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Police Service Strength

England and Wales, 30 September 2005

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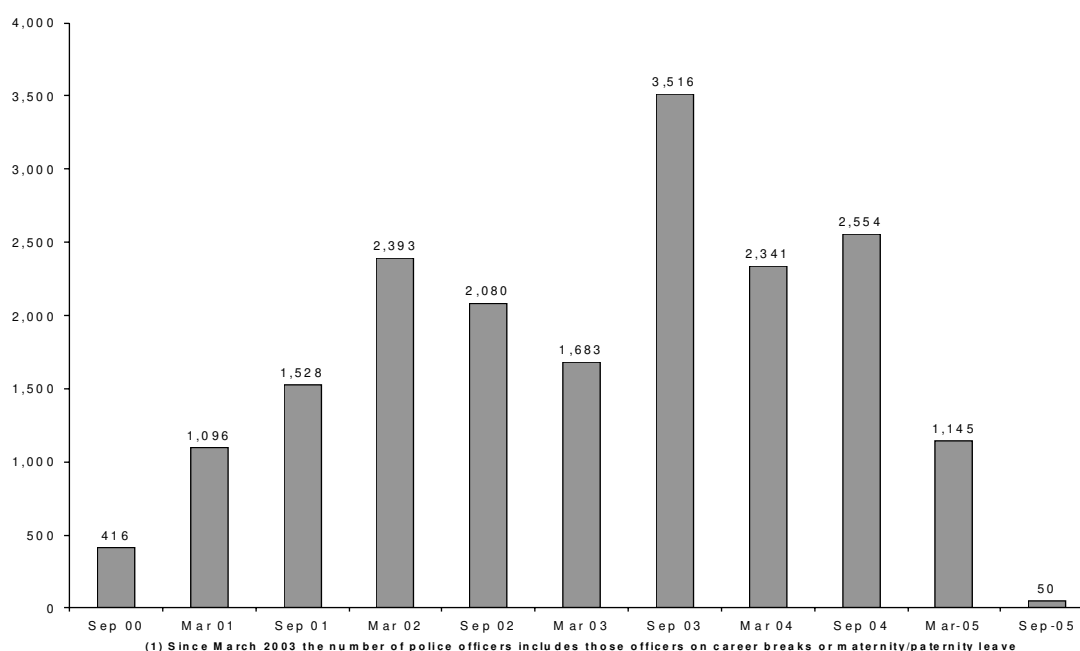
23 January 2006

Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2005

MAIN POINTS

- There were 142,972 police officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2005.
- This total includes 141,250 police officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales and 1,722 officers seconded to the National Crime Squad (NCS), the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) and Central Services.
- Police officer numbers have increased by 1,195 or 0.8 per cent compared with September 2004 and by 50 or less than 0.1 per cent change compared with March 2005.
- An additional 2,319 officers represent the British Transport Police across England and Wales.
- The largest regional percentage increase was in the Yorkshire and the Humber region where police officer numbers have increased by 2.3 per cent since September 2004.
- Police staff numbers (including NCS and NCIS) stand at 73,357, an increase of 4.5 per cent compared with September 2004, and an increase of 1.9 per cent compared with March 2005.
- There were 6,324 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on 30 September 2005, a rise of 53 per cent since September 2004 and a rise of one per cent since March 2005.
- The number of Traffic Wardens has decreased by 24.8 per cent to 1,151 compared with September 2004. The total number of Designated Officers (S.38, excluding PCSOs) in England and Wales on 30 September 2005 was 1,291.

Figure 1: Change in number of police officers from the previous six months⁽¹⁾



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. 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 (and Director Generals of NCIS and NCS) to exercise specified 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. The National Crime Squad and National Criminal Intelligence Service are partly staffed by officers and police staff seconded under section 97 of the Police Act 1996. Staff are appointed from a police force area to these organisations and return to their home force at the end of their secondment. Central Services include Centrex and the Home Office.
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 statistics, please contact David Povey or Michelle Clegg at RDS (CRCSG), Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF (Tel 020 7035 0289).

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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 (fte)			
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-04	Mar-05	Sep-05	Sep-04	Mar-05	Sep-05	Sept 04 - Sept 05	Sept 04 - Sept 05	Mar 05 - Sept 05	Mar 05 - Sept 05
	fte			fte			number	%	number	%
North East	7,433	7,553	7,434	7,338	7,442	7,330	1	0.0	-119	-1.6
Cleveland	1,591	1,689	1,649	1,591	1,676	1,640	58	3.7	-40	-2.3
Durham	1,708	1,738	1,723	1,680	1,718	1,704	15	0.9	-15	-0.9
Northumbria	4,135	4,127	4,062	4,067	4,048	3,986	-73	-1.8	-65	-1.6
North West	19,448	19,536	19,436	19,236	19,327	19,192	-12	-0.1	-100	-0.5
Cheshire	2,167	2,233	2,184	2,125	2,186	2,136	16	0.8	-49	-2.2
Cumbria	1,246	1,260	1,263	1,227	1,232	1,241	17	1.3	2	0.2
Greater Manchester	8,166	8,119	8,060	8,083	8,041	7,966	-106	-1.3	-59	-0.7
Lancashire	3,593	3,586	3,602	3,544	3,551	3,550	9	0.3	17	0.5
Merseyside	4,275	4,339	4,327	4,257	4,317	4,300	52	1.2	-11	-0.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,649	12,797	12,938	12,550	12,679	12,823	289	2.3	141	1.1
Humberside	2,259	2,252	2,267	2,243	2,230	2,244	7	0.3	15	0.7
North Yorkshire	1,553	1,567	1,591	1,546	1,553	1,582	38	2.4	24	1.5
South Yorkshire	3,358	3,307	3,351	3,315	3,265	3,306	-7	-0.2	45	1.4
West Yorkshire	5,479	5,671	5,729	5,446	5,631	5,691	250	4.6	58	1.0
East Midlands	9,428	9,437	9,454	9,325	9,344	9,354	27	0.3	17	0.2
Derbyshire	2,071	2,082	2,050	2,055	2,070	2,033	-21	-1.0	-32	-1.5
Leicestershire	2,289	2,311	2,278	2,263	2,284	2,254	-12	-0.5	-33	-1.4
Lincolnshire	1,233	1,234	1,221	1,216	1,221	1,207	-12	-1.0	-13	-1.0
Northamptonshire	1,287	1,289	1,343	1,264	1,267	1,320	57	4.4	55	4.2
Nottinghamshire	2,548	2,522	2,562	2,526	2,502	2,541	15	0.6	40	1.6
West Midlands	13,823	13,880	13,868	13,646	13,716	13,727	46	0.3	-12	-0.1
Staffordshire	2,310	2,309	2,286	2,283	2,280	2,254	-24	-1.0	-23	-1.0
Warwickshire	1,007	1,012	1,002	1,002	1,011	999	-5	-0.5	-9	-0.9
West Mercia	2,373	2,406	2,398	2,331	2,369	2,363	25	1.0	-8	-0.3
West Midlands	8,133	8,154	8,182	8,030	8,056	8,111	50	0.6	28	0.3
Eastern	10,799	10,892	10,924	10,692	10,757	10,790	125	1.2	33	0.3
Bedfordshire	1,222	1,232	1,225	1,204	1,215	1,205	3	0.3	-7	-0.6
Cambridgeshire	1,428	1,408	1,463	1,413	1,395	1,444	35	2.5	55	3.9
Essex	3,119	3,230	3,208	3,093	3,190	3,168	89	2.9	-23	-0.7
Hertfordshire	2,162	2,145	2,145	2,135	2,104	2,118	-17	-0.8	0	0.0
Norfolk	1,547	1,554	1,577	1,536	1,541	1,559	30	1.9	23	1.5
Suffolk	1,321	1,323	1,307	1,310	1,313	1,296	-15	-1.1	-16	-1.2
London	31,338	31,954	32,015	30,986	31,586	31,651	677	2.2	61	0.2
London, City of	879	881	890	875	876	883	12	1.3	9	1.1
Metropolitan Police	30,460	31,073	31,125	30,111	30,710	30,767	665	2.2	51	0.2
South East	16,784	16,722	16,739	16,499	16,436	16,420	-45	-0.3	17	0.1
Hampshire	3,820	3,803	3,800	3,744	3,725	3,710	-19	-0.5	-3	-0.1
Kent	3,621	3,630	3,633	3,578	3,586	3,570	12	0.3	3	0.1
Surrey	1,935	1,959	1,948	1,894	1,915	1,906	13	0.7	-11	-0.6
Sussex	3,183	3,141	3,140	3,124	3,096	3,100	-43	-1.4	0	0.0
Thames Valley	4,225	4,189	4,217	4,160	4,114	4,134	-8	-0.2	28	0.7
South West	10,737	10,808	10,791	10,637	10,717	10,685	54	0.5	-18	-0.2
Avon & Somerset	3,414	3,398	3,310	3,399	3,384	3,294	-104	-3.0	-88	-2.6
Devon & Cornwall	3,349	3,399	3,448	3,310	3,369	3,405	99	2.9	49	1.4
Dorset	1,468	1,475	1,490	1,447	1,450	1,463	22	1.5	15	1.0
Gloucestershire	1,288	1,308	1,305	1,269	1,291	1,291	17	1.3	-3	-0.2
Wiltshire	1,217	1,228	1,238	1,212	1,222	1,232	20	1.7	10	0.8
Wales	7,508	7,606	7,649	7,454	7,538	7,575	141	1.9	43	0.6
Dyfed-Powys	1,173	1,183	1,178	1,172	1,174	1,162	6	0.5	-4	-0.4
Gwent	1,415	1,438	1,472	1,415	1,438	1,472	57	4.1	34	2.4
North Wales	1,620	1,669	1,644	1,608	1,645	1,627	24	1.5	-25	-1.5
South Wales	3,301	3,316	3,355	3,260	3,281	3,314	54	1.6	39	1.2
Total of all 43 forces	139,947	141,187	141,250	138,363	139,543	139,547	1,302	0.9	63	0.0
National Crime Squad (NCS)	1,105	1,059	1,004	1,105	1,059	1,004	-101	-9.1	-55	-5.2
National Crime Intelligence Squad (NCIS)	153	121	110	153	121	110	-43	-28.1	-11	-9.1
Central Service Secondments	572	555	608	572	555	608	36	6.3	53	9.6
British Transport Police	2,111	2,278	2,319	2,100	2,264	2,252	208	9.9	41	1.8
Total police officer strength	143,888	145,200	145,291	142,293	143,542	143,522	1,403	1.0	91	0.1
Total police officer strength (excluding BTP)	141,777	142,922	142,972	140,193	141,278	141,270	1,195	0.8	50	0.0

(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 (fte)			
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-04	Mar-05	Sep-05	Sep-04	Mar-05	Sep-05	Sept 04 - Sept 05	Sept 04 - Sept 05	Mar 05 - Sept 05	Mar 05 - Sept 05
	fte		fte			number	%	number	%	
North East	2,977	2,976	3,010	2,956	2,948	2,980	34	1.1	34	1.1
Cleveland	810	748	705	810	742	705	-105	-12.9	-44	-5.8
Durham	670	736	725	660	735	723	55	8.3	-11	-1.5
Northumbria	1,497	1,491	1,580	1,487	1,470	1,552	83	5.5	89	6.0
North West	8,815	9,026	9,069	8,655	8,892	8,911	254	2.9	43	0.5
Cheshire	1,164	1,151	1,093	1,131	1,125	1,067	-71	-6.1	-58	-5.0
Cumbria	722	730	717	711	718	703	-5	-0.7	-14	-1.9
Greater Manchester	3,329	3,303	3,353	3,274	3,248	3,300	24	0.7	50	1.5
Lancashire	1,656	1,715	1,734	1,615	1,686	1,691	78	4.7	19	1.1
Merseyside	1,944	2,126	2,172	1,924	2,114	2,151	228	11.8	46	2.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,365	6,721	6,916	6,323	6,653	6,828	551	8.7	194	2.9
Humberside	997	1,034	1,068	990	1,026	1,051	71	7.1	34	3.3
North Yorkshire	905	943	962	900	930	943	57	6.3	19	2.0
South Yorkshire	1,599	1,729	1,798	1,586	1,698	1,765	199	12.5	69	4.0
West Yorkshire	2,864	3,016	3,088	2,847	2,998	3,068	224	7.8	72	2.4
East Midlands	5,096	5,165	5,133	5,011	5,066	5,034	37	0.7	-32	-0.6
Derbyshire	1,163	1,165	1,125	1,143	1,129	1,108	-39	-3.3	-40	-3.4
Leicestershire	1,001	1,033	1,040	981	1,009	1,004	40	3.9	7	0.7
Lincolnshire	663	678	681	653	671	675	18	2.7	3	0.5
Northamptonshire	953	973	934	938	958	918	-19	-2.0	-39	-4.0
Nottinghamshire	1,316	1,318	1,353	1,297	1,299	1,329	38	2.9	36	2.7
West Midlands	6,381	6,568	6,683	6,253	6,456	6,598	302	4.7	115	1.8
Staffordshire	1,307	1,325	1,331	1,291	1,313	1,318	24	1.9	6	0.5
Warwickshire	574	590	603	568	587	603	29	5.0	13	2.2
West Mercia	1,449	1,511	1,548	1,402	1,473	1,512	98	6.8	37	2.4
West Midlands	3,051	3,143	3,201	2,991	3,083	3,164	150	4.9	59	1.9
Eastern	6,625	6,724	6,974	6,527	6,645	6,871	350	5.3	251	3.7
Bedfordshire	674	713	789	654	706	780	115	17.0	76	10.6
Cambridgeshire	824	832	862	817	817	849	39	4.7	30	3.6
Essex	1,907	1,968	2,009	1,897	1,955	1,981	102	5.4	41	2.1
Hertfordshire	1,424	1,414	1,436	1,388	1,382	1,408	11	0.8	22	1.6
Norfolk	965	984	1,032	958	982	1,018	67	7.0	48	4.9
Suffolk	831	813	846	814	803	835	15	1.8	33	4.1
London	13,363	13,859	14,146	12,919	13,425	13,733	783	5.9	288	2.1
London, City of	295	298	297	291	298	296	1	0.5	-1	-0.4
Metropolitan Police	13,068	13,561	13,849	12,629	13,127	13,437	782	6.0	289	2.1
South East	10,047	10,258	10,570	9,895	10,096	10,369	523	5.2	312	3.0
Hampshire	1,944	1,965	2,046	1,929	1,944	2,018	102	5.3	81	4.1
Kent	2,183	2,228	2,289	2,157	2,198	2,246	106	4.8	61	2.7
Surrey	1,419	1,472	1,443	1,376	1,431	1,398	25	1.7	-28	-1.9
Sussex	1,900	1,982	2,056	1,872	1,950	2,017	156	8.2	74	3.7
Thames Valley	2,601	2,611	2,736	2,561	2,573	2,689	135	5.2	125	4.8
South West	6,366	6,394	6,455	6,316	6,321	6,333	89	1.4	61	1.0
Avon & Somerset	2,058	2,005	1,983	2,036	1,984	1,921	-75	-3.7	-22	-1.1
Devon & Cornwall	1,983	2,034	2,050	1,971	2,007	2,036	67	3.4	15	0.7
Dorset	866	881	919	866	871	904	53	6.1	38	4.3
Gloucestershire	653	663	674	643	648	656	21	3.2	11	1.7
Wiltshire	805	811	829	800	811	816	24	3.0	18	2.3
Wales	3,507	3,591	3,687	3,453	3,513	3,595	180	5.1	95	2.6
Dyfed-Powys	558	531	564	558	525	546	5	0.9	33	6.1
Gwent	661	688	735	661	688	735	74	11.2	47	6.8
North Wales	796	862	882	791	836	854	86	10.8	20	2.3
South Wales	1,492	1,510	1,507	1,444	1,465	1,461	15	1.0	-4	-0.3
Total of all 43 forces	69,539	71,281	72,642	68,309	70,013	71,252	3,103	4.5	1,361	1.9
National Crime Squad (NCS)	633	674	714	633	674	714	81	12.7	40	5.9
National Crime Intelligence Squad (NCIS ⁽³⁾)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
British Transport Police	709	973	1,039	705	968	1,027	330	46.6	66	6.8
Total police staff strength	70,882	72,928	74,396	69,647	71,655	72,994	3,515	5.0	1,468	2.0
Total police staff strength (excluding BTP)	70,173	71,955	73,357	68,942	70,687	71,967	3,185	4.5	1,402	1.9

(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.

(3) NCIS unable to provide figures for September 04 and March 05

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-04	Mar-05	Sep-05	Sept 04 - Sept 05	Mar 05 - Sept 05		
	fte			number	%	number	%
North East	162	297	300	138	85	3	1
Cleveland	75	98	86	11	15	-12	-12
Durham	36	69	72	36	99	3	4
Northumbria	51	130	143	92	180	13	10
North West	456	698	680	223	49	-18	-3
Cheshire	47	81	77	30	64	-4	-5
Cumbria	6	17	19	13	213	2	11
Greater Manchester	198	269	264	66	33	-5	-2
Lancashire	115	161	159	44	38	-2	-1
Merseyside	90	170	161	71	79	-9	-5
Yorkshire and the Humber	367	614	647	280	76	33	5
Humberside	0	20	20	20	-	0	-2
North Yorkshire	46	75	69	23	50	-6	-8
South Yorkshire	57	125	125	68	119	0	0
West Yorkshire	264	394	433	169	64	40	10
East Midlands	196	373	390	194	99	17	4
Derbyshire	0	43	43	43	-	0	0
Leicestershire	54	103	119	65	121	16	15
Lincolnshire	46	75	78	32	70	3	4
Northamptonshire	27	39	38	11	41	-1	-3
Nottinghamshire	69	113	112	43	62	-1	-1
West Midlands	163	419	450	287	176	31	7
Staffordshire	13	63	62	49	374	-1	-2
Warwickshire	43	56	56	13	30	0	0
West Mercia	67	81	86	18	27	4	5
West Midlands	40	219	247	207	518	28	13
Eastern	307	503	563	255	83	60	12
Bedfordshire	26	37	43	17	67	6	17
Cambridgeshire	56	87	92	36	64	5	6
Essex	80	179	193	113	141	14	8
Hertfordshire	75	98	135	59	79	36	37
Norfolk	55	68	67	12	21	-1	-1
Suffolk	15	34	33	18	122	-1	-3
London	1,810	2,158	2,067	257	14	-91	-4
London, City of	0	14	14	14	-	0	0
Metropolitan Police	1,810	2,144	2,053	243	13	-91	-4
South East	325	572	568	243	75	-4	-1
Hampshire	0	26	23	23	-	-3	-12
Kent	58	105	103	45	77	-2	-2
Surrey	77	115	102	25	32	-13	-11
Sussex	183	228	231	48	26	3	1
Thames Valley	7	98	109	102	1,452	11	11
South West	239	373	377	138	58	4	1
Avon & Somerset	82	139	146	64	77	7	5
Devon & Cornwall	57	74	75	18	31	1	1
Dorset	22	47	56	34	152	9	18
Gloucestershire	49	72	62	13	27	-10	-13
Wiltshire	28	41	38	10	36	-3	-7
Wales	100	255	282	182	182	28	11
Dyfed-Powys	4	25	24	20	495	-1	-5
Gwent	26	77	81	55	212	4	5
North Wales	5	46	61	56	1,120	15	33
South Wales	65	107	116	51	79	10	9
Total PCSO strength	4,125	6,261	6,324	2,198	53	62	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.

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.