

26 July 2012

Statistical News Release: Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2012

The latest National Statistics on police service strength in England and Wales produced by the Home Office are released today (26 July 2012).

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 2012.

The key points from the latest release are:

There were 134,101 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2012. This is a decrease of 3.6 per cent or 5,009 officers compared to a year earlier, and follows a decrease of 4,625 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 137,139 FTE as at 31 March 2012, a decrease of 3.6 per cent or 5,078 on the previous year.

There were 6,664 FTE minority ethnic officers in the 43 English and Welsh police forces as at 31 March 2012, 5.0 per cent of the total strength, compared with 4.8 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 67,474 as at 31 March 2012, a decrease of 8.8 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 14,393 as at 31 March 2012, a decrease of 9.0 per cent on the previous year.

There were 20,343 special constables as at 31 March 2012, 10.4 per cent more than the previous year.

Overall, there were 220,067 FTE workers (officers and staff) in the 43 police forces of England and Wales.



Home Office



Notes to editors

1. 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2012' 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/hosb0912/>

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office:

Newsdesk - **020 7035 3535**

Monday - Thursday: 07:00 - 21:00

Friday: 07:00 - 20:00

Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: **07659 174 240**

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only.
Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.