



Home Office

# Home Office Statistical Bulletin



## Police Service Strength

England and Wales, 30 September 2011

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## Further information

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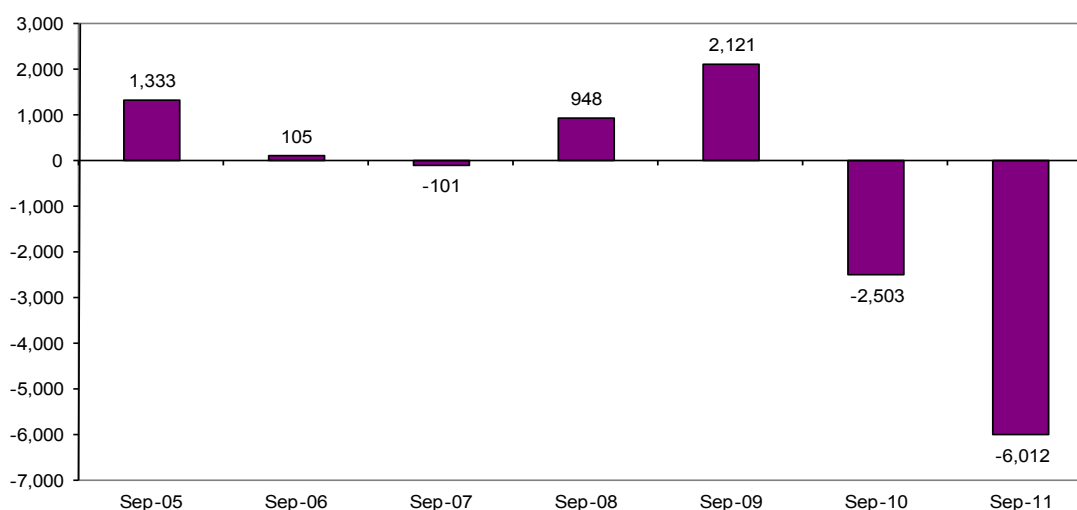
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## Main Points

- There were 136,261 Police Officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2011.
- This total includes 135,838 Police Officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and 423 officers seconded to central services.
- An additional 2,610 officers represent the British Transport Police across England and Wales.
- Police Officer numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces have decreased by 6,012 or 4.2 per cent compared with September 2010 and have decreased by 3,271 or 2.4 per cent compared with March 2011. This is the lowest number of Police Officers recorded since 2002. Only one force, Surrey Police, has increased police officer numbers over the period: by 97 or 5.2 per cent since September 2010 and by 76 or 4.0 per cent since March 2011.
- Police staff numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces stand at 69,407 (full-time equivalents), a decrease of 8,820 or 11.3 per cent compared with September 2010, and a decrease of 4,817 or 6.5 per cent compared with March 2011.
- There were 15,469 full-time equivalent Police Community Support Officers, or PCSOs, in the 43 English and Welsh police forces on 30 September 2011, a decline of 5.5 per cent (907) since September 2010, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent (350) since March 2011.
- The total number of Designated Officers (Section 38, excluding PCSOs) in England and Wales was 3,746 (full-time equivalents), an increase of 6.3 per cent (222) since September 2010, but a decrease of 0.7 per cent (25) since March 2011. While Designated Officers are given certain powers that Police Officers have, they are not Police Officers themselves. See note 5 for a further explanation of Designated Officers.
- Additionally, there were 19,366 special constables (headcount) in the 43 forces of England and Wales, an increase of 15.5 per cent (2,594) since September 2010, and an increase of 5.1 per cent (945) since March 2011.

Figure 1: Change in the number of Police Officers (FTE)<sup>1</sup> from the previous 12 months



1. Police numbers from 43 England and Wales Forces only. Full-time equivalent rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 1: Police Officer strength by police force area, English regions and Wales (full-time equivalents) <sup>(1)</sup>

Police force area, English regions and Wales	Police Officers			Police Officers			
	Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-10	Mar-11	Sep-11	Sept 10 - Sept 11	%	Mar 11 - Sept 11	%
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
<b>North East</b>	<b>7,301</b>	<b>7,189</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>-334</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-222</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Cleveland	1,694	1,655	1,569	-126	-7.4	-86	-5.2
Durham	1,463	1,431	1,386	-77	-5.2	-45	-3.2
Northumbria	4,144	4,102	4,012	-132	-3.2	-90	-2.2
<b>North West</b>	<b>19,306</b>	<b>18,795</b>	<b>18,407</b>	<b>-899</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>-389</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Cheshire	2,148	2,079	2,040	-108	-5.0	-39	-1.9
Cumbria	1,220	1,180	1,155	-65	-5.3	-25	-2.1
Greater Manchester	7,976	7,791	7,656	-320	-4.0	-135	-1.7
Lancashire	3,549	3,448	3,363	-186	-5.3	-86	-2.5
Merseyside	4,414	4,297	4,193	-221	-5.0	-104	-2.4
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>12,102</b>	<b>11,835</b>	<b>11,530</b>	<b>-572</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>-305</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Humberside	2,001	1,952	1,901	-100	-5.0	-51	-2.6
North Yorkshire	1,452	1,458	1,432	-19	-1.3	-26	-1.8
South Yorkshire	2,977	2,888	2,834	-143	-4.8	-54	-1.9
West Yorkshire	5,673	5,536	5,363	-310	-5.5	-174	-3.1
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>9,246</b>	<b>9,059</b>	<b>8,746</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-313</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Derbyshire	2,076	2,021	1,920	-156	-7.5	-101	-5.0
Leicestershire	2,258	2,211	2,176	-82	-3.6	-35	-1.6
Lincolnshire	1,197	1,202	1,174	-22	-1.9	-28	-2.3
Northamptonshire	1,337	1,306	1,262	-75	-5.6	-45	-3.4
Nottinghamshire	2,379	2,319	2,214	-165	-6.9	-105	-4.5
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>13,853</b>	<b>13,398</b>	<b>13,074</b>	<b>-779</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-324</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Staffordshire	2,116	2,079	2,016	-100	-4.7	-63	-3.0
Warwickshire	949	919	879	-70	-7.4	-40	-4.4
West Mercia	2,303	2,251	2,188	-116	-5.0	-64	-2.8
West Midlands	8,485	8,149	7,992	-493	-5.8	-157	-1.9
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>11,318</b>	<b>11,079</b>	<b>10,832</b>	<b>-485</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-247</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Bedfordshire	1,242	1,214	1,186	-56	-4.5	-28	-2.3
Cambridgeshire	1,441	1,398	1,364	-77	-5.4	-33	-2.4
Essex	3,639	3,577	3,497	-142	-3.9	-80	-2.2
Hertfordshire	2,092	2,048	2,005	-87	-4.2	-43	-2.1
Norfolk	1,631	1,598	1,569	-61	-3.8	-29	-1.8
Suffolk	1,272	1,244	1,211	-62	-4.8	-34	-2.7
<b>London</b>	<b>33,778</b>	<b>33,319</b>	<b>32,510</b>	<b>-1,267</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-809</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
London, City of	878	878	854	-24	-2.7	-25	-2.8
Metropolitan Police	32,900	32,441	31,657	-1,243	-3.8	-784	-2.4
<b>South East</b>	<b>16,897</b>	<b>16,688</b>	<b>16,505</b>	<b>-392</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-183</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Hampshire	3,702	3,658	3,595	-107	-2.9	-63	-1.7
Kent	3,741	3,668	3,579	-163	-4.4	-89	-2.4
Surrey <sup>(3)</sup>	1,864	1,885	1,961	97	5.2	76	4.0
Sussex	3,177	3,102	3,022	-156	-4.9	-81	-2.6
Thames Valley	4,412	4,375	4,349	-64	-1.4	-26	-0.6
<b>South West</b>	<b>10,701</b>	<b>10,460</b>	<b>10,149</b>	<b>-551</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
Avon & Somerset	3,264	3,210	3,109	-155	-4.7	-101	-3.2
Devon & Cornwall	3,526	3,436	3,312	-213	-6.1	-124	-3.6
Dorset	1,478	1,452	1,421	-58	-3.9	-32	-2.2
Gloucestershire	1,295	1,262	1,237	-58	-4.5	-24	-1.9
Wiltshire	1,138	1,099	1,071	-68	-5.9	-28	-2.6
<b>Wales</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>7,288</b>	<b>7,117</b>	<b>-232</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-170</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Dyfed-Powys	1,175	1,157	1,145	-30	-2.5	-12	-1.0
Gwent	1,508	1,501	1,477	-31	-2.1	-24	-1.6
North Wales	1,558	1,530	1,505	-53	-3.4	-24	-1.6
South Wales	3,108	3,100	2,990	-118	-3.8	-110	-3.6
<b>Total of all 43 forces</b>	<b>141,850</b>	<b>139,109</b>	<b>135,838</b>	<b>-6,012</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>-3,271</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Central Service Secondments	513	476	423	-90	-17.6	-53	-11.2
British Transport Police <sup>(2)</sup>	2,652	2,631	2,610	-42	-1.6	-22	-0.8
<b>Total Police Officer Strength</b>	<b>145,015</b>	<b>142,217</b>	<b>138,871</b>	<b>-6,144</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>-3,346</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
<b>Total Police Officer Strength (excluding BTP)</b>	<b>142,363</b>	<b>139,585</b>	<b>136,261</b>	<b>-6,102</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-3,324</b>	<b>-2.4</b>

(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.

(2) The figure for the British Transport Police for March has been revised since it was last published. The revised figure is for officers in England and Wales only, and does not include figures for Scotland.

(3) Surrey Police has informed the Home Office that it intends to increase the frontline by recruiting around 200 police constables in this financial year. The force underwent reductions in officers numbers between 2006 and 2009, several years before England and Wales as a whole.

Table 2: Police staff <sup>(1)</sup> strength by police force area, English regions and Wales (full-time equivalents) <sup>(2)</sup>

Police force area, English regions and Wales	Police staff			Police staff			
	Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-10	Mar-11	Sep-11	Sept 10 - Sept 11	%	Mar 11 - Sept 11	%
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
<b>North East</b>	<b>3,540</b>	<b>2,889</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>-1,010</b>	<b>-28.5</b>	<b>-359</b>	<b>-12.4</b>
Cleveland	713	235	223	-489	-68.7	-11	-4.8
Durham	855	739	707	-148	-17.3	-32	-4.3
Northumbria	1,972	1,915	1,600	-373	-18.9	-316	-16.5
<b>North West</b>	<b>10,031</b>	<b>9,536</b>	<b>9,101</b>	<b>-929</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>-435</b>	<b>-4.6</b>
Cheshire	1,439	1,353	1,290	-149	-10.3	-63	-4.7
Cumbria	761	739	698	-63	-8.2	-41	-5.5
Greater Manchester	3,822	3,577	3,383	-439	-11.5	-194	-5.4
Lancashire	1,908	1,858	1,801	-107	-5.6	-58	-3.1
Merseyside	2,101	2,008	1,929	-172	-8.2	-79	-4.0
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>8,331</b>	<b>8,009</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>-1,130</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>-808</b>	<b>-10.1</b>
Humberside	1,403	1,330	1,255	-148	-10.6	-75	-5.7
North Yorkshire	1,153	1,253	918	-235	-20.4	-336	-26.8
South Yorkshire	2,311	2,125	1,982	-328	-14.2	-143	-6.7
West Yorkshire	3,464	3,300	3,046	-418	-12.1	-254	-7.7
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>5,819</b>	<b>5,503</b>	<b>5,010</b>	<b>-810</b>	<b>-13.9</b>	<b>-493</b>	<b>-9.0</b>
Derbyshire	1,189	1,121	998	-191	-16.1	-123	-10.9
Leicestershire	1,130	1,044	1,001	-129	-11.4	-43	-4.1
Lincolnshire	873	826	794	-79	-9.1	-32	-3.9
Northamptonshire	1,120	1,064	967	-152	-13.6	-97	-9.1
Nottinghamshire	1,507	1,448	1,249	-258	-17.1	-198	-13.7
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>7,207</b>	<b>6,741</b>	<b>6,257</b>	<b>-950</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>-484</b>	<b>-7.2</b>
Staffordshire	1,234	1,180	1,110	-124	-10.0	-70	-6.0
Warwickshire	744	720	569	-175	-23.5	-150	-20.9
West Mercia	1,686	1,658	1,570	-115	-6.8	-87	-5.3
West Midlands	3,544	3,184	3,008	-536	-15.1	-176	-5.5
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>7,132</b>	<b>6,737</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>-748</b>	<b>-10.5</b>	<b>-353</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
Bedfordshire	820	788	769	-51	-6.2	-19	-2.4
Cambridgeshire	993	882	822	-171	-17.2	-60	-6.8
Essex	1,981	1,923	1,764	-217	-11.0	-159	-8.2
Hertfordshire	1,409	1,346	1,304	-104	-7.4	-42	-3.1
Norfolk	1,018	919	883	-134	-13.2	-36	-3.9
Suffolk	913	880	842	-71	-7.8	-39	-4.4
<b>London</b>	<b>14,372</b>	<b>14,025</b>	<b>13,459</b>	<b>-913</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-566</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
London, City of	325	337	333	9	2.7	-4	-1.1
Metropolitan Police	14,047	13,688	13,126	-922	-6.6	-562	-4.1
<b>South East</b>	<b>11,519</b>	<b>10,914</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>-1,232</b>	<b>-10.7</b>	<b>-627</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
Hampshire	2,260	1,961	1,883	-377	-16.7	-79	-4.0
Kent	2,386	2,313	2,135	-252	-10.5	-179	-7.7
Surrey	1,854	1,805	1,730	-124	-6.7	-75	-4.1
Sussex	2,133	1,949	1,818	-315	-14.8	-131	-6.7
Thames Valley	2,885	2,885	2,721	-164	-5.7	-164	-5.7
<b>South West</b>	<b>6,145</b>	<b>5,928</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>-635</b>	<b>-10.3</b>	<b>-417</b>	<b>-7.0</b>
Avon & Somerset	1,896	1,830	1,723	-172	-9.1	-107	-5.8
Devon & Cornwall	1,730	1,667	1,569	-162	-9.3	-99	-5.9
Dorset	993	963	870	-123	-12.4	-93	-9.7
Gloucestershire	725	707	650	-75	-10.4	-57	-8.1
Wiltshire	801	760	699	-102	-12.8	-62	-8.1
<b>Wales</b>	<b>4,130</b>	<b>3,942</b>	<b>3,667</b>	<b>-463</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-275</b>	<b>-7.0</b>
Dyfed-Powys	671	643	587	-83	-12.4	-55	-8.6
Gwent	815	721	691	-124	-15.2	-30	-4.1
North Wales	845	830	744	-102	-12.0	-86	-10.4
South Wales	1,800	1,749	1,645	-154	-8.6	-103	-5.9
<b>Total of all 43 forces</b>	<b>78,227</b>	<b>74,224</b>	<b>69,407</b>	<b>-8,820</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>-4,817</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
British Transport Police <sup>(3)</sup>	1,270	1,320	1,288	18	1.4	-32	-2.4

(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) Figures for the British Transport Police have been revised since it was last published. The revised figures are for staff in England and Wales only, and do not include figures for Scotland.

Table 3: Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) strength by police force area, English regions and Wales (full-time equivalents) <sup>(1)</sup>

Police force area, English regions and Wales	Police Community Support Officers						
	Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-10	Mar-11	Sep-11	Sept 10 - Sept 11		Mar 11 - Sept 11	
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
<b>North East</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Cleveland	190	178	172	-19	-9.9	-7	-3.7
Durham	170	174	168	-2	-1.3	-6	-3.6
Northumbria	429	433	429	0	-0.1	-4	-0.8
<b>North West</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>-89</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-56</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
Cheshire	223	221	209	-14	-6.2	-12	-5.4
Cumbria	106	104	100	-7	-6.1	-4	-4.0
Greater Manchester	829	837	801	-28	-3.4	-36	-4.3
Lancashire	412	386	390	-22	-5.3	4	1.0
Merseyside	450	440	432	-18	-4.0	-8	-1.8
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Humberside	316	309	306	-9	-3.0	-3	-0.9
North Yorkshire	187	182	179	-9	-4.6	-4	-2.0
South Yorkshire	314	311	298	-16	-5.0	-13	-4.3
West Yorkshire	728	713	747	19	2.6	34	4.8
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Derbyshire	185	177	173	-12	-6.3	-4	-2.2
Leicestershire	226	232	221	-5	-2.0	-10	-4.5
Lincolnshire	137	144	146	9	6.5	3	1.9
Northamptonshire	168	166	163	-6	-3.3	-3	-2.0
Nottinghamshire	279	273	270	-9	-3.3	-3	-1.2
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>-85</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-3.4</b>
Staffordshire	230	228	213	-17	-7.4	-15	-6.7
Warwickshire	137	136	121	-16	-11.9	-15	-10.9
West Mercia	281	273	278	-3	-1.0	5	1.7
West Midlands	784	758	736	-49	-6.2	-22	-2.9
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>-61</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Bedfordshire	126	125	123	-3	-2.5	-3	-2.3
Cambridgeshire	193	200	194	1	0.5	-6	-3.0
Essex	419	404	396	-24	-5.7	-9	-2.2
Hertfordshire	257	252	258	1	0.4	6	2.3
Norfolk	277	264	253	-24	-8.5	-10	-4.0
Suffolk	170	162	157	-12	-7.3	-5	-2.9
<b>London</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>4,053</b>	<b>3,943</b>	<b>-492</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
London, City of	48	44	40	-8	-17.6	-4	-9.7
Metropolitan Police	4,387	4,009	3,903	-484	-11.0	-106	-2.6
<b>South East</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>1,794</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Hampshire	335	344	337	2	0.6	-7	-2.0
Kent	380	364	352	-28	-7.5	-12	-3.3
Surrey	234	229	227	-7	-2.9	-2	-0.8
Sussex	367	351	337	-30	-8.2	-14	-4.0
Thames Valley	502	506	511	9	1.7	4	0.8
<b>South West</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
Avon & Somerset	424	416	374	-50	-11.8	-42	-10.1
Devon & Cornwall	348	353	352	4	1.0	-1	-0.4
Dorset	152	164	158	6	3.7	-5	-3.3
Gloucestershire	141	139	136	-5	-3.7	-3	-2.5
Wiltshire	141	133	145	5	3.3	12	9.3
<b>Wales</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
Dyfed-Powys	84	80	77	-6	-7.2	-3	-3.7
Gwent	144	142	139	-5	-3.7	-4	-2.5
North Wales	156	159	154	-2	-1.3	-5	-3.1
South Wales	310	304	297	-14	-4.5	-8	-2.6
<b>Total of all 43 forces</b>	<b>16,377</b>	<b>15,820</b>	<b>15,469</b>	<b>-907</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>-350</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
British Transport Police <sup>(2)</sup>	313	295	292	-20	-6.4	-3	-1.0

(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.

(2) The figure for the British Transport Police for March has been revised since it was last published. The revised figure is for officers in England and Wales only, and does not include figures for Scotland.

## NOTES

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1. This bulletin is a mid-year update of the annual police service strength bulletin. It contains figures on numbers of officers and staff, which should be treated as provisional and subject to possible revision in future police service strength publications. Finalised figures will appear in the annual bulletin, together with 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.
3. When comparing a time series of data it is normal to compare with a year earlier to avoid the effect of seasonal variation. However, in this bulletin both annual and six-month comparisons are made. This allows users to compare the interim figures with the main annual figures.
4. Police staff figures in this bulletin do not include contract staff employed by private companies. However, staff on fixed-term contracts are included.
5. (i) 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. Despite having these powers, Designated Officers are not Police Officers. They 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 (PCSO), Investigation Officer, Detention Officer and Escort Officer. Statistics on PCSOs are quoted separately.  
  
(ii) Police community support officers (PCSOs) are police staff employed by a police authority in a highly visible, patrolling role. They complement the work of police officers by focusing predominantly on lower-level crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. They also free up police officer time by taking on those policing functions that do not require the full expertise of a police officer.  
  
(iii) Special constables are part-time volunteer officers who have all the same powers as regular police officers.
6. Secondments from one police force to another are included in the total strength for the destination force and are therefore included in the total police officer strength for the 43 forces in England and Wales.
7. 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, from the 30 September 2006 bulletin (SB 04/07) onwards they no longer appear in these 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.