# Rise in indecent exposure cases in north Belfast sparks calls for stronger public safety measures



An alarming incident in north Belfast has drawn the attention of both law enforcement and the community, as reports emerge of a man allegedly exposing himself to a group of girls and making lewd propositions. The court was informed that the man encouraged the girls to follow him, suggesting he would show them something inappropriate. Such incidents bring to light broader concerns around public safety and the rising frequency of similar offences in the area.

In recent months, several exposure incidents have raised alarms, highlighting a disturbing trend. For instance, Anthony Michael Connor, a 38-year-old man, was sentenced to three months in prison after he exposed himself to a 17-year-old schoolgirl on a bus in Belfast earlier this year, demonstrating the vulnerability of young people in public transit. In that case, Connor also faced a significant financial penalty, ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation and placed on the sex offenders' register for seven years.

Another case involving Raymond Bateson, 35, underscores the gravity of such offences. In August 2024, Bateson faced a six-month prison term for exposing himself and making lewd remarks in an emergency department, showing that public places, often frequented by vulnerable individuals, are increasingly becoming sites for such indecent behaviour. Bateson was sentenced along with convictions for multiple assaults and was registered as a sex offender for five years.

The issue is not isolated to courtrooms. Reports have surfaced of a man apprehended in south Belfast after allegedly exposing himself to school pupils, further emphasising the alarming frequency of such encounters. This particular case involved a man who exposed himself from his vehicle, prompting a robust police response and a commitment to safeguarding those affected, especially children.

Scott McCormick's case adds another layer to this troubling narrative. In March 2025, he was charged with various offences after exposing himself in front of families at a beach. McCormick's defence cited intoxication as a factor, yet it raises critical questions about accountability and the impacts of substance abuse on public behaviour.

Moreover, a recent report from a woman in Armagh details a horrifying experience where she was approached by a man in a tracksuit who exposed himself and engaged in an act of masturbation while maintaining eye contact. The woman expressed her shock and concern for the safety of other women and young people in the vicinity, notably highlighting inadequate street lighting as a contributing factor to the increasing anxiety surrounding such incidents.

As these events unfold, public sentiments are rippling through communities in Northern Ireland, prompting calls for heightened awareness and preventive measures. The alarming frequency of indecent exposure incidents is forcing a reassessment of public safety strategies, with a focus on protecting vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. Authorities are urged to reinforce safeguarding protocols and enhance community awareness to mitigate the fears of residents and reassure those who use public spaces and transport systems.

The stark reality remains that these incidents are not mere anomalies, but part of a disconcerting trend that reflects deeper societal issues. Addressing this matter will require concerted efforts from law enforcement, community leaders, and the public to foster a safe environment for all.

### Reference Map

1. Original lead article
2. Related incidents involving Anthony Michael Connor
3. Exposure incidents involving Raymond Bateson
4. Recent exposures to school pupils
5. Scott McCormick's exposure at Seapark Bay
6. Public reaction to exposure incidents, including a case in Armagh
7. Sentencing of Shane Fitzpatrick for exposure while jogging

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/man-fully-exposed-himself-to-group-of-girls-in-north-belfast-court-told/a1237513219.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/belfast-bus-flashing-incident-sees-25195777> - A 38-year-old man, Anthony Michael Connor, was sentenced to three months in prison for exposing himself to a 17-year-old schoolgirl on a bus in Belfast. The incident occurred on March 31, 2023, when Connor, traveling through the city, moved his leg to expose himself to the victim. He pleaded guilty to a single charge of exposure and was also ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation to the victim and placed on the sex offenders' register for seven years.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2kxyjp9xgvo> - Raymond Bateson, 35, was sentenced to six months in prison for exposing himself and making lewd comments towards staff at the Mater Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department in Belfast. The incident took place on August 10, 2024, where Bateson also assaulted security staff and damaged property. He was placed on the sex offenders' register for five years and convicted of exposure, three common assaults, and criminal damage.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0r8219p88po> - A 33-year-old man was arrested in south Belfast after allegedly exposing himself to pupils outside a school in the Marlborough Park North area. The incident occurred on October 11, 2024, when the man exposed himself to passing pupils from his vehicle. He was arrested on suspicion of committing an act outraging public decency and indecent exposure. The police emphasized the distressing nature of the incident and implemented appropriate safeguarding protocols.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/court-told-man-allegedly-exposed-himself-in-full-view-of-children-at-beach-EMD4ECEAORDQTOWD2MAQ2JI23U/> - Scott McCormick, 37, was charged with exposure, disorderly behavior, and committing an act outraging public decency after allegedly exposing himself in full view of children at Seapark Bay in Holywood, County Down. The incident occurred on March 16, 2025, when McCormick, intoxicated, exposed his genitals and urinated in front of families with children. He claimed to have no memory of the event due to heavy drinking. The case was adjourned for further psychiatric assessments.
6. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-womans-warning-after-man-exposes-himself-to-her-in-public/39441410.html> - A Northern Ireland woman recounted her shock after a man exposed himself to her as she walked home in Armagh. The incident occurred shortly before 11 pm on Ogle Street, where the man, dressed in a tracksuit, approached her, exposed himself, and masturbated while maintaining eye contact. The woman expressed concern over the safety of other women and young teens in the area and highlighted the lack of public street lighting.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-65089554> - Shane Fitzpatrick, 37, was sentenced to a two-year probation order for exposing himself to a woman while she was jogging in County Antrim. The incidents occurred in September 2023, when Fitzpatrick approached the victim on two separate occasions, exposing his genitals during her runs. He was also placed on the sex offenders' register for five years and banned from entering the Carrickfergus area. The court emphasized the importance of compliance with the probation order to avoid a custodial sentence.