



21 July 2016

**Statistical News Release: Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2016**

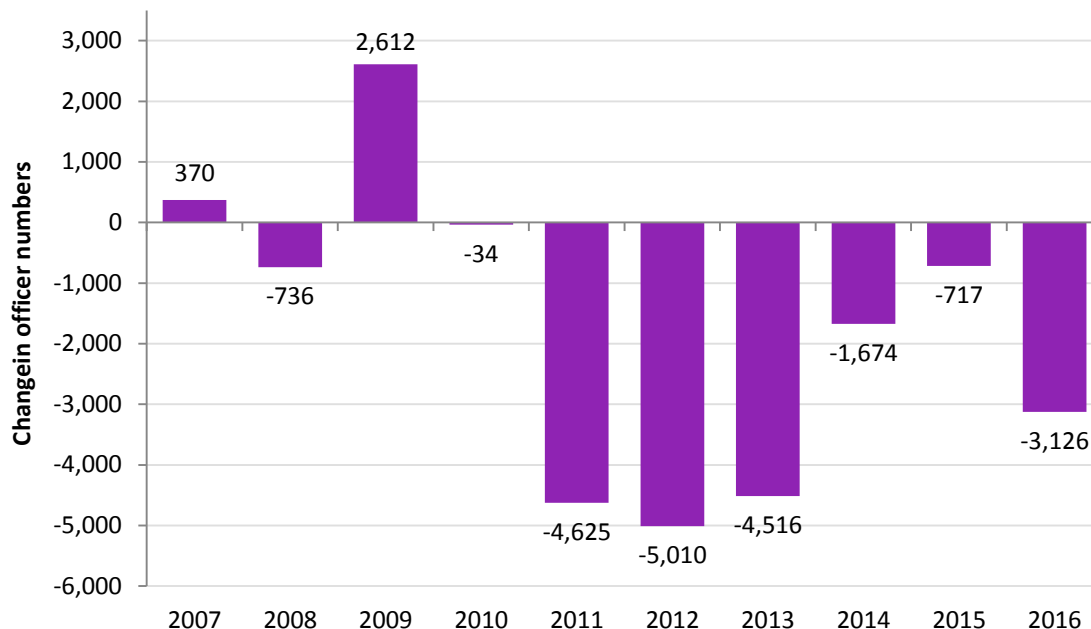
This bulletin contains statistics on the police workforce in the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, as at 31 March 2016.

Statistics are also presented on assaults against police officers. These are **NOT** National Statistics.

Total Workforce (excluding British Transport Police)

- The number of police workers fell by 3.3% between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016, to 200,922. This continues the downward trend of recent years.
- The number of police officers fell by 2.5% over the same period. This was a larger fall than those seen in the previous two years (see chart below).

**Change in the number of police officers, as at 31 March 2007 to 2016, compared with the previous period, England and Wales**



- The number of police staff (down 3.5%), Police Community Support Officers (down 10.7%), designated officers (down 2.9%), and special constables (down 0.5%) have fallen since 31 March 2015.

- The number of frontline officers fell by 4.0% between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016, but the proportion of all officers that were in frontline roles was unchanged between the two years, at 93.4%.
- The number of officers in local policing roles fell by 6.0% between 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2016, to 57,415.

#### Diversity in the police

- The proportion of female officers continued to rise. 28.6% of officers were female on 31 March 2016, an increase from 23.3% on 31 March 2007.
- The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers has also increased over the same period, from 3.9% to 5.9%.
- The proportion of joiners that were female or BME was higher than the proportion of the current workforce that were. This suggests a trend towards increasing diversity.

#### Officer Sickness

- The number of officers on long term sick leave as at 31 March 2016 was 11.5% higher than on 31 March 2015, at 2,429. In the latest year this accounted for 2.0% of all officers.

#### Assaults on police officers

- Data have been presented on the number of assaults on police officers in 2015/16. These are **NOT** National Statistics, as they are approximations based on limited data.
- These data are still being developed, and the Home Office intends to work with police forces to improve these data further in future years.
- Based on the available data, it is estimated that 23,000 assaults on police officers took place in 2015/16.

#### **Notes to editors**

The publication is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2016>

#### **Press enquiries**

Please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with the Crime and Policing Analysis Unit.

Newsdesk - 020 7035 3535

Monday - Thursday: 07:00 – 21:00

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Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 020 7035 6434

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only.

#### **Other enquiries**

Members of the public should phone 020 7035 4848.

Alternatively, email: [crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or write to:

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