low) Census 2001 population figures, as their denominator. Ward rates within this report are based on the usual residence population from the 2001 Census.

1.2 CHANGES TO POLICE COUNTING/RECORDING PRACTICES

Home Office counting rules for recorded crime changed with effect from 1st April 1998. These changes added a number of new offences to the list of crimes that the police should report in their statistics, as well as clarifying the recording of multiple victims of related incidents. The changes had the effect of artificially increasing recorded crime by 14% (in England & Wales) in a single year, and in particular violence against the person offences, due to the inclusion of common assault, harassment and assaults on constables in the notifiable offence list.

Although these changes to the Home Office counting rules brought greater consistency to the recording of crimes, variations still remained. As a result, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with the Home Office, developed the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which was adopted across all Police Forces from 1st April 2002. The new standard had two main aims:

- To promote greater consistency between Police Forces in the recording of crime; and
- To take a more victim oriented approach to crime recording.

In the long-term, the changes included within the NCRS are expected to produce recorded crime data which are increasingly reliable, fair and comparable. However, in the short-term, the cost of introducing these changes has been to artificially inflate the number of crimes recorded by the police over and above that attributable to a real increase in crime. In England & Wales the impact of the recording changes in **2001/02 was of the order of five percentage points**. For **2002/03**, the England & Wales picture for 'Total Crime' demonstrated **an overall NCRS impact of 10 per cent** on the recorded crime statistics. In other words, the crimes counted in 2002/03 were 10 per cent higher than they would have been under pre-NCRS recording, reflecting a change in recording practice rather than a real increase in crime.

The impact of NCRS varies considerably between different types of crimes; varies from Force to Force, and even from command unit to command unit. Northumbria Police carried out an analysis of the NCRS impact on the Force, based on an audit of approximately 4,000 incidents per year over four years. The Force audit compares incidents' conversion to crimes, preceding the introduction of the NCRS and after its implementation. Wide confidence intervals around the estimates are given owing to the method used. The Force estimates an impact of approximately 25 per cent⁵ on total recorded crime from April 2002.

⁴ *The mid-year estimates data are in line with the 2001 Census of Population results and the local authority population studies. Data downloaded from NOMISWEB 31/10/08.*

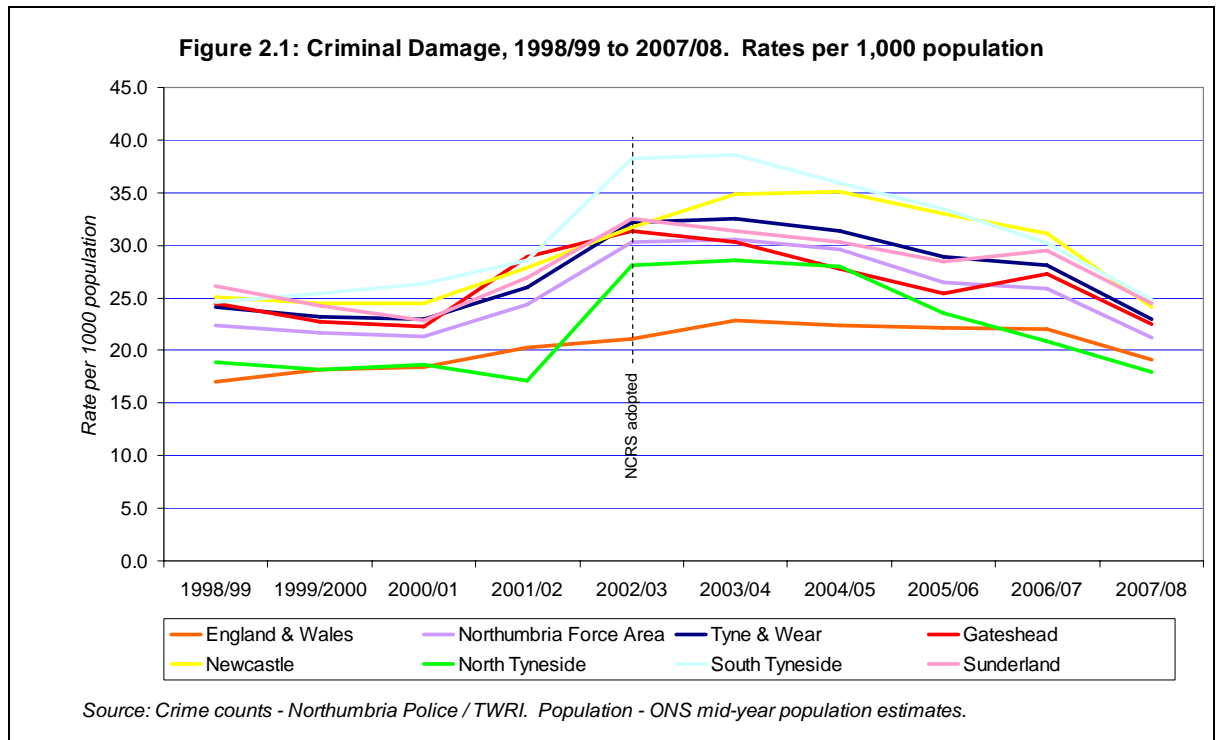
⁵ *95% confidence interval +21% to +29%.*

2. AN OVERVIEW OF POLICE RECORDED CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN TYNE & WEAR

The distribution and extent of police recorded criminal damage in Tyne & Wear and its constituent districts between 1st April 1998 and 31st March 2008 is discussed. Comparisons with the local Police Force area (Northumbria) and national (England & Wales) rates are provided.

2.1 CHANGE IN CRIMINAL DAMAGE LEVELS 1998/99 – 2007/08

There were approximately 30,000 criminal damage crimes committed and subsequently recorded by Northumbria Police⁶ annually in Tyne & Wear over the ten year period 1998/99 to 2008/09. The rate per 1,000 population was 24.1 in 1998/99, rising to a peak in 2003/04 (32.5), before falling to 22.9 in 2007/08. A similar pattern occurred in each of the five Tyne & Wear districts (Fig. 2.1).



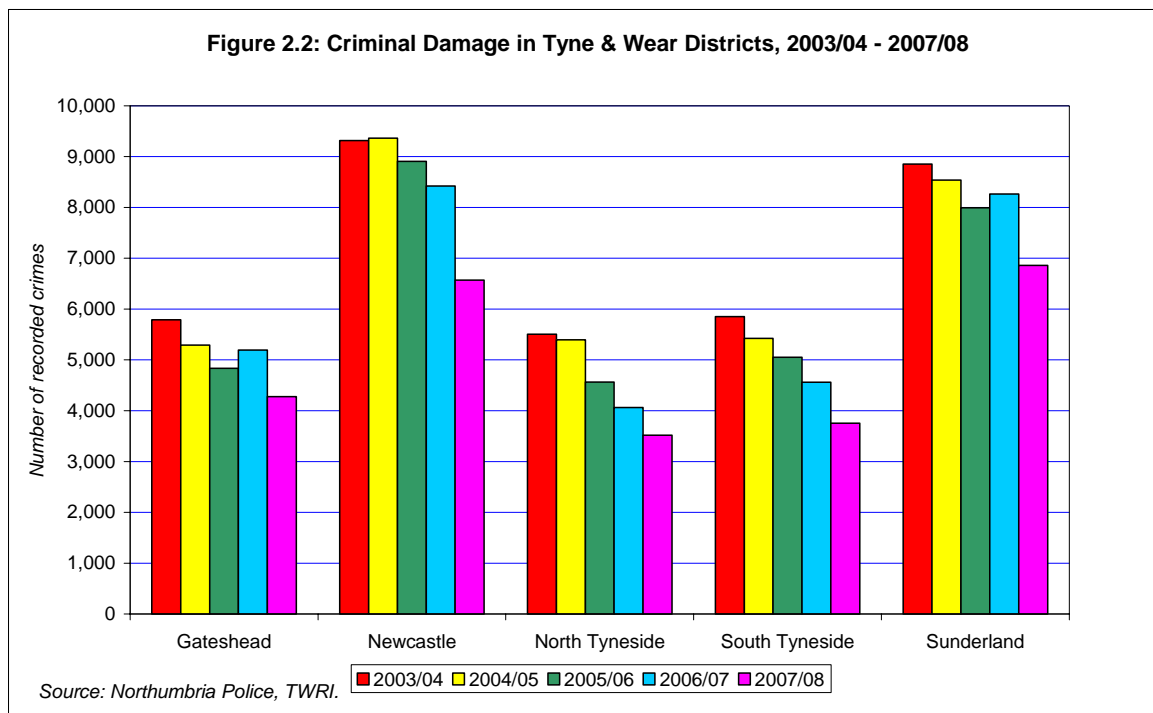
Since 2003/04, in Tyne & Wear, the number of criminal damage offences has steadily decreased, with a total fall of 29% over the five year period. This pattern was also reflected in the figures for the Northumbria Police Force area, with the number falling by 30% over the same period. In contrast, the number of criminal damage offences recorded in England and Wales fell by only 14%.

⁶ The number of crimes recorded by the police are dependent on:

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

2.2 THE DISTRIBUTION OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE BY DISTRICTS 2003/04 – 2007/08

Out of the five Tyne & Wear Districts, Newcastle and Sunderland had the highest counts of criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2007/08, with an average of 8,514 p.a. criminal damage crimes in Newcastle and 8,102 p.a. in Sunderland during this period (Fig. 2.2). North Tyneside had the lowest number, an average of 4,609 per year.



2.3 DISTRICT CHANGE BETWEEN 2003/04 – 2007/08

All five Tyne & Wear districts experienced an overall decrease in criminal damage rates between 2003/04 and 2007/08. The largest fall was in South Tyneside, which saw a decrease of -13.7 in the rate of criminal damage crimes per 1,000 population over the five-year period. Year-on-year falls occurred in North Tyneside and South Tyneside. In Newcastle there was a slight increase in the rate per 1,000 population between 2003/04 and 2004/05, whilst in both Gateshead and Sunderland there were slight increases in the rates per 1,000 population between 2005/06 and 2006/07. In 2006/07 and 2007/08, North Tyneside had rates per 1,000 population below the England & Wales rates (Fig. 2.3). This was the only district to achieve this.

Over the five-year period, the largest annual fall in the rate of criminal damage offences occurred in Newcastle in 2007/08, with the rate decreasing by 6.9 offences per 1,000 population from the previous year (Table 2.1). South Tyneside experienced the largest fall of 13.7 offences per 1,000 population between the base year (2003/04) and 2007/08.

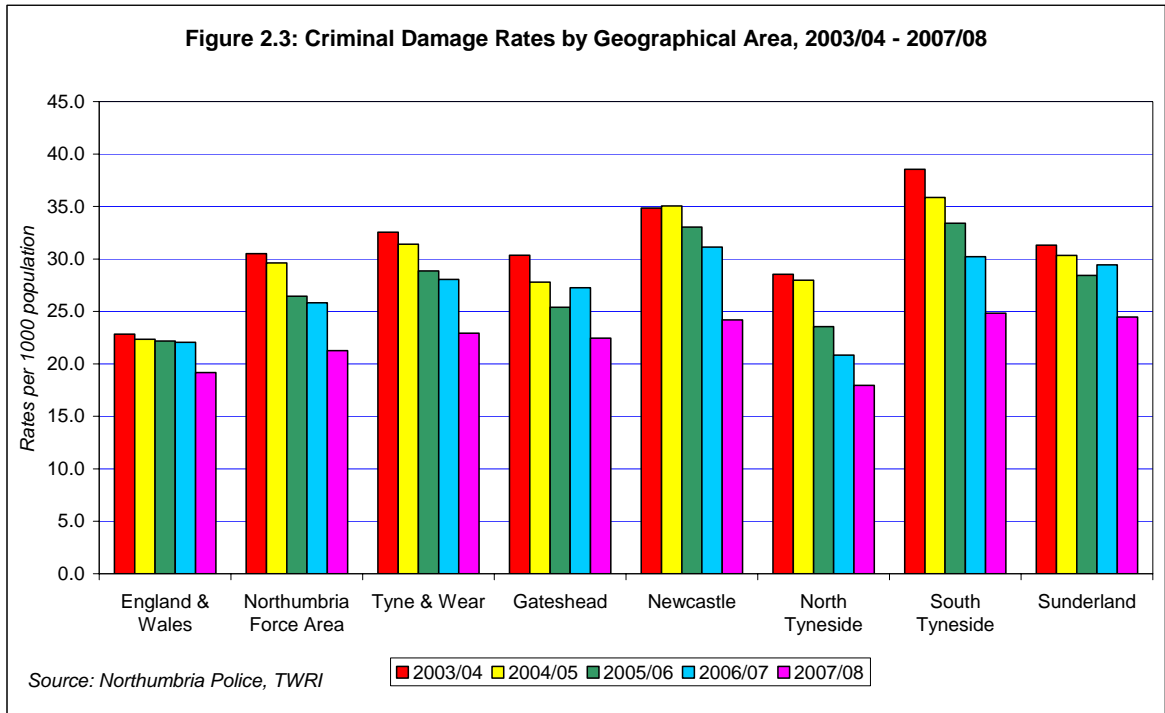


Table 2.1: Change in Criminal Damage Crime Rates by District, 2003/04 - 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08					
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate				
					Change in rate 2003/04 - 2004/05		Change in rate 2004/05 - 2005/06		Change in rate 2005/06 - 2006/07		Change in rate 2006/07 - 2007/08			
England & Wales	1,205,576	22.8	1,185,388	22.3	-0.5	1,184,683	22.2	-0.2	1,185,111	22.1	-0.1	1,036,246	19.2	-2.9
Northumbria Force Area	42,523	30.5	41,248	29.6	-0.9	36,911	26.4	-3.2	36,087	25.8	-0.6	29,758	21.3	-4.6
Tyne & Wear	35,315	32.5	34,012	31.4	-1.1	31,345	28.9	-2.5	30,502	28.0	-0.8	24,981	22.9	-5.1
Gateshead	5,789	30.4	5,291	27.8	-2.6	4,833	25.4	-2.4	5,194	27.3	1.9	4,278	22.5	-4.8
Newcastle	9,313	34.9	9,364	35.1	0.2	8,905	33.0	-2.0	8,420	31.1	-1.9	6,570	24.2	-6.9
North Tyneside	5,505	28.6	5,393	28.0	-0.6	4,564	23.6	-4.4	4,063	20.8	-2.7	3,520	18.0	-2.9
South Tyneside	5,854	38.5	5,426	35.9	-2.7	5,052	33.4	-2.4	4,561	30.2	-3.2	3,752	24.8	-5.4
Sunderland	8,854	31.3	8,538	30.3	-1.0	7,991	28.4	-1.9	8,264	29.5	1.0	6,861	24.5	-5.0

Source: Northumbria Police, TWRI.

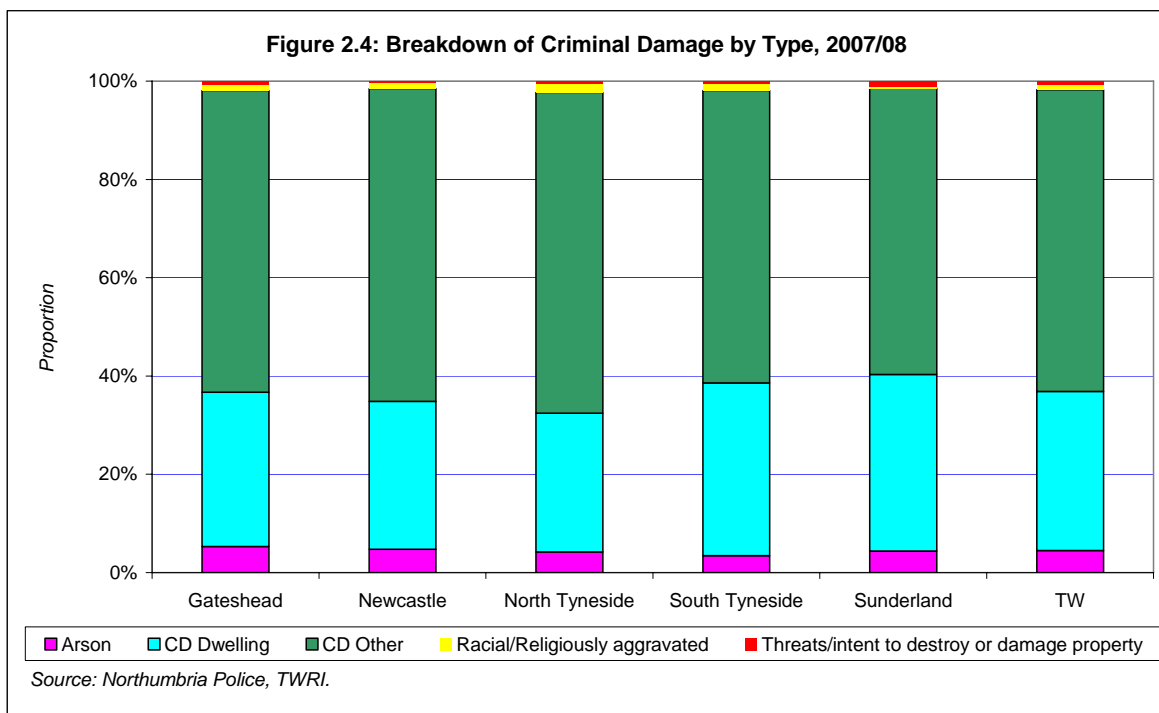
Note: The rate is the number of criminal damage crimes per 1000 population.
Population figures ONS' mid-year estimates

2.4 THE BREAKDOWN OF TYPES OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE 2007/08

Criminal damage can be broken down into arson, criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage other, threats/intent to destroy or damage property. Racial and/or religiously aggravated criminal damage is also recorded separately.

In Tyne & Wear during 2007/08, just less than one-third of criminal damage offences were to dwellings. 4.5% of offences were arson, whilst less than 1% were threats/intent to destroy or damage property. Racial and/or religiously aggravated criminal damage accounted for 1.1% of all criminal damage offences.

At district level, the highest proportion of arson offences was recorded in Gateshead (5.3%) and the lowest in South Tyneside (3.4%) (Fig. 2.4). Sunderland had the highest proportion of criminal damage to dwellings (35.9%), but the lowest for racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage (0.3%). North Tyneside had the highest proportion of criminal damage other (65.3%) and the highest proportion of racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage offences (1.8%).



2.5 THE DISTRIBUTION OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE BY WARDS 2007/08

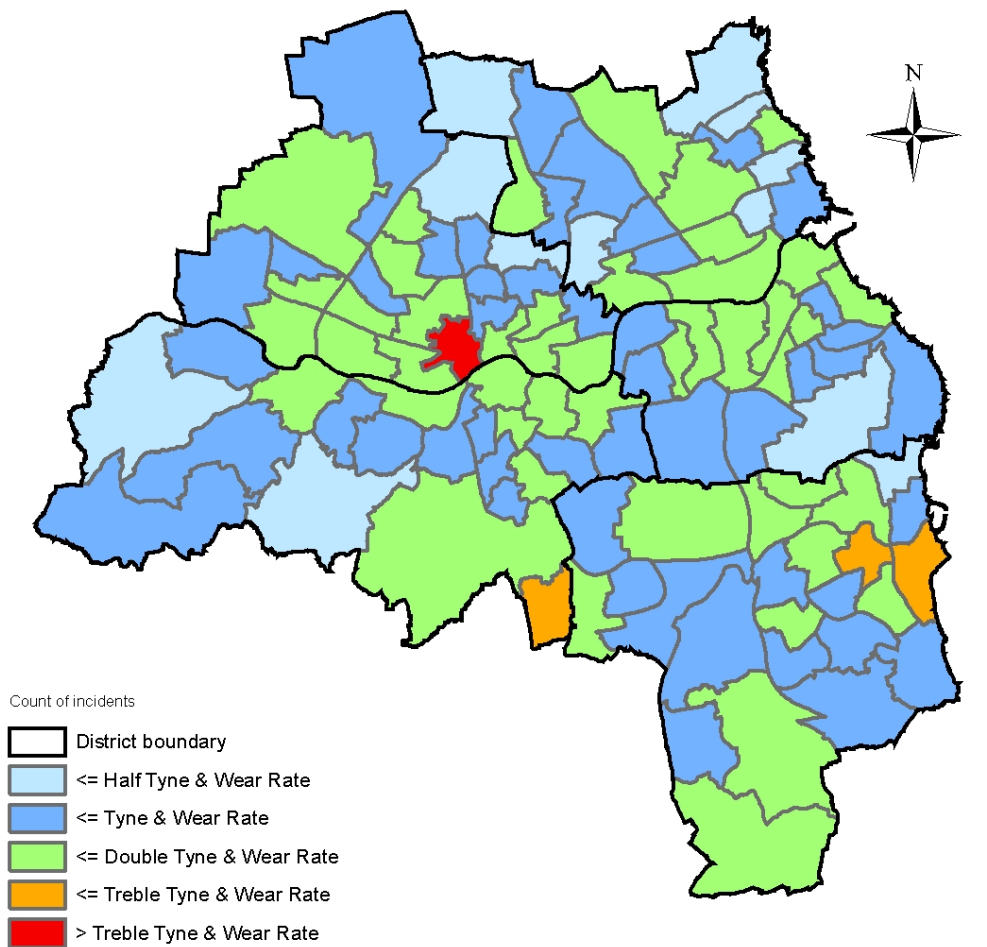
High levels of criminal damage tend to be concentrated in wards that straddle a city or town centre due to a high transient population of workers, shoppers and recreational visitors, either during the day or evening. City centre wards tend to have a low resident population, thus leading to high crime rates per 1,000 resident population. City centre wards in Newcastle (Westgate) and Sunderland (Hendon and Millfield) had the highest rates of criminal damage per 1,000 population in 2007/08. Westgate ward was over three-times the Tyne & Wear rate of 22.9 offences per 1,000 population, whilst Millfield and Hendon were more than twice the Tyne & Wear rate. (Appendix 1 and Map 2.1) Although not a town centre ward, Birtley in Gateshead also had a rate more than double the Tyne & Wear rate.

Over 790 criminal damage offences were recorded in Westgate (Newcastle) during 2007/08, giving the ward a rate of 104.5 offences per 1,000 resident population, however it should be noted that Newcastle is the regional capital of the North East and therefore attracts a high number of outside visitors to the area. St Marys ward (North Tyneside) had the least number of recorded offences (16), leading to the lowest rate of 1.9 offences per 1,000 population.

Almost two-fifths of the wards in Tyne & Wear had a rate less than the England & Wales rate of 19.2 per 1,000 population, with less than 7% of the wards having a rate less than half that of England & Wales. Four of these wards were situated in North Tyneside, whilst Sunderland had no wards with a rate less than half that of England & Wales.

The number of criminal damage offences, along with rates per 1,000 population for all wards in Tyne & Wear are shown in Appendix 1. The table also shows the difference between the ward rate and the Tyne & Wear rate and the ward rate and the England & Wales rate for 2007/08.

Map 2.1 Distribution of Criminal Damage by Wards in Tyne & Wear compared to the Tyne & Wear Rate, 2007/08



Tyne & Wear rate = 22.9 per 1,000 population
 England & Wales rate = 19.2 per 1,000 population

Note: Rates per 1,000 population based on usual resident population 2001 Census.
 © Crown Copyright Tyne & Wear population = 1,089,300 (2007 MYE)

Source: data provided by Northumbria Police,
 Mapped by TWRI, 2008.
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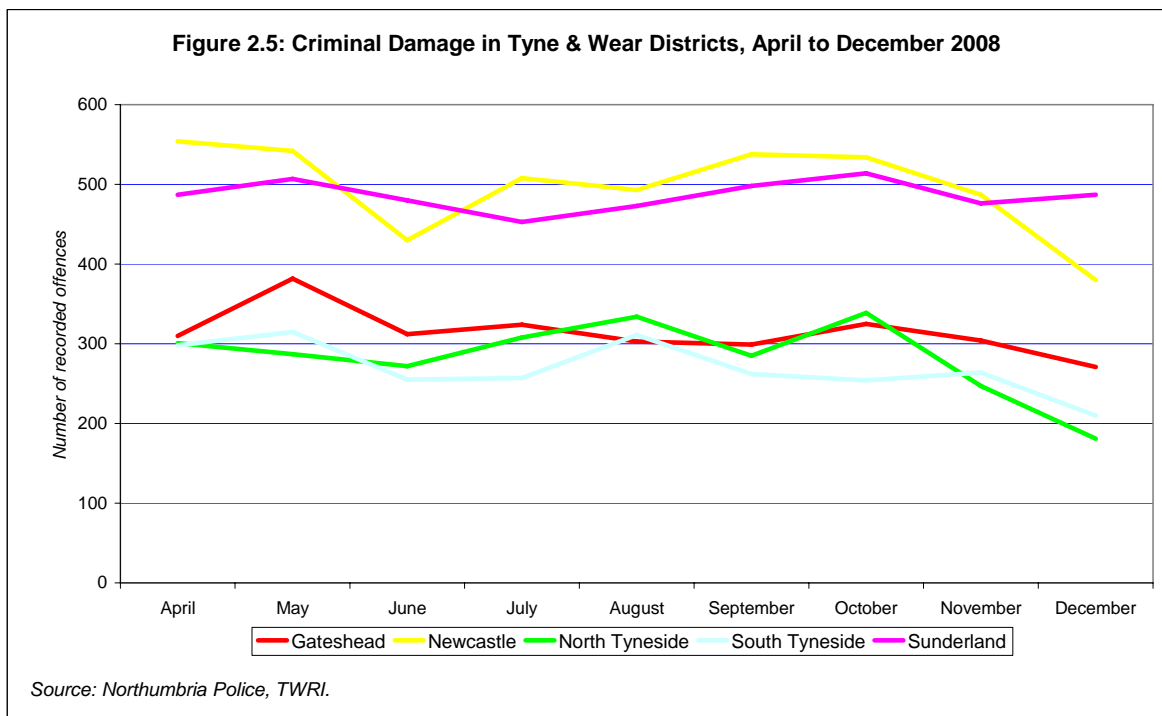
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2.6 CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN TYNE & WEAR APRIL 2008- DECEMBER 2008

At time of publication, the latest available Police data covers the period April – December 2008. During this nine-month period, in Tyne & Wear, there were 16,651 criminal damage offences recorded, an average of 1,850 per month. At district level the number of criminal damage offences fluctuated over the nine month period (Fig. 2.5). The largest decrease of 112 offences was in Newcastle between May and June, however, this was followed by the largest increase of 78 between June and July, also in Newcastle. From October to December in North Tyneside and Newcastle the number of criminal damage offences fell by over 150 in each district.

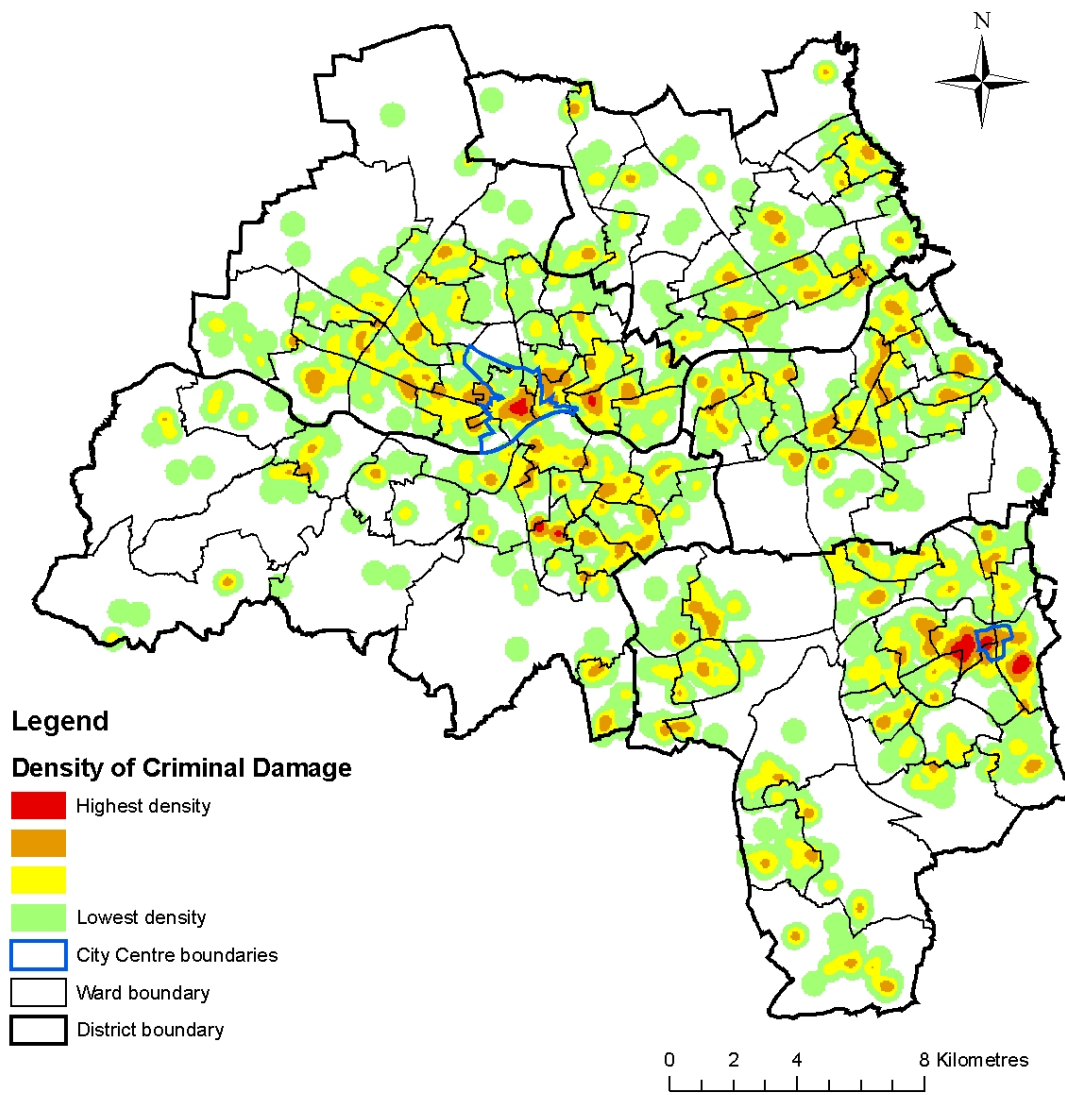


2.7 POTENTIAL 'HOTSPOTS' OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE DECEMBER 2008

Section 2.5 shows how a city or town centre, with a high transient population, can skew data showing the distribution of criminal damage. Therefore, in order to try and provide a better picture of the distribution of criminal damage across Tyne & Wear Map 2.2 shows hotspots of criminal damage activity in Tyne & Wear. Newcastle and Sunderland city centres are marked on the map. The data shown are for December 2008.

Across the districts, the areas of highest density of criminal damage in Gateshead were in Low Fell, around Whinney and Primrose Hill (Map 2.2). In Newcastle the highest density areas were the city centre and Byker, to the east of the city centre. In Sunderland, there were three areas with the highest density of criminal damage, around the city centre, the University of Sunderland (Precinct area) to the west of the city centre and Hendon, to the south east of the city centre.

Map 2.2: 'Hotspot' Map of Criminal Damage in Tyne & Wear, December 2008



Source: data provided by Northumbria Police,
Mapped by TVRI, 2008.
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(Tyne & Wear Research and Information)
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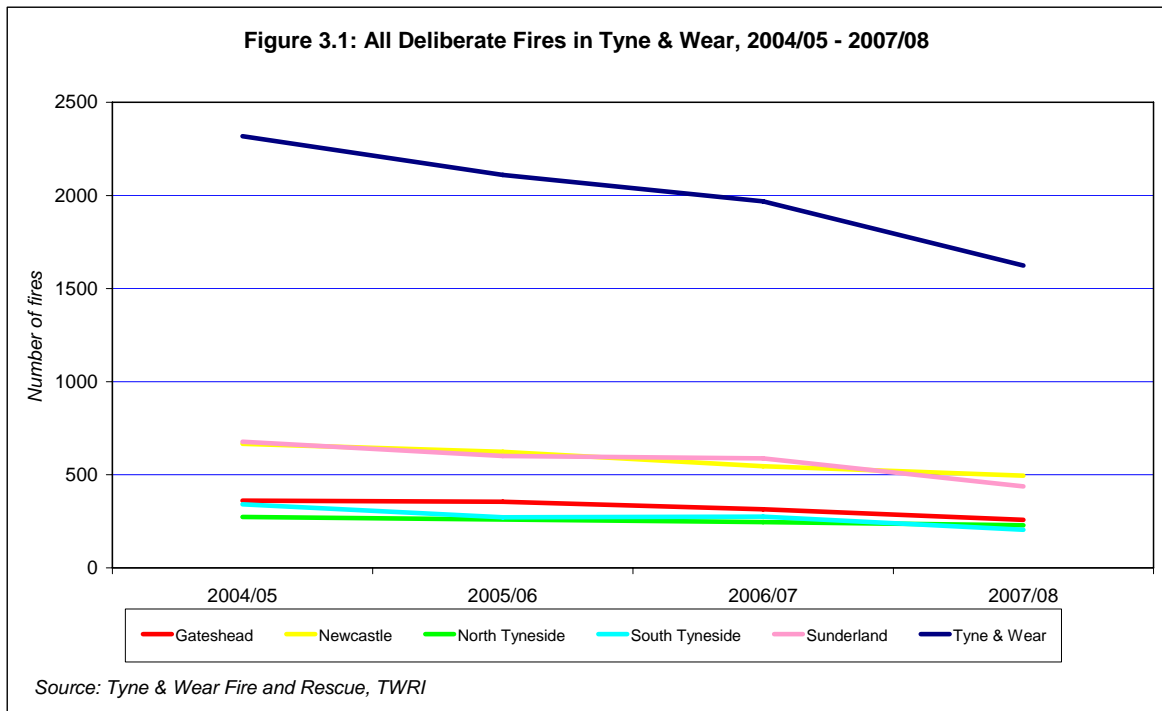
3. TYNE & WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service record data on all types of fire, including those of a deliberate nature. These deliberate fires can be used as a proxy for criminal damage/vandalism.

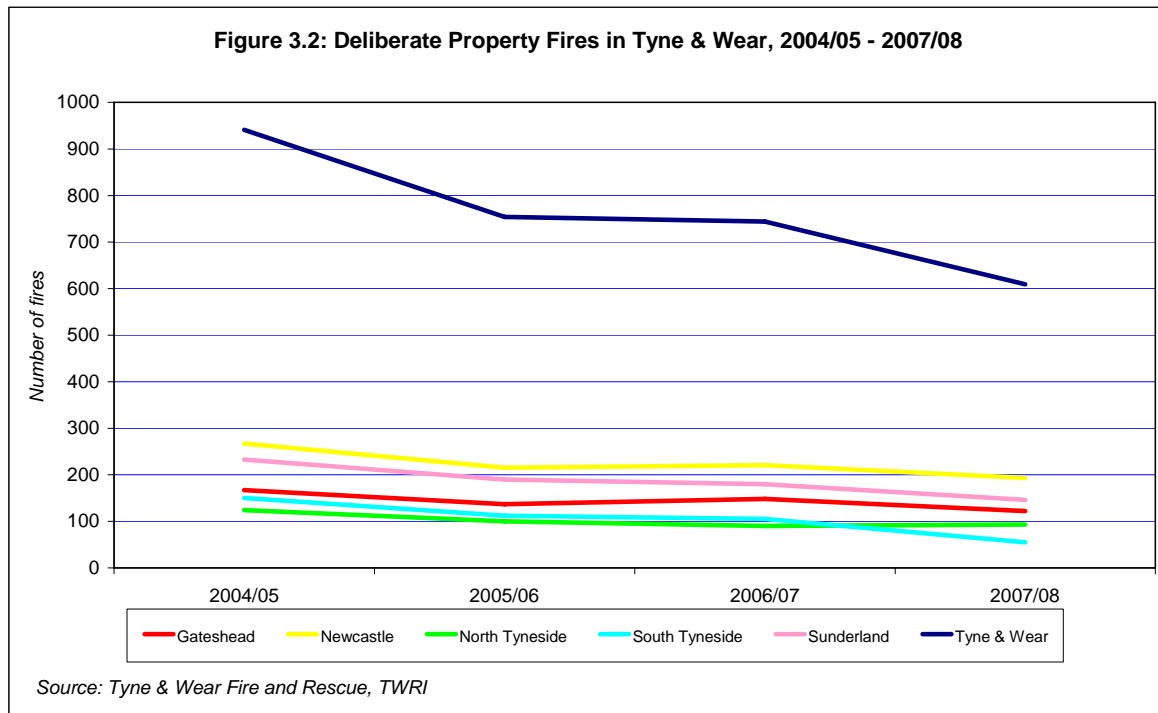
Data for primary fires, those reportable to the Home Office, are provided from 2004/05 to 2007/08. Primary fires can be broken down into property-related or vehicle-related. Data for secondary fires are also provided covering 2003/04 to 2007/08. Secondary fires include fires to derelict buildings or vehicles, grass/heath/railway fires, refuse/container fires and tree/fence/lamp fires.

3.1 PRIMARY DELIBERATE FIRES IN TYNE & WEAR 2004/05 – 2007/08

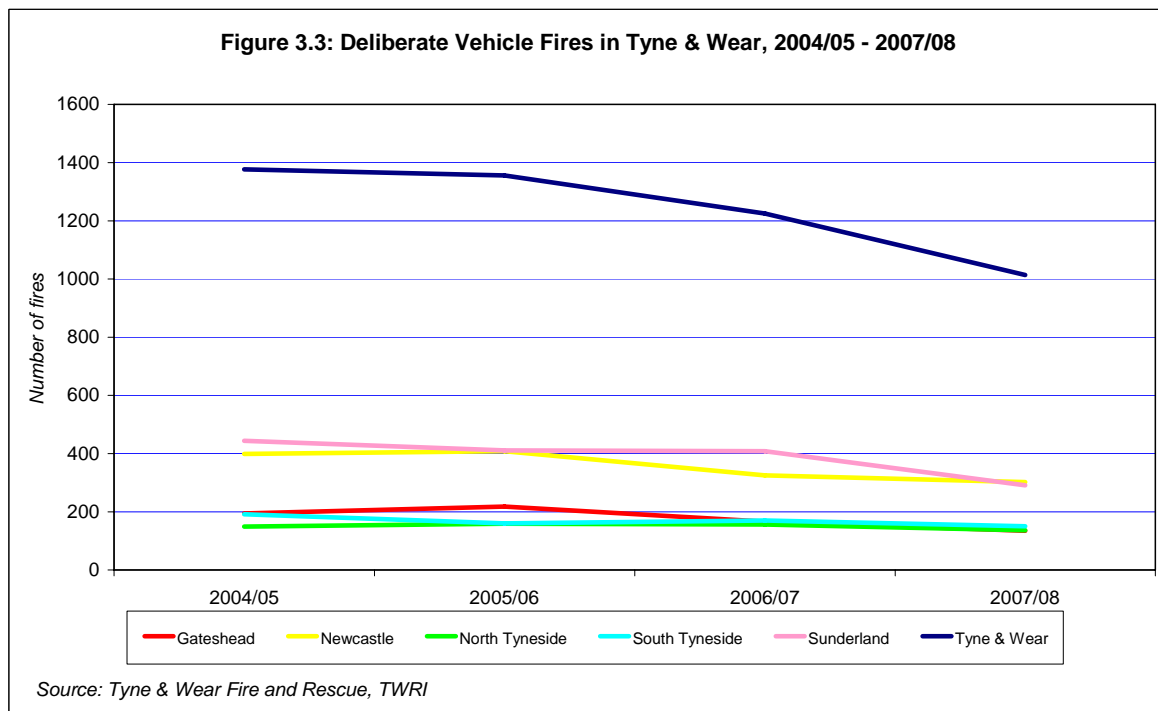
Over the four-year period 2004/05 – 2007/08 the number of deliberate primary fires in Tyne & Wear fell by almost one-third from 2,318 to 1,623. A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear Districts, with the fastest fall being in South Tyneside (down by 40%) and the slowest in North Tyneside (down by 16%) (Fig. 3.1). Newcastle and Sunderland each had over 600 deliberate primary fires recorded during 2004/05, this fell to just under 500 in Newcastle and just under 440 in Sunderland in 2007/08. North Tyneside had the least number of deliberate primary fires across all five districts in all years, except 2007/08 (lowest in South Tyneside).



Primary fires can be divided into property fires and vehicle fires. Over the four-year period 2004/05–2007/08 the number of deliberate primary property fires in Tyne & Wear fell by over one-third from 941 to 609 (Fig. 3.2). A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear Districts, with the fastest fall being in South Tyneside (down by 63%) and the slowest in North Tyneside (down by a quarter). North Tyneside had the least number of deliberate primary property fires across all five districts in all years, except 2007/08 (lowest in South Tyneside).



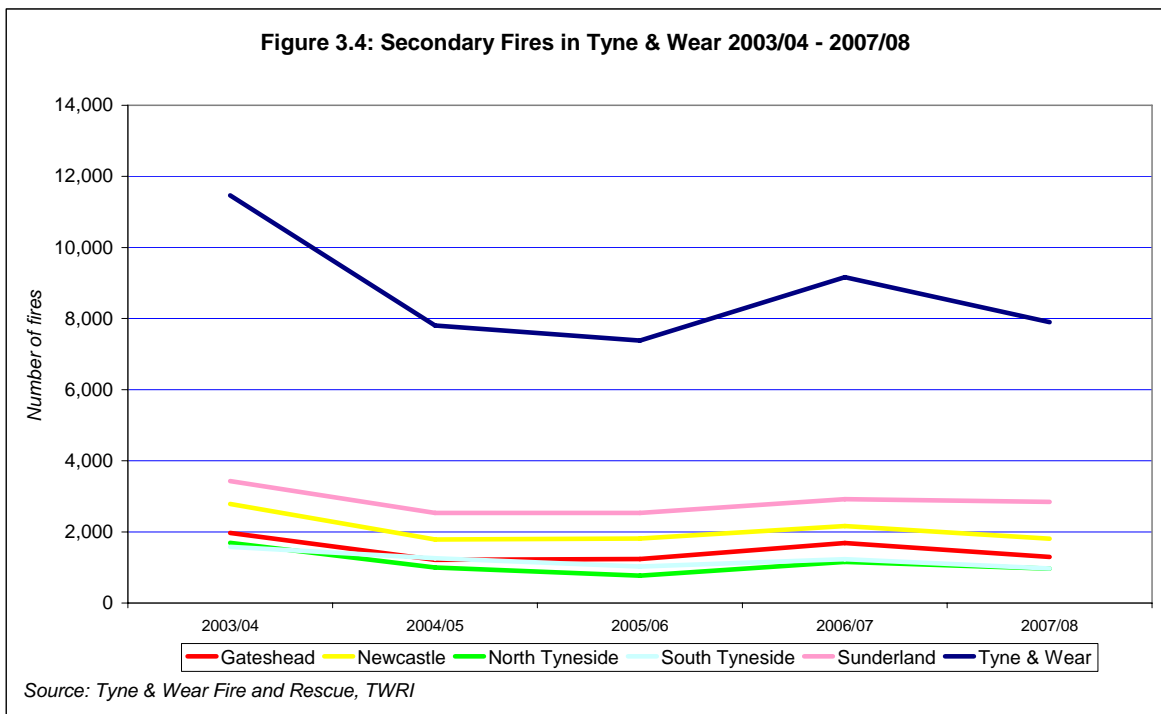
Over the four-year period 2004/05–2007/08 the number of deliberate primary vehicle fires in Tyne & Wear fell by just over one-quarter from 1,377 to 1,014 (Fig. 3.3). A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear Districts, with the fastest fall being in Sunderland (down by 34%) and the slowest in North Tyneside (down by almost 9%). North Tyneside had the least number of deliberate primary vehicle fires across all five districts in all years, except 2007/08, when Gateshead was lowest (by one fire). Sunderland had the highest number, with the exception of 2007/08, when Newcastle had the most.



3.2 SECONDARY DELIBERATE FIRES IN TYNE & WEAR 2003/04 – 2007/08

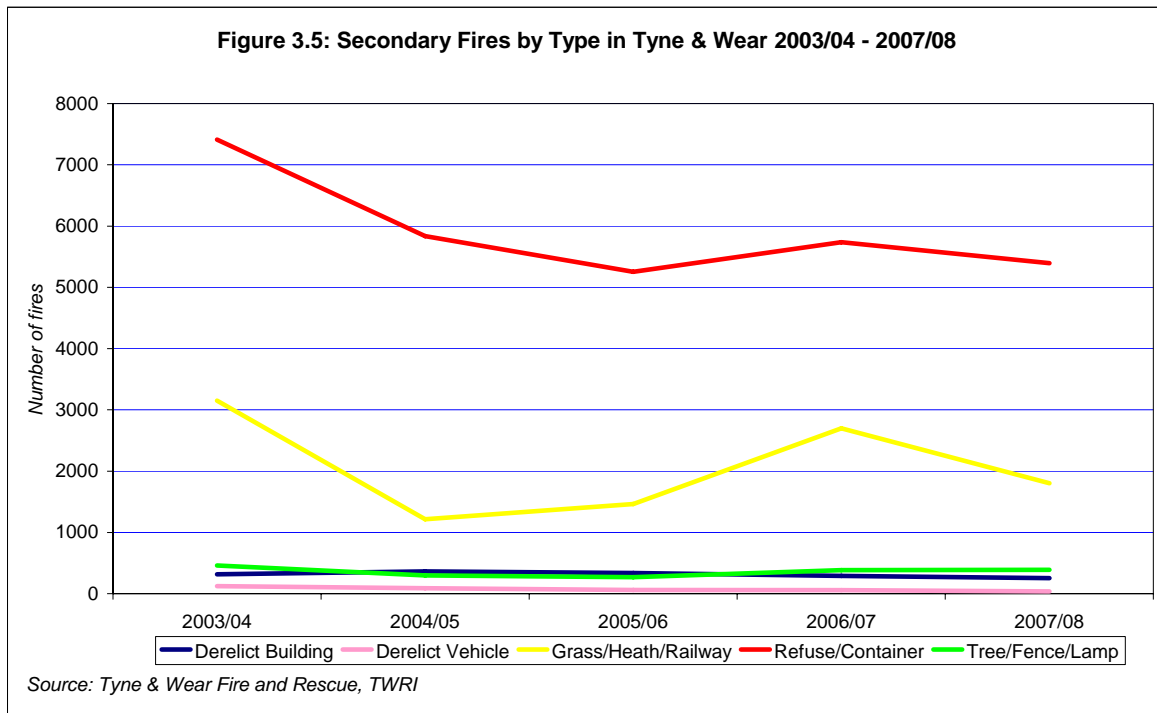
Over the five year period 2003/04–2007/08 the number of deliberate secondary fires in Tyne & Wear fell by almost one-third from 11,464 to 7,900. A similar pattern occurred in the Tyne & Wear Districts, with the fastest fall being in North Tyneside (down by 43%) and the slowest in Sunderland (down by 17%) (Fig.3.4). In all five Districts and Tyne & Wear as a whole, the number of deliberate secondary fires increased substantially during 2006/07, up by between 15% (Sunderland) and 51% (North Tyneside), but did fall again during the following year.

North Tyneside had the least number of deliberate secondary fires across all five districts in all years, except 2003/04 (lowest in South Tyneside). The number of secondary fires was highest in Sunderland during all five years.



Over the five year period 2003/04 – 2007/08 the type of deliberate secondary fires in Tyne & Wear varied (Fig. 3.5). However, the greatest numbers of fires were by far refuse/container fires, accounting for between 63 and 75% of all deliberate secondary fires in Tyne & Wear across the five years.

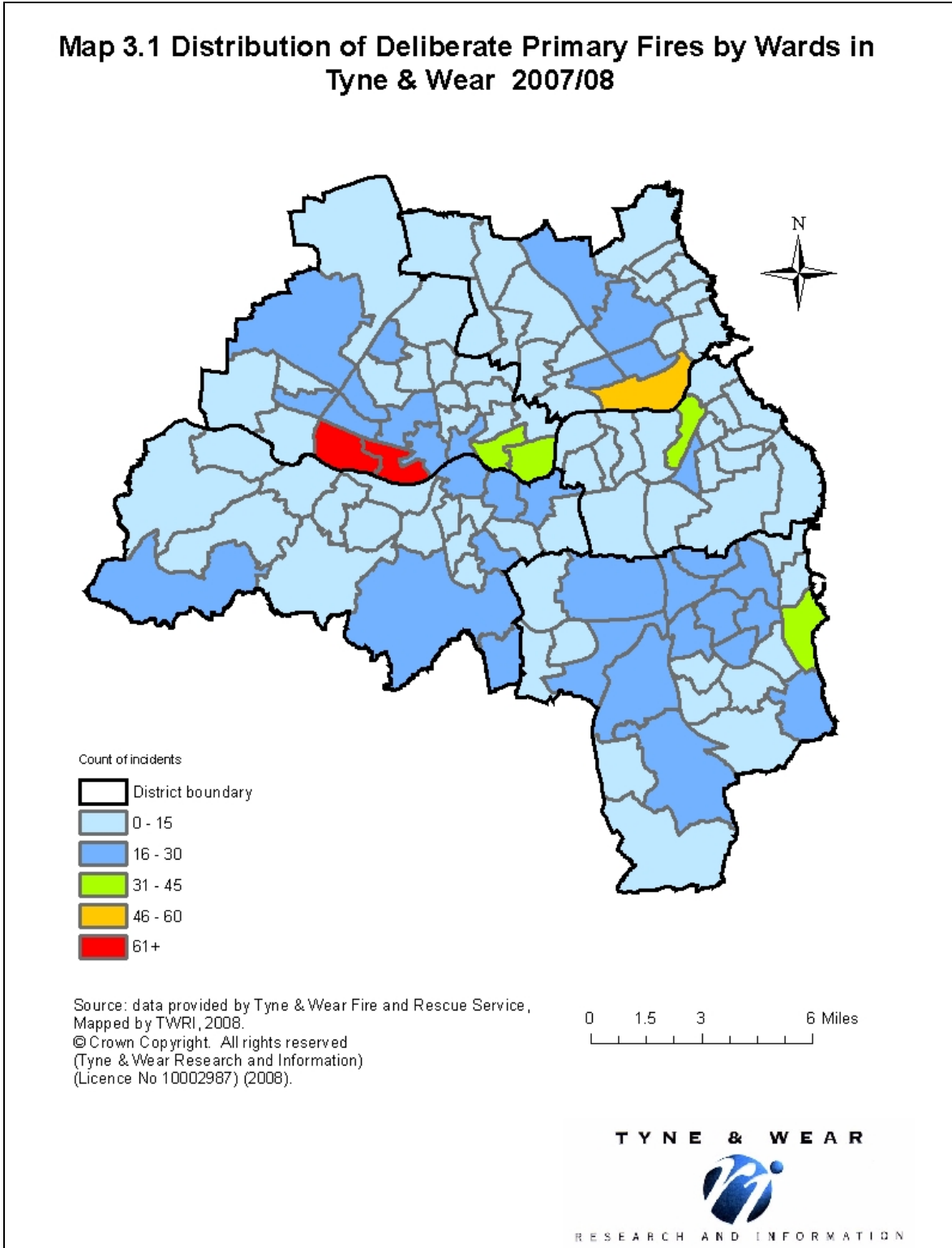
Across Tyne & Wear the number of fires in derelict buildings fell by one-fifth between 2003/04–2007/08. Derelict vehicle fires fell year-on-year over the period by a total of 68%. Refuse/container fires fell by 27% over the same period, despite a 9% rise between 2005/06 and 2006/07.



3.3 THE DISTRIBUTION OF DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES BY WARD 2007/08

During 2007/08, there were 1,623 primary deliberate fires recorded by Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service. One-quarter (397) of these fires were recorded in just 9 out of 111 wards.

The highest numbers were recorded in Elswick and Benwell & Scotswood wards in Newcastle. Riverside in North Tyneside was the only ward to have between 46 and 60 deliberate primary fires, whilst four wards across Tyne & Wear; Byker and Walker (Newcastle), Simonside & Rekendyke (South Tyneside) and Hendon (Sunderland) had between 31 and 45 deliberate primary fires. All other wards had 30 or less deliberate primary fires.

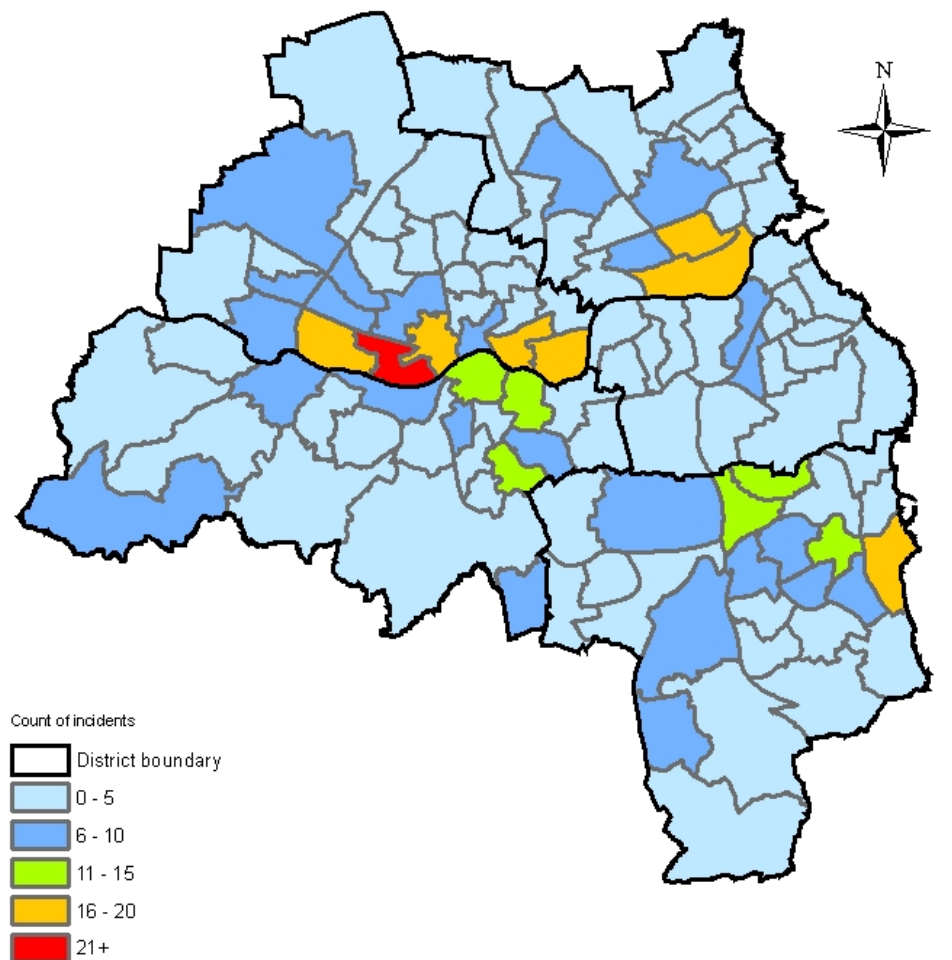


3.4 THE DISTRIBUTION OF DELIBERATE PROPERTY FIRES BY WARD 2007/08

During 2007/08, just over one-third of all primary deliberate fires in Tyne & Wear were property-related. Almost half (293) of these deliberate property fires were recorded in just one-fifth of all wards. Fourteen wards had more than ten deliberate property fires during 2007/08, whilst one ward, Elswick (Newcastle), had over twenty deliberate property fires during the year.

The highest number of deliberate property-related fires recorded in North Tyneside was in Riverside (19), whilst in Gateshead it was High Fell (14). In South Tyneside, the highest number was recorded in Simonside & Rekendyke ward (9), whilst in Sunderland it was in Hendon ward (17).

Map 3.2 Distribution of Deliberate Primary Property Fires in Tyne & Wear 2007/08



Source: data provided by Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Mapped by TWRI, 2008.
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TYNE & WEAR

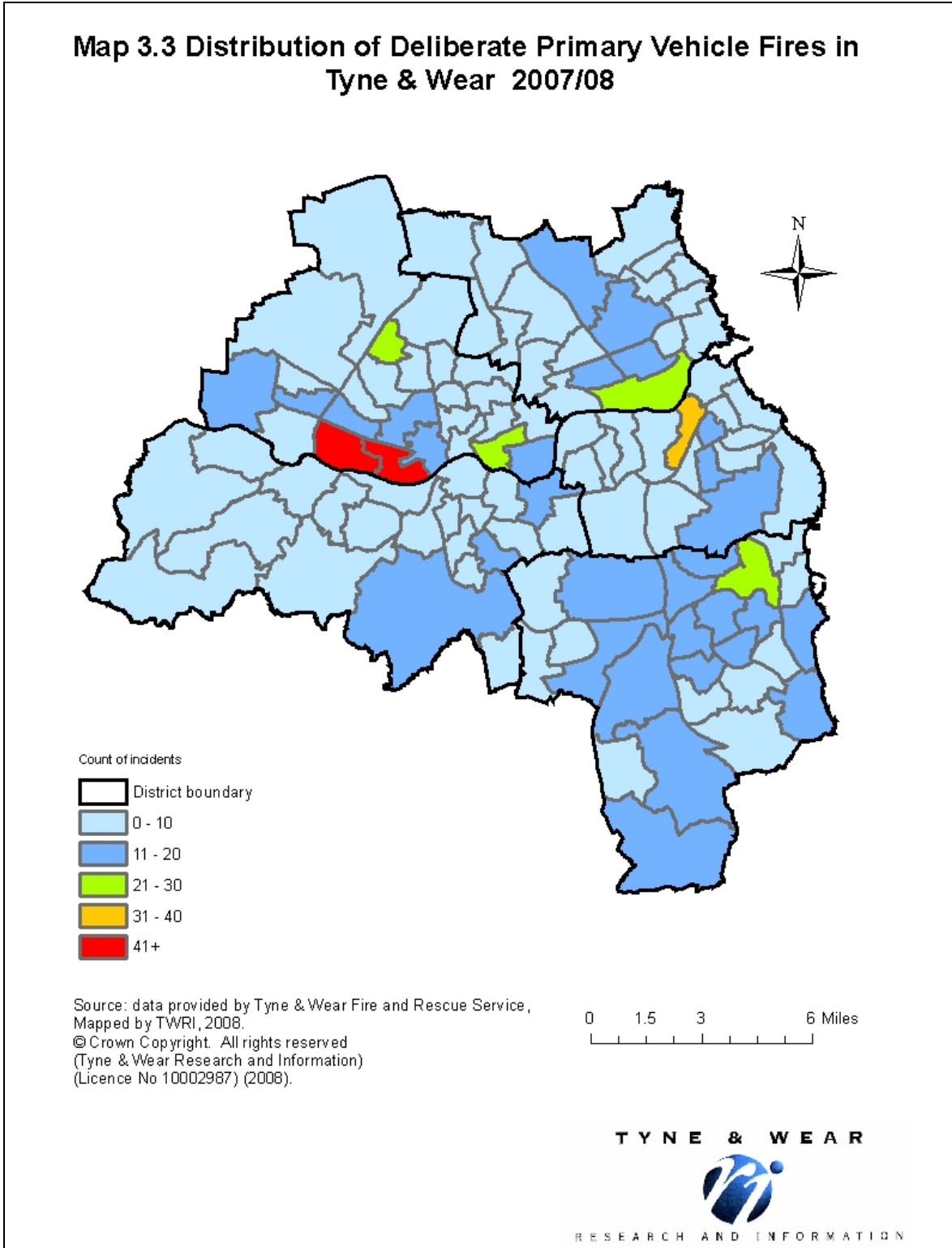


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3.5 THE DISTRIBUTION OF DELIBERATE VEHICLE FIRES BY WARD 2007/08

During 2007/08, over 60% (1,014) of all primary deliberate fires in Tyne & Wear were vehicle-related. Seven wards had more than twenty deliberate vehicle fires during 2007/08, whilst only two of these wards, Elswick and Benwell & Scotswood (Newcastle), had over forty deliberate vehicle fires during the year.

The highest number of deliberate vehicle-related fires recorded in North Tyneside was in Riverside (30), whilst in South Tyneside, it was Simonside & Rekendyke ward (32). In Gateshead the highest number was recorded in Lamesley (14), whilst in Sunderland it was in Southwick ward (25).

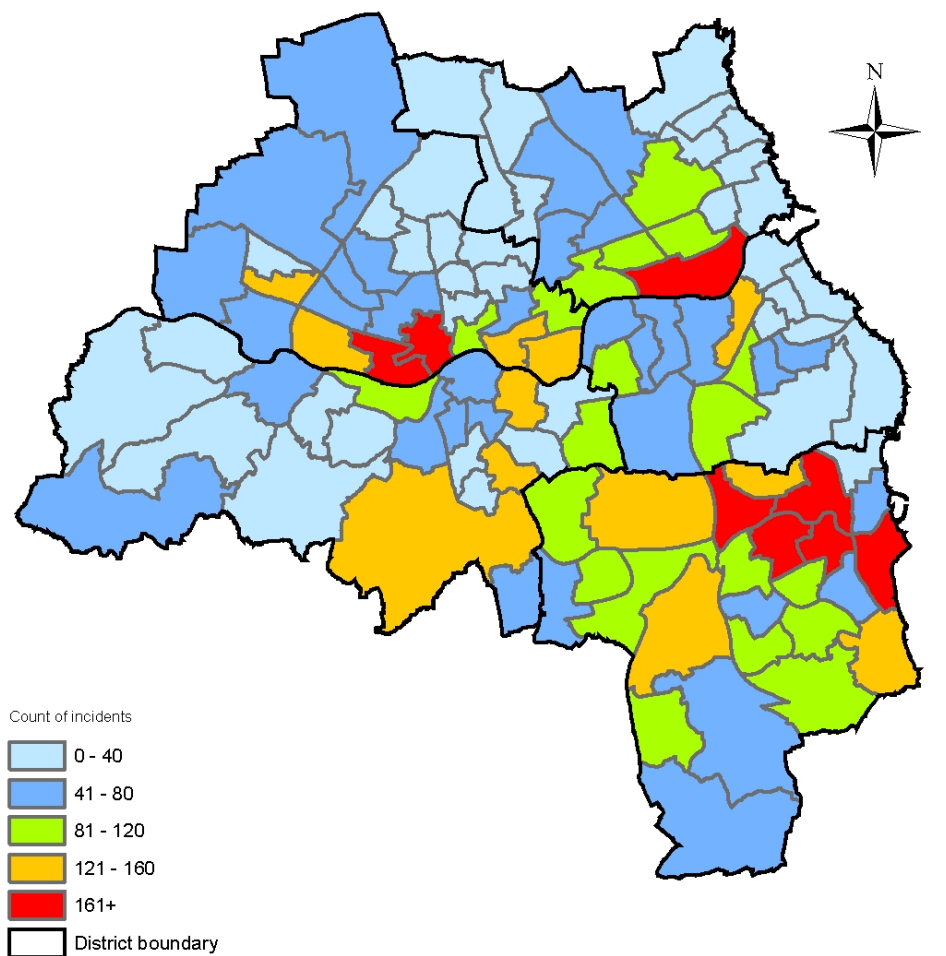


3.6 THE DISTRIBUTION OF DELIBERATE SECONDARY FIRES BY WARD 2007/08

During 2007/08, there were 7,900 secondary deliberate fires recorded by Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service. One-fifth (1,523) of all secondary deliberate fires in Tyne & Wear were recorded in just eight wards, with each of these wards having over 160 fires. Five of these wards were in Sunderland (Hendon, Castle, Southwick, Pallion and Millfield), two in Newcastle (Elswick and Westgate) and one in North Tyneside (Riverside).

A further thirty-two wards had more than eighty deliberate secondary fires during 2007/08, with thirteen of these wards being located within Sunderland. The highest number of deliberate secondary fires recorded in South Tyneside was in Simonside & Rekendyke ward (148), whilst in Gateshead the highest number was recorded in High Fell (134).

Map 3.4 Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in Tyne & Wear 2007/08



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4. CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS

Nexus is the Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Executive and administers funds on behalf of the Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Authority. Nexus record instances of vandalism to bus stops throughout Tyne & Wear, and to bus shelters in all districts except Newcastle. Adshel is responsible for the installation and maintenance of 40% of (non-brick) bus shelters in Tyne & Wear. Instances of vandalism to Adshel bus shelters are recorded throughout Tyne & Wear.

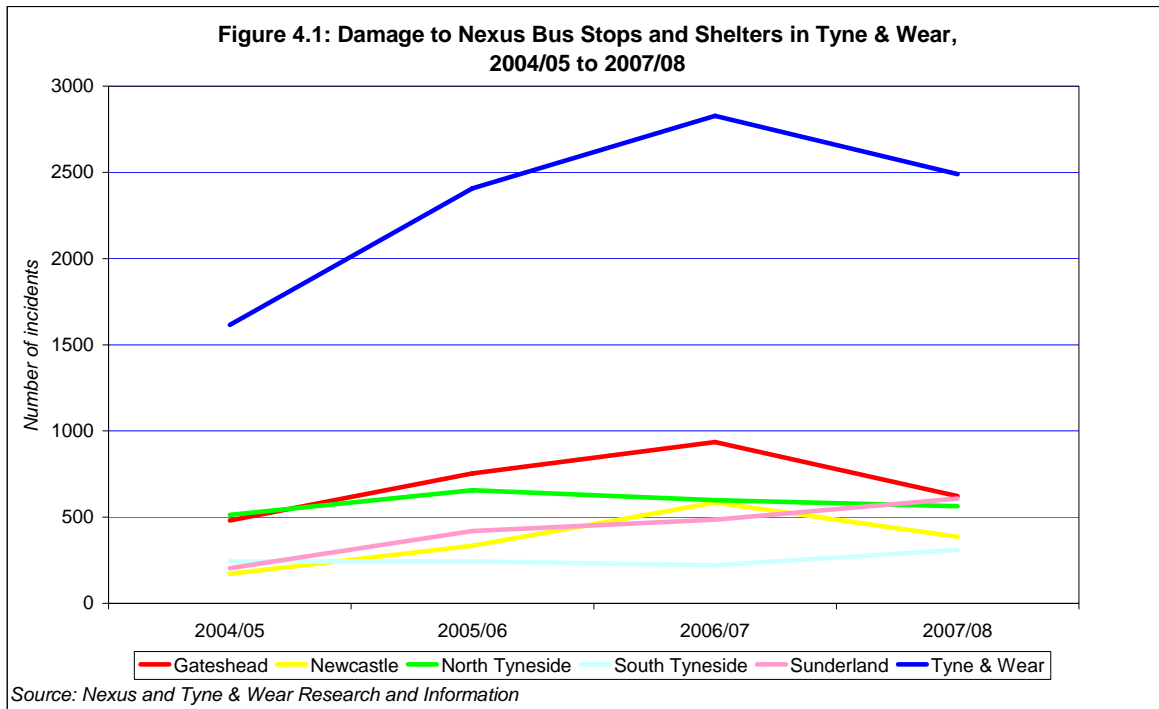
In Tyne & Wear there are 6,352 bus stops, 1,867 Nexus bus shelters and 1,245 Adshel bus shelters. Over half of Adshel shelters are located in Newcastle, where Nexus do not maintain any shelters, only bus stops.

Nexus supplied data on damage to bus stops and shelters covering the period 2004/05 to 2007/08, whilst Adshel supplied data on damage to bus shelters during 2007/08. The primary categories of damage were; broken glass, damaged fitments and damaged panels. Additional categories recorded include graffiti/fly posting and rubbish/needle removal.

4.1 DAMAGE TO NEXUS BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS IN TYNE & WEAR 2004/05 – 2007/08

Over the four year period 2004/05 to 2007/08 the number of incidents recorded by Nexus of damage to bus stops and shelters increased by over 50% in Tyne & Wear to almost 2,500 (Fig. 4.1). In all five Local Authority Districts, the number of incidents increased over the same period. The lowest increase was in North Tyneside (up 10%), compared to the highest increase in Sunderland of almost 200%. However, it should be noted that the number of damage incidents recorded in North Tyneside was over twice that in Sunderland in the base year 2004/05.

In 2007/08 the cost of recorded damage to Nexus bus shelters was approximately £211,000, an increase of 45% from the 2004/05 figure of approximately £146,000.



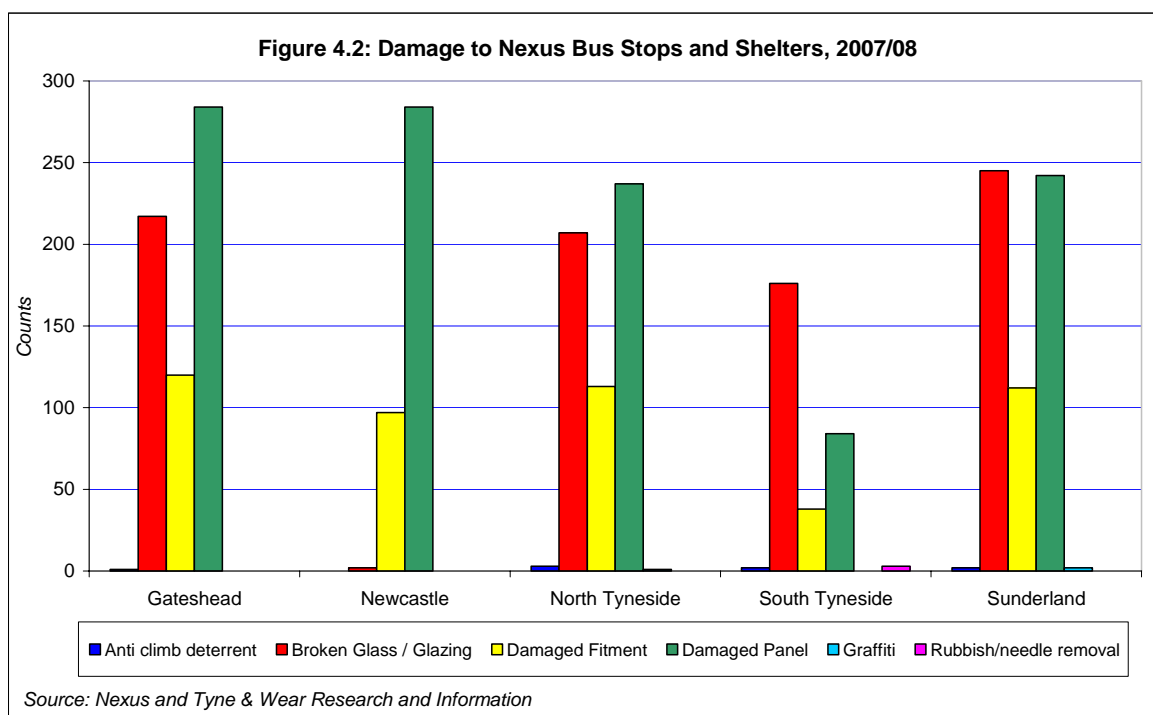
4.2 DAMAGE TO ADSHEL BUS SHELTERS IN TYNE & WEAR 2007/08

During 2007/08, there were 2,209 incidents recorded by Adshel of damage to bus shelters in Tyne & Wear. Over half of these incidents (54%) were recorded in Newcastle. (This figure is high because only Adshel install and maintain bus shelters in this district.) In the four other Tyne & Wear Districts Nexus also maintains bus shelters. Almost one-fifth (18%) were recorded in Sunderland, whilst only 115 incidents (5%) were recorded in South Tyneside.

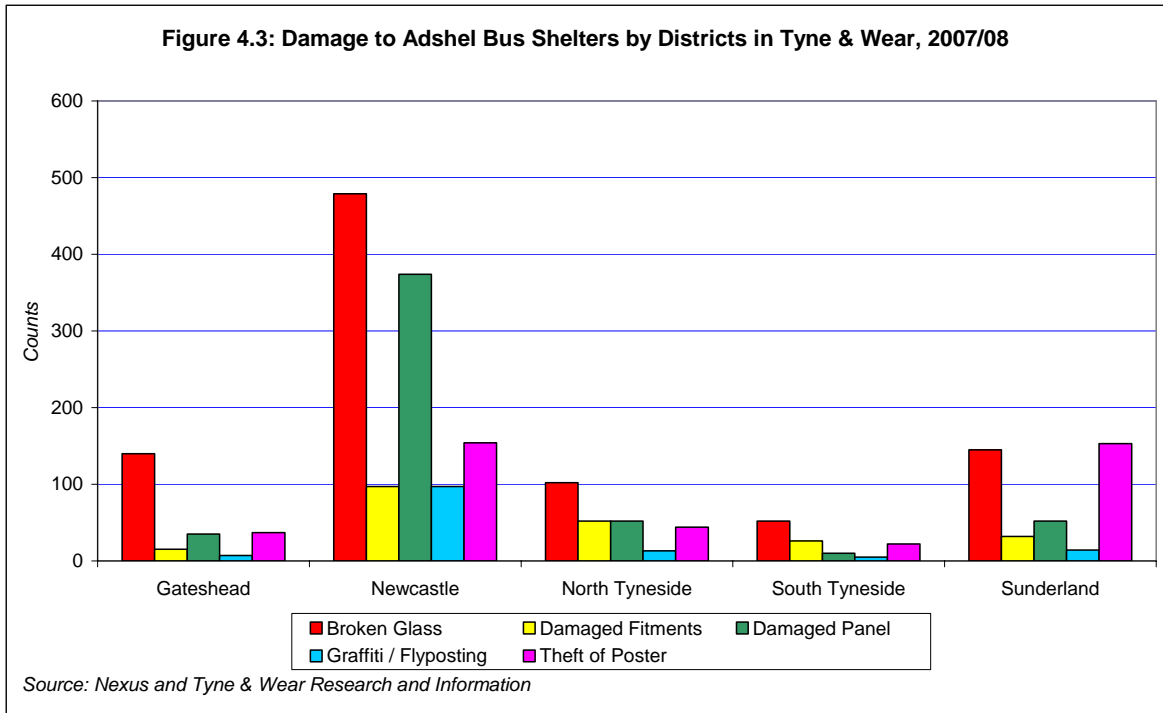
4.3 THE DISTRIBUTION OF TYPE OF DAMAGE TO BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS IN TYNE & WEAR

The main categories of damage to Nexus bus stops and shelters are; broken glass/damage to glazing, damaged fitments and damaged panels. During 2004/05 across Tyne & Wear, the largest category of damage was broken glass/damage to glazing, whilst in 2005/06 there was an almost equal split between broken glass/damage to glazing and damaged panels. During 2006/07 and 2007/08 the largest category of damage was to panels.

During 2007/08, in Gateshead and North Tyneside over 40% of incidents to Nexus bus stops and shelters were damage to panels, whilst approximately 35% were broken glass/damage to glazing (Fig. 4.2). 75% of incidents in Newcastle were damage to panels (refers to bus stops only, not bus shelters). In South Tyneside, over half of incidents were broken glass/damage to glazing during the same year, whilst in Sunderland broken glass/damage accounted for 40% of incidents, as did damage to panels.



During 2007/08 across the Tyne & Wear districts, the largest category of damage to Adshel bus stops and shelters was broken glass/damage to glazing, with the exception of Sunderland, where the largest category was theft of posters (Fig. 4.3). 60% of incidents in Gateshead were broken glass/damage to glazing, compared to just 37% in Sunderland. Graffiti & fly posting is recorded by Adshel as a separate category and in 2007/08, this accounted for between 3% (Gateshead) and 8% (Newcastle) of all incidents. Theft of Posters accounted for between 13% (Newcastle) and 39% (Sunderland).

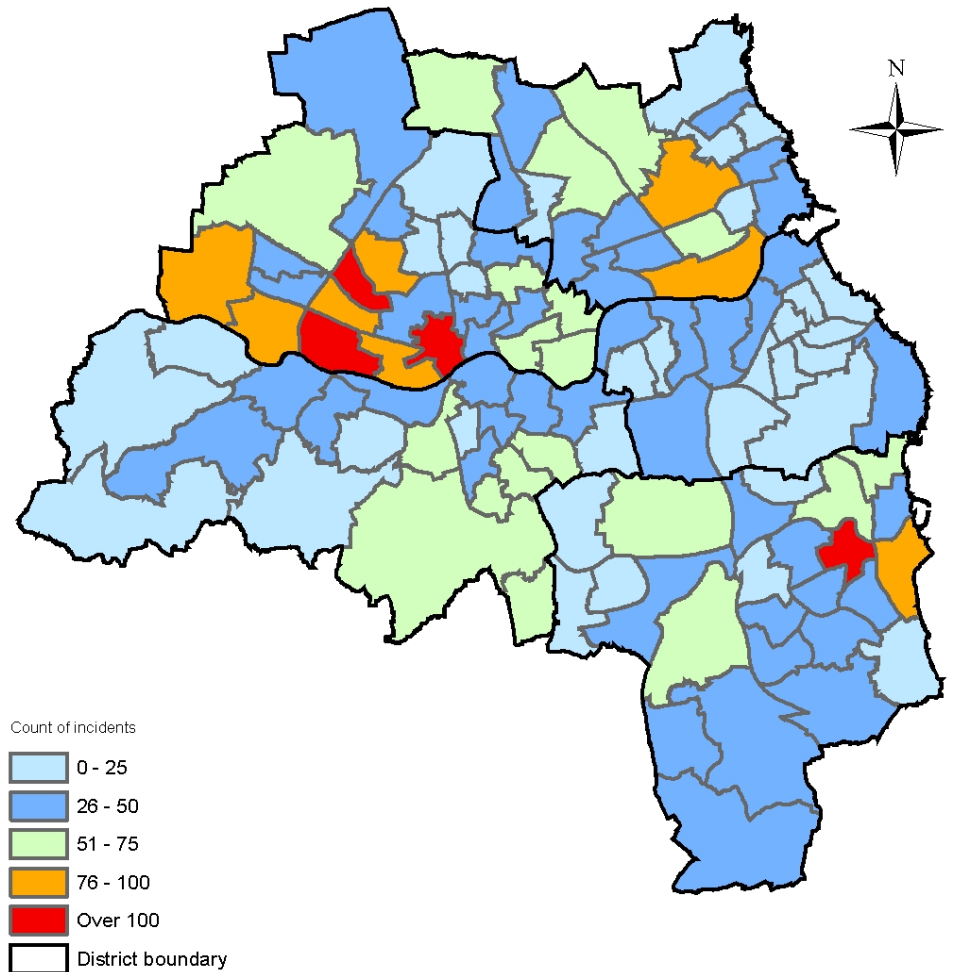


4.4 THE DISTRIBUTION OF DAMAGE TO NEXUS BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS BY WARD 2007/08

During 2007/08, Nexus and Adshel recorded 4,699 incidents of damage to bus stops and shelters in Tyne & Wear. Half of these incidents were recorded in just thirty-one wards (out of 111). Benwell & Scotswood Ward (Newcastle) had the highest number of incidents (169). This was the only ward to have more than 130 recorded incidents.

There were four wards in Tyne & Wear with more than 100 incidents, including Benwell & Scotswood. These were; Blakelaw and Westgate (Nc) and Millfield (Sd) (Map 4.1). The highest number of incidents in North Tyneside was in Riverside Ward (93), in Gateshead it was Birtley (71), whilst in South Tyneside the highest was in Beacon and Bents Ward (44).

Map 4.1 Distribution of Damage to Bus Stops and Shelters in Tyne & Wear, 2007/08



Source: Nexus and Adshel
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TYNE & WEAR



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5. LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN TYNE & WEAR

In order to identify the full extent of the problem of criminal damage in Tyne & Wear, TWRI attempted to collect Local Authority data to support police data.

Once appropriate suppliers of data had been identified, discussions were held to ascertain 1) whether any relevant data was held, 2) whether the data was readily available, and 3) whether the data could be supplied to TWRI for the purposes of this report.

5.1 GATESHEAD

Gateshead Council's Environmental Services, record instances of requests for graffiti removal. However, at present the way in which the data are recorded means it is not possible to map the data. Work is currently underway to improve data recording methods and it is hoped more useful data will become available in the future.

5.2 NEWCASTLE

The Environment & Regeneration Directorate of Newcastle City Council is responsible for Envirocall, the system residents of Newcastle use to report environmental problems.

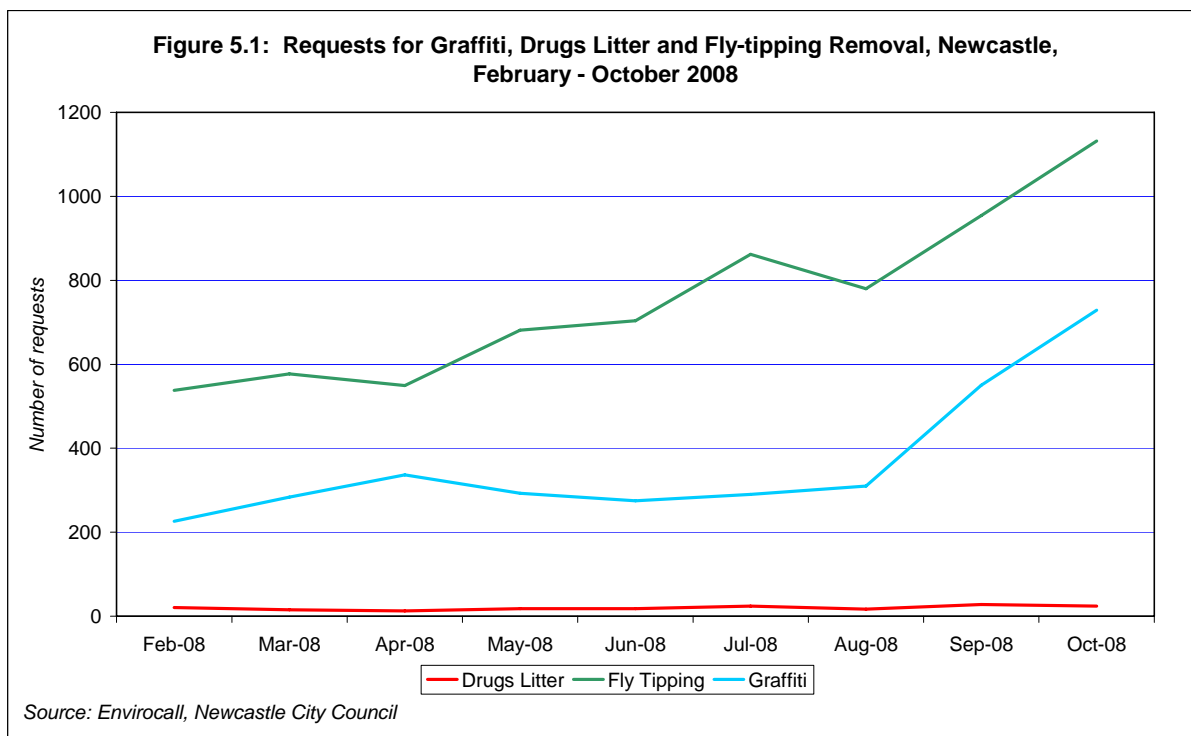
Data was supplied for all types of criminal damage, including damage to street furniture, damage to fencing and damage to shrubs/flower beds/hedges, as well as requests for the removal of graffiti, removal of illegally dumped material (fly-tipping) and removal of drugs litter, such as needles.

Analysis of requests for the removal of graffiti, removal of illegally dumped material (fly-tipping) and removal of drugs litter over the nine month period February to October 2008 is included.

Over the nine-month period (Feb-Oct 2008), 3,294 requests for graffiti removal were recorded by Envirocall, an average of 366 per month. At ward level, the highest number of requests over the period was in Byker (48) and the lowest in Dene (2). Over the three-month period August – October 2008, there was a dramatic increase in the number of requests for graffiti removal across the City, up 135%, from 310 to 729 (Fig. 5.1).

Over the nine-month period February - October 2008, 6,777 requests for removal of illegally dumped material (fly-tipping) were recorded by Envirocall, an average of 753 per month. At ward level, the highest number of requests over the period was in Byker (135) and the lowest in Dene (2). Over the three-month period August - October 2008, reports of fly-tipping followed a similar pattern to reports of graffiti in Newcastle, with a dramatic increase in the number of requests for removal of illegally dumped material across the City, up 45% from 780 to 1,132 (Fig. 5.1).

Between February and October 2008, 178 requests for removal of drugs litter were recorded by Envirocall, an average of 19 per month (Fig 5.1). At ward level, the highest number of requests over the period were in Ouseburn and Westgate (4 in each ward). Eight wards had no requests over the nine-month period.



Additional types of requests for service are detailed in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Requests for Service due to 'Criminal Damage', Newcastle, February - October 2008

	City-wide
Abandoned Vehicles	5
Fly Posting	23
Leaves	1
Litter	2
Damage to fences	24
Damage to shrub bed/hedge	5
Damage to street furniture	7
Pavements	1
Recycling	1

Source: Envirocall, Newcastle City Council

5.3 NORTH TYNESIDE

The 'Street Environment' department at North Tyneside Council was contacted in relation to providing data on environmental crime. The department hold data on bonfires, wheeled bin fires, graffiti and similar. Whilst these data are routinely collected and the Council is willing to share the data, due technical difficulties it is not possible at the moment.

5.4 SOUTH TYNESIDE

South Tyneside Council were able to provide data on graffiti and abandoned waste (fly-tipping). Data for December 2008 is provided in Table 5.2. Unfortunately, it was not possible to allocate wards to all of the data (79 records). However of those records allocated wards, the highest number of graffiti

removal requests was in Primrose ward (7), whilst the highest number of fly-tipping removal requests was in Biddick & All Saints ward (29).

Table 5.2: Graffiti and Fly-Tipping Incidents, South Tyneside, December 2008

Name	Graffiti	Fly-tipping
Beacon and Bents Ward	0	24
Bede Ward	2	8
Biddick and All Saints Ward	5	29
Boldon Colliery Ward	3	3
Cleadon and East Boldon Ward	0	3
Cleadon Park Ward	1	4
Fellgate and Hedworth Ward	1	9
Harton Ward	2	0
Hebburn North Ward	6	5
Hebburn South Ward	3	2
Horsley Hill Ward	1	6
Monkton Ward	3	9
Primrose Ward	7	18
Simonside and Rekendyke Ward	1	22
Westoe Ward	1	10
West Park Ward	0	16
Whitburn and Marsden Ward	0	4
Whiteleas Ward	2	4
No ward allocated	0	79
South Tyneside	38	255

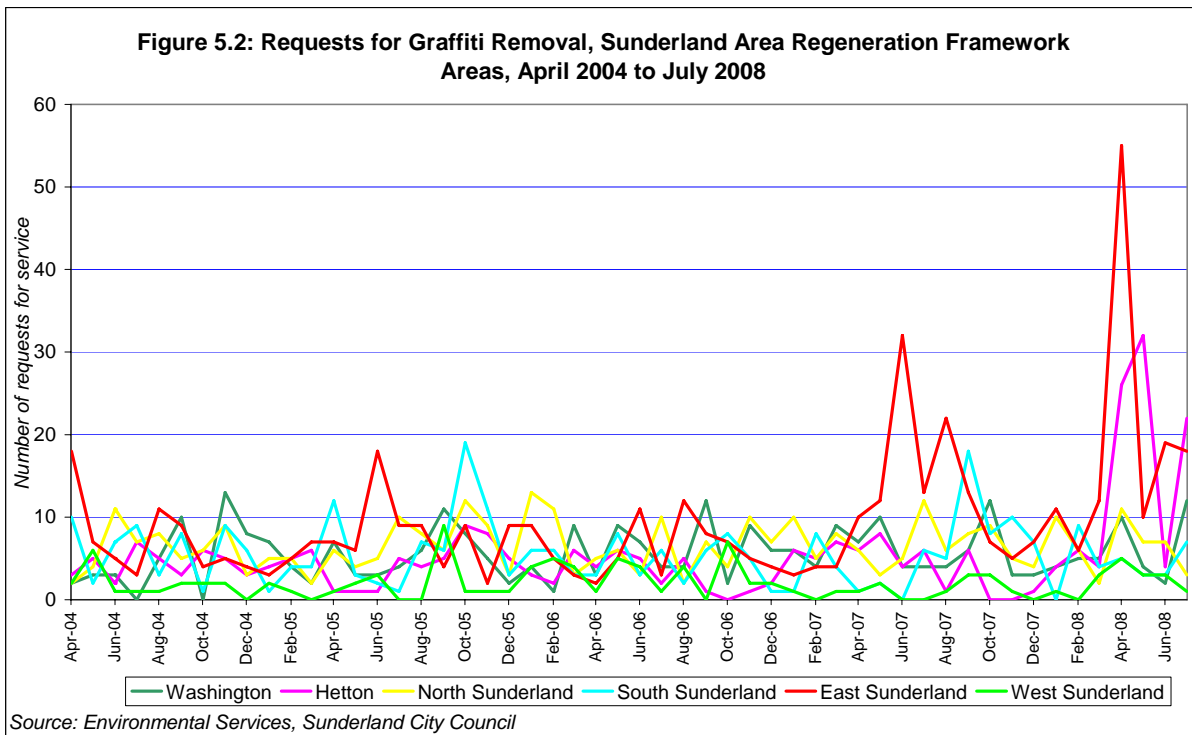
Source: South Tyneside Council

5.5 SUNDERLAND

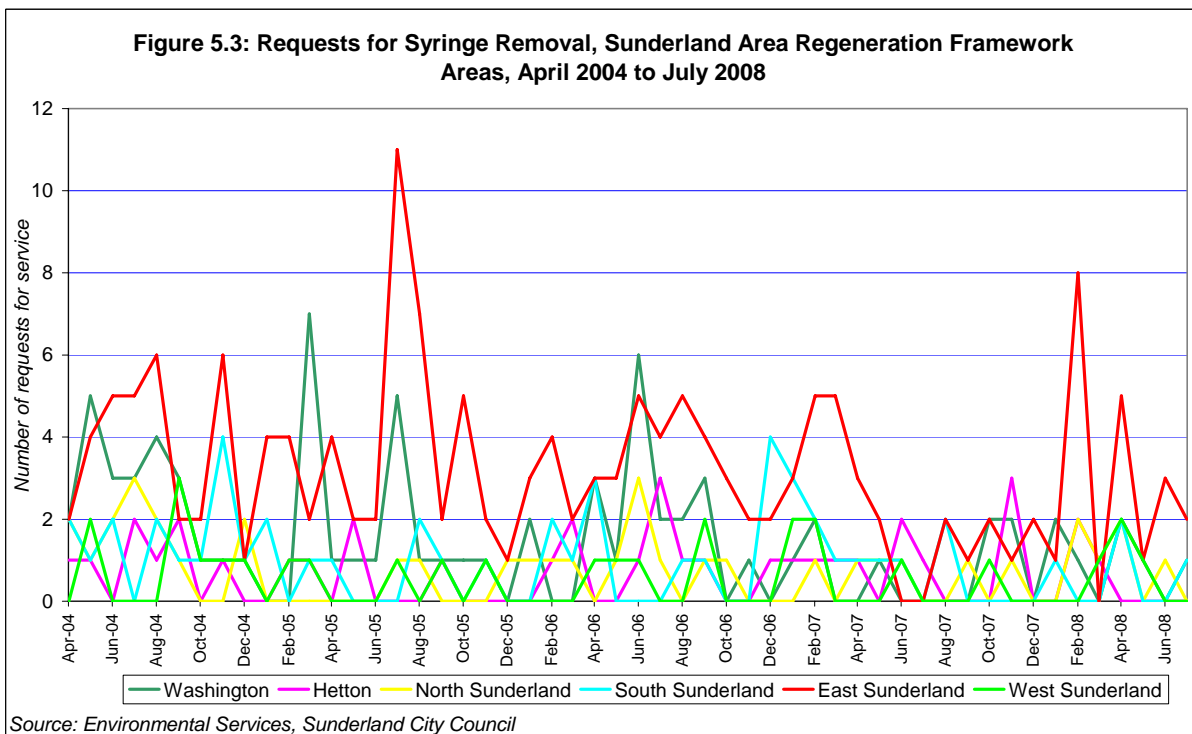
The Environmental Services department at Sunderland City Council provided data on requests for services from April 2004 to July 2008. The data included all requests for service, however only the most relevant categories have been analysed; graffiti, removal of syringes and illegal dumping (fly-tipping). Data are provided at Area Regeneration Framework (ARF) level.

Between April 2004 and July 2008 there were on average 34 requests for graffiti removal across Sunderland as a whole per month. Over the period, the most requests for graffiti removal were recorded in East Sunderland ARF (average 9 per month) and the least in West Sunderland ARF (average 2 per month).

In April 2008, there was a dramatic increase (358%) in the number of requests for graffiti removal in East Sunderland ARF, up to 55 from 12 in the previous month (Fig: 5.2). A similar peak occurred in Hetton ARF, up to 26 from 4 in March 2008. The number of requests continued to be high in Hetton ARF to July 2008, with the exception of June 2008, when they fell to 4.

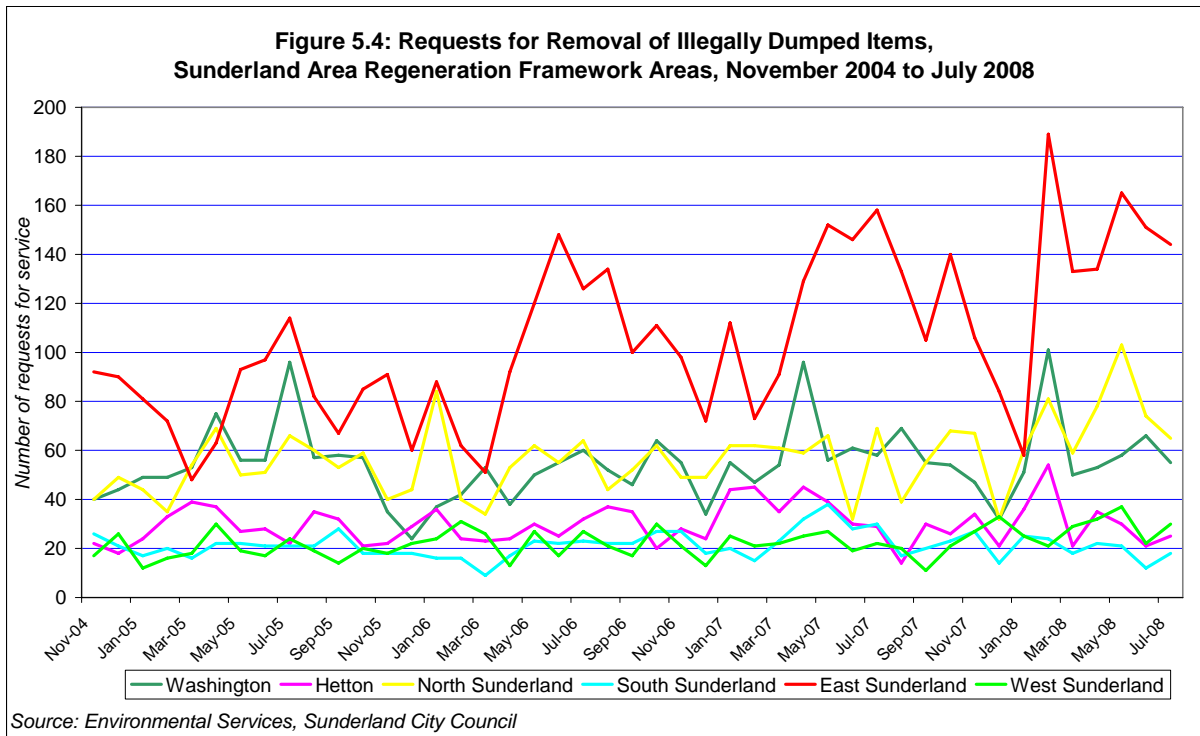


Between April 2004 and July 2008 there were on average 8 requests for syringe removal across Sunderland as a whole, per month (Fig: 5.3). Over the period, the most requests for syringe removal were recorded in East Sunderland ARF (average 3 per month) and the least in West Sunderland ARF (average 0.5 per month).



Between April 2004 and July 2008 there were on average 269 requests for the removal of illegally dumped rubbish across Sunderland as a whole, per month. Over the period, the most requests for the removal of illegally dumped rubbish were recorded in East Sunderland ARF (average 97 per month) and the least in South Sunderland ARF (average 20 per month).

In December 2007 and January 2008, there was a dramatic decrease in the number of requests for the removal of illegally dumped rubbish in East Sunderland (Fig: 5.4). However, this was followed in February 2008, by a dramatic increase, peaking at 189 requests, and the highest over the whole period.



6. DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS – FLY-TIPPING INCIDENTS IN 2007/08

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) maintain a national database of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement action on their 'Flycapture' database. The database records the incidents and cost of illegally dumped waste dealt with by local authorities (LAs) and is available by Local Authority on the DEFRA website.

The number of incidents recorded on Flycapture varies considerable across the five Tyne & Wear Districts (Table 6.1). Newcastle recorded 17,967 incidents, whilst North Tyneside recorded less than a tenth of this, at 1,527. As a result of the variation in the number of incidents recorded, the estimated clearance costs varied from £249,489 in North Tyneside to over seven times as much in Newcastle at £1,820,720. Of the 145 prosecutions recorded on the database, 86% of them were successful.

Table 6.1: Fly-tipping incidents reported on Flycapture database, 2007/08

	Total Number of Incidents	Estimated Clearance Costs Recorded	Prosecutions Taken	Successful Prosecution
Gateshead	16,537	£1,286,855	-	-
Newcastle	17,967	£1,820,720	127	109
North Tyneside	1,527	£249,489	4	4
South Tyneside	8,913	£445,782	14	13
Sunderland	9,936	£683,458	-	-

Source: DEFRA

7 VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE

In order to obtain a complete picture of the impact of criminal damage within Tyne & Wear it is essential to consider the fundamental demographic characteristics of victims and offenders. Data relating to victims and offenders of criminal damage offences in Tyne & Wear, and its constituent districts are presented for 2007/08.

7.1 VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE 2007/08

During 2007/08, one-fifth (5,283) of victims of criminal damage in Tyne & Wear were recorded as being companies/businesses. The remaining 19,697 were 'people' victims. Almost 50% of these victims were between 30 and 49 years of age, with the split by gender being broadly equal. A similar pattern existed across the five Tyne & Wear districts.

The majority of victims of criminal damage were of White ethnicity, however, in Tyne & Wear 5% of victims were of Asian or Asian British ethnic origin. This is a much higher proportion than the composition of the overall population in Tyne & Wear, where 1.8% are of Asian or Asian British ethnic origin⁷. A similar pattern occurred across the districts. Newcastle had the highest proportion of victims of criminal damage of Asian or Asian British ethnic origin (9.9%), however, the district also has the largest Asian or Asian British community within Tyne & Wear (4% of the overall population of Newcastle are of Asian or Asian British origin).

7.2 OFFENDERS OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE 2007/08

During 2007/08, less than 15% of all criminal damage offenders in Tyne & Wear were female. This was also the case for each of the five Local Authority districts. In North Tyneside, 15% of offenders accused of committing criminal damage were female, with this figure falling to 12% in Gateshead.

The majority (72%) of offenders of criminal damage in Tyne & Wear were under the age of 25 years, with the highest proportion being in South Tyneside (74%) and the lowest in Gateshead (69%). The vast majority of offenders throughout Tyne & Wear (98%) and the five Districts were of white origin. The second highest category was Asian or Asian British, accounting for between 1-2% of those offenders accused of committing criminal damage.

Of those offenders accused of criminal damage in Tyne & Wear during 2007/08, approximately one-third had no further action taken against them. There was a similar pattern across the five districts. During the same year, in Tyne & Wear as a whole, 12% of offenders were cautioned and 29% charged. This compares to 23% of offenders being charged in South Tyneside and 35% in North Tyneside. Across the Tyne & Wear districts, between 8% (North Tyneside) and 15% (Gateshead) of offenders of criminal damage were cautioned.

⁷ The proportion of residents of Asian / Asian British origin is sourced from the 2001 Census © Crown Copyright

APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1: Counts and Rates of Criminal Damage for Wards in Tyne & Wear (compared to Tyne & Wear Rates and England & Wales Rate), 2007/08

Figures in red show the difference between the Ward and the Tyne & Wear rate. A negative figure indicates a Ward rate per 1,000 population below the Tyne & Wear rate.

Figures in blue show the difference between the Ward and the England & Wales rate. A negative figure indicates a Ward rate per 1,000 population below the England & Wales rate.

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE		WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o .	Rate		N ^o .	Rate
GATESHEAD					
Birtley	369	45.98	Pelaw & Heworth	192	22.96
	23.08	26.78		0.06	3.76
Blaydon	245	24.96	Ryton, Crookhill & Stella	113	13.58
	2.06	5.76		-9.32	-5.62
Bridges	308	42.24	Saltwell	201	21.50
	19.34	23.04		-1.40	2.30
Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	163	17.72	Wardley & Leam Lane	132	16.45
	-5.18	-1.48		-6.45	-2.75
Chowdene	151	17.48	Whickham North	167	21.18
	-5.42	-1.72		-1.72	1.98
Crawcrook & Greenside	87	10.21	Whickham South & Sunnyside	71	8.28
	-12.69	-8.99		-14.62	-10.92
Deckham	271	29.53	Windy Nook & Whitehills	189	18.70
	6.63	10.33		-4.20	-0.50
Dunston & Teams	199	25.31	Winlaton & High Spen	126	15.14
	2.41	6.11		-7.76	-4.06
Dunston Hill & Whickham East	118	13.28			
	-9.62	-5.92			
Felling	285	33.31			
	10.41	14.11			
High Fell	276	28.63			
	5.73	9.43			
Lamesley	262	31.66			
	8.76	12.46			
Lobley Hill & Bensham	202	21.09			
	-1.81	1.89			
Low Fell	151	17.32			
	-5.58	-1.88			

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE		WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o .	Rate		N ^o .	Rate
NEWCASTLE					
Benwell & Scotswood	368	26.75	South Heaton	218	25.79
	3.85	7.55		2.89	6.59
Blakelaw	256	22.89	South Jesmond	166	20.56
	-0.01	3.69		-2.34	1.36
Byker	432	38.12	Walker	346	29.15
	15.22	18.92		6.25	9.95
Castle	117	11.80	Walkergate	151	15.49
	-11.10	-7.40		-7.41	-3.71
Dene	78	8.16	Westerhope	112	11.63
	-14.74	-11.04		-11.27	-7.57
Denton	292	26.90	Westgate	794	104.53
	4.00	7.70		81.63	85.33
East Gosforth	116	12.92	West Gosforth	146	15.08
	-9.98	-6.28		-7.82	-4.12
Elswick	507	44.77	Wingrove	374	32.48
	21.87	25.57		9.58	13.28
Fawdon	267	25.49	Woolsington	307	28.60
	2.59	6.29		5.70	9.40
Fenham	259	23.84			
	0.94	4.64			
Kenton	327	30.88			
	7.98	11.68			
Lemington	249	23.55			
	0.65	4.35			
Newburn	130	13.97			
	-8.93	-5.23			
North Heaton	126	13.43			
	-9.47	-5.77			
North Jesmond	105	12.29			
	-10.61	-6.91			
Ouseburn	265	34.01			
	11.11	14.81			
Parklands	62	7.94			
	-14.96	-11.26			

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE		WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o .	Rate		N ^o .	Rate
NORTH TYNESIDE					
Battle Hill	153	13.69	Wallsend	294	29.95
	-9.21	-5.51		7.05	10.75
Benton	173	18.28	Weetslade	105	11.08
	-4.62	-0.92		-11.82	-8.12
Camperdown	162	15.75	Whitley Bay	249	26.41
	-7.15	-3.45		3.51	7.21
Chirton	286	26.60			
	3.70	7.40			
Collingwood	270	25.16			
	2.26	5.96			
Cullercoats	57	6.06			
	-16.84	-13.14			
Howdon	226	22.12			
	-0.78	2.92			
Killingworth	127	13.73			
	-9.17	-5.47			
Longbenton	222	24.85			
	1.95	5.65			
Monkseaton North	67	7.57			
	-15.33	-11.63			
Monkseaton South	133	13.67			
	-9.23	-5.53			
Northumberland	95	10.97			
	-11.93	-8.23			
Preston	80	9.24			
	-13.66	-9.96			
Riverside	409	40.55			
	17.65	21.35			
St Mary's	16	1.87			
	-21.03	-17.33			
Tynemouth	161	16.74			
	-6.16	-2.46			
Valley	235	27.42			
	4.52	8.22			

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE		WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o .	Rate		N ^o .	Rate
SOUTH TYNESIDE					
Beacon & Bents	397	42.88	Whiteleas	190	21.63
	19.98	23.68		-1.27	2.43
Bede	208	25.99			
	3.09	6.79			
Biddick & All Saints	338	38.55			
	15.65	19.35			
Boldon Colliery	170	18.14			
	-4.76	-1.06			
Cleadon & East Boldon	76	8.75			
	-14.15	-10.45			
Cleadon Park	179	21.01			
	-1.89	1.81			
Fellgate & Hedworth	175	22.09			
	-0.81	2.89			
Harton	163	18.17			
	-4.73	-1.03			
Hebburn North	184	21.63			
	-1.27	2.43			
Hebburn South	144	18.18			
	-4.72	-1.02			
Horsley Hill	186	23.04			
	0.14	3.84			
Monkton	201	23.46			
	0.56	4.26			
Primrose	320	38.57			
	15.67	19.37			
Simonside & Rekendyke	387	42.53			
	19.63	23.33			
Westoe	144	16.59			
	-6.31	-2.61			
West Park	186	23.14			
	0.24	3.94			
Whitburn & Marsden	104	14.22			
	-8.68	-4.98			

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o	Rate
SUNDERLAND		
Barnes	174	15.01
	-7.89	-4.19
Castle	288	23.93
	1.03	4.73
Copt Hill	286	24.13
	1.23	4.93
Doxford	161	14.63
	-8.27	-4.57
Fulwell	118	10.47
	-12.43	-8.73
Hendon	577	46.30
	23.40	27.10
Hetton	385	34.31
	11.41	15.11
Houghton	250	22.06
	-0.84	2.86
Millfield	553	48.73
	25.83	29.53
Pallion	308	26.32
	3.42	7.12
Redhill	343	28.50
	5.60	9.30
Ryhope	214	21.12
	-1.78	1.92
St. Anne's	237	22.23
	-0.67	3.03
St. Chad's	227	22.69
	-0.21	3.49
St. Michael's	280	32.07
	9.17	12.87
St. Peter's	216	19.82
	-3.08	0.62
Sandhill	269	24.34
	1.44	5.14

WARD	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	
	N ^o	Rate
Shiney Row	224	18.45
	-4.45	-0.75
Silksworth	230	21.07
	-1.83	1.87
Southwick	322	27.08
	4.18	7.88
Washington Central	247	21.01
	-1.89	1.81
Washington East	190	16.81
	-6.09	-2.39
Washington North	332	28.72
	5.82	9.52
Washington South	245	23.11
	0.21	3.91
Washington West	185	16.37
	-6.53	-2.83

APPENDIX 2

RECORDED CRIME OFFENCE LIST

The classifications defined in this Appendix are those used for crime recorded by the Police and which are notifiable to the Home Office. In general, attempting, conspiring, aiding, abetting, causing or permitting a crime is classified under the heading of the crime itself, though in certain cases it is shown separately. Recorded crime covers all indictable⁸ and triable-either-way offences⁹. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. A comprehensive list of these crimes, together with key legal definitions and explanatory notes, appear on the Home Office web-site: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html. Each offence is listed along with its Home Office classification code.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

- 56A Arson Endangering Life
- 56B Arson not Endangering Life
- 58A Criminal Damage to a Dwelling
- 58B Criminal Damage to a Building other than a Dwelling
- 58C Criminal Damage to a Vehicle
- 58D Other Criminal Damage
- 58E Racially or Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to a Dwelling
- 58F Racially or Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to a Building other than a Dwelling
- 58G Racially or Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to a Vehicle
- 58H Racially or Religiously Aggravated Other Criminal Damage
- 59 Threat or Possession with Intent to Commit Criminal Damage

⁸ *In England and Wales an indictment is issued by the public prosecutor (Crown Prosecution Service) on behalf of the Crown. An indictment is a formal accusation that a person has committed a criminal offence.*

⁹ *In English criminal law a hybrid offence is called a "triable-either-way offence" and can be heard at either the Magistrates' Court or Crown Court, depending upon the complexity or seriousness of the case.*

APPENDIX 3

