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Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2010

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21 January 2011

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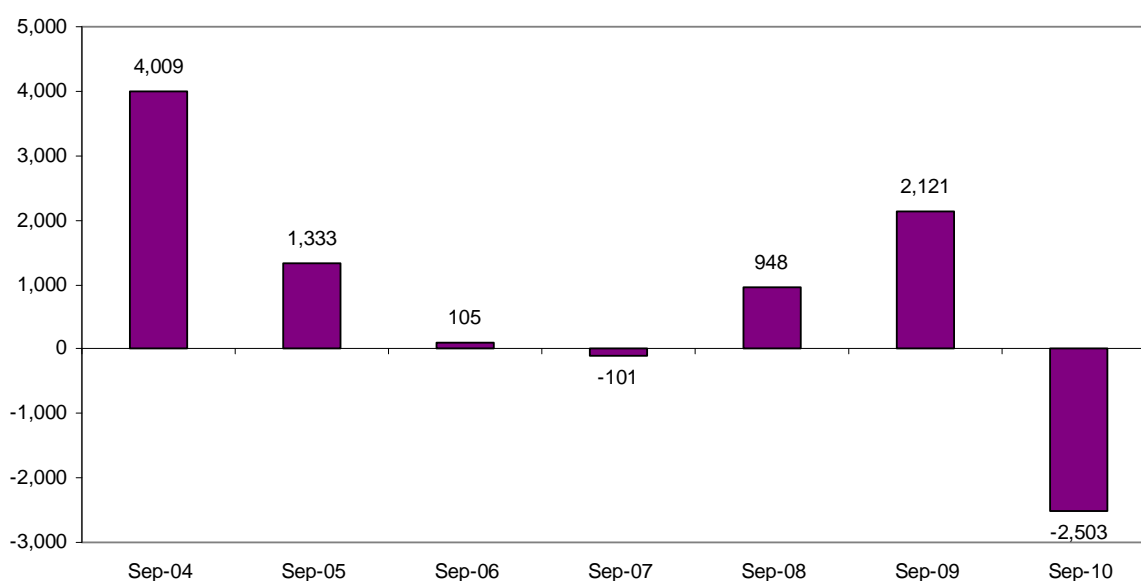
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Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2010

MAIN POINTS

- There were 142,363 Police Officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2010.
- This total includes 141,850 Police Officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and 513 officers seconded to central services.
- An additional 2,652 officers represent the British Transport Police across England and Wales.
- Police Officer numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces have decreased by 2,503 or 1.7 per cent compared with September 2009 and have decreased by 1,926 or 1.3 per cent compared with March 2010. Despite these falls, there were 566 more officers in September 2010 than in September 2007.
- Police staff numbers for the 43 English and Welsh forces stand at 78,120 (full-time equivalents), a decrease of 2,193 or 2.7 per cent compared with September 2009, and a decrease of 1,475 or 1.9 per cent compared with March 2010.
- There were 16,376 full-time equivalent Police Community Support Officers, or PCSOs, in the 43 English and Welsh police forces on 30 September 2010, a decline of 2.6 per cent (438) since September 2009, and a decrease of 3.2 per cent (542) since March 2010.
- The total number of Designated Officers (Section 38, excluding PCSOs) in England and Wales was 3,632 (full-time equivalents), an increase of 18.5 per cent (567) since September 2009. 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 16,772 special constables (headcount) in the 43 forces of England and Wales, an increase of 15.5 per cent (2,256) since September 2009, and an increase of 8.2 per cent (1,267) since March 2010.

Figure 1: Change in the number of Police Officers¹ (FTE)² from the previous twelve 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 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			
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-09	Mar-10	Sep-10	Sep-09	Mar-10	Sep-10	Sept 09 - Sept 10	%	Mar 10 - Sept 10	%
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	7,388	7,419	7,301	7,245	7,290	7,173	-87	-1.2	-117	-1.6
Cleveland	1,721	1,724	1,694	1,681	1,700	1,666	-27	-1.6	-30	-1.7
Durham	1,545	1,507	1,463	1,520	1,486	1,443	-82	-5.3	-44	-2.9
Northumbria	4,122	4,187	4,144	4,044	4,104	4,064	21	0.5	-43	-1.0
North West	19,922	19,694	19,306	19,589	19,395	18,992	-616	-3.1	-388	-2.0
Cheshire	2,152	2,142	2,148	2,083	2,104	2,089	-4	-0.2	5	0.2
Cumbria	1,264	1,238	1,220	1,246	1,214	1,195	-44	-3.5	-18	-1.5
Greater Manchester	8,261	8,148	7,976	8,148	8,043	7,877	-285	-3.5	-172	-2.1
Lancashire	3,732	3,649	3,549	3,641	3,561	3,451	-184	-4.9	-100	-2.8
Merseyside	4,512	4,516	4,414	4,471	4,473	4,380	-98	-2.2	-103	-2.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,339	12,254	12,102	12,193	12,106	11,938	-237	-1.9	-152	-1.2
Humberside	2,071	2,058	2,001	2,042	2,028	1,961	-70	-3.4	-56	-2.7
North Yorkshire	1,468	1,486	1,452	1,451	1,461	1,407	-17	-1.1	-34	-2.3
South Yorkshire	2,999	2,953	2,977	2,962	2,915	2,949	-22	-0.7	24	0.8
West Yorkshire	5,800	5,759	5,673	5,738	5,702	5,621	-128	-2.2	-86	-1.5
East Midlands	9,412	9,349	9,246	9,316	9,241	9,131	-166	-1.8	-103	-1.1
Derbyshire	2,100	2,074	2,076	2,076	2,049	2,043	-24	-1.1	2	0.1
Leicestershire	2,344	2,317	2,258	2,325	2,295	2,236	-86	-3.7	-59	-2.5
Lincolnshire	1,211	1,206	1,197	1,191	1,190	1,176	-15	-1.2	-10	-0.8
Northamptonshire	1,346	1,343	1,337	1,328	1,323	1,320	-9	-0.7	-6	-0.4
Nottinghamshire	2,411	2,409	2,379	2,395	2,383	2,355	-32	-1.3	-30	-1.3
West Midlands	14,315	14,151	13,853	14,151	13,972	13,678	-462	-3.2	-298	-2.1
Staffordshire	2,178	2,161	2,116	2,157	2,128	2,087	-62	-2.8	-45	-2.1
Warwickshire	998	973	949	984	954	932	-93	-4.9	-24	-2.5
West Mercia	2,445	2,391	2,303	2,397	2,355	2,259	-142	-5.8	-88	-3.7
West Midlands	8,694	8,626	8,485	8,613	8,536	8,400	-210	-2.4	-141	-1.6
Eastern	11,416	11,364	11,318	11,214	11,171	11,143	-98	-0.9	-47	-0.4
Bedfordshire	1,252	1,246	1,242	1,230	1,225	1,217	-10	-0.8	-4	-0.3
Cambridgeshire	1,438	1,471	1,441	1,411	1,444	1,413	3	0.2	-30	-2.0
Essex	3,596	3,606	3,639	3,549	3,556	3,600	43	1.2	33	0.9
Hertfordshire	2,170	2,130	2,092	2,103	2,078	2,041	-78	-3.6	-37	-1.7
Norfolk	1,681	1,665	1,631	1,655	1,634	1,601	-51	-3.0	-34	-2.1
Suffolk	1,277	1,246	1,272	1,265	1,234	1,270	-5	-0.4	26	2.1
London	34,185	34,219	33,778	33,703	33,749	33,298	-407	-1.2	-441	-1.3
London, City of	811	852	878	800	844	863	67	8.2	25	3.0
Metropolitan Police	33,374	33,367	32,900	32,904	32,904	32,435	-474	-1.4	-466	-1.4
South East	17,129	17,119	16,897	16,810	16,797	16,603	-232	-1.4	-222	-1.3
Hampshire	3,770	3,748	3,702	3,662	3,640	3,620	-68	-1.8	-46	-1.2
Kent	3,858	3,834	3,741	3,778	3,757	3,671	-116	-3.0	-93	-2.4
Surrey	1,847	1,890	1,864	1,805	1,847	1,823	17	0.9	-25	-1.3
Sussex	3,236	3,213	3,177	3,201	3,181	3,139	-58	-1.8	-36	-1.1
Thames Valley	4,419	4,434	4,412	4,365	4,372	4,350	-6	-0.1	-22	-0.5
South West	10,899	10,839	10,701	10,732	10,687	10,531	-198	-1.8	-138	-1.3
Avon & Somerset	3,299	3,302	3,264	3,253	3,248	3,213	-35	-1.1	-38	-1.1
Devon & Cornwall	3,562	3,561	3,526	3,503	3,530	3,479	-37	-1.0	-36	-1.0
Dorset	1,489	1,486	1,478	1,446	1,447	1,439	-11	-0.7	-8	-0.6
Gloucestershire	1,345	1,309	1,295	1,332	1,291	1,276	-50	-3.7	-14	-1.1
Wiltshire	1,204	1,181	1,138	1,198	1,170	1,125	-65	-5.4	-42	-3.6
Wales	7,349	7,369	7,349	7,255	7,266	7,252	0	0.0	-20	-0.3
Dyfed-Powys	1,196	1,195	1,175	1,176	1,176	1,159	-21	-1.7	-20	-1.6
Gwent	1,429	1,437	1,508	1,422	1,426	1,480	80	5.6	71	5.0
North Wales	1,595	1,590	1,558	1,577	1,573	1,547	-37	-2.3	-32	-2.0
South Wales	3,129	3,148	3,108	3,081	3,092	3,067	-22	-0.7	-40	-1.3
Total of all 43 forces	144,353	143,776	141,850	142,209	141,674	139,740	-2,503	-1.7	-1,926	-1.3
Central Service Secondments	480	501	513	480	501	513	33	6.9	12	2.4
British Transport Police ⁽²⁾	2,686	2,677	2,652	2,667	2,664	2,633	-34	-1.3	-25	-0.9
Total Police Officer Strength	147,519	146,954	145,015	145,355	144,839	142,885	-2,504	-1.7	-1,939	-1.3
Total Police Officer Strength (excluding BTP)	144,833	144,277	142,363	142,688	142,175	140,253	-2,470	-1.7	-1,914	-1.3

(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.

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			
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Sep-09	Mar-10	Sep-10	Sep-09	Mar-10	Sep-10	Sept 09 - Sept 10	%	Mar 10 - Sept 10	%
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	3,605	3,591	3,540	3,504	3,518	3,442	-65	-1.8	-51	-1.4
Cleveland	705	700	713	678	682	685	8	1.1	13	1.9
Durham	934	881	855	912	869	841	-79	-8.4	-25	-2.9
Northumbria	1,966	2,010	1,972	1,914	1,966	1,916	6	0.3	-38	-1.9
North West	10,458	10,275	10,031	10,241	10,071	9,802	-427	-4.1	-244	-2.4
Cheshire	1,488	1,480	1,439	1,443	1,449	1,412	-49	-3.3	-41	-2.8
Cumbria	809	794	761	791	769	740	-47	-5.9	-33	-4.1
Greater Manchester	3,976	3,927	3,822	3,908	3,854	3,746	-154	-3.9	-105	-2.7
Lancashire	1,967	1,957	1,908	1,925	1,932	1,846	-59	-3.0	-49	-2.5
Merseyside	2,220	2,117	2,101	2,174	2,066	2,057	-119	-5.3	-16	-0.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,339	8,417	8,331	8,220	8,292	8,198	-8	-0.1	-86	-1.0
Humberside	1,428	1,415	1,403	1,403	1,382	1,369	-24	-1.7	-12	-0.8
North Yorkshire	1,138	1,159	1,153	1,117	1,135	1,123	15	1.3	-6	-0.5
South Yorkshire	2,242	2,304	2,311	2,189	2,256	2,269	69	3.1	7	0.3
West Yorkshire	3,531	3,539	3,464	3,512	3,518	3,436	-67	-1.9	-75	-2.1
East Midlands	6,116	5,982	5,819	6,001	5,868	5,689	-296	-4.8	-163	-2.7
Derbyshire	1,283	1,225	1,189	1,256	1,197	1,153	-94	-7.3	-35	-2.9
Leicestershire	1,253	1,151	1,130	1,225	1,127	1,101	-123	-9.8	-21	-1.8
Lincolnshire	856	879	873	850	868	860	17	2.0	-6	-0.7
Northamptonshire	1,180	1,161	1,120	1,162	1,144	1,104	-61	-5.2	-41	-3.5
Nottinghamshire	1,543	1,567	1,507	1,507	1,533	1,471	-36	-2.3	-60	-3.8
West Midlands	7,498	7,463	7,207	7,408	7,345	7,129	-292	-3.9	-256	-3.4
Staffordshire	1,315	1,315	1,234	1,314	1,300	1,221	-81	-6.2	-82	-6.2
Warwickshire	754	765	744	741	755	734	-10	-1.3	-21	-2.7
West Mercia	1,736	1,715	1,686	1,686	1,666	1,641	-50	-2.9	-30	-1.7
West Midlands	3,694	3,667	3,544	3,667	3,625	3,532	-150	-4.1	-123	-3.4
Eastern	7,443	7,414	7,132	7,286	7,262	6,963	-310	-4.2	-282	-3.8
Bedfordshire	820	825	820	805	811	804	0	0.0	-6	-0.7
Cambridgeshire	1,033	1,038	993	1,015	1,017	966	-40	-3.9	-46	-4.4
Essex	2,089	2,075	1,981	2,068	2,052	1,948	-108	-5.2	-93	-4.5
Hertfordshire	1,509	1,481	1,409	1,444	1,423	1,358	-100	-6.6	-73	-4.9
Norfolk	1,084	1,072	1,018	1,057	1,053	994	-67	-6.2	-55	-5.1
Suffolk	908	922	913	896	906	893	5	0.5	-10	-1.1
London	14,442	14,489	14,372	13,983	14,045	13,888	-70	-0.5	-117	-0.8
London, City of	295	310	325	289	305	317	29	10.0	15	4.9
Metropolitan Police	14,147	14,179	14,047	13,693	13,740	13,571	-100	-0.7	-132	-0.9
South East	11,683	11,549	11,412	11,415	11,266	11,147	-271	-2.3	-137	-1.2
Hampshire	2,254	2,271	2,260	2,206	2,211	2,216	5	0.2	-11	-0.5
Kent	2,471	2,381	2,280	2,399	2,306	2,219	-191	-7.7	-101	-4.2
Surrey	1,808	1,829	1,854	1,757	1,773	1,784	47	2.6	25	1.4
Sussex	2,156	2,139	2,133	2,113	2,094	2,093	-23	-1.1	-6	-0.3
Thames Valley	2,994	2,930	2,885	2,940	2,882	2,835	-108	-3.6	-44	-1.5
South West	6,597	6,227	6,145	6,502	6,107	6,030	-452	-6.8	-82	-1.3
Avon & Somerset	2,225	1,871	1,896	2,194	1,823	1,853	-329	-14.8	24	1.3
Devon & Cornwall	1,769	1,766	1,730	1,737	1,755	1,714	-39	-2.2	-36	-2.0
Dorset	1,012	1,027	993	1,005	1,001	970	-19	-1.8	-34	-3.3
Gloucestershire	721	729	725	706	713	712	4	0.6	-4	-0.5
Wiltshire	870	833	801	860	815	781	-69	-7.9	-32	-3.9
Wales	4,132	4,188	4,130	4,063	4,125	4,052	-2	0.0	-58	-1.4
Dyfed-Powys	659	692	671	649	682	665	12	1.8	-21	-3.1
Gwent	812	810	815	808	808	798	2	0.3	5	0.6
North Wales	878	876	845	862	860	831	-32	-3.7	-31	-3.5
South Wales	1,784	1,810	1,800	1,744	1,775	1,758	16	0.9	-10	-0.6
Total of all 43 forces	80,313	79,595	78,120	78,622	77,898	76,338	-2,193	-2.7	-1,475	-1.9
British Transport Police ⁽³⁾	1,298	1,297	1,270	1,278	1,291	1,247	-27	-2.1	-27	-2.1

(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 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-09	Mar-10	Sep-10	Sept 09 - Sept 10		Mar 10 - Sept 10	
	fte	fte	fte	number	%	number	%
North East	799	806	790	-9	-1.2	-16	-2.0
Cleveland	192	193	190	-2	-0.9	-3	-1.6
Durham	171	175	170	-1	-0.3	-5	-2.8
Northumbria	436	438	429	-7	-1.6	-9	-2.0
North West	2,017	2,086	2,020	4	0.2	-66	-3.1
Cheshire	214	237	223	10	4.5	-14	-5.9
Cumbria	107	111	106	-1	-1.0	-5	-4.4
Greater Manchester	811	842	829	18	2.3	-13	-1.5
Lancashire	428	428	412	-16	-3.8	-16	-3.7
Merseyside	457	468	450	-7	-1.5	-18	-3.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,586	1,606	1,545	-41	-2.6	-61	-3.8
Humberside	325	317	316	-9	-2.8	-2	-0.5
North Yorkshire	185	198	187	2	1.3	-11	-5.5
South Yorkshire	321	328	314	-7	-2.1	-14	-4.3
West Yorkshire	756	763	728	-28	-3.7	-34	-4.5
East Midlands	1,003	994	995	-7	-0.7	1	0.1
Derbyshire	194	181	185	-9	-4.6	4	2.2
Leicestershire	240	233	226	-14	-5.9	-7	-3.0
Lincolnshire	145	149	137	-8	-5.4	-11	-7.7
Northamptonshire	173	164	168	-4	-2.6	4	2.7
Nottinghamshire	252	268	279	28	11.0	11	4.1
West Midlands	1,481	1,466	1,432	-48	-3.3	-33	-2.3
Staffordshire	254	237	230	-24	-9.4	-7	-3.0
Warwickshire	139	138	137	-2	-1.5	-1	-0.5
West Mercia	279	279	281	2	0.7	1	0.4
West Midlands	809	811	784	-24	-3.0	-27	-3.3
Eastern	1,478	1,480	1,441	-38	-2.5	-39	-2.6
Bedfordshire	120	116	126	6	4.7	9	7.9
Cambridgeshire	199	209	193	-7	-3.4	-16	-7.7
Essex	442	445	419	-23	-5.2	-26	-5.7
Hertfordshire	264	262	257	-7	-2.7	-5	-2.0
Norfolk	275	275	277	2	0.8	2	0.7
Suffolk	178	173	170	-8	-4.6	-3	-1.8
London	4,684	4,697	4,435	-249	-5.3	-262	-5.6
London, City of	47	52	48	1	3.0	-4	-8.2
Metropolitan Police	4,637	4,645	4,387	-250	-5.4	-258	-5.6
South East	1,867	1,834	1,817	-50	-2.7	-17	-0.9
Hampshire	343	347	335	-8	-2.4	-12	-3.4
Kent	386	387	379	-7	-1.9	-8	-2.1
Surrey	223	224	234	11	4.8	10	4.5
Sussex	396	377	367	-29	-7.2	-9	-2.5
Thames Valley	518	500	502	-16	-3.1	2	0.3
South West	1,218	1,231	1,206	-11	-0.9	-25	-2.0
Avon & Somerset	428	430	424	-5	-1.1	-7	-1.5
Devon & Cornwall	360	363	348	-12	-3.2	-14	-4.0
Dorset	150	164	152	2	1.5	-11	-6.9
Gloucestershire	154	148	141	-13	-8.5	-7	-4.5
Wiltshire	125	126	141	16	12.9	14	11.4
Wales	682	717	694	12	1.7	-23	-3.3
Dyfed-Powys	73	83	84	11	14.9	1	1.2
Gwent	152	143	144	-8	-5.4	1	0.8
North Wales	158	157	156	-2	-1.5	-1	-0.5
South Wales	299	335	310	12	3.8	-25	-7.4
Total of all 43 forces	16,814	16,918	16,376	-438	-2.6	-542	-3.2
British Transport Police ⁽²⁾	333	335	313	-21	-6.2	-23	-6.7

(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

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. 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. 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. 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. The recent increases in numbers of Designated Officers reflect the continued increasing trend to employ specialist officers in investigation, detention and escort roles. This allows police officers to spend more time on frontline policing activities.
6. 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.
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.
8. The Policing Statistics Section would like to acknowledge the assistance of the police force personnel sections and the staff at the Police Data Collection Section in Home Office Statistics for the provision of the data.

Contact information:

Other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the RDS (Policing Statistics Group) Internet site: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

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This statistical bulletin is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit. The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the direct line management of a Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.