

Notifiable Offences

England and Wales, 1997

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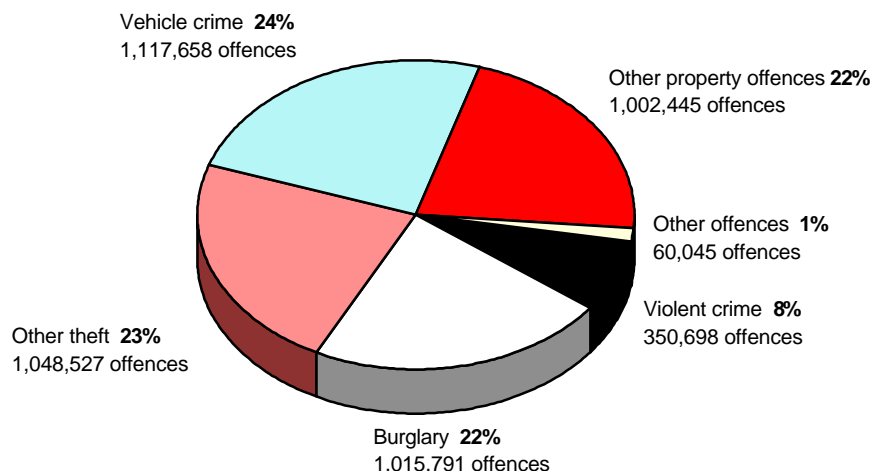
A large proportion of crime is unrecorded, as many offences are not reported to the police. The propensity of the public to report offences to the police also changes over time. Thus, statistics recorded by the police may not accurately reflect the underlying trend in all crime. The 1996 British Crime Survey (Home Office Statistical Bulletin, issue 19/96) provides a measure of unrecorded crime against individuals.

Notifiable offences cover a wide spectrum of crimes, from homicide to minor thefts. The seriousness of individual crimes should be considered when combining offence groups.

MAIN POINTS

- In 1997, 91 per cent of offences recorded by the police were against property; 8 per cent were violent crimes. (Figure 1 below)
- Offences of violence against the person rose by 6 per cent, sexual offences rose by 7 per cent, but the number of robberies fell by 13 per cent. (Paragraphs 3(c-e))
- Vehicle crimes fell by 14 per cent, with falls in all but one police force area. (Paragraphs 2(e) and 4(i))
- Domestic burglary fell by 14 per cent, with non-domestic burglary falling by 12 per cent. The number of recorded burglaries fell in 41 of the 43 police force areas. (Paragraphs 2(c) and 4(h))
- 68 per cent of violent crimes were cleared up in 1997, the highest clear-up rate since 1991. (Paragraph 5(b))
- Despite small increases in the clear-up rate, less than one in five vehicle crimes, arsons, and offences of criminal damage were cleared up. (Paragraph 5(d))

Figure 1 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE, 1997



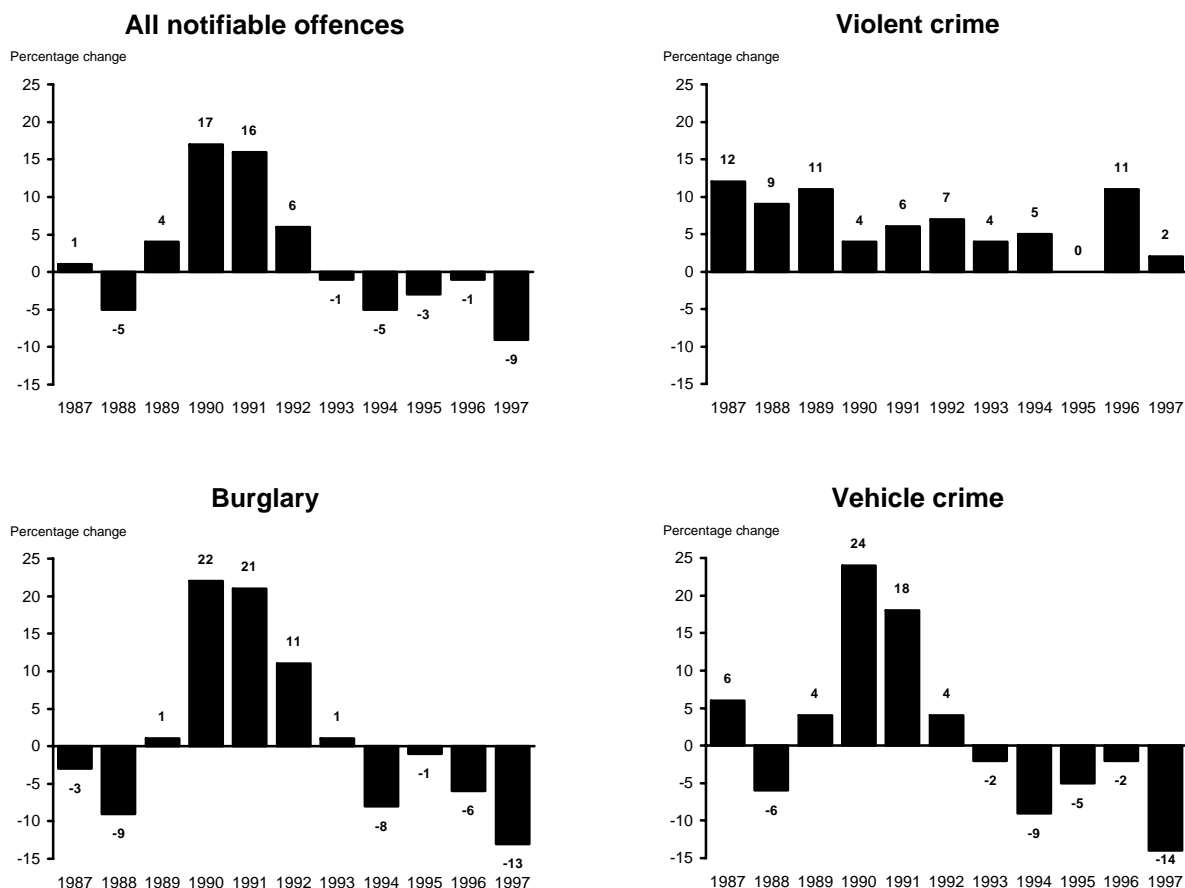
1. RECORDED CRIME (TABLES A, 1; FIGURES 1 - 4)

Table A Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence group	1996	1997	Change(1)			
			Number		Percentage	
Violence against the person	239,300	253,100	+13,800	(+26,800)	+5.8%	(+12.6%)
Sexual offences	31,400	33,500	+2,100	(+1,100)	+6.8%	(+3.7%)
Robbery	74,000	64,100	-10,000	(+6,000)	-13.5%	(+8.8%)
<i>Total violent crime</i>	<i>344,800</i>	<i>350,700</i>	<i>+5,900</i>	<i>(+33,800)</i>	<i>+1.7%</i>	<i>(+10.9%)</i>
Burglary	1,164,600	1,015,800	-148,800	(-74,900)	-12.8%	(-6.0%)
Total theft & handling stolen goods	2,383,900	2,166,200	-217,800	(-68,200)	-9.1%	(-2.8%)
<i>Vehicle crime</i>	<i>1,293,000</i>	<i>1,117,700</i>	<i>-175,400</i>	<i>(-28,500)</i>	<i>-13.6%</i>	<i>(-2.2%)</i>
Fraud and forgery	136,200	135,500	-800	(+3,200)	-0.6%	(+2.4%)
Criminal damage	951,300	867,000	-84,300	(+37,300)	-8.9%	(+4.1%)
<i>Total property crime</i>	<i>4,636,000</i>	<i>4,184,400</i>	<i>-451,600</i>	<i>(-102,600)</i>	<i>-9.7%</i>	<i>(-2.2%)</i>
Other notifiable offences	55,800	60,000	+4,300	(+5,100)	+7.7%	(+10.0%)
Total all offences	5,036,600	4,595,200	-441,400	(-63,700)	-8.8%	(-1.2%)

(1) Changes between 1995 and 1996 are shown in brackets.

Figure 2 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE
Percentage change from the previous year (rounded)



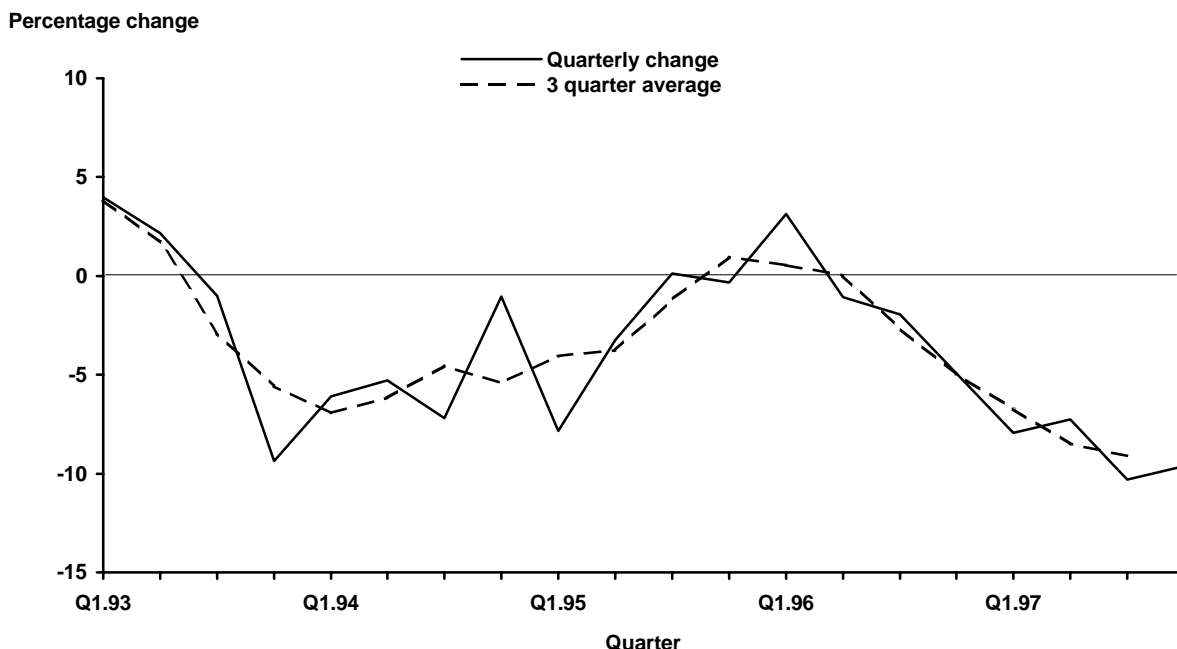
(a) Notifiable offences recorded by the police cover a wide range of crimes, from homicides to minor thefts and damage. It is essential that when different offences are combined, the seriousness of the component crimes is taken into account.

(b) In 1997, a total of 4.6 million offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales. This is 441,400 offences or 8.8 per cent fewer than during 1996. This represents the fifth consecutive fall in the annual (i.e. calendar year) figures, and is the first time this has happened since records began.

(c) The majority of crimes were property offences (burglary, theft, fraud and forgery, criminal damage). These offences accounted for 4.2 million or 91 per cent of all recorded crime, including 1.0 million burglaries and 1.1 million vehicle crimes.

(d) Violent crimes (violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery) accounted for 8 per cent (350,700) of all offences recorded in 1997.

Figure 3 **CHANGE IN NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES**
Percentage change, current quarter on corresponding quarter in previous year

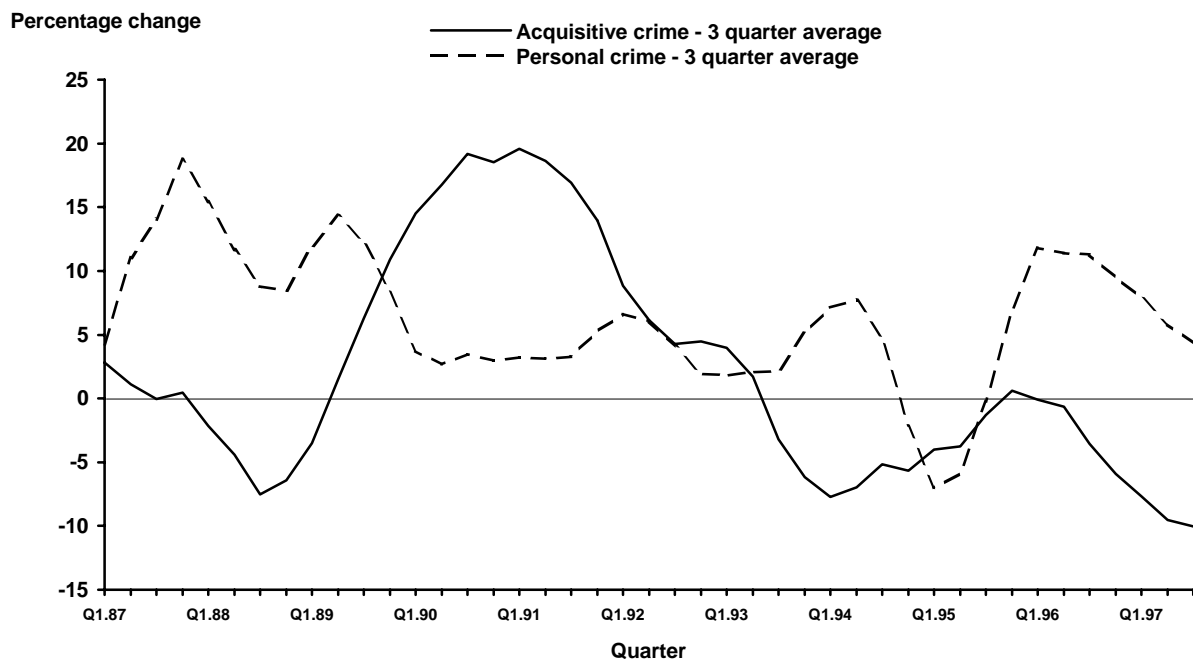


(e) Figure 3 shows the changes in crime figures by quarter rather than over the whole year. This shows that the 10 per cent falls in both the third and fourth quarters of 1997 followed falls of 7 per cent, 8 per cent and 5 per cent in the previous three quarters.

(f) An indication of the underlying trend is given by taking the average of three consecutive quarters (i.e. current, previous and following quarters) and comparing this to the average of the corresponding quarters in the previous year. The underlying trend going back to 1993 is also shown in figure 3.

(g) Figure 4 compares changes in the underlying trend (the three quarter moving average) in acquisitive crime (comprising property crime and robbery, as defined in Home Office Research Study 119 - ***Trends in crime and their interpretation*** - published in 1990) and in personal crime (comprising violence against the person and sexual offences). The graph shows that while the trend in property crime is similar to the trend for all crime, the trend in personal crime has moved broadly in the opposite direction.

Figure 4 **PERSONAL AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME**
Current quarter on corresponding quarter in previous year



(h) This is in line with the findings of the research study, which showed that during periods of rapid consumption growth the increase in acquisitive crime tends to slow, or fall, whilst that of personal crime tends to quicken. Periods of relatively slow consumption growth tend to have the reverse effect. (Further research on the relation between crime and economic trends is being published by the Home Office simultaneously with this Bulletin as "Trends in Crime Revisited".)

2. PROPERTY OFFENCES (TABLES A, 1; FIGURES 1, 4, 5)

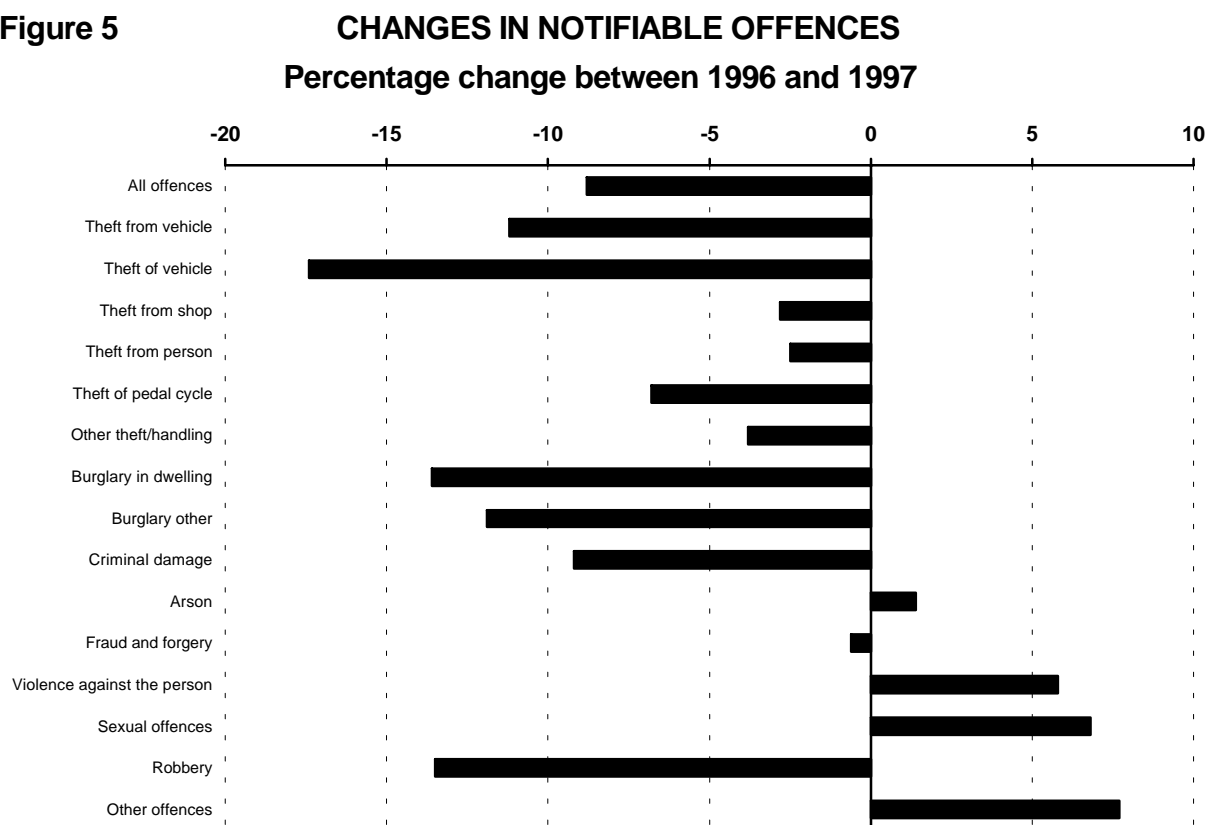
(a) The number of recorded property offences fell by 9.7 per cent, from 4.6 million offences in 1996 to 4.2 million offences during 1997. This is the fifth consecutive calendar year decrease in property offences.

(b) There were decreases in all offence groups within property crime except arson.

(c) Burglary offences make up just under one quarter of all recorded property crimes. During 1997 domestic burglaries fell by 82,000 (13.6 per cent) with non-domestic burglaries falling by 66,800 (11.9 per cent). Despite falls during the past four years, the total number of burglaries recorded is still 13 per cent higher than ten years ago.

(d) Thefts made up over one-half of all recorded property crimes. During 1997 the number of recorded thefts fell by 217,800 (9.1 per cent) compared to 1996 - the fifth consecutive annual fall. However, theft offences are 6 per cent higher than ten years ago.

Figure 5



(e) Within the theft offence group, vehicle crimes decreased by 175,400, a fall of 13.6 per cent. Thefts from vehicles decreased by 89,500 (11.2 per cent) with thefts of vehicles falling by 85,900 (17.4 per cent). This is the fifth consecutive decrease in vehicle crime; but whilst there were over one-quarter fewer vehicle crimes than in 1992, a ten year comparison shows a rise of 7 per cent since 1987.

(f) Offences of thefts from the person fell by 1,500 (2.5 per cent) between 1996 and 1997 - representing only the second calendar year fall in eight years. Thefts from shops fell by 8,000 (2.8 per cent), which follows a small rise in the previous year. Thefts of pedal cycles decreased for the fifth year running by 6.8 per cent to a total of 138,900 offences.

(g) Fraud and forgery offences fell by 0.6 per cent, reversing the small rise in 1996.

(h) There were 867,000 criminal damage offences recorded in 1997, a fall of 8.9 per cent on the previous year. This total contained 31,500 arson offences, 430 offences or 1.4 per cent more than in 1996. Criminal damage valued at £20 and under fell by nearly one-quarter over the period.

3. VIOLENT CRIME (TABLES A, 1, 7; FIGURES 1, 2, 4, 6)

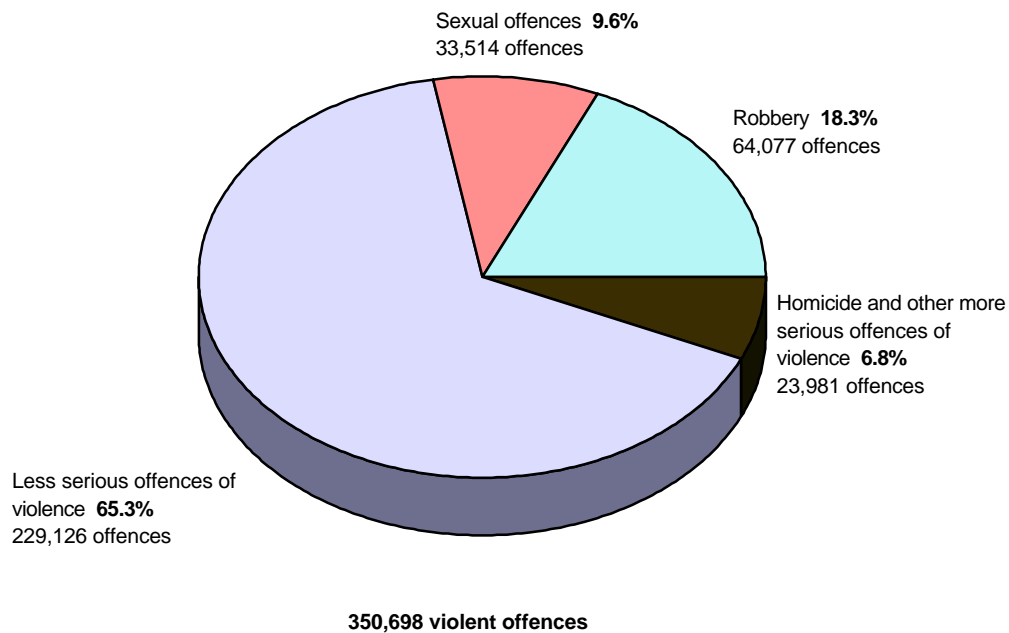
(a) A total of 350,700 violent offences were recorded by the police in 1997, an increase of 5,900 or 1.7 per cent on the total recorded in 1996. This follows a 10.9 per cent rise in the previous year.

(b) The most common violent crime was violence against the person, which accounted for 72.1 per cent of all recorded violent crime. Robberies comprised 18.3 per cent of violent offences, whilst the remaining 9.6 per cent were sexual offences. Homicide offences (which comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide) accounted for 0.2 per cent of all violent crime.

(c) Offences of violence against the person increased by 13,800 or 5.8 per cent to 253,100. More serious offences of violence, i.e. life threatening, increased by 6.9 per cent (to 24,000) and less serious offences of violence rose by 5.6 per cent (to 229,100). Within the category of more serious offences, the number of homicides rose by 30 offences to 711 offences.

Figure 6

OFFENCES OF VIOLENCE , 1997



(d) The number of sexual offences recorded in 1997 increased by 6.8 per cent, which is over twice the average increase during the last ten years. The increase in 1997 included an 11.5 per cent rise in offences of rape. Out of the 6,700 recorded rapes during 1997, 340 (or 5 per cent) had a male victim. The number of recorded rapes has risen by 170 per cent in the last ten years, which is thought to be partly due to an increase in the rate of reporting and recording of these offences.

(e) Robbery offences fell by 10,000 (or 13.5 per cent) to 64,100. This follows an 8.8 per cent rise in 1996. Over the last ten years, the number of robberies has almost doubled. Most recorded robberies are street robberies (or muggings).

4. POLICE FORCE AREAS (TABLES 2, 3, 4; FIGURES 7,8)

(a) Forty one of the forty three police forces in England and Wales recorded fewer total crimes in 1997 than in 1996; only the City of London and Gwent forces recorded more crimes.

(b) Metropolitan forces (see note 4) recorded 205,000 fewer crimes in 1997 than in 1996, a decrease of 9.2 per cent. Non-metropolitan forces recorded 236,400

fewer crimes, a fall of 8.4 per cent. Ten years ago, the same number of crimes were recorded in metropolitan areas as in non-metropolitan areas. However, since 1987 the proportion of crime recorded by metropolitan forces has fallen to 44.0 per cent of the total. This follows increases in total recorded crime over the ten year period of 3.9 per cent in metropolitan areas and 32.3 per cent in non-metropolitan areas.

(c) The City of London force were the only metropolitan force to record more crimes during 1997 than in 1996. However, the rise of 650 offences in this force is dwarfed by the 51,480 offence fall in the surrounding Metropolitan Police District. Half the metropolitan forces recorded decreases in excess of 10 per cent. With a 17 per cent decrease in 1997, Northumbria is the only force to have recorded six consecutive falls.

(d) Changes in non-metropolitan areas ranged from decreases of 18 per cent in Cleveland and 17 per cent in Kent, to an increase of 6 per cent in Gwent. However, the increase recorded in Gwent was influenced by a boundary change in April 1996 affecting the force and South Wales. When combining these two forces there is an overall decrease of 4.5 per cent. Nine non-metropolitan forces recorded decreases of over 10 per cent.

(e) The figures have been analysed according to type of offence (see table 4). Crimes of violence against the person decreased in 15 forces, the largest fall being 16 per cent recorded in Kent. Conversely, Derbyshire and Greater Manchester recorded large increases (28 per cent and 25 per cent respectively).

(f) Despite the overall increase in sexual offences, thirteen forces recorded decreases, with four forces recording falls greater than 15 per cent. The largest fall was in Cleveland, where 19 per cent fewer offences were recorded compared to the previous year. In contrast, nine forces recorded increases in excess of 15 per cent.

(g) Eight forces recorded rises in the number of robbery offences. The highest increase (up 29 per cent) was recorded by Gwent. However six forces had reductions of more than one-quarter in the number of recorded robberies including Leicestershire which had a 39 per cent fall. Robberies decreased by 14 per cent in Metropolitan areas and by 13 per cent in non-metropolitan areas. Three quarters of robberies are recorded by metropolitan police force areas.

Figure 7 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE
 Percentage change between 1996 and 1997 by police force area

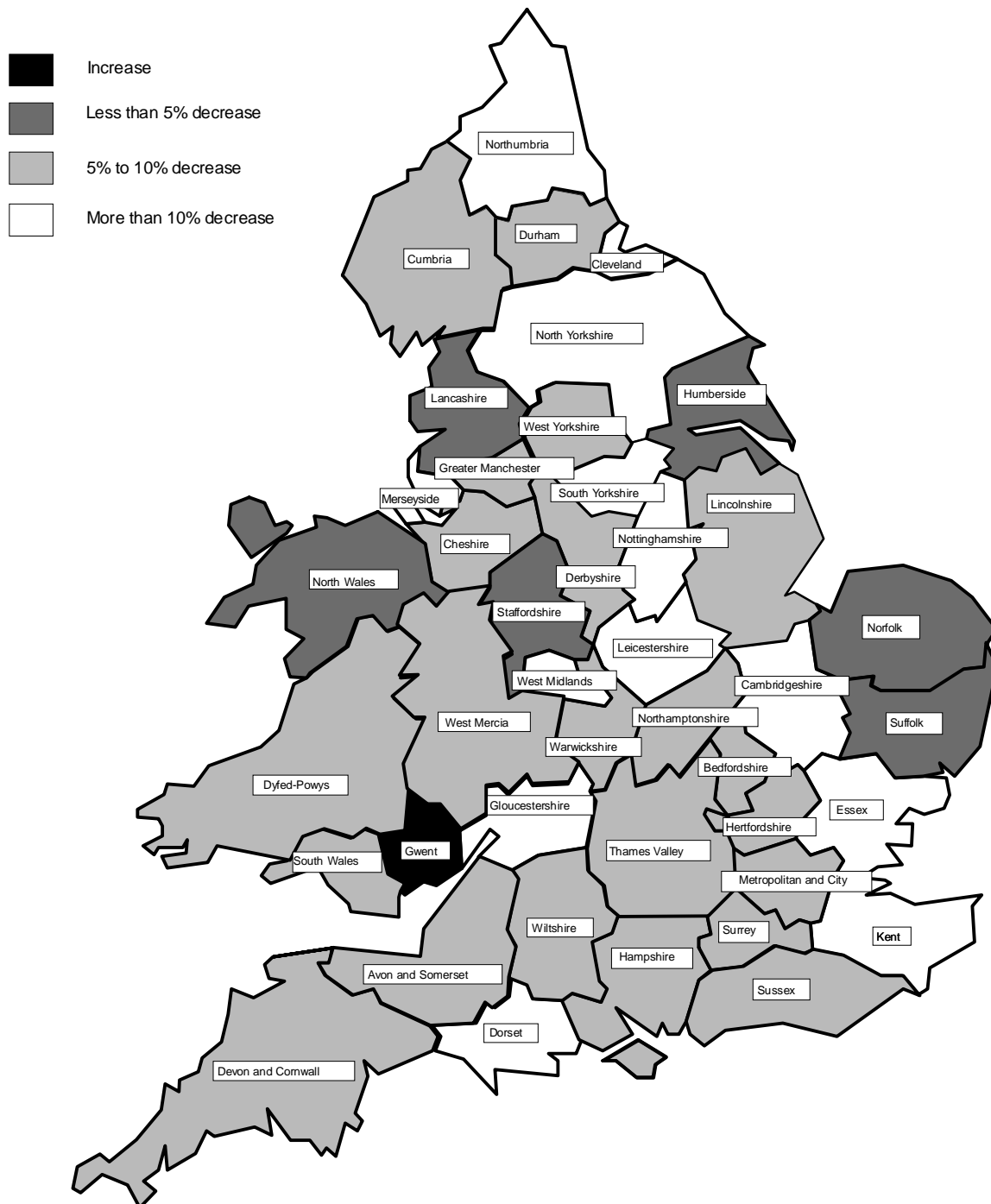
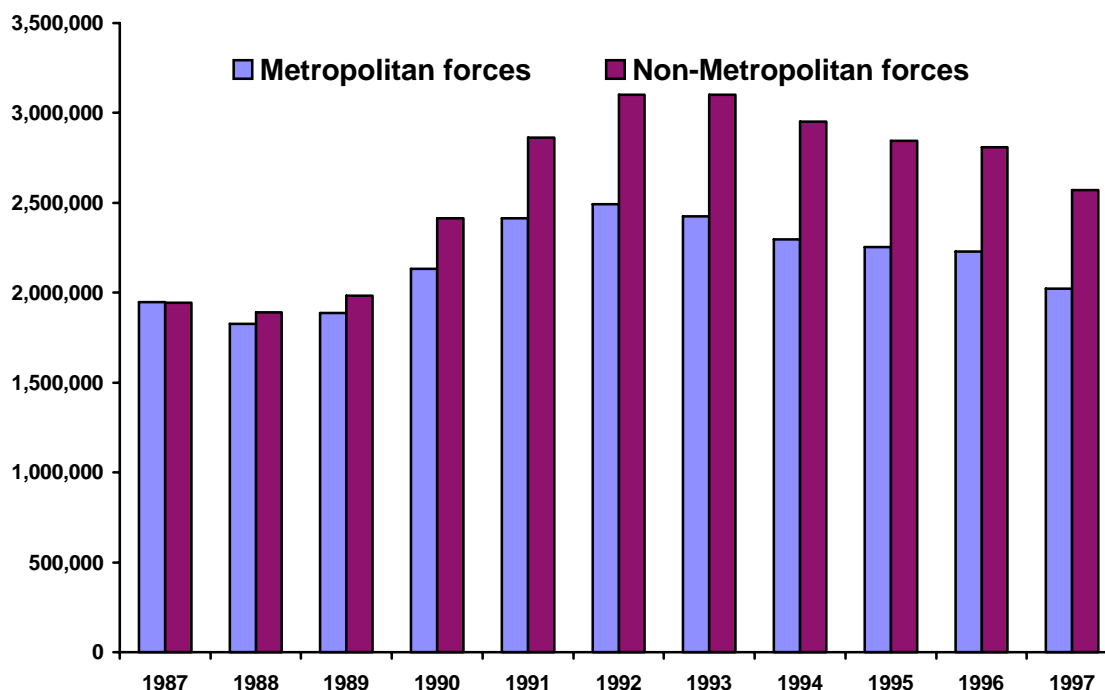


Figure 8

**NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES IN METROPOLITAN AND
NON-METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE AREAS**



(h) Burglary fell in all forces except Gwent and City of London. Eleven forces recorded falls of over 15 per cent. The largest decrease was recorded in Cleveland, where just over one-quarter fewer burglaries were recorded than in the previous year.

(i) Vehicle crime decreased in all forces except the City of London. Seventeen forces recorded falls of at least 15 per cent, the largest of which was in Cambridgeshire (down 26 per cent).

5. OFFENCES CLEARED UP (TABLES B, 5, 6, 7; FIGURE 9)

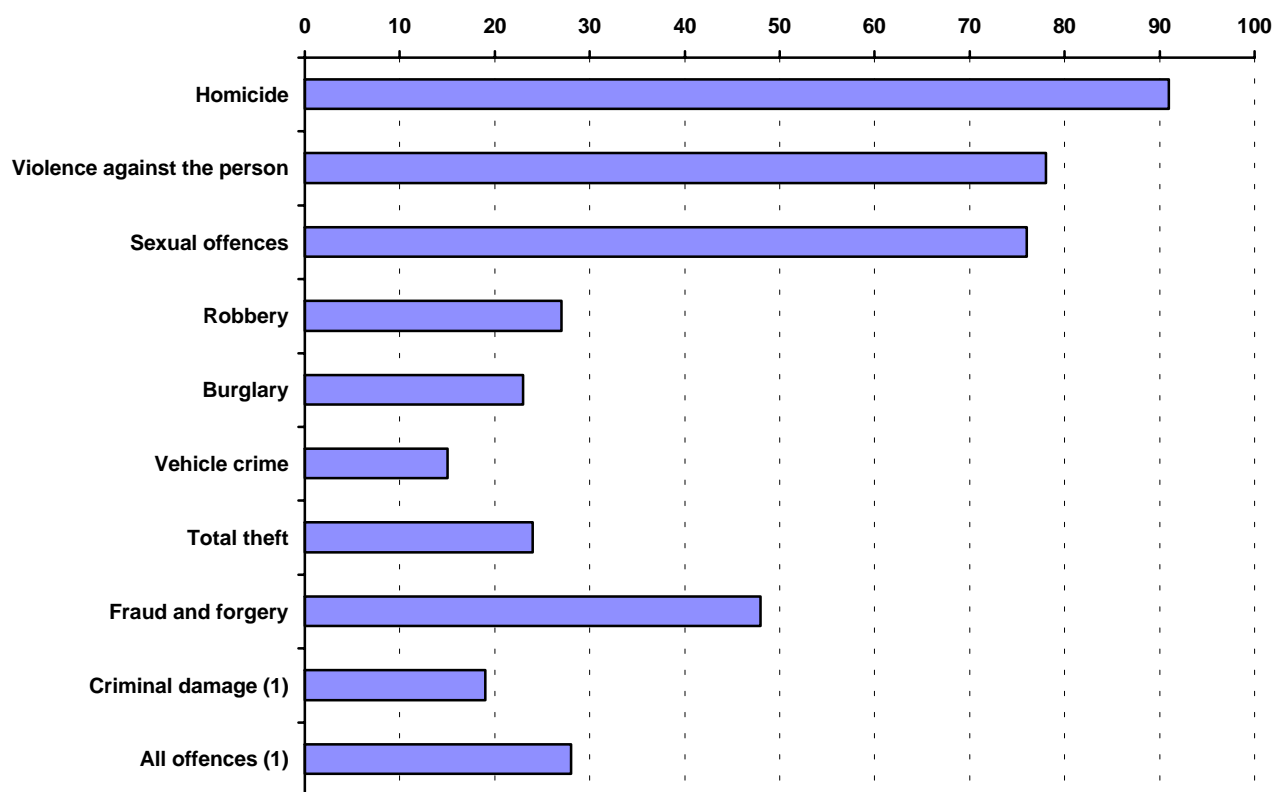
(a) The proportion of offences cleared up during 1997 increased by 2 per cent to 28 per cent. However, the total number of offences cleared up - 1.26 million - was 30,500 fewer than in 1996.

(b) A high proportion of violent crimes are cleared up. Overall, 68 per cent of violent crime was cleared up in 1997, a rise of 2 percentage points since 1996. This clear-up

rate is the highest since 1991. Within this total figure, offences of violence against the person and sexual offences had clear-up rates of 78 and 76 per cent respectively. The rate for robbery was 27 per cent, which is the highest rate recorded since 1980.

(c) Within violence against the person, 91 per cent of homicides and 92 per cent of attempted murders were cleared up in 1997. The clear-up rate for rape offences was 78 per cent.

Figure 9 CLEAR-UP RATES BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, 1997



(1) Excluding criminal damage of £20 and under.

(d) Offences for which a low proportion were cleared up include theft from a person (11 per cent) and pedal cycle theft (8 per cent). Other offences for which less than one in five were cleared up were non-residential burglary, theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle, arson, and criminal damage. Together these offences comprise nearly three-fifths of all recorded crimes.

(e) Clear-up rates varied widely among forces, from 20 per cent in Greater Manchester and Humberside to 61 per cent in Dyfed-Powys. However, comparisons

may reflect differences in the types of offences between areas and variations in recording practice. The clear up rate increased in 36 of the 43 police forces.

(f) There are several methods of clearing up a crime (see table 6); these can be divided into two main groups, "primary clear-ups" and "secondary clear-ups". A full explanation of the definitions used is given in note 5 on page 23. In 1997 24 per cent of recorded crimes were cleared up by primary means, representing 84 per cent of all clear-ups. The number of primary clear-ups increased by 8,600 (1 per cent), whilst the number of secondary clear-ups decreased by 39,000 (16 per cent).

Table B **Notifiable offences recorded⁽¹⁾ and offences cleared up⁽²⁾**

England and Wales		Number of offences and percentages					
Year	Number recorded	Cleared up					
		Number			Percentage		
		Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary
1993	5,317,100	1,328,200	1,050,300	277,900	25%	20%	5%
1994	5,032,400	1,326,400	1,045,400	285,400	26%	21%	6%
1995	4,885,900	1,276,900	1,004,400	272,500	26%	21%	6%
1996	4,868,400	1,287,700	1,042,800	244,800	26%	21%	5%
1997	4,467,000	1,257,200	1,051,400	205,800	28%	24%	5%

(1) Excluding criminal damage of £20 and under.

(2) See note 5 on page 23.

(g) In thirty-one forces over eighty per cent of clear-ups were by primary means. By contrast there was one force in which secondary clear-ups made up nearly two-fifths of all clear-ups (South Wales).

(h) Looking at the method of clear-up in more detail, the most common was a charge or summons - a total of 578,700 offences were cleared up in this way. In eleven forces a sixth or more of all offences were cleared up using a charge or summons, although three forces cleared up less than 10 per cent of offences by this method.

(i) Four per cent of notifiable offences were cleared up by means of a caution, although Dyfed-Powys cleared up 11 per cent this way.

(j) Five per cent of all offences were cleared up by secondary means, within which the most common method was by interview of convicted prisoners. Although nationally four per cent of crimes were cleared up in this way, there was considerable variation

amongst forces. This is largely as a result of differing force policies on using this method.

6. NON-HOME OFFICE FORCES (TABLE C)

Crimes recorded by the main non-Home Office police forces (British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence and UK Atomic Energy Authority) are shown below for 1993 to 1997. These figures are shown separately from the figures for the Home Office forces because for operational reasons there is a small element of duplication between the two. The vast majority of these offences are recorded by the British Transport Police - about 91 per cent of the total 65,700 notifiable offences in 1997. Between 1996 and 1997 the number of offences recorded by the BTP fell by 8 per cent, whilst the numbers recorded by the MOD and the UKAEA both fell by over a fifth.

Table C Notifiable offence recorded by non-Home Office police forces

Year	Total	British Transport Police	Ministry of Defence	UK Atomic Energy Authority
1993	79,400	72,800	5,900	700
1994	75,200	68,100	6,700	380
1995	78,100	71,500	6,300	340
1996	72,900	65,200	7,400	300
1997	65,700	59,700	5,800	230

Offence group	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Number of offences					
Violence against the person	205,102	218,354	212,588	239,342	253,107
Sexual offences	31,284	31,971	30,274	31,391	33,514
Robbery	57,845	60,007	68,074	74,035	64,077
<i>Total violent crime</i>	<i>294,231</i>	<i>310,332</i>	<i>310,936</i>	<i>344,768</i>	<i>350,698</i>
Burglary					
Burglary in a dwelling	727,276	678,882	643,645	602,128	520,108
Burglary other than in a dwelling	642,308	577,800	595,839	562,455	495,683
Total burglary	1,369,584	1,256,682	1,239,484	1,164,583	1,015,791
Theft & handling stolen goods					
Theft from the person	47,743	51,119	59,692	59,331	57,859
Theft of pedal cycle	190,685	176,825	169,476	148,970	138,893
Theft from shops	275,607	269,017	275,802	282,052	274,077
Theft from vehicle	925,819	842,680	813,094	799,552	710,089
Theft of motor vehicle	597,519	541,749	508,450	493,489	407,569
<i>Vehicle crime</i>	<i>1,523,338</i>	<i>1,384,429</i>	<i>1,321,544</i>	<i>1,293,041</i>	<i>1,117,658</i>
Other theft & handling stolen goods	714,528	683,218	625,595	600,552	577,698
Total theft & handling stolen goods	2,751,901	2,564,608	2,452,109	2,383,946	2,166,185
Fraud and forgery	162,836	145,289	133,016	136,225	135,454
Criminal damage	906,746	928,329	913,991	951,274	866,991
Other notifiable offences	40,957	47,740	50,705	55,757	60,045
Total all offences	5,526,255	5,252,980	5,100,241	5,036,553	4,595,164
Percentage change from previous year					
Violence against the person	1.6	6.5	-2.6	12.6	5.8
Sexual offences	5.9	2.2	-5.3	3.7	6.8
Robbery	9.4	3.7	13.4	8.8	-13.5
<i>Total violent crime</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>1.7</i>
Burglary					
Burglary in a dwelling	2.7	-6.7	-5.2	-6.5	-13.6
Burglary other than in a dwelling	-0.7	-10.0	3.1	-5.6	-11.9
Total burglary	1.1	-8.2	-1.4	-6.0	-12.8
Theft & handling stolen goods					
Theft from the person	22.1	7.1	16.8	-0.6	-2.5
Theft of pedal cycle	-14.2	-7.3	-4.2	-12.1	-6.8
Theft from shops	-4.5	-2.4	2.5	2.3	-2.8
Theft from vehicle	-3.7	-9.0	-3.5	-1.7	-11.2
Theft of motor vehicle	1.6	-9.3	-6.1	-2.9	-17.4
<i>Vehicle crime</i>	<i>-1.7</i>	<i>-9.1</i>	<i>-4.5</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>-13.6</i>
Other theft & handling stolen goods	-5.0	-4.4	-8.4	-4.0	-3.8
Total theft & handling stolen goods	-3.5	-6.8	-4.4	-2.8	-9.1
Fraud and forgery	-3.4	-10.8	-8.4	2.4	-0.6
Criminal damage	1.6	2.4	-1.5	4.1	-8.9
Other notifiable offences	4.0	16.6	6.2	10.0	7.7
Total all offences	-1.2	-4.9	-2.9	-1.2	-8.8

England and Wales		Number of offences and percentages		
Police force area	1996	1997	Change	
			Number	Percentage
Avon and Somerset	156,557	143,128	-13,429	-8.6
Bedfordshire	52,004	47,426	-4,578	-8.8
Cambridgeshire	69,513	60,050	-9,463	-13.6
Cheshire	66,214	60,363	-5,851	-8.8
Cleveland	78,608	64,445	-14,163	-18.0
Cumbria	39,739	35,810	-3,929	-9.9
Derbyshire	78,896	73,792	-5,104	-6.5
Devon and Cornwall	103,121	94,828	-8,293	-8.0
Dorset	49,731	44,104	-5,627	-11.3
Durham	51,849	47,976	-3,873	-7.5
Essex	100,758	90,158	-10,600	-10.5
Gloucestershire	53,675	47,533	-6,142	-11.4
Greater Manchester	327,976	307,402	-20,574	-6.3
Hampshire	135,915	124,306	-11,609	-8.5
Hertfordshire	54,441	50,050	-4,391	-8.1
Humberside	126,932	121,328	-5,604	-4.4
Kent	147,980	122,955	-25,025	-16.9
Lancashire	122,487	118,003	-4,484	-3.7
Leicestershire	94,125	81,258	-12,867	-13.7
Lincolnshire	47,069	43,381	-3,688	-7.8
London, City of	4,831	5,483	652	13.5
Merseyside	145,956	125,979	-19,977	-13.7
Metropolitan Police	841,784	790,302	-51,482	-6.1
Norfolk	55,314	53,332	-1,982	-3.6
Northamptonshire	57,378	54,047	-3,331	-5.8
Northumbria	169,656	140,166	-29,490	-17.4
North Yorkshire	56,919	50,252	-6,667	-11.7
Nottinghamshire	144,060	128,015	-16,045	-11.1
South Yorkshire	151,577	130,960	-20,617	-13.6
Staffordshire	92,155	89,957	-2,198	-2.4
Suffolk	37,094	35,638	-1,456	-3.9
Surrey	42,014	38,440	-3,574	-8.5
Sussex	118,086	111,624	-6,462	-5.5
Thames Valley	172,194	157,423	-14,771	-8.6
Warwickshire	38,926	35,725	-3,201	-8.2
West Mercia	82,254	76,762	-5,492	-6.7
West Midlands	317,892	278,975	-38,917	-12.2
West Yorkshire	268,716	244,142	-24,574	-9.1
Wiltshire	35,911	33,039	-2,872	-8.0
Dyfed-Powys	19,072	18,098	-974	-5.1
Gwent	44,572	47,268	2,696	6.0
North Wales	41,024	40,685	-339	-0.8
South Wales	141,578	130,556	-11,022	-7.8
Total met-forces (1)	2,228,388	2,023,409	-204,979	-9.2
Total non-met forces	2,808,165	2,571,755	-236,410	-8.4
Total	5,036,553	4,595,164	-441,389	-8.8

(1) See note 4 on page 23.

Police force area	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Other theft	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Other offences
Avon and Somerset	143,128	9,614	1,000	1,562	31,220	41,715	33,017	3,584	20,396	1,020
Bedfordshire	47,426	3,641	344	531	8,883	12,805	10,821	1,799	8,025	577
Cambridgeshire	60,050	3,364	390	350	12,668	15,344	16,690	1,391	9,250	603
Cheshire	60,363	3,537	728	319	13,346	13,346	14,481	1,845	11,205	1,556
Cleveland	64,445	2,637	253	507	16,432	15,851	15,461	1,425	11,274	605
Cumbria	35,810	2,828	229	101	6,868	7,207	9,003	1,099	8,047	428
Derbyshire	73,792	5,340	528	396	17,302	19,383	15,285	1,308	13,387	863
Devon and Cornwall	94,828	6,549	808	389	20,017	23,233	24,978	2,232	15,232	1,390
Dorset	44,104	1,938	396	206	8,437	11,518	11,544	1,300	8,245	520
Durham	47,976	1,924	341	142	12,209	11,108	9,516	1,163	10,518	1,055
Essex	90,158	4,603	740	438	16,326	22,284	23,500	2,443	18,845	979
Gloucestershire	47,533	1,456	240	369	11,559	13,748	12,008	1,517	6,158	478
Greater Manchester	307,402	13,871	1,634	6,296	75,834	83,234	49,880	5,773	68,100	2,780
Hampshire	124,306	7,934	1,222	554	20,431	27,812	33,867	3,781	26,429	2,276
Hertfordshire	50,050	2,311	290	289	9,345	16,010	10,190	1,345	9,831	439
Humberside	121,328	6,241	758	757	36,169	26,272	27,770	2,316	20,177	868
Kent	122,955	7,445	770	709	25,749	30,959	28,638	2,932	24,047	1,706
Lancashire	118,003	3,549	806	794	27,677	26,933	26,813	3,335	26,494	1,602
Leicestershire	81,258	5,390	585	880	18,753	19,980	17,545	2,870	14,034	1,221
Lincolnshire	43,381	3,051	329	107	10,551	7,624	12,461	1,382	7,145	731
London, City of	5,483	160	55	34	747	581	2,991	502	287	126
Merseyside	125,979	8,083	906	2,141	26,266	28,312	30,208	4,269	23,677	2,117
Metropolitan Police	790,302	54,961	8,020	28,442	141,671	160,611	208,918	43,820	131,068	12,791
Norfolk	53,332	2,889	487	189	10,935	11,890	15,386	1,045	9,782	729
Northamptonshire	54,047	2,941	332	415	11,385	14,070	11,405	1,266	11,595	638
Northumbria	140,166	4,681	562	1,260	34,584	32,496	27,895	2,221	35,314	1,153
North Yorkshire	50,252	2,425	262	198	11,359	11,721	14,301	980	8,537	469
Nottinghamshire	128,015	8,221	882	1,145	29,953	28,948	26,745	2,874	28,165	1,082
South Yorkshire	130,960	4,598	611	946	37,446	35,595	24,499	2,367	23,568	1,330
Staffordshire	89,957	7,136	544	498	23,518	20,596	17,667	2,200	16,940	858
Suffolk	35,638	2,447	400	141	6,094	6,687	10,265	1,116	7,835	653
Surrey	38,440	2,370	499	192	7,496	9,007	10,389	1,332	6,557	598
Sussex	111,624	6,114	766	681	20,595	26,167	28,931	2,994	23,945	1,431
Thames Valley	157,423	6,602	731	1,256	31,426	49,824	36,132	4,174	25,584	1,694
Warwickshire	35,725	1,268	223	146	8,302	10,269	7,856	898	6,362	401
West Mercia	76,762	3,175	751	287	16,334	18,924	19,306	1,881	14,965	1,139
West Midlands	278,975	9,870	1,226	6,737	77,412	79,172	47,468	4,844	49,120	3,126
West Yorkshire	244,142	8,183	1,637	2,698	67,686	59,113	49,370	5,244	46,446	3,765
Wiltshire	33,039	2,373	355	164	6,361	7,524	9,290	830	5,722	420
Dyfed-Powys	18,098	2,132	337	34	2,590	2,372	4,781	482	4,497	873
Gwent	47,268	5,513	470	156	9,154	9,649	10,050	1,415	9,947	914
North Wales	40,685	2,576	480	112	7,554	7,911	9,433	844	11,238	537
South Wales	130,556	7,166	587	509	27,147	39,853	21,773	3,016	29,001	1,504
England and Wales	4,595,164	253,107	33,514	64,077	1,015,791	1,117,658	1,048,527	135,454	866,991	60,045

England and Wales										Percentages
Police force area	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Other theft	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Other offences
Avon and Somerset	-8.6	9.1	-3.6	-22.7	-11.2	-12.1	-1.8	-16.5	-11.2	-13.5
Bedfordshire	-8.8	7.2	-16.5	-19.3	-13.2	-14.2	-2.2	-11.5	-8.0	3.2
Cambridgeshire	-13.6	3.8	-8.7	-18.0	-12.9	-26.0	-6.1	-7.1	-10.5	14.2
Cheshire	-8.8	-2.2	26.6	-18.2	-14.0	-13.7	-3.6	-21.8	-3.7	-3.9
Cleveland	-18.0	-10.8	-19.4	-25.2	-26.1	-25.6	-2.9	-3.4	-13.1	-18.6
Cumbria	-9.9	10.4	10.1	-1.9	-18.4	-17.0	-5.3	10.5	-8.5	-9.3
Derbyshire	-6.5	28.4	8.6	3.1	-8.2	-14.5	-2.3	-3.5	-8.0	11.9
Devon and Cornwall	-8.0	5.9	4.7	-21.1	-19.4	-9.5	-3.4	-6.0	-2.0	2.0
Dorset	-11.3	-4.0	22.2	9.0	-15.0	-15.9	-10.9	-0.2	-5.0	-18.8
Durham	-7.5	1.5	-2.8	-35.7	-6.7	-11.8	-5.2	-9.1	-9.1	29.6
Essex	-10.5	-5.3	16.5	-5.0	-14.1	-16.3	-7.2	-1.7	-7.5	-1.4
Gloucestershire	-11.4	-14.2	-11.8	-12.8	-10.6	-18.0	-4.5	-8.2	-11.5	17.7
Greater Manchester	-6.3	25.3	16.2	0.4	-9.5	-11.2	-2.5	4.4	-5.8	0.9
Hampshire	-8.5	17.6	13.9	-3.8	-11.2	-19.5	-5.9	-3.2	-6.2	19.1
Hertfordshire	-8.1	9.6	-3.3	-11.3	-9.7	-13.3	-2.3	8.7	-8.4	-9.9
Humberside	-4.4	2.2	14.0	1.3	-4.4	-9.6	-2.0	-11.3	-2.8	6.9
Kent	-16.9	-16.3	-15.2	-5.1	-20.8	-18.0	-14.2	-7.1	-17.1	3.5
Lancashire	-3.7	-2.4	13.0	-4.0	-9.3	-6.6	3.9	-3.2	-2.2	-1.7
Leicestershire	-13.7	3.1	22.4	-38.8	-25.0	-20.8	-6.3	-14.7	1.0	62.2
Lincolnshire	-7.8	13.0	12.3	-22.5	-17.7	-23.4	12.0	20.4	-13.8	22.7
London, City of	13.5	23.1	223.5	0.0	45.0	14.4	7.0	14.4	4.0	7.7
Merseyside	-13.7	-1.9	1.7	-28.3	-10.8	-23.0	-12.8	-0.4	-12.0	16.4
Metropolitan Police	-6.1	10.7	9.0	-13.5	-14.1	-8.9	0.0	12.4	-13.7	16.0
Norfolk	-3.6	15.9	13.8	-13.7	-6.9	-3.3	-3.7	-16.5	-4.3	8.0
Northamptonshire	-5.8	6.3	-3.8	-12.3	-9.2	-10.9	-0.1	1.6	-5.3	14.3
Northumbria	-17.4	-9.1	-6.5	-10.2	-19.2	-15.6	-7.6	5.3	-26.0	-0.3
North Yorkshire	-11.7	3.9	-15.8	11.9	-18.7	-15.2	-3.0	-6.8	-14.9	0.9
Nottinghamshire	-11.1	-6.2	-8.5	-8.0	-10.3	-13.7	-8.0	-14.3	-13.3	-12.2
South Yorkshire	-13.6	3.9	7.2	-21.8	-13.5	-21.9	-1.5	-10.7	-15.2	11.2
Staffordshire	-2.4	-2.6	2.3	-1.0	-4.1	-6.0	0.0	9.8	0.2	5.8
Suffolk	-3.9	14.6	14.0	-9.6	-4.5	-11.2	-3.2	-16.3	-1.6	2.8
Surrey	-8.5	22.0	37.5	-9.4	-11.6	-14.5	-6.2	-4.1	-12.1	6.0
Sussex	-5.5	-4.6	0.9	-0.1	-4.4	-5.3	-8.9	6.4	-4.3	-2.1
Thames Valley	-8.6	-0.1	-6.2	-12.1	-14.0	-9.9	-4.7	-8.3	-6.1	-5.0
Warwickshire	-8.2	-0.8	7.7	-25.5	-9.6	-10.7	-6.7	-7.9	-6.5	8.7
West Mercia	-6.7	2.9	42.8	-13.3	-0.6	-14.3	-8.2	-0.7	-5.7	13.1
West Midlands	-12.2	17.4	9.1	-17.3	-12.9	-17.5	-6.7	-23.9	-12.1	38.9
West Yorkshire	-9.1	-2.3	3.1	-16.4	-15.4	-14.9	-3.8	3.4	1.3	-0.9
Wiltshire	-8.0	11.6	0.9	7.2	-16.4	-8.0	-4.0	-9.8	-11.6	-0.5
Dyfed-Powys	-5.1	1.6	31.1	-27.7	-14.8	-17.0	-1.3	-20.2	-1.6	16.4
Gwent	6.0	21.4	9.0	28.9	5.0	-0.8	2.0	8.4	11.5	-4.0
North Wales	-0.8	4.4	14.3	0.9	-15.6	-15.0	-8.2	-17.4	41.9	-1.5
South Wales	-7.8	6.4	2.8	-12.8	-12.8	-9.0	-4.0	-2.9	-8.0	1.5
England and Wales	-8.8	5.8	6.8	-13.5	-12.8	-13.6	-3.9	-0.6	-8.9	7.7

Percentages in italics are based on totals of less than 100 offences.

England and Wales 1993-1997					Percentages
Police force area	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<hr/>					
Avon and Somerset	17	21	23	24	26
Bedfordshire	21	22	22	33	35
Cambridgeshire	25	25	19	24	27
Cheshire	26	30	31	34	36
Cleveland	27	19	25	24	25
Cumbria	38	37	40	36	40
Derbyshire	21	21	20	21	25
Devon and Cornwall	25	27	27	30	32
Dorset	33	30	28	27	29
Durham	30	32	30	30	31
Essex	32	36	33	29	27
Gloucestershire	20	24	27	23	24
Greater Manchester	34	34	24	17	20
Hampshire	26	27	28	28	30
Hertfordshire	21	24	28	30	32
Humberside	16	17	19	20	20
Kent	25	29	26	32	31
Lancashire	35	33	34	33	30
Leicestershire	28	30	29	31	34
Lincolnshire	37	32	39	42	48
London, City of	22	27	23	27	24
Merseyside	39	33	27	29	31
Metropolitan Police	17	22	25	23	25
Norfolk	28	34	31	32	37
Northamptonshire	27	31	28	34	35
Northumbria	20	22	23	24	26
North Yorkshire	30	25	23	25	26
Nottinghamshire	29	28	23	28	28
South Yorkshire	20	24	24	23	29
Staffordshire	29	31	32	34	35
Suffolk	37	35	34	33	37
Surrey	20	30	31	29	33
Sussex	24	24	28	29	26
Thames Valley	21	22	23	25	25
Warwickshire	21	24	25	24	27
West Mercia	29	29	28	26	28
West Midlands	27	25	24	23	24
West Yorkshire	18	20	21	24	27
Wiltshire	35	36	32	29	32
<hr/>					
England	25	26	26	26	27
<hr/>					
Dyfed-Powys	50	53	57	58	61
Gwent	45	47	50	50	51
North Wales	36	39	32	33	34
South Wales	28	24	29	32	36
<hr/>					
Wales	34	32	34	37	41
<hr/>					
England and Wales	25	26	26	26	28

(1) Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

Police force area	Percentage of offences cleared up	Method of clear-up						
		Charge or summons	Caution	TIC (previously recorded)	Other	Primary means (2)	TIC (not previously recorded)	Interview of convicted prisoner
Avon and Somerset	26	10	2	1	8	21	1	4
Bedfordshire	35	12	6	4	8	29	0	5
Cambridgeshire	27	12	3	2	5	21	0	5
Cheshire	36	25	3	3	3	34	1	1
Cleveland	25	14	5	4	1	24	0	0
Cumbria	40	20	4	3	7	33	2	5
Derbyshire	25	13	5	1	2	21	0	4
Devon and Cornwall	32	14	5	1	8	28	0	4
Dorset	29	14	2	1	7	24	0	5
Durham	31	19	2	2	2	25	1	4
Essex	27	13	5	2	3	23	2	3
Gloucestershire	24	11	4	2	2	18	1	4
Greater Manchester	20	12	3	2	2	19	0	0
Hampshire	30	17	4	1	6	27	1	2
Hertfordshire	32	11	4	4	3	22	2	9
Humberside	20	11	2	1	5	19	0	1
Kent	31	12	5	3	6	27	1	3
Lancashire	30	17	3	2	3	25	1	5
Leicestershire	34	14	3	2	5	25	1	8
Lincolnshire	48	16	4	2	11	33	1	14
London, City of	24	17	5	0	1	23	0	1
Merseyside	31	17	2	2	3	25	1	5
Metropolitan Police	25	10	5	1	7	22	1	2
Norfolk	37	17	6	2	5	29	0	7
Northamptonshire	35	15	4	3	7	29	1	6
Northumbria	26	12	5	7	2	26	0	0
North Yorkshire	26	15	2	1	3	22	1	3
Nottinghamshire	28	13	4	2	2	21	1	7
South Yorkshire	29	14	3	1	1	20	0	9
Staffordshire	35	14	4	2	6	25	1	8
Suffolk	37	19	5	2	7	33	0	4
Surrey	33	13	6	1	6	26	0	6
Sussex	26	11	5	1	6	22	1	3
Thames Valley	25	10	4	2	5	20	0	4
Warwickshire	27	12	4	2	3	20	0	7
West Mercia	28	13	4	1	3	21	0	7
West Midlands	24	11	3	5	2	21	1	2
West Yorkshire	27	14	2	5	2	23	0	4
Wiltshire	32	17	5	2	6	30	0	2
Dyfed-Powys	61	34	11	2	6	53	1	6
Gwent	51	24	7	3	10	43	2	6
North Wales	34	21	4	1	3	29	1	4
South Wales	36	15	3	2	3	23	0	13
England and Wales	28	13	4	2	4	24	1	4

(1) Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

(2) See note 5 on page 23.

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence	1996	1997	Change 1996-7		Offences cleared up (1) 1997	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1 Murder) 4.1 Manslaughter) Homicide 4.2 Infanticide)	681	711	30	4.4	650	91
2 Attempted murder	674	655	-19	-2.8	605	92
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	8,533	9,634	1,101	12.9	7,721	80
4.3 Child destruction	2	14	12	600.0	6	43
4.4) Causing death by dangerous driving 4.6) Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	320	290	-30	-9.4	296	102(1)
37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	34	12	-22	-64.7	16	133(1)
5 Wounding or other act endangering life	12,169	12,654	485	4.0	9,532	75
6 Endangering railway passenger	12	11	-1	-8.3	8	73
More serious offences	22,425	23,981	1,556	6.9	18,834	79
7 Endangering life at sea	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Other wounding	216,467	228,662	12,195	5.6	177,815	78
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years	65	59	-6	-9.2	50	85
13 Child abduction	374	399	25	6.7	230	58
14 Procuring illegal abortion	7	1	-6	-85.7	1	100
15 Concealment of birth	4	5	1	25.0	4	80
Less serious offences	216,917	229,126	12,209	5.6	178,100	78
Total violence against the person	239,342	253,107	13,765	5.8	196,934	78
16 Buggery	728	654	-74	-10.2	607	93
17 Indecent assault on a male	3,130	3,546	416	13.3	3,004	85
18 Indecency between males	553	521	-32	-5.8	487	93
19 Rape - of a female - of a male	5,759 231	6,337 342	578 111	14.4 51.3	4,945 277	78 81
20 Indecent assault on a female	17,643	18,838	1,195	6.8	13,312	71
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	171	151	-20	-11.7	121	80
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	1,261	1,126	-135	-10.7	1,021	91
23 Incest	157	186	29	18.5	173	93
24 Procuration	132	136	4	3.0	107	79
25 Abduction	313	280	-33	-10.5	126	45
26 Bigamy	98	78	-20	-20.4	73	94
74 Gross indecency with a child	1,215	1,319	104	8.6	1,127	85
Total sexual offences	31,391	33,514	2,123	6.8	25,380	76

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence	1996	1997	Change 1996-7		Offences cleared up (1)	
					1997	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
34 Robbery	74,035	64,077	-9,958	-13.5	17,193	27
Total violent crime	344,768	350,698	5,930	1.7	239,507	68
28 Burglary in a dwelling	599,372	517,168	-82,204	-13.7	130,817	25
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	2,756	2,940	184	6.7	1,497	51
30 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	562,019	495,273	-66,746	-11.9	96,465	19
31 Aggravated burglary in building other than a dwelling	436	410	-26	-6.0	156	38
Total burglary	1,164,583	1,015,791	-148,792	-12.8	228,935	23
37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking	7,794	8,043	249	3.2	4,790	60
39 Theft from the person of another	59,331	57,859	-1,472	-2.5	6,376	11
40 Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	37,955	38,575	620	1.6	13,769	36
41 Theft by an employee	16,314	17,278	964	5.9	13,350	77
42 Theft or unauthorised taking of mail	3,902	3,664	-238	-6.1	688	19
43 Abstracting electricity	2,473	3,324	851	34.4	3,031	91
44 Theft of pedal cycle	148,970	138,893	-10,077	-6.8	11,221	8
45 Theft from vehicle	799,552	710,089	-89,463	-11.2	89,796	13
46 Theft from shops	282,052	274,077	-7,975	-2.8	203,664	74
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter	13,041	13,580	539	4.1	2,974	22
48 Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	485,695	399,526	-86,169	-17.7	80,117	20
49 Other theft or unauthorised taking	488,979	467,239	-21,740	-4.4	61,549	13
54 Handling stolen goods	37,888	34,038	-3,850	-10.2	33,047	97
Total theft and handling stolen goods	2,383,946	2,166,185	-217,761	-9.1	524,372	24
51 Fraud by company director	39	15	-24	-61.5	12	80
52 False accounting	1,728	1,826	98	5.7	1,747	96
53 Other fraud	125,609	125,378	-231	-0.2	55,908	45
60 Forgery or use of false drug prescription	1,071	944	-127	-11.9	768	81
61 Other forgery	7,778	7,291	-487	-6.3	6,123	84
Total fraud and forgery	136,225	135,454	-771	-0.6	64,558	48

England and Wales		Number of offences and percentages				
Offence	1996	1997	Change 1996-7		Offences cleared up (1) 1997	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
56 Arson	31,068	31,495	427	1.4	5,005	16
57 Criminal damage endangering life	316	374	58	18.4	184	49
58 Other criminal damage: all values excluding value £20 and under	917,448	832,360	-85,088	-9.3
	749,272	704,152	-45,120	-6.0	135,168	19
59 Threat etc, to commit criminal damage	2,442	2,762	320	13.1	2,309	84
Total criminal damage: all values excluding value £20 and under	951,274	866,991	-84,283	-8.9
	783,098	738,783	-44,315	-5.7	142,666	19
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc	6,275	6,191	-84	-1.3	6,014	97
35 Blackmail	957	914	-43	-4.5	671	73
36 Kidnapping	1,429	1,584	155	10.8	1,261	80
64 Riot	2	6	4	200.0	5	83
65 Violent disorder	2,026	2,054	28	1.4	1,904	93
66 Other offence against the State or public order	14,114	16,229	2,115	15.0	15,549	96
67 Perjury	246	317	71	28.9	283	89
68 Libel	-	5	-	-	2	40
76 Aiding suicide	9	13	4	44.4	14	108(1)
77 Trafficking in controlled drugs	22,122	23,278	1,156	5.2	22,579	97
79 Perverting the course of justice	5,914	6,801	887	15.0	6,417	94
80 Absconding from lawful custody	1,410	1,384	-26	-1.8	1,347	97
99 Other offences	1,253	1,269	16	1.3	1,152	91
Total other offences	55,757	60,045	4,288	7.7	57,198	95
Total: including all criminal damage excl. criminal damage £20 and under	5,036,553	4,595,164	-441,389	-8.8
	4,868,377	4,466,956	-401,421	-8.2	1,257,236	28

(1) Offences cleared up in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year.

.. Not available.

Percentages in italics are based on totals of less than 100 offences.

NOTES

1. The coverage and more details of the series of notifiable offences recorded by the police can be found in Chapter 2 (which gives figures for 1986-1996) and Appendices 2 and 3 of "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 1996" (Cm 3764). From 1 April 1998, the coverage of notifiable offences has been expanded to include all indictable offences, all triable-either-way offences, and closely associated summary offences. The guidance rules issued by the Home Office to the police on how to count crime were also revised on that date.

2. The propensity of the public to report offences to the police is related to various factors. These include actions of the insurance industry, which in some cases:

- require offences to be reported to the police before claims are considered;
- relate householders' premiums to the level of previous claims.

More details on the level of reporting can be found in reports of the British Crime Survey. Results from the 1996 BCS are reported in **The 1996 British Crime Survey** by Catriona Mirrlees-Black, Pat Mayhew and Andrew Percy, Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 19/96.

3. Crimes that can be compared between the British Crime Survey and recorded crime are burglary, thefts of and from vehicles, theft of a pedal cycle, theft from the person, criminal damage, wounding and robbery.

4. The metropolitan police force areas are taken to be the Metropolitan Police District, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.

5. The definition adopted by the Audit Commission for primary and secondary clear-ups has been used. The term "primary clear-up" refers to offences deemed to be cleared up by means of a charge, summons or caution, taken into consideration (previously recorded) and other methods. "Secondary clear-ups" include offences taken into consideration (not previously recorded), and those which involve attributing an offence to someone already charged or convicted of another offence.

6. This bulletin has been prepared by the members of the Recorded Crime section which forms part of the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit in the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate. The Crime and Criminal Justice Unit would like to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the police force statistics officers and the Home Office Data Collection Unit in providing and collating the statistics. If you have any enquiries about the figures in this bulletin, or wish to request further analysis of the

data (for which there may be a charge), you should contact David Povey or any member of his section. The address is:

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7. Additional copies of this bulletin, together with other Research and Statistics Directorate publications, can be obtained by contacting:

RSD Information and Publications Group,
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telephone: 0171-273 2084
e-mail: rsd.ho.apollo@gt.net.gov.uk
internet site: http://www.open.gov.uk/home_off/rsd/rsdhome.htm

8. Press enquiries should be made to:

Home Office Press Office,
Communication Directorate,
50 Queen Anne's Gate,
London, SW1H 9AT.
telephone: 0171-273 4600

9. The next edition of the notifiable offence bulletin, together with initial findings from the 1998 British Crime Survey, will be published on Tuesday 13 October 1998. It will cover the 12 months to March 1998. All subsequent issues will contain data for notifiable offences that have been classified and counted under a new set of Home Office rules. These rules came into force on 1 April 1998. The first bulletin under the new rules, covering the 12 months to March 1999, will be published in late summer 1999, after which the six-monthly schedule will resume.

The Home Office
Research and Statistics Directorate
Mission Statement

The Research and Statistics Directorate is an integral part of the Home Office, serving Ministers and the department, its services, Parliament and the public through research, development and statistics. Information and knowledge from these sources informs policy development and the management of programmes; their dissemination improves wider public understanding of matters of Home Office concern.
