

Police Service Strength

England and Wales,

30 September 2007

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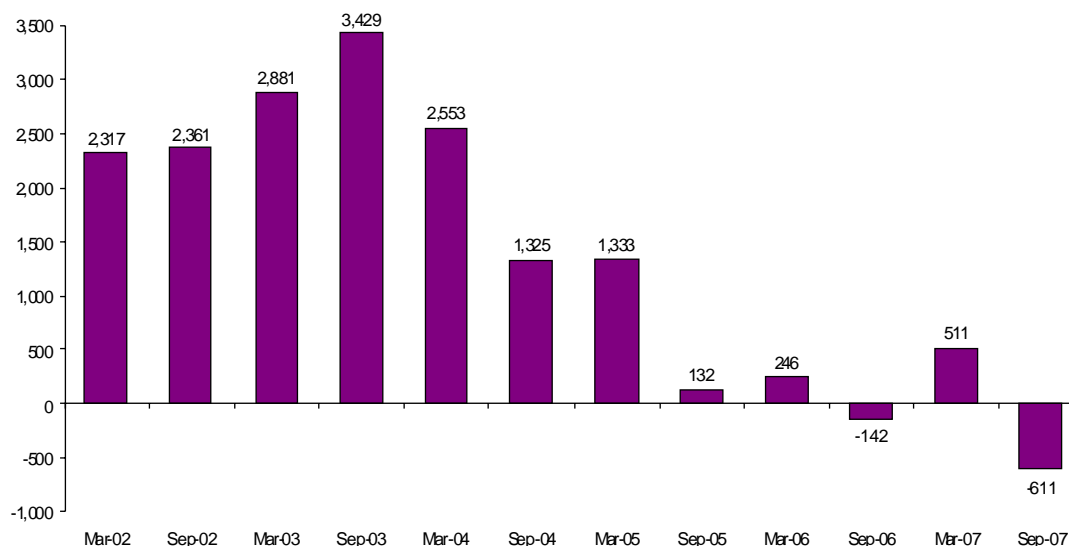
Police Service Strength

England and Wales, 30 September 2007

MAIN POINTS

- There were 141,731 police officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2007.
- This total includes 141,284 police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and 448 officers seconded to central services.
- An additional 2,520 officers represent the British Transport Police across England and Wales.
- Police officer numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces plus secondments to central services have decreased by 185 or 0.1 per cent compared with September 2006 and have decreased by 647 or 0.5 per cent compared with March 2007.
- Police officer numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces have decreased by 101 or 0.1 per cent compared with September 2006 and have decreased by 611 or 0.4 per cent compared with March 2007.
- Police staff numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces stand at 75,989 (full-time equivalents), an increase of 1.8 per cent compared with September 2006, and an increase of 1.0 per cent compared with March 2007.
- There were 15,391 full-time equivalent Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the 43 English and Welsh police forces on 30 September 2007, a rise of 80.7 per cent since September 2006 and a rise of 14.2 per cent since March 2007, reflecting the commitment by forces to establish dedicated neighbourhood policing teams in each area by March 2008.
- The number of Traffic Wardens in England and Wales on 30 September 2007 has decreased by 27.8 per cent to 646 compared with September 2006, reflecting the continued expansion in the role played by local authorities in parking control.
- The total number of Designated Officers (Section 38, excluding PCSOs) was 1,616, an increase of 18.5 per cent since September 2006, reflecting an increasing trend in the employment of specialist officers in investigation, detention and escort roles. This allows police officers to spend more time on frontline policing activities.

Figure 1: Change in the number of Police Officers¹ (FTE)² from the previous six months



1. Police officer numbers from the 43 English and Welsh forces only. Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. Since March 2003 the number of police officers includes those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

NOTES

1. The police officer numbers quoted here should be treated as provisional and subject to possible revision in future police service strength publications. Finalised figures will appear in the annual police service strength statistical bulletin, as will further detail and explanation.
2. The figures quoted in this report are for all officers including those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave for a period exceeding 28 days at the end of the reporting period. Figures excluding those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave have also been provided in this report to allow comparison with figures published prior to March 2003 (see Tables 1 and 2).
3. Police staff figures in this bulletin do not include school crossing patrols or contract staff employed by private companies. However, staff on fixed term contracts are included.
4. Designated Officers are persons employed by the police authority who have been chosen by Chief Officers to exercise specific powers which would otherwise only be available to police officers. Designated Police Staff were introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002, Section 38 and legislation enables the appropriate designation of skilled police staff to one or more of four roles: Police Community Support Officer, Investigation Officer, Detention Officer, Escort Officer.
5. Secondments from one police force to another are included in the total strength for the destination force and therefore included in the total police officer strength for the 43 forces in England and Wales.
6. Details for the strength of police officers and staff employed by the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) have previously appeared in police service strength bulletins. However from the 30 September 2006 bulletin (SB 04/07) onwards they no longer appear in these publications following the launch of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in April 2006, which has amalgamated the NCS, NCIS, and parts of HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Immigration Service. It is not possible to separately identify those officers and staff fulfilling the former functions of NCS and NCIS. The main police officer strength measure includes those officers on career breaks to SOCA, but excludes staff employed by SOCA and also officers seconded to SOCA.
7. The Police Statistics Section would like to acknowledge the assistance of the police force personnel sections and the staff at the Data Collection Group in the Home Office for the provision of the data.

Contact information:

Other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the RDS (CRCSG) Internet site:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

For further information about police personnel statistics, please contact David Povey or Simon Bullock at RDS (CRCSG), Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF (Tel 020 7035 0289).

Table 1: Police officer strength by English Government Office Regions and Wales (full-time equivalents) ⁽¹⁾

English Government Office Regions and Wales	Police officers			Police officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)			Police officers					
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Sept		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-06	Mar-07	Sep-07	Sep-06	Mar-07	Sep-07	06 - Sept 07	%	number	%	number	%
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%	number	%
North East	7,430	7,425	7,305	7,306	7,330	7,163	-125	-1.7	-120	-1.6		
Cleveland	1,707	1,739	1,710	1,681	1,721	1,672	4	0.2	-29	-1.7		
Durham	1,722	1,705	1,664	1,700	1,682	1,638	-58	-3.3	-41	-2.4		
Northumbria	4,002	3,981	3,931	3,925	3,927	3,853	-71	-1.8	-50	-1.3		
North West	19,403	19,569	19,465	19,136	19,315	19,186	62	0.3	-104	-0.5		
Cheshire	2,213	2,235	2,226	2,170	2,192	2,173	13	0.6	-8	-0.4		
Cumbria	1,276	1,273	1,269	1,247	1,246	1,254	-7	-0.5	-4	-0.3		
Greater Manchester	7,930	7,992	7,926	7,825	7,891	7,810	-4	-0.1	-66	-0.8		
Lancashire	3,604	3,628	3,624	3,542	3,574	3,554	20	0.6	-4	-0.1		
Merseyside	4,380	4,441	4,419	4,353	4,413	4,395	39	0.9	-22	-0.5		
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,879	12,908	12,792	12,766	12,760	12,673	-87	-0.7	-116	-0.9		
Humberside	2,251	2,235	2,248	2,243	2,199	2,226	-3	-0.1	13	0.6		
North Yorkshire	1,654	1,671	1,623	1,642	1,648	1,606	-32	-1.9	-48	-2.9		
South Yorkshire	3,271	3,289	3,238	3,236	3,262	3,216	-32	-1.0	-51	-1.5		
West Yorkshire	5,703	5,713	5,683	5,645	5,651	5,625	-20	-0.3	-30	-0.5		
East Midlands	9,354	9,293	9,275	9,222	9,174	9,151	-79	-0.8	-18	-0.2		
Derbyshire	2,051	2,049	2,079	2,025	2,031	2,061	29	1.4	31	1.5		
Leicestershire	2,255	2,255	2,251	2,226	2,222	2,225	-4	-0.2	-3	-0.1		
Lincolnshire	1,217	1,243	1,202	1,195	1,221	1,178	-15	-1.2	-41	-3.3		
Northamptonshire	1,344	1,301	1,307	1,325	1,285	1,288	-38	-2.8	6	0.4		
Nottinghamshire	2,487	2,445	2,435	2,452	2,414	2,400	-51	-2.1	-10	-0.4		
West Midlands	13,958	14,048	14,077	13,828	13,883	13,820	119	0.9	29	0.2		
Staffordshire	2,300	2,315	2,293	2,273	2,302	2,271	-8	-0.3	-22	-1.0		
Warwickshire	1,043	1,061	1,051	1,041	1,059	1,039	9	0.8	-10	-0.9		
West Mercia	2,390	2,428	2,478	2,362	2,390	2,436	88	3.7	50	2.1		
West Midlands	8,224	8,244	8,254	8,153	8,132	8,074	30	0.4	11	0.1		
Eastern	11,051	11,083	11,067	10,896	10,954	10,926	16	0.1	-16	-0.1		
Bedfordshire	1,224	1,204	1,196	1,205	1,196	1,188	-27	-2.2	-7	-0.6		
Cambridgeshire	1,446	1,402	1,372	1,424	1,388	1,354	-74	-5.1	-30	-2.2		
Essex	3,307	3,341	3,388	3,264	3,303	3,348	81	2.5	48	1.4		
Hertfordshire	2,170	2,202	2,198	2,127	2,168	2,155	29	1.3	-3	-0.1		
Norfolk	1,568	1,577	1,565	1,556	1,555	1,546	-3	-0.2	-12	-0.8		
Suffolk	1,337	1,358	1,347	1,320	1,345	1,335	10	0.8	-11	-0.8		
London	31,773	31,984	31,998	31,348	31,555	31,582	226	0.7	14	0.0		
London, City of	862	861	850	854	855	840	-12	-1.3	-11	-1.3		
Metropolitan Police	30,911	31,123	31,148	30,494	30,700	30,742	237	0.8	26	0.1		
South East	16,943	16,943	16,834	16,647	16,654	16,538	-108	-0.6	-109	-0.6		
Hampshire	3,842	3,887	3,898	3,751	3,794	3,804	56	1.4	10	0.3		
Kent	3,685	3,720	3,700	3,630	3,664	3,644	15	0.4	-19	-0.5		
Surrey	1,969	1,963	1,938	1,919	1,917	1,892	-31	-1.6	-25	-1.3		
Sussex	3,141	3,113	3,088	3,105	3,081	3,057	-54	-1.7	-25	-0.8		
Thames Valley	4,305	4,260	4,211	4,242	4,198	4,142	-95	-2.2	-49	-1.1		
South West	11,007	11,007	10,923	10,850	10,849	10,764	-84	-0.8	-84	-0.8		
Avon & Somerset	3,460	3,430	3,413	3,405	3,387	3,366	-46	-1.3	-16	-0.5		
Devon & Cornwall	3,511	3,523	3,473	3,463	3,474	3,429	-39	-1.1	-51	-1.4		
Dorset	1,528	1,526	1,514	1,493	1,491	1,477	-13	-0.9	-12	-0.8		
Gloucestershire	1,310	1,319	1,311	1,294	1,303	1,293	0	0.0	-8	-0.6		
Wiltshire	1,198	1,209	1,212	1,194	1,194	1,199	14	1.2	3	0.3		
Wales	7,588	7,636	7,546	7,509	7,555	7,460	-41	-0.5	-90	-1.2		
Dyfed-Powys	1,188	1,190	1,187	1,174	1,175	1,171	-2	-0.1	-4	-0.3		
Gwent	1,498	1,502	1,483	1,489	1,493	1,472	-15	-1.0	-19	-1.3		
North Wales	1,588	1,608	1,575	1,572	1,604	1,564	-13	-0.8	-33	-2.0		
South Wales	3,313	3,336	3,302	3,274	3,284	3,252	-12	-0.4	-34	-1.0		
Total of all 43 forces	141,385	141,896	141,284	139,507	140,028	139,262	-101	-0.1	-611	-0.4		
Central Service Secondments	531	482	448	531	482	448	-84	-15.7	-34	-7.1		
British Transport Police	2,492	2,543	2,520	2,488	2,543	2,520	28	1.1	-24	-0.9		
Total Police Officer Strength	144,408	144,921	144,251	142,526	143,053	142,229	-158	-0.1	-670	-0.5		
Total Police Officer Strength (excluding BTP)	141,916	142,378	141,731	140,038	140,510	139,710	-185	-0.1	-647	-0.5		

(1) This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Table 2: Police staff⁽¹⁾ strength by English Government Office Regions and Wales (full-time equivalents)⁽²⁾

English Government Office Regions and Wales	Police staff			Police staff less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)			Police staff			
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-06	Mar-07	Sep-07	Sep-06	Mar-07	Sep-07	06 - Sept 07	Sept	06 - Sept 07	Mar 07
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	3,229	3,184	3,243	3,194	3,143	3,175	15	0.5	59	1.9
Cleveland	735	711	741	725	704	728	6	0.8	30	4.2
Durham	737	762	768	733	749	756	31	4.2	6	0.8
Northumbria	1,757	1,711	1,735	1,735	1,690	1,690	-22	-1.3	23	1.4
North West	9,283	9,349	9,573	9,099	9,182	9,379	290	3.1	224	2.4
Cheshire	1,201	1,262	1,333	1,171	1,238	1,305	132	11.0	71	5.6
Cumbria	731	743	754	718	729	740	23	3.2	11	1.5
Greater Manchester	3,375	3,369	3,433	3,308	3,310	3,378	57	1.7	64	1.9
Lancashire	1,777	1,802	1,842	1,731	1,761	1,788	65	3.6	40	2.2
Merseyside	2,199	2,173	2,211	2,171	2,144	2,168	12	0.6	38	1.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,284	7,396	7,609	7,215	7,300	7,499	325	4.5	213	2.9
Humberside	1,157	1,213	1,292	1,153	1,186	1,268	136	11.7	79	6.5
North Yorkshire	1,090	1,128	1,131	1,081	1,118	1,115	40	3.7	3	0.3
South Yorkshire	1,914	1,978	2,016	1,880	1,944	1,998	101	5.3	38	1.9
West Yorkshire	3,122	3,077	3,170	3,100	3,052	3,117	48	1.5	93	3.0
East Midlands	5,299	5,443	5,396	5,198	5,342	5,291	97	1.8	-47	-0.9
Derbyshire	1,142	1,204	1,232	1,120	1,176	1,206	90	7.9	29	2.4
Leicestershire	1,105	1,141	1,122	1,074	1,116	1,098	17	1.5	-19	-1.7
Lincolnshire	691	720	719	687	715	710	28	4.0	-1	-0.1
Northamptonshire	1,004	1,009	974	989	997	964	-30	-3.0	-35	-3.4
Nottinghamshire	1,356	1,370	1,348	1,328	1,337	1,314	-8	-0.6	-21	-1.6
West Midlands	6,802	6,876	7,098	6,703	6,738	6,944	295	4.3	221	3.2
Staffordshire	1,291	1,287	1,310	1,281	1,276	1,293	19	1.5	23	1.8
Warwickshire	623	624	623	617	620	615	1	0.1	-1	-0.1
West Mercia	1,594	1,618	1,649	1,539	1,562	1,605	55	3.5	32	2.0
West Midlands	3,295	3,348	3,515	3,265	3,281	3,432	220	6.7	167	5.0
Eastern	7,055	6,991	6,985	6,935	6,874	6,851	-70	-1.0	-7	-0.1
Bedfordshire	769	744	739	756	735	724	-30	-4.0	-6	-0.8
Cambridgeshire	962	922	911	942	915	895	-51	-5.3	-11	-1.2
Essex	1,892	1,918	1,944	1,867	1,890	1,920	53	2.8	27	1.4
Hertfordshire	1,498	1,501	1,504	1,467	1,461	1,460	7	0.4	3	0.2
Norfolk	1,072	1,059	1,061	1,055	1,036	1,044	-11	-1.0	2	0.2
Suffolk	862	847	825	847	836	810	-37	-4.3	-22	-2.6
London	14,251	14,335	14,410	13,855	13,957	14,011	160	1.1	76	0.5
London, City of	329	319	308	329	317	305	-20	-6.2	-11	-3.3
Metropolitan Police	13,922	14,016	14,102	13,526	13,640	13,706	180	1.3	86	0.6
South East	10,948	11,106	11,149	10,749	10,930	10,947	202	1.8	44	0.4
Hampshire	2,258	2,354	2,387	2,226	2,332	2,350	128	5.7	33	1.4
Kent	2,285	2,285	2,290	2,245	2,239	2,242	5	0.2	4	0.2
Surrey	1,609	1,680	1,751	1,553	1,638	1,705	142	8.8	71	4.2
Sussex	2,009	2,030	1,963	1,979	2,004	1,937	-46	-2.3	-67	-3.3
Thames Valley	2,785	2,756	2,758	2,746	2,717	2,714	-27	-1.0	2	0.1
South West	6,690	6,804	6,772	6,556	6,694	6,680	82	1.2	-32	-0.5
Avon & Somerset	2,120	2,208	2,211	2,052	2,167	2,176	92	4.3	3	0.1
Devon & Cornwall	2,062	2,046	2,063	2,034	2,022	2,056	0	0.0	17	0.8
Dorset	940	973	962	924	957	940	22	2.3	-11	-1.1
Gloucestershire	707	718	697	687	702	682	-9	-1.3	-21	-2.9
Wiltshire	862	859	839	859	846	827	-22	-2.6	-20	-2.3
Wales	3,770	3,734	3,754	3,699	3,672	3,680	-16	-0.4	20	0.5
Dyfed-Powys	588	606	616	575	594	607	28	4.7	10	1.6
Gwent	784	811	826	781	805	823	42	5.4	16	2.0
North Wales	892	759	760	879	758	745	-133	-14.9	1	0.2
South Wales	1,506	1,559	1,552	1,465	1,515	1,505	46	3.1	-7	-0.4
Total of all 43 forces	74,610	75,219	75,989	73,203	73,831	74,459	1,379	1.8	771	1.0
British Transport Police	997	1,014	1,037	997	1,014	1,037	40	4.0	23	2.2

(1) Police staff excludes Designated Officers, Police Community Support Officers and Traffic Wardens.

(2) This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Table 3: Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) strength by English Government Office Regions and Wales (full-time equivalents) ⁽¹⁾

Police Community Support Officers							
English Government Office Regions and Wales	Strength as at:			Change in 12 months Sept		Change in 6 months Mar 07	
	Sep-06	Mar-07	Sep-07	06 - Sept 07		- Sept 07	
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	365	503	563	198	54.2	59	11.8
Cleveland	111	114	153	42	37.9	39	34.3
Durham	90	142	162	72	80.4	20	14.3
Northumbria	164	248	248	83	50.9	0	0.0
North West	863	1,715	2,008	1,145	132.6	293	17.1
Cheshire	77	160	231	153	198.8	70	43.7
Cumbria	27	85	102	75	282.3	17	19.3
Greater Manchester	321	763	808	487	151.6	45	6.0
Lancashire	224	374	417	193	86.0	43	11.5
Merseyside	214	332	450	236	110.3	117	35.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	828	1,333	1,463	635	76.6	130	9.7
Humberside	112	194	227	115	103.0	33	16.8
North Yorkshire	85	147	186	100	117.7	38	26.1
South Yorkshire	126	302	332	205	162.6	30	9.9
West Yorkshire	505	690	719	214	42.4	29	4.2
East Midlands	564	891	934	370	65.7	43	4.9
Derbyshire	56	181	158	102	181.8	-23	-12.8
Leicestershire	156	216	228	72	46.0	12	5.5
Lincolnshire	134	147	139	4	3.2	-9	-6.1
Northamptonshire	62	129	159	97	156.5	30	23.3
Nottinghamshire	155	217	251	95	61.3	34	15.5
West Midlands	681	1,191	1,341	659	96.8	149	12.5
Staffordshire	103	203	225	122	119.2	22	10.6
Warwickshire	61	127	126	65	106.6	-1	-0.8
West Mercia	170	217	267	97	57.5	50	23.1
West Midlands	348	644	723	375	107.6	79	12.2
Eastern	781	1,178	1,350	569	72.9	173	14.7
Bedfordshire	47	83	112	65	138.5	29	34.4
Cambridgeshire	125	184	188	63	50.2	3	1.9
Essex	296	388	429	134	45.2	41	10.6
Hertfordshire	165	223	248	83	50.3	25	11.1
Norfolk	102	176	237	135	131.9	61	34.6
Suffolk	46	123	137	90	194.7	14	11.2
London	2,689	3,730	4,231	1,543	57.4	501	13.4
London, City of	8	36	46	38	472.1	10	27.1
Metropolitan Police	2,681	3,694	4,186	1,505	56.1	492	13.3
South East	771	1,268	1,652	881	114.3	385	30.3
Hampshire	103	296	326	224	218.0	31	10.3
Kent	100	203	372	273	273.6	170	83.9
Surrey	161	203	208	47	29.2	5	2.5
Sussex	274	352	350	76	27.9	-3	-0.7
Thames Valley	134	213	395	261	195.5	182	85.2
South West	591	1,031	1,161	570	96.4	130	12.6
Avon & Somerset	182	302	366	185	101.7	64	21.1
Devon & Cornwall	158	317	342	184	116.0	25	7.9
Dorset	72	122	141	69	95.7	19	15.8
Gloucestershire	94	169	172	78	82.5	3	1.8
Wiltshire	85	121	140	55	64.6	19	15.9
Wales	384	641	688	304	79.3	46	7.2
Dyfed-Powys	30	77	76	46	154.4	-1	-1.3
Gwent	97	105	135	38	38.6	30	28.2
North Wales	76	145	154	78	103.7	9	6.1
South Wales	181	314	323	142	78.7	9	2.9
Total of all 43 forces	8,517	13,481	15,391	6,874	80.7	1,910	14.2
British Transport Police	235	247	263	28	11.9	16	6.6

(1) This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)
MISSION STATEMENT

RDS is part of the Home Office. RDS staff are embedded within delivery groups working closely with front-line staff. The HO Chief Scientific Advisor, who is also Director of RDS, oversees professional development for RDS teams, quality assurance and strategic R & D issues.

The Home Office's purpose is to build a safe, just and tolerant society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced and the protection and security of the public are maintained.

RDS includes staff within the Government Statistical Service (GSS). One of the GSS aims is to inform Parliament and the members of the public about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

Research Development and Statistics in the Home Office improves policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.