

The Research, Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve 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.

Statistical Bulletins are produced by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. For further copies contact:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2006

Simon Bullock

Natalie Gunning

30 January 2007

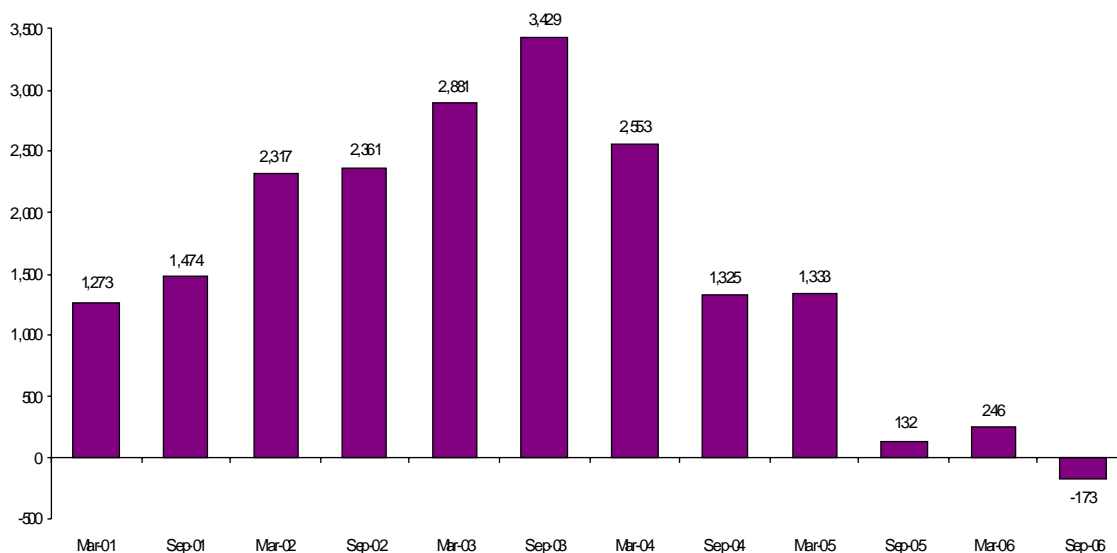
SB 04/07

Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2006

MAIN POINTS

- There were 141,873 police officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2006.
- This total includes 141,354 police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and 519 officers seconded to Central Services.
- An additional 2,492 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 19 or 0.01 per cent compared with September 2005 and have decreased by 193 or 0.1 per cent compared with March 2006.
- Police officer numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces have increased by 73 or 0.05 per cent compared with September 2005 and have decreased by 173 or 0.1 per cent compared with March 2006.
- The largest regional percentage increase was in the South West region where police officer numbers have increased by 2.0 per cent since September 2005.
- Police staff numbers stand at 74,585 (full-time equivalents), an increase of 2.7 per cent compared with September 2005, and an increase of 1.1 per cent compared with March 2006.
- There were 8,517 full-time equivalent Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on 30 September 2006, a rise of 34.7 per cent since September 2005 and a rise of 25.8 per cent since March 2006.
- The number of Traffic Wardens has decreased by 21.2 per cent to 907 compared with September 2005, reflecting the continued movement of traffic wardens no longer being employed by forces. The total number of Designated Officers (Section 38, excluding PCSOs) in England and Wales on 30 September 2006 was 1,364, an increase of 5.7 per cent.

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

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 they will no longer appear in this or subsequent 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).

ISBN: 978 1 84726 169 4

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	Mar
	Sep-05	Mar-06	Sep-06	Sep-05	Mar-06	Sep-06	05 - Sept 06	%	06 - Sept 06	%
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	number		number	
North East	7,440	7,490	7,430	7,336	7,365	7,306	-10	-0.1	-60	-0.8
Cleveland	1,649	1,702	1,707	1,640	1,677	1,681	58	3.5	4	0.2
Durham	1,729	1,721	1,722	1,710	1,704	1,700	-7	-0.4	1	0.0
Northumbria	4,062	4,066	4,002	3,986	3,983	3,925	-61	-1.5	-65	-1.6
North West	19,461	19,491	19,403	19,217	19,213	19,137	-58	-0.3	-87	-0.4
Cheshire	2,209	2,218	2,213	2,161	2,174	2,170	4	0.2	-5	-0.2
Cumbria	1,263	1,265	1,276	1,241	1,230	1,247	13	1.1	11	0.9
Greater Manchester	8,060	8,071	7,930	7,966	7,959	7,825	-130	-1.6	-141	-1.7
Lancashire	3,602	3,635	3,604	3,550	3,583	3,542	2	0.0	-31	-0.9
Merseyside	4,327	4,302	4,380	4,300	4,269	4,353	53	1.2	78	1.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,938	12,874	12,879	12,823	12,759	12,766	-59	-0.5	5	0.0
Humberside	2,267	2,232	2,251	2,244	2,224	2,243	-15	-0.7	19	0.9
North Yorkshire	1,591	1,653	1,654	1,582	1,636	1,642	63	4.0	1	0.1
South Yorkshire	3,351	3,305	3,271	3,306	3,255	3,236	-81	-2.4	-34	-1.0
West Yorkshire	5,729	5,685	5,703	5,691	5,644	5,645	-26	-0.5	19	0.3
East Midlands	9,454	9,436	9,334	9,354	9,304	9,202	-120	-1.3	-102	-1.1
Derbyshire	2,050	2,073	2,051	2,033	2,046	2,025	1	0.0	-22	-1.1
Leicestershire	2,278	2,277	2,235	2,254	2,250	2,206	-42	-1.9	-41	-1.8
Lincolnshire	1,221	1,236	1,217	1,207	1,213	1,195	-4	-0.3	-19	-1.5
Northamptonshire	1,343	1,338	1,344	1,320	1,317	1,325	1	0.1	6	0.4
Nottinghamshire	2,562	2,512	2,487	2,541	2,477	2,452	-76	-3.0	-25	-1.0
West Midlands	13,868	13,919	13,958	13,727	13,753	13,828	89	0.6	38	0.3
Staffordshire	2,286	2,303	2,300	2,254	2,273	2,273	14	0.6	-2	-0.1
Warwickshire	1,002	1,040	1,043	999	1,032	1,041	40	4.0	3	0.3
West Mercia	2,398	2,385	2,390	2,363	2,351	2,362	-7	-0.3	5	0.2
West Midlands	8,182	8,192	8,224	8,111	8,097	8,153	42	0.5	33	0.4
Eastern	10,926	11,043	11,051	10,792	10,888	10,896	125	1.1	8	0.1
Bedfordshire	1,226	1,225	1,224	1,207	1,197	1,205	-3	-0.2	-1	-0.1
Cambridgeshire	1,463	1,449	1,446	1,444	1,430	1,424	-17	-1.2	-3	-0.2
Essex	3,208	3,322	3,307	3,168	3,279	3,264	100	3.1	-15	-0.4
Hertfordshire	2,145	2,166	2,170	2,118	2,126	2,127	25	1.1	4	0.2
Norfolk	1,577	1,575	1,568	1,559	1,557	1,556	-9	-0.6	-7	-0.4
Suffolk	1,307	1,307	1,337	1,296	1,300	1,320	30	2.3	29	2.2
London	32,015	31,822	31,773	31,651	31,405	31,348	-242	-0.8	-50	-0.2
London, City of	890	875	862	883	869	854	-29	-3.2	-13	-1.5
Metropolitan Police	31,125	30,948	30,911	30,767	30,536	30,494	-214	-0.7	-37	-0.1
South East	16,738	16,829	16,941	16,437	16,547	16,646	203	1.2	111	0.7
Hampshire	3,800	3,798	3,840	3,710	3,705	3,749	40	1.1	42	1.1
Kent	3,632	3,648	3,685	3,577	3,599	3,630	53	1.5	37	1.0
Surrey	1,948	1,967	1,969	1,906	1,922	1,919	21	1.1	1	0.1
Sussex	3,140	3,127	3,141	3,100	3,092	3,105	1	0.0	14	0.4
Thames Valley	4,217	4,288	4,305	4,144	4,229	4,242	88	2.1	17	0.4
South West	10,791	11,024	11,007	10,685	10,874	10,850	216	2.0	-17	-0.2
Avon & Somerset	3,310	3,439	3,460	3,294	3,389	3,405	150	4.5	21	0.6
Devon & Cornwall	3,448	3,540	3,511	3,405	3,493	3,463	63	1.8	-29	-0.8
Dorset	1,490	1,512	1,528	1,463	1,485	1,493	38	2.5	16	1.1
Gloucestershire	1,305	1,303	1,310	1,291	1,289	1,294	5	0.4	7	0.5
Wiltshire	1,238	1,230	1,198	1,232	1,219	1,194	-40	-3.2	-32	-2.6
Wales	7,649	7,599	7,579	7,575	7,529	7,509	-71	-0.9	-20	-0.3
Dyfed-Powys	1,178	1,194	1,188	1,162	1,182	1,174	10	0.9	-6	-0.5
Gwent	1,472	1,467	1,489	1,472	1,467	1,489	17	1.2	22	1.5
North Wales	1,644	1,634	1,588	1,627	1,617	1,572	-56	-3.4	-46	-2.8
South Wales	3,355	3,303	3,313	3,314	3,263	3,274	-42	-1.3	10	0.3
Total of all 43 forces	141,281	141,527	141,354	139,597	139,636	139,486	73	0.1	-173	-0.1
Central Service Secondments	611	538	519	611	538	519	-92	-15.1	-19	-3.5
British Transport Police	2,319	2,499	2,492	2,291	2,481	2,451	173	7.5	-7	-0.3
Total Police Officer Strength	144,211	144,564	144,365	142,499	142,655	142,456	154	0.1	-200	-0.1
Total Police Officer Strength (excluding BTP)	141,892	142,065	141,873	140,208	140,174	140,005	-19	0.0	-193	-0.1

(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		Sept 05 - Sept 06		Change in 6 months Mar 06 - Sept 06	
	Sep-05	Mar-06	Sep-06	Sep-05	Mar-06	Sep-06	number	%	number	%		
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte						
North East	3,023	3,107	3,229	2,992	3,070	3,194	206	6.8	122	3.9		
Cleveland	705	697	735	705	685	725	30	4.3	38	5.4		
Durham	738	744	737	736	739	733	-1	-0.1	-7	-1.0		
Northumbria	1,580	1,665	1,757	1,552	1,646	1,735	177	11.2	91	5.5		
North West	9,069	9,225	9,283	8,912	9,121	9,101	213	2.4	57	0.6		
Cheshire	1,094	1,170	1,201	1,068	1,149	1,172	107	9.8	31	2.7		
Cumbria	717	732	731	703	723	719	14	1.9	-2	-0.2		
Greater Manchester	3,353	3,352	3,375	3,300	3,326	3,308	22	0.7	23	0.7		
Lancashire	1,734	1,764	1,777	1,691	1,729	1,731	43	2.5	13	0.7		
Merseyside	2,172	2,207	2,199	2,151	2,194	2,171	27	1.2	-8	-0.4		
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,916	7,172	7,284	6,828	7,125	7,215	368	5.3	112	1.6		
Humberside	1,068	1,097	1,157	1,051	1,091	1,153	89	8.3	60	5.5		
North Yorkshire	962	1,039	1,090	943	1,030	1,081	128	13.3	51	4.9		
South Yorkshire	1,798	1,853	1,914	1,765	1,817	1,880	116	6.5	62	3.3		
West Yorkshire	3,088	3,183	3,122	3,068	3,187	3,100	35	1.1	-61	-1.9		
East Midlands	5,133	5,259	5,274	5,034	5,168	5,173	141	2.7	15	0.3		
Derbyshire	1,125	1,109	1,142	1,108	1,084	1,120	17	1.6	34	3.0		
Leicestershire	1,040	1,079	1,081	1,004	1,050	1,049	41	3.9	2	0.2		
Lincolnshire	681	677	691	675	680	687	10	1.4	14	2.1		
Northamptonshire	934	1,010	1,004	918	995	989	70	7.5	-6	-0.6		
Nottinghamshire	1,353	1,385	1,356	1,329	1,360	1,328	3	0.2	-28	-2.1		
West Midlands	6,683	6,777	6,802	6,598	6,663	6,703	119	1.8	25	0.4		
Staffordshire	1,331	1,305	1,291	1,318	1,290	1,281	-40	-3.0	-15	-1.1		
Warwickshire	603	609	623	603	605	617	19	3.2	14	2.3		
West Mercia	1,548	1,563	1,594	1,512	1,511	1,539	47	3.0	31	2.0		
West Midlands	3,201	3,300	3,295	3,164	3,257	3,265	94	2.9	-5	-0.1		
Eastern	6,933	7,032	7,055	6,830	6,921	6,934	122	1.8	23	0.3		
Bedfordshire	748	759	769	739	752	755	21	2.9	10	1.3		
Cambridgeshire	862	898	962	849	887	942	100	11.6	64	7.1		
Essex	2,009	1,968	1,892	1,981	1,947	1,867	-118	-5.9	-76	-3.9		
Hertfordshire	1,436	1,489	1,498	1,408	1,450	1,467	62	4.3	8	0.6		
Norfolk	1,032	1,064	1,072	1,018	1,049	1,055	40	3.9	8	0.7		
Suffolk	846	853	862	835	837	847	16	1.9	9	1.0		
London	14,146	14,150	14,251	13,733	13,732	13,855	105	0.7	100	0.7		
London, City of	297	314	329	296	314	329	32	10.8	14	4.6		
Metropolitan Police	13,849	13,836	13,922	13,437	13,417	13,526	73	0.5	86	0.6		
South East	10,565	10,702	10,950	10,372	10,531	10,746	385	3.6	248	2.3		
Hampshire	2,043	2,093	2,261	2,015	2,071	2,223	218	10.7	168	8.0		
Kent	2,287	2,292	2,285	2,249	2,255	2,245	-2	-0.1	-7	-0.3		
Surrey	1,443	1,541	1,609	1,398	1,485	1,553	166	11.5	69	4.5		
Sussex	2,056	1,994	2,009	2,017	1,966	1,979	-47	-2.3	15	0.7		
Thames Valley	2,736	2,782	2,785	2,693	2,755	2,746	49	1.8	3	0.1		
South West	6,455	6,625	6,690	6,333	6,500	6,555	236	3.6	65	1.0		
Avon & Somerset	1,983	2,080	2,120	1,921	2,018	2,052	137	6.9	40	1.9		
Devon & Cornwall	2,050	2,082	2,062	2,036	2,058	2,034	13	0.6	-20	-0.9		
Dorset	919	918	940	904	907	924	21	2.3	22	2.4		
Gloucestershire	674	694	707	656	675	687	33	4.8	12	1.8		
Wiltshire	829	851	862	816	841	859	33	3.9	11	1.3		
Wales	3,687	3,741	3,767	3,595	3,664	3,699	81	2.2	26	0.7		
Dyfed-Powys	564	566	588	546	559	575	24	4.3	22	3.9		
Gwent	735	749	781	735	749	781	47	6.3	32	4.2		
North Wales	882	882	892	854	859	879	10	1.2	10	1.1		
South Wales	1,507	1,543	1,506	1,461	1,497	1,465	-1	0.0	-37	-2.4		
Total of all 43 forces	72,610	73,790	74,585	71,229	72,495	73,175	1,975	2.7	795	1.1		
British Transport Police	904	941	997	892	923	979	93	10.3	56	6.0		

(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		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-05	Mar-06	Sep-06	Sept 05 - Sept 06		Mar 06 - Sept 06	
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	300	295	365	65	21.5	70	23.5
Cleveland	86	100	111	25	29.1	11	11.0
Durham	72	67	90	18	25.6	23	35.1
Northumbria	143	129	164	21	14.9	35	27.3
North West	680	722	863	184	27.0	141	19.6
Cheshire	77	75	77	0	0.3	3	3.4
Cumbria	19	17	27	8	42.0	10	59.0
Greater Manchester	264	251	321	57	21.7	71	28.2
Lancashire	159	184	224	65	41.0	40	21.6
Merseyside	161	196	214	53	33.0	18	9.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	647	673	828	181	28.0	155	23.0
Humberside	20	20	112	92	468.2	92	468.2
North Yorkshire	69	71	85	16	23.6	14	20.2
South Yorkshire	125	121	126	1	1.0	6	4.6
West Yorkshire	433	462	505	72	16.5	43	9.3
East Midlands	390	408	563	173	44.2	154	37.8
Derbyshire	43	42	56	13	30.2	14	33.7
Leicestershire	119	136	155	36	30.1	19	13.8
Lincolnshire	78	78	134	56	71.5	56	72.6
Northamptonshire	38	40	62	24	63.2	22	55.0
Nottinghamshire	112	112	155	44	39.1	43	38.3
West Midlands	450	471	681	231	51.3	210	44.5
Staffordshire	62	70	103	41	66.5	33	47.4
Warwickshire	56	64	61	5	8.9	-3	-4.7
West Mercia	86	85	170	84	97.8	84	98.5
West Midlands	247	252	348	101	40.9	96	38.0
Eastern	562	568	781	219	38.9	213	37.4
Bedfordshire	43	41	47	4	9.3	6	14.7
Cambridgeshire	92	101	125	33	35.8	24	23.2
Essex	193	192	296	103	53.3	104	54.1
Hertfordshire	135	139	165	30	22.3	26	18.5
Norfolk	67	65	102	36	53.2	37	56.6
Suffolk	33	30	46	14	41.5	17	55.8
London	2,067	2,326	2,689	622	30.1	362	15.6
London, City of	14	11	8	-6	-42.9	-3	-27.3
Metropolitan Police	2,053	2,315	2,681	628	30.6	365	15.8
South East	567	639	772	204	36.0	132	20.7
Hampshire	23	30	103	80	347.8	73	243.3
Kent	103	97	100	-3	-3.1	3	3.1
Surrey	102	126	161	59	58.2	35	28.0
Sussex	231	257	274	43	18.6	17	6.6
Thames Valley	109	130	134	25	23.1	4	3.1
South West	377	394	591	215	57.0	197	50.1
Avon & Somerset	146	130	182	36	24.4	52	39.7
Devon & Cornwall	75	74	158	84	111.7	85	114.5
Dorset	56	61	72	17	29.7	11	18.0
Gloucestershire	62	72	94	32	51.5	22	30.6
Wiltshire	38	57	85	47	123.7	28	49.1
Wales	282	271	384	101	35.9	113	41.8
Dyfed-Powys	24	26	30	6	25.2	4	14.6
Gwent	81	76	97	16	20.0	21	27.9
North Wales	61	58	76	15	23.8	18	30.2
South Wales	116	111	181	65	55.4	71	63.8
Total of all 43 forces	6,323	6,769	8,517	2,194	34.7	1,748	25.8
British Transport Police	135	200	235	100	74.1	35	17.5

(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.

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.