



Home Office

27 July 2017

Statistical News Release: Police use of firearms statistics, England and Wales, April 2016 to March 2017

The Home Office published today the latest official statistics on police use of firearms in England and Wales.

The release contains statistics on the total number of police firearms operations, including operations involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs); incidents in which police firearms were discharged; and armed officers in the year ending 31 March 2017.

The statistics show that in the 43 Home Office funded police forces in England and Wales:

- There were a total of 15,705 police firearms operations in the year ending 31 March 2017. This represents an increase of 1,056 (7%) police firearms operations when compared with the previous year.
- In the year ending 31 March 2017, 84% of firearms operations involved Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs), compared with 85% in the previous year.
- There were ten incidents in which police firearms were discharged in the year ending 31 March 2017, up from seven incidents in the previous year.
- There were 6,278 armed officers on 31 March 2017; an increase of 639 (11%) from the previous year.

Notes to editors

1. 'Police use of firearms statistics, England and Wales, April 2016 to March 2017' is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-use-of-firearms-statistics>.

Press enquiries

For media enquiries, please call the Home Office newsdesk on 020 7035 3535.

This line operates Monday to Friday, 7am to 8pm. Urgent calls outside these hours can be made to a pager service on 07659 174 240.

The Home Office press office only deals with enquiries from the media.

Other enquiries

If you are not a member of the media, please use the Home Office public enquiries line: 020 7035 4848.