

**21 July 2011**

**Statistical News Release: Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2011**

The latest National Statistics on police service strength in England and Wales produced by the Home Office are released today (21 July 2011).

Statistics on police strength for the 43 police forces of England and Wales and for the British Transport Police are published for the financial year ending 31 March 2011.

The key points from the latest release are:

There were 139,110 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2011. This is a decrease of 3.2 per cent or 4,625 officers compared to a year earlier, and follows a decrease of 35 officers in the twelve months prior to that.

Police officer strength, including officers from the British Transport Police and those seconded to Central Services (such as the National Policing Improvement Agency or Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary), was 142,217 FTE as at 31 March 2011, a decrease of 3.2 per cent or 4,695 on the previous year.

There were 6,615 FTE minority ethnic officers in the 43 English and Welsh police forces as at 31 March 2011, 4.8 per cent of the total strength, compared with 4.6 per cent a year earlier.

FTE police staff numbers (excluding PCSOs, traffic wardens and designated officers) for the 43 police forces of England and Wales stand at 74,010 as at 31 March 2011, a decrease of 7.0 per cent compared to a year earlier.

The total number of FTE police community support officers in the 43 forces of England and Wales was 15,820 as at 31 March 2011, a decrease of 6.5 per cent on the previous year.

There were 18,421 special constables as at 31 March 2011, 18.8 per cent more than the previous year.

Overall, there were 233,255 FTE staff (officers and staff) working in the 43 police forces of England and Wales.

**Notes to editors**

1. 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2011' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office website.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1311/>

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