



Home Office

10 December 2015

Statistical News Release

Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: Arrests, outcomes and stop and search, Great Britain, quarterly update to September 2015

This statistical release brings together information on terrorism arrests and outcomes, prison populations, stop and search, and port examinations.

Terrorism arrests and outcomes

In the year ending September 2015:

- There were 315 persons arrested for terrorism-related offences, an increase of a third compared with the 235 arrests in the previous year.
- The number of females arrested more than doubled to 50 compared with 21 in the previous year.
- While the majority of the increase was driven by more arrests of persons in the '21-24' and '30 and over' age groups, the number of under 18s arrested nearly doubled compared with the previous year (from 8 to 15 arrests).
- Seventy-nine per cent of those arrested considered themselves to be of British, or British dual nationality. Since 2001, only 56% of those arrested were British, or British dual, showing that this has increased in more recent years.
- Thirty-nine per cent (124) of those arrested have been charged (as at 19 October 2015), and 37% (115) have been released without charge. A further 22% (68) have been released on bail. Of those charged, 90% were charged with terrorism-related offences.

Court proceedings

According to the Crown Prosecution Service, in the year ending September 2015, 51 persons were proceeded against for terrorism-related offences (up from 30 in the previous year). Of these, 43 were convicted. The majority of those convicted (28) received sentences of less than 4 years.

Terrorist and extremist/separatist prisoners

As at 30 September 2015, there were 170 persons in custody for terrorism-related offences and domestic extremism/separatism, this was an increase of 22 compared with the year before, but a decrease of 14 compared with the situation as at 30 June 2015.

Stops and searches under sections 43 and 47A of the Terrorism Act 2000

In the year ending September 2015:

- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) stopped and searched 473 persons under section 43 of TACT 2000. This represents a 31% increase on the previous year's total of 360. This contrasts with a 41% fall (of nearly 120,000) in total stops and searches carried out by the MPS in 2014/15 compared with the previous year.
- There were no stops and searches made under s47A of the Terrorism Act 2000. This follows the repeal of s44 and its replacement with s47A.

Port examinations under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000

In the year ending September 2015:

- Around 29,000 persons were stopped at ports in Great Britain under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000, a fall of 22% on the previous year.
- The number of detentions following examinations was 1,800, which almost tripled from the 680 in the previous year. This increase is in part due to the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which ensures a mandatory detention takes place where an examination lasts for more than an hour.

For the first time in this release, additional Schedule 7 data on sea and air freight examinations, strip searches, and postponement of questioning refusals are published.

Between 1 April and 30 September 2015, there were:

- A total of 2,152 air freight and 2,879 sea freight examinations conducted in Great Britain.
- Seven strip searches carried out under Schedule 7 and there were 3 cases where postponement of questioning was refused.

Notes to editors

Arrests and outcomes data are as at 19 October 2015, the date of data provision to the Home Office.

The next quarterly release is due to be published in spring 2015.

The report is available online through the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the GOV.UK website.

This statistical release has been produced by statisticians working in the Crime and Policing analysis Unit. Although this output is not currently given National Statistics accreditation, the protocols for such statistics have been mirrored as closely as possible.

The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the management of a Chief Statistician who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.