



Home Office



# **Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: Arrests, outcomes, and stop and search, Great Britain, financial year ending March 2018**

Statistical Bulletin 09/18

14 June 2018

## Further information

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The quarterly Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 publication and other Home Office statistical releases are available from the [Statistics at Home Office](#) pages on the GOV.UK website.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the [GOV.UK statistical release calendar](#).

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This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Crime and Policing Analysis Unit in accordance with the Home Office's [Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), which covers Home Office policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office Official Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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# 1 Key findings

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## 1.1 Arrests and outcomes

There were 441 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the year ending 31 March 2018, an increase of 17% compared with the 378 arrests in the previous year. This was the highest number of arrests in a year since the data collection began. This includes:

- 23 arrests in connection with the Manchester Arena terrorist attack (22 May 2017)
- 21 arrests in connection with the London Bridge attack (3 June 2017)
- 1 arrest in connection with the Finsbury Park Mosque attack (19 June 2017)
- 7 arrests in connection with the Parsons Green attack (15 September 2017)

Of the 441 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the year ending 31 March 2018:

- 143 (32%) resulted in a charge, of which 114 (80%) were terrorism-related
- 250 (57%) were released without charge
- 27 (6%) persons were released on bail pending further investigation
- 20 (5%) faced alternative action
- 1 case was pending at the time of data provision (as at 13 April 2018)

Of the 114 persons charged with a terrorism-related offence, 41 had been prosecuted, of which, 39 were convicted and 2 were found not guilty. 67 people were awaiting prosecution, 3 were not proceeded against, and 3 received other outcomes.

## 1.2 Court proceedings

In the year ending 31 March 2018, 81 persons were tried by the Crown Prosecution Service Counter Terrorism Division (CPS CTD) for terrorism-related offences, an increase of 2 (3%) on the 79 persons tried in the previous year. Of the 81 persons proceeded against, 72 (89%) were convicted. In one case the trial was not concluded due to the death of the defendant and, in the remaining 8 cases, the defendant was found not guilty.

## 1.3 Terrorist prisoners

As at 31 March 2018, there were 228 persons in custody in Great Britain for terrorism-related offences, an increase of 27% on the 180 persons in the previous year. This continues the upward trend seen in the last few years. This was the highest number of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences since the data collection began in 2009.

Of those in custody, the majority (82%) were categorised as holding Islamist extremist views, a further 13% as holding far right-wing ideologies and 6% other ideologies.

Of those in custody:

- 174 (76%) had been convicted
- 54 (24%) were being held on remand (held in custody until a later date when a trial or a sentencing hearing will take place)

## 1.4 Use of other police powers

In the year ending 31 March 2018:

- the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) carried out 768 stop and searches under section 43 of the Terrorism Act (TACT) 2000, an increase of 70% on the 453 stop and searches conducted in the previous year
- the number of resultant arrests increased by 33 on the previous year, from 31 to 64. This led to an increase in the arrest rate to 8% in the latest year, compared with 7% in the previous year
- the power of stop and search under section 47a of TACT 2000 was authorised for the first time (in the year to March 2018) since the threshold for use of this power was raised in 2011. There were 128 searches carried out under section 47a by the British Transport Police, North Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Police, which resulted in 4 arrests; City of London Police authorised the use of this power, but no searches were carried out
- the number of physical examinations of suspects under Schedule 7 of TACT 2000 in Great Britain decreased by 15% when compared to the previous year, from 18,103 to 15,391 examinations, continuing the downward trend seen in recent years

## 2 Introduction

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### 2.1 Time period covered and data sources

This release covers the use of police powers under terrorism and subsequent legislation in Great Britain on a quarterly basis up to the year ending 31 March 2018 and also covers arrests for terrorist related activity under other legislation. The latest reporting period covers activities following the terrorist attacks on the Manchester Arena (22 May 2017), London Bridge (3 June 2017), Finsbury Park Mosque (19 June 2017) and Parsons Green (15 September 2017).

The statistics in this release draw on a range of data sources. The **Arrests and outcomes** section uses data provided by the National Counter Terrorism Police Operations Centre (NCTPOC) and includes statistics for **Great Britain** on:

- arrests for terrorist-related activity and outcomes (such as charges and convictions) following arrests
- the legislation used to bring charges and convictions
- gender, age, ethnicity and nationality of those arrested, charged and convicted
- the type of terrorism involvement of those arrested, charged and convicted (such as whether the individual had links to international, domestic, or Northern Ireland-related terrorism)

The **Court proceedings** section uses data from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and includes statistics for **England and Wales** only on:

- the number of persons proceeded against by CPS for terrorism-related offences
- the legislation under which persons have been prosecuted and convicted
- the sentence length of those convicted for terrorism-related offences
- the outcomes of appeals against such convictions or sentences

The **Terrorist prisoners** section uses data from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), and includes statistics for **Great Britain** on:

- the number and ideology of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences
- the ethnicity, nationality and religion of those in custody
- the number of persons released from custody by sentence length

Previously, the Home Office published figures on both terrorist prisoners and domestic extremist/separatist prisoners. However, following feedback from data providers at HMPPS, it was decided that prisoners categorised as 'domestic extremist/separatist' prisoners would be counted within the 'TACT/TACT-related' cohort, where the threshold for this is met (for offences which the court has determined have a terrorist connection). This was to remove the previous subjectivity around the categorisation of domestic extremist prisoners. Furthermore, this section now also includes the 'ideology' held by terrorist prisoners.

The **Other police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000** section uses data provided by MPS and the National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ), and includes statistics on:

- the number of stops and searches carried out by MPS under s.43 of TACT 2000
- the number of stops and searches carried out by police under s.47a of TACT 2000
- the number of examinations and subsequent detentions made in Great Britain under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000
- data on goods examinations, strip searches and on refusals of requests to postpone questioning (usually to enable an individual to consult a solicitor) under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000
- the number of cordons under s.33 of TACT 2000

The [user guide](#) provides further details on this release, including the strengths and limitations of the datasets, and the quality assurance processes involved in the production of this release. It also includes a summary of the criminal justice process, a glossary of terms used, and detail about the legislation and categories mentioned in this release.

A flow chart summarising the **Arrests and outcomes** section of this release can be found in [Annex A](#).

## 2.2 Future releases

The information published in the quarterly 'Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000' statistics is kept under review, taking into account the needs of users, and burdens on suppliers and producers, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics. If you have any comments, suggestions or enquiries, please contact the team via email using: [crimeandpoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimeandpoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

## 2.3 Revisions

Data in this release have previously covered statistics on arrests where the offence is considered to be related to terrorist activity. In response to feedback from stakeholders, Home Office statisticians have now widened the scope of the data collection on terrorism arrests to include all arrests with a terrorist element whether the offence was terrorism related or not. This better reflects policing activity in recent years. Data in this release now include information on all arrests related to terrorism activity.

Chapter 7 contains a table to show the revisions to the year to March 2017 figures, first published in June 2017, after the inclusion of these additional arrests.

## 2.4 National Statistics status

This publication has been assessed by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority and its National Statistics designation was confirmed in May 2016. This means that these statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, impartiality, quality and public value, and are fully compliant with the Code of Practice for Statistics. As part of the assessment process, the Home Office has reviewed and improved the [user guide](#) that accompanies this release. This now contains more details about the strengths and limitations of the various datasets within the publication, as well as the steps taken to engage with users. Further details on the assessment process can be found on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

## 3 Arrests and outcomes

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### 3.1 Introduction

This section presents statistics on the number of persons arrested by the police in Great Britain where there is suspicion of involvement in terrorist-related activity, either at the time of arrest or at a subsequent point in the investigation. In some cases, evidence may emerge after an arrest for a terrorism-related offence that suggests a suspect does not have links to terrorist activity, but has committed a non-terrorism-related offence. These cases are included in the data as non-terrorism-related charges and/or convictions.

Data in this release have previously covered statistics on arrests where the offence is considered to be related to terrorist activity. In response to feedback from stakeholders, Home Office statisticians have now widened the scope of the data collection on terrorism arrests to include all arrests with a terrorist element whether the offence was terrorism related or not. This better reflects policing activity in recent years. Data in this release now include information on all arrests related to terrorism activity.

Outcomes following arrests for terrorist-related activity are also included in the statistics, which show the number of arrests that led to a charge or prosecution as well as other outcomes. Demographic information about those arrested, charged and convicted is also provided in this section. All data in this section are based on the date of arrest. This allows users to see the outcomes of all the arrests in a specific period (such as how many led to a charge and conviction).

As cases progress over time, figures published in this release are likely to be revised. This is particularly relevant for more recent time periods where a larger number of cases will be incomplete ('released on bail' or 'awaiting prosecution'). The effect on the arrests total will be minimal but the number of charges and convictions currently reported will increase in future releases especially for cases from the more recent quarters where a greater number of cases have not yet reached the point of charge or conviction.

Data are provided to the Home Office by the National Counter Terrorism Police Operations Centre (NCTPOC) and are taken from a live database. This section includes annual breakdowns of the data from the 11 September 2001 (when the data collection began) to year ending March 2018, as well as quarterly trends over the most recent 9 quarters. The data were based on the latest position of each case as at the time of provision to the Home Office (13 April 2018).

A flow chart summarising this section is included in [Annex A](#). This follows individuals from the point of arrest through to charge (or other outcome) and prosecution. [Data tables A.01 to A.13](#) include data on arrests and outcomes. [Annual tables](#), which breakdown the data by rolling years to March, are also provided alongside this release.

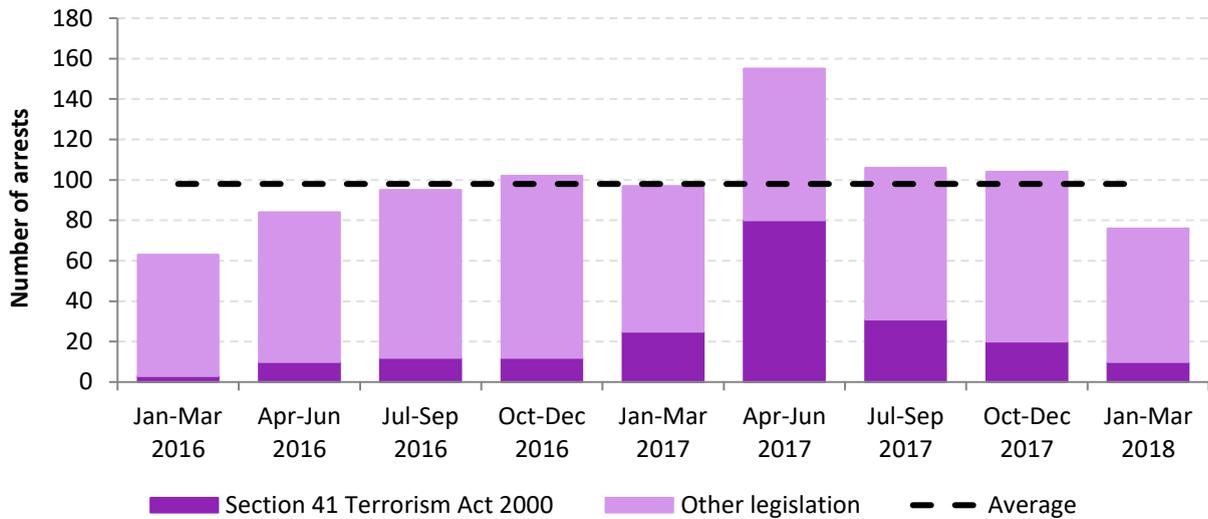
### 3.2 Arrests

In the year ending 31 March 2018, there were 441 arrests for terrorist-related activity in Great Britain, an increase of 17% compared with the 378 arrests in the previous year (Figures 3.1 and 3.2). This is the highest number of arrests in a financial year since the data collection began in September 2001. The increase is partly due to a number of arrests being made following terrorist attacks in London and Manchester. In the year ending 31 March 2018, there were:

- 23 arrests in connection to the terrorist attack in the Manchester Arena (22 May 2017)
- 21 arrests in connection to the London Bridge attack (3 June 2017)
- 1 arrest made in connection to the Finsbury Park Mosque attack (19 June 2017)
- 7 arrests in connection to the Parsons Green attack (15 September 2017)

As a result, there were a particularly large number of arrests in the April to June 2017 quarter (Figure 3.1). However, in each of the last four years the number of arrests have been above the average annual number since the time series began (Figure 3.2).

**Figure 3.1: Arrests for terrorist-related activity, by legislation, 9 quarters to 31 March 2018, Great Britain<sup>1,2</sup>**

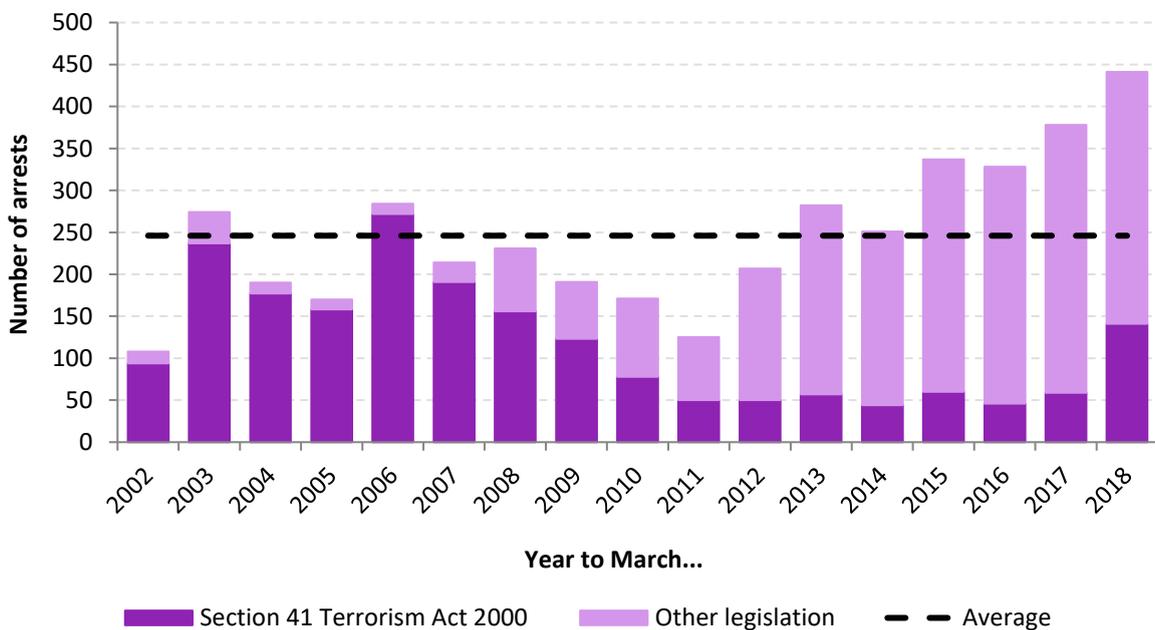


Source: NCTPOC (see [data table A.01](#))

**Notes:**

1. 'Other legislation' includes arrests under non-terrorism legislation, such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
2. Includes arrests that are considered by the NCTPOC to be terrorism-related, either at the time of arrest or at a subsequent point in the investigation.

**Figure 3.2: Arrests for terrorist-related activity, by legislation, years ending 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2018, Great Britain<sup>1,2,3</sup>**



Source: NCTPOC (see [data table A.01](#))

**Notes:**

1. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2002 include data from 11 September 2001 onwards.
2. 'Other legislation' includes arrests under non-terrorism legislation, such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
3. Includes arrests that are considered by the NCTPOC to be terrorism-related, either at the time of arrest or at a subsequent point in the investigation.

### 3.3 Pre-charge detention under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000

Once a suspect has been arrested by the police, they may be held for a specified period of time before being charged, giving the police time to investigate and gather evidence related to potential terrorism offences. The current maximum period of detention under s.41 of TACT 2000 is 14 days (reduced from 28 days on 25 January 2011), compared with a maximum of 4 days under standard arrest powers. Further details of the legislation can be found in the [user guide](#).

There were 141 detentions under s.41 of TACT 2000 in the year ending 31 March 2018, over twice as many as the 59 detentions in the previous year. Again, this is partly down to the number of arrests following the terror attacks in London and Manchester. This was the highest number since the year ending 31 March 2008, when there were 156 detentions under s.41 of TACT 2000. Of the 141 detentions in the latest year, 46 led to a charge (33%).

Further details on the length and outcomes of detentions under s.41 of TACT 2000 can be found in [data table A.02](#).

### 3.4 Charges

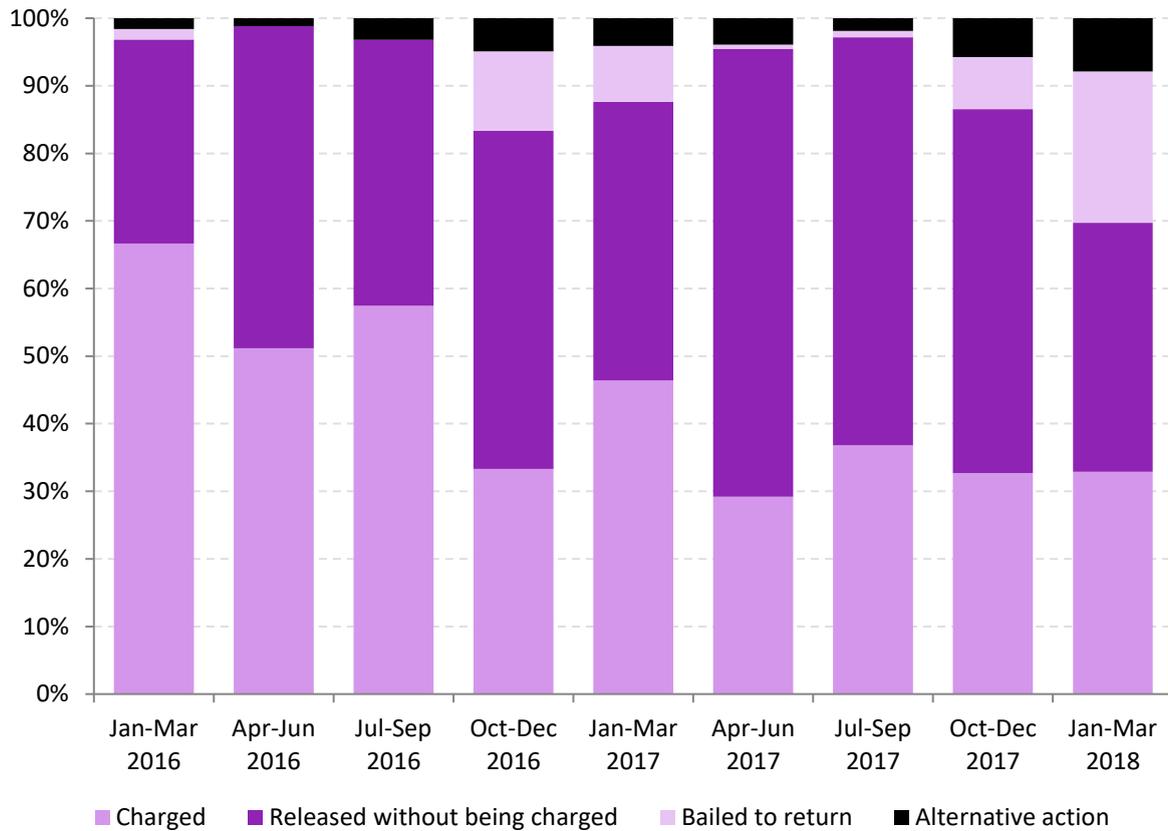
In line with the convention for criminal justice statistics, when a person is charged or prosecuted for multiple offences at the same time, only the most serious offence is counted – usually the one that carries the highest penalty. This “principle offences rule” means the statistics provide a count of individuals charged rather than the total number of charges. More detailed information on the principal offence rule can be found in the accompanying [user guide](#). Further details of the legislation under which persons have been charged following an arrest for a terrorism-related activity can be found in [data tables A.05a-c](#).

Of the 441 arrests for terrorist-related activity in the year ending 31 March 2018:

- 143 (32%) resulted in a charge, of which 114 (80%) were charged with terrorism-related offences
- 250 (57%) were released without charge
- 27 (6%) persons were released on bail pending further investigation
- 20 (5%) faced alternative action, for example receiving a caution, being recalled to prison or being transferred to immigration authorities
- 1 case was pending at the time of data provision (13 April 2018)

Given the number of cases still to be resolved in the latest year, the current charge rate in more recent years/quarters is likely to be lower than final figures which will be published in subsequent releases. Until all cases in a given period are resolved, caution should be taken when comparing charge rates over time.

**Figure 3.3: Charging outcomes following an arrest for terrorist-related activity, 9 quarters to 31 March 2018, Great Britain<sup>1,2</sup>**

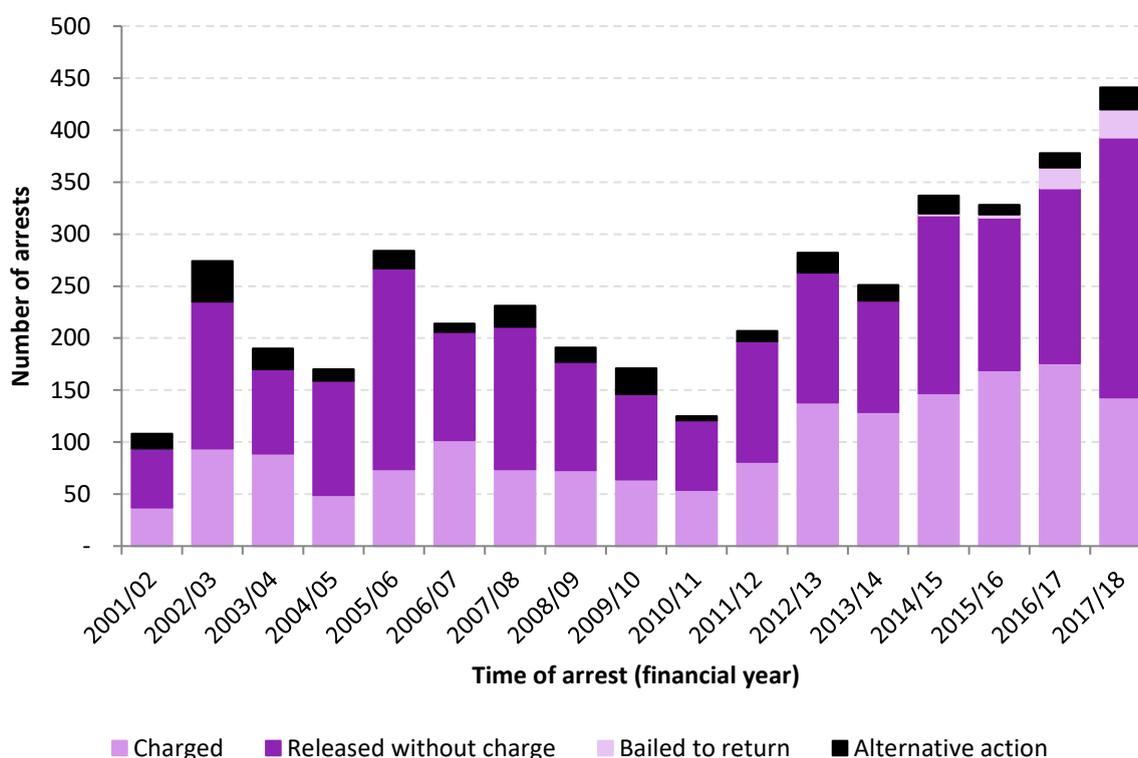


**Source:** NCTPOC (see [data table A.03](#))

**Notes:**

1. 'Alternative action' includes cautions for non-TACT 2000 offences, detentions under the Mental Health Act, recall to prison etc. It also includes any cases that are pending.
2. 'Bailed to return' includes those released on bail pending further investigation, and those who have absconded from bail.

**Figure 3.4: Charging outcomes following an arrest for terrorist-related activity, year ending March 2002 to March 2018, Great Britain<sup>1,2</sup>**



**Source:** NCTPOC (see [data table A.03](#))

**Notes:**

1. 'Alternative action' includes cautions for non-TACT offences, detentions under the Mental Health Act, recall to prison, and transfers to immigration authorities.
2. 'Bailed to return' includes those released on bail pending further investigations, and those who have absconded from bail.

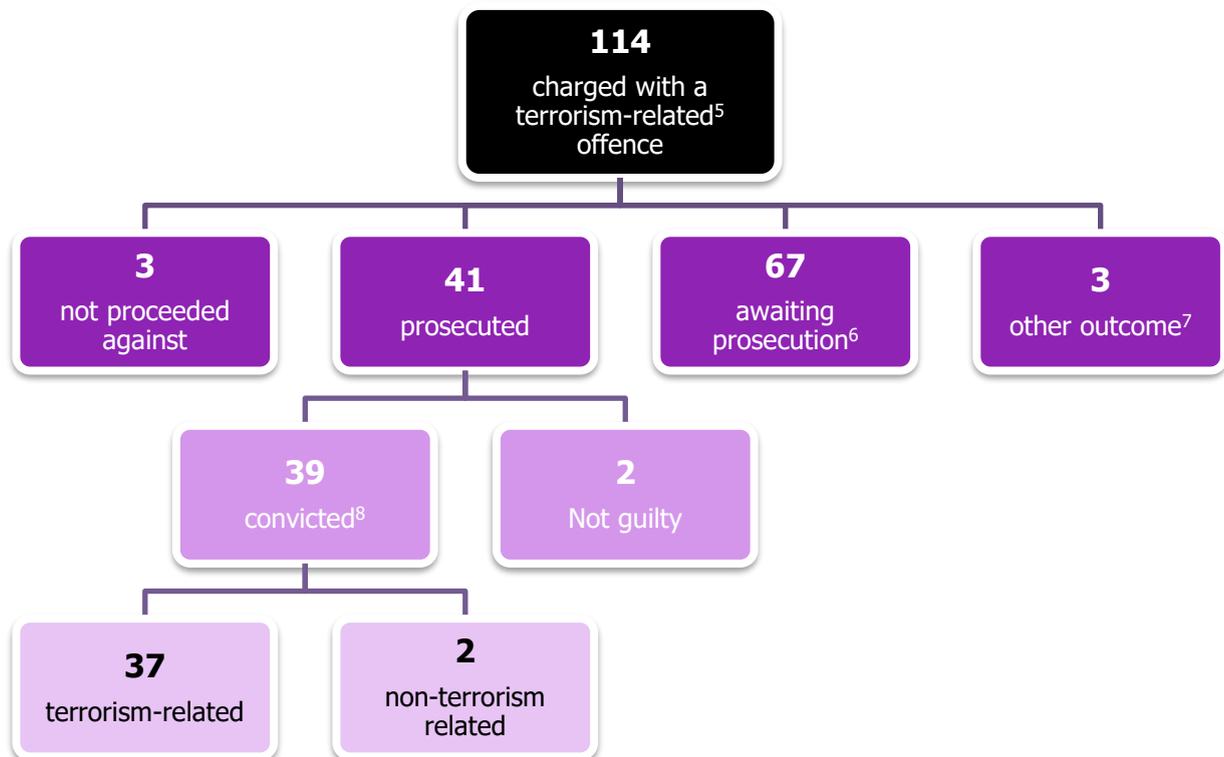
### 3.5 Prosecutions

As with charges, prosecutions data are also based on the principle offence rule. Where an individual is prosecuted for more than one offence at a time, they are classified in terms of a single offence – usually the most serious.

Figure 3.5 shows the outcomes following a charge for a terrorism-related offence.

Further details of the specific legislation under which persons have been convicted following a charge for a terrorism-related offence can be found in [data tables A.08a-c](#).

**Figure 3.5: Outcomes following a charge for a terrorism-related offence, year ending 31 March 2018<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Great Britain**



**Source:** NCTPOC (see [data table A.06c](#))

**Notes:**

1. Based on the time of arrest.
2. A more detailed flow chart can be found in [Annex A](#).
3. Data presented are based on the latest position with each case as at the date of data provision from NCTPOC (13 April 2018).
4. The chart does not include outcomes following non-terrorism-related charges.
5. Terrorism-related charges and convictions include some charges and convictions under non-terrorism legislation, where the offence is considered to be terrorism-related.
6. Cases that are 'awaiting prosecution' are not yet complete. As time passes, these cases will eventually lead to a prosecution, 'other' outcome, or it may be decided that the individual will not be proceeded against.
7. 'Other outcome' includes other cases/outcomes such as cautions, transfers to Immigration Enforcement Agencies, the offender being circulated as wanted and extraditions.
8. Excludes convictions that were later quashed on appeal.

### 3.6 Demographics of persons arrested

This section provides more detail on the demographic and other characteristics of persons arrested. It includes data on:

- sex
- age
- ethnic appearance
- nationality
- terrorist category (for example international terrorism, domestic terrorism or Northern Ireland-related terrorism).

## Sex

As in previous years, and similar to other types of crime, the vast majority of those arrested for terrorism-related activity were males. However, 56 of the 441 arrests were females (13%), the highest number arrested in a financial year since the data collection began, and the highest proportion since the year ending March 2016. Since September 2001, when the collection began, females have accounted for 9% of arrests. The number of male arrests (385) was also the highest in a financial year since the collection began.

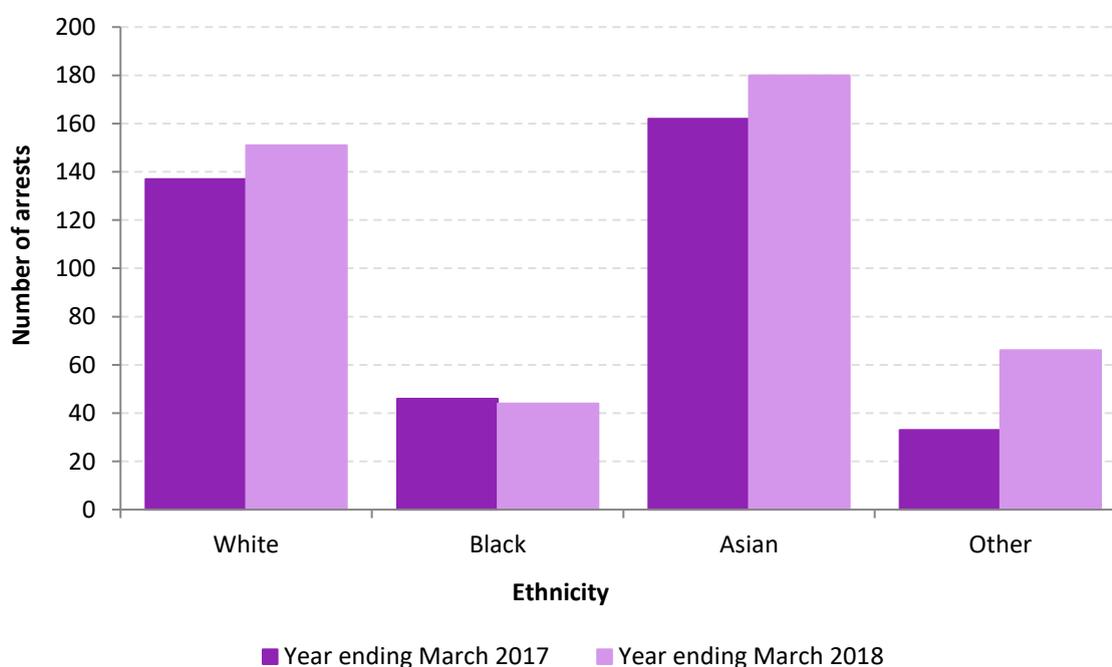
## Age

There were increases in the number of arrests across all age-groups compared with the previous year, with the exception of those in the '30 and over' age-group, which decreased by one percent, to 203 arrests. As in previous years, the '30 and over' age-group accounted for the most arrests (46%). Arrests of those aged 'under 18' made up 6% of all arrests (27 arrests) in the latest year; the highest number and proportion since the data collection began in 2001.

## Ethnic appearance as recorded by the arresting officer

There were also increases in the number of arrests for terrorist-related activity across all ethnic groups, except for those in the Black ethnic group, which decreased by 2, to 44 arrests. The largest increase was seen for those of Asian ethnic appearance, which increased by 11% since the previous year (from 162 arrests to 180 arrests). This is the largest number of arrests of Asian people in a financial year since the data collection began. There was also a 10% increase in the number of arrests of White people (from 137 arrests to 151). This is also the largest number of arrests of White people in a financial year since the data collection began.

**Figure 3.5:** Ethnic appearance<sup>1</sup> of persons arrested for terrorist-related activity, year ending 31 March 2018 compared with the previous year



Source: NCTPOC (see [data table A.11](#))

### Notes:

1. As recorded by the police at time of arrest.

## Nationality

Of those arrested in the latest year, 68% considered themselves to be of British or British dual nationality, down 4 percentage points on the previous year. This is the lowest proportion in a financial year since the year ending March 2012, when 66% of those arrested were of British or British dual nationality. Since 11 September 2001 (when the data collection began), 60% of those arrested considered themselves to be of British or British dual nationality.

**Table 3.1: Number of persons arrested for terrorist-related activity, since 11 September 2001, by self-defined nationality<sup>1,2</sup>**

<i>Numbers</i>	<b>Great Britain</b>
Self-defined nationality	Total since Sep 11 2001
Great Britain <sup>3</sup>	2,490
Algeria	183
Pakistan	165
Iraq	158
Afghanistan	89
Iran	83
Somalia	77
Turkey	76
India	60
Ireland	45

**Source:** NCTPOC (see [data table A.11](#))

### Notes:

1. The nationalities presented here are those declared by persons at the time of arrest, and may differ from their country of origin.
2. Only the first 10 countries, by number of persons arrested for terrorist-related activity, are included in the table.
3. Figures for Great Britain include those with 'British dual' nationality.

## 4 Court proceedings

### 4.1 Introduction

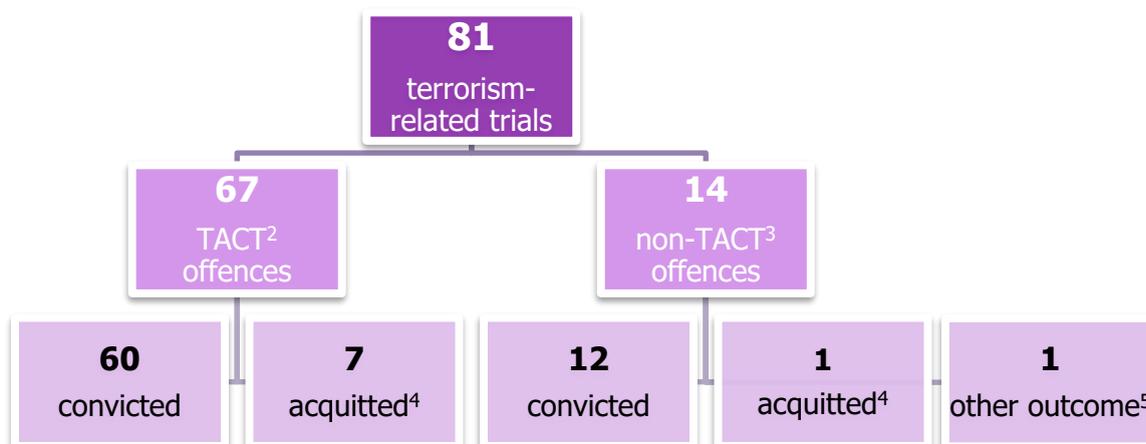
This section presents statistics on prosecutions for terrorism-related offences in England and Wales. It provides data on the number of persons prosecuted and convicted, including information on the legislation against which they were prosecuted. It also provides information on the length and type of sentence that each defendant received. Data in this section are based on the trial completion date and are not directly comparable to the prosecutions data in section 3, Arrests and outcomes, which is based on the date of arrest.

Data are provided to the Home Office by the Crown Prosecution Service Counter Terrorism Division (CPS CTD). The data cover terrorism-related court cases that were completed in the 9 years from the year ending March 2010 up to the year ending March 2018.

### 4.2 Court proceedings

In the year ending 31 March 2018, 81 persons were tried by CPS CTD for terrorism-related offences, an increase of 2 (3%) from the 79 persons tried in the previous year. Figure 4.1 shows the outcomes for the 81 persons proceeded against. This latest year saw the highest number of persons tried, and highest number of convictions, in a single year since the data collection began in 2009/10.

**Figure 4.1:** Outcome of terrorism-related trials under TACT and non-TACT legislation, year ending 31 March 2018, England and Wales<sup>1</sup>



**Source:** CPS CTD (see [data tables C.01-C.03](#))

**Notes:**

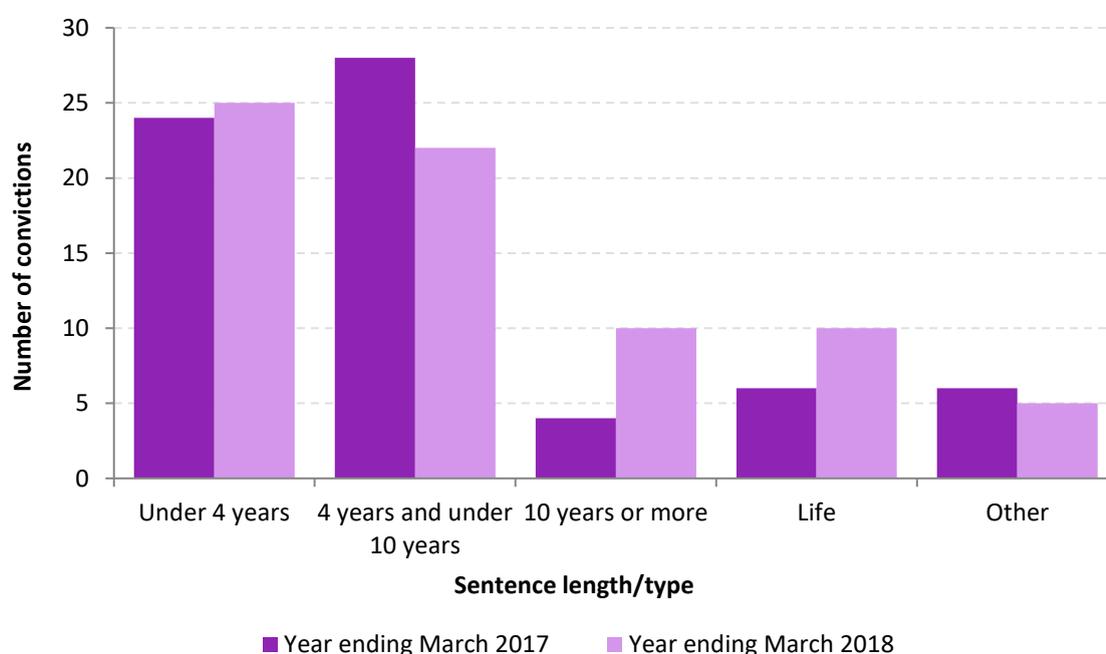
1. Based on the principle offence for which the defendant was prosecuted against.
2. TACT offences include offences specifically under terrorism legislation.
3. Non-TACT offences include offences under other legislation.
4. Can include trials ending in a hung jury, or where the prosecution offered no evidence.
5. One trial not concluded due to the death of the defendant during the trial.

### 4.3 Sentencing

There was an increase in the length of sentences given to those convicted compared with the previous year (Figure 4.2). The most common sentence length in the latest year was under 4 years, accounting for 35% of sentences (25 of 72 convictions). This was the same proportion as in the previous year. Those receiving sentence lengths of between 4 and 10 years (22) accounted for 31% of sentences, a fall of 10 percentage points compared with the previous year. The number of individuals receiving life sentences increased compared with the previous year, from 6 to 10. Those given a life sentence accounted for 14% of all those sentenced in the year ending 31 March 2018. The number of sentences of 10 years or more also increased, from 4 to 10 comparing last year with the latest year. The number of non-custodial sentences remained unchanged (5).

Of the 72 persons convicted of terrorism-related offences, 37 (51%) pleaded guilty and 35 (49%) entered a not-guilty plea. In the previous year, 30 of the 68 persons convicted (44%) entered a guilty plea.

**Figure 4.2:** Sentence length for persons convicted for terrorism-related offences, year ending 31 March 2018 compared with the previous year, England and Wales<sup>1,2</sup>



**Source:** CPS CTD (see [data table C.04](#))

**Notes:**

1. Based on the trial completion date.
2. The 'Other' category includes hospital orders and non-custodial sentences.

### 4.4 Appeals against conviction and sentences

Over the 9-year period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2018, a total of 100 appeals against terrorism convictions were heard, of which 85 were either dismissed by the court or abandoned by those lodging the appeal prior to the decision being made. Over the 9-year time period, none of the appeals resulted in convictions being quashed. However, 14 appeals resulted in a sentence being reduced and one resulted in a sentence being increased. In the latest year there was an increase in appeals of 7 (25 compared with 18 in the previous year); this was the highest number of appeals in a financial year over the 9-year time period. Just 2 appeals resulted in a reduced sentence in the year ending March 2018, with the remaining 23 appeals were either dismissed or abandoned.

## 5 Terrorist prisoners

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### 5.1 Introduction

Statistics presented in this section give information on the number of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences in Great Britain. It includes breakdowns of their ethnicity, nationality, ideology and religion.

Previously, the Home Office published figures on both terrorist prisoners and domestic extremist/separatist prisoners. However, following feedback from data providers at Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), it was decided that prisoners categorised as 'domestic extremist/separatist' prisoners would be counted within the 'TACT/TACT-related' cohort, where the threshold for this is met, i.e. for offences which the court has determined have a terrorist connection. This was to remove the previous subjectivity around the categorisation of domestic extremist prisoners. Furthermore, this section now also includes the 'ideology' of prisoners.

Data on the number of terrorist prisoners released from custody are also presented in this section.

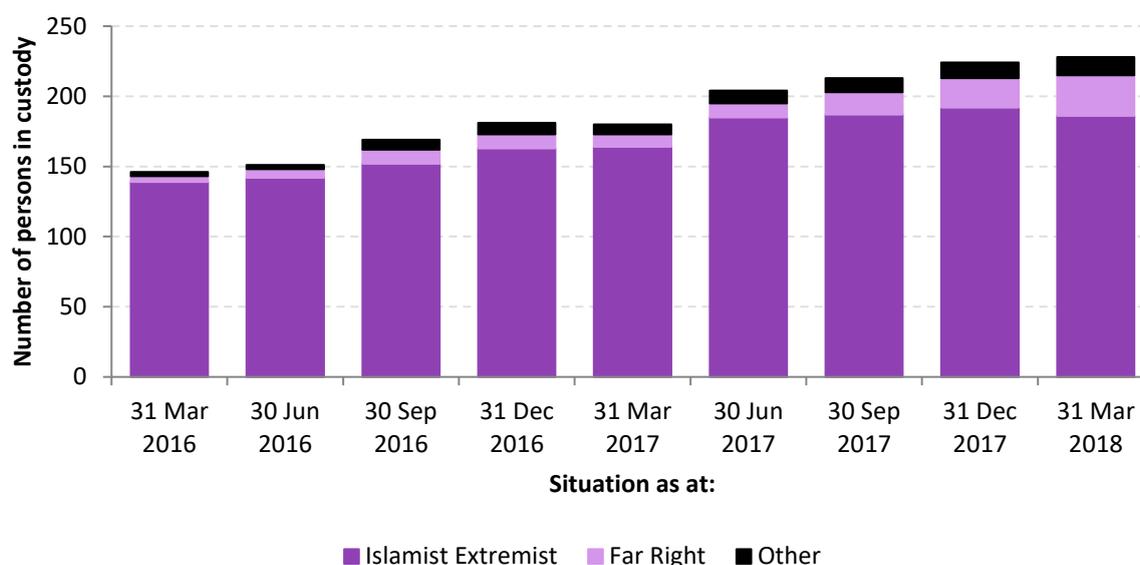
Data were provided to the Home Office by HMPPS and the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) giving information about the prison population for the 9 financial years from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2018, and also at the end of the 9 quarters to 31 March 2018. Data on the number of prisoners released were also provided and cover the 7 years ending 31 December, from 2011 to 2017, as well as the 8 quarters to 31 December 2017. Figures as at 31 March 2018 are not yet available as these will form a subset of the prison releases statistics which will be published by the Ministry of Justice in their [Offender management statistics quarterly](#) release in July 2018.

### 5.2 Persons in custody

The number of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences has been growing. As at 31 March 2018, there were 228 persons in custody in Great Britain, a 27% increase (up by 48, from 180 in the previous year). This was the highest number in custody for terrorism-related offences since the data collection began in April 2009.

Of those in custody as at 31 March 2018, the majority (82%) were categorised as holding Islamist extremist views. A further 13% were categorised as holding far right-wing ideologies and 6% held beliefs related to other ideologies (which includes Northern-Ireland related groups, such as the Ulster Volunteer Force, and those individuals whose ideology is not clear). There have been steady increases in recent years in the number of terrorist prisoners across all the types of ideologies covered. The proportion of prisoners holding far-right ideologies has increased steadily over the past 3 years and the number has more than doubled when compared with the previous year (up from 9 to 29).

**Figure 5.1: Number of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences, by ideology, Great Britain<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**



**Source:** HMPPS and SPS (see [data table P.01](#))

**Notes:**

1. [HM Government's Prevent Strategy 2011](#) defines an ideology as a set of beliefs. An ideologue is a proponent as well as an adherent of an ideology.
2. 'Islamist extremist' refers to prisoners from Islamic proscribed groups who advocate, justify or glorify acts of violence (especially against civilians) or other illegal conduct to achieve fundamental changes to society.
3. 'Far right' refers to individuals from politically far right-wing proscribed groups such as National Action which became the first extreme right-wing group to be proscribed as a terrorist organisation in December 2016.
4. 'Other' refers to individuals from proscribed groups not categorised as 'Islamist extremist' or 'far right-wing'.

Of those in custody as at 31 March 2018, the majority (76%) had been convicted. The remaining 24% were being held on remand (held in custody until a later date when a trial or sentencing hearing will take place).

### 5.3 Persons released from custody

A total of 48 prisoners held for terrorism-related offences were released from custody in Great Britain in the latest year for which figures are available (year ending 31 December 2017)<sup>1</sup>. Of these, 35 (73%) were persons released from custody after serving sentences, many of whom will have been subject to meeting certain licence conditions.

Of the 48 released from custody, 21 had sentences of less than 4 years, and 13 had sentences of 4 years or more. A further 13 had not been sentenced and this includes a number held on remand prior to a charge or conviction. One additional prisoner was released who had previously been given an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

For more details on releases from custody, see the [user guide](#).

<sup>1</sup> Figures as at 31 March 2018 are not yet available from HMPPS as these will be published by MoJ in July 2018.

## 6 Other police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000

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### 6.1 Introduction

This section presents statistics on the use of stop and search powers available to the police under TACT 2000. It includes data on the number of stop and searches, and resultant arrests, carried out under s.43 of TACT 2000 (by the MPS only) and s.47A of TACT 2000 (by all police forces). It also contains data on the use of powers under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000 in Great Britain. This includes the number of examinations, resultant detentions, strip searches, the number of times postponement of questioning (usually to enable an individual to consult a solicitor) was refused, and the number of sea and air freight examinations.

Data on s.47a stop and search are provided to the Home Office by police forces, and data on s.43 stop and search are currently provided by MPS only. Data on Schedule 7 are provided to the Home Office by the National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ). Data on police cordons are provided by the National Counter Terrorism Policing Operations Centre (NCTPOC). This section includes annual breakdowns for the last 9 years (when the data collection began) up to the year ending March 2018.

Following the Parsons Green attack, on 15 September 2017, the police used the power of stop and search under s.47a of TACT 2000 (previously s.44) for the first time. This power allows the police to exercise stop and searches when there is reasonable suspicion an act of terrorism will take place, and only when such powers are considered necessary to prevent such an act taking place. This must be authorised by a senior officer, at least the rank of Assistant Chief Constable, and the area and duration of the authorisation must be no greater than is necessary to prevent such an act. These powers were used in September 2017, the first time they have been used in Great Britain since the legislation was formally amended in 2011 to significantly raise the threshold for authorisation of the power, which replaced s.44 stop and search powers with s.47a. Following the attack on Parsons Green, 4 forces authorised the use of these powers: British Transport Police, City of London Police, North Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Police.

Further details on the use of s.47a can be found in the [code of practice](#) for the exercise of stop and search powers.

### 6.2 Stop and search under the Terrorism Act 2000

Section 43 of TACT 2000 allows a constable to stop and search a person whom he/she reasonably suspects to be involved in terrorist activity. As many forces are unable to separate s.43 TACT stops and searches from other stops and searches, this section includes data from MPS only and excludes 'vehicle only' stops and searches.

In the year ending 31 March 2018, 768 persons were stopped and searched by MPS under s.43 of TACT 2000. This represents an increase of 70% on the previous year's total of 453 and is the highest number of searches in a year since the year ending 31 March 2012 when 819 persons were stopped under s.43 of TACT 2000. This annual increase was driven by a particularly high number of stops and searches (288 and 216) in 2 quarters of this year (April to June 2017, and July to September 2017) (Figure 6.1).

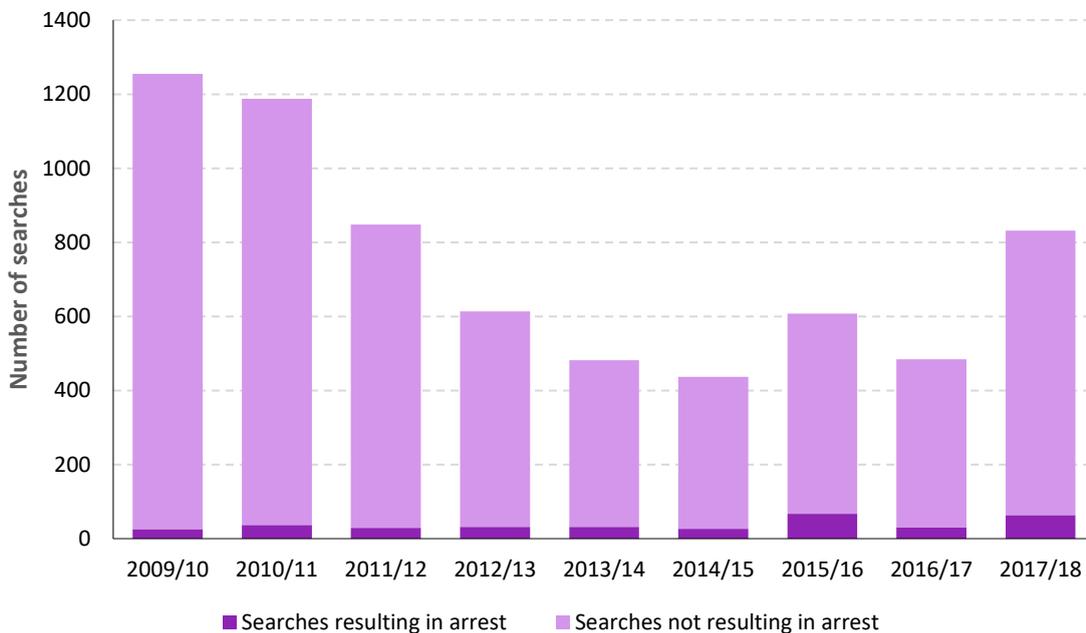
In the latest year there were 64 arrests resulting from a section 43 stop and search, the second highest number in a financial year since the data collection began, after the 67 arrested in the year ending March 2016.

Details on the overall use of stop and search in England and Wales up to the year ending 31 March 2017 can be found in the Home Office [Police powers and procedures, England and Wales](#) statistical release. MPS also publishes [monthly reports](#) on the wider use of stop and search within its force. The

number of stops increased across all ethnic groups in the latest year compared with the previous year. The largest percentage increases were seen amongst those who considered themselves to be 'Black or Black British' (up from 54 to 116) followed by:

- those who identified as 'White' (up from 135 to 222)
- those who identified as 'Asian or Asian British' (up from 125 to 195)
- those who identified as 'Mixed' (up from 17 to 35)
- those who identified as 'Chinese or Other' (up from 47 to 71)

**Figure 6.1: Stop and searches<sup>1</sup> under s.43 of TACT 2000, MPS**



**Source:** MPS (see [data table S.01](#))

**Notes:**

1. Excludes 'vehicle only' searches.

Following the attack on Parsons Green in September 2017, the authorisation of the power of stop and search under s.47a of TACT 2000 was used for the first time in Great Britain since the threshold for authorisation of this power was raised in 2011. Only four forces authorised the use of this power with the British Transport Police (BTP) conducting 126 stops. Two other forces (North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire) conducted one stop each and, while the City of London Police Force authorised the use of this power, it was not ultimately used to stop anyone. Among these forces, only 4 arrests resulted from these stops (all BTP).

### 6.3 Schedule 7 to TACT 2000

Under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000, an examining office has a number of powers, the uses of which are covered in this section. These include:

- examinations of persons and resultant detentions
- strip searches
- refusals to postpone questioning (usually to enable an individual to consult a solicitor)
- goods examinations

#### Examinations and resultant detentions

An examining officer may stop and question individuals entering and leaving the country through ports, airports, international rail stations and the border area. When necessary they may also detain and search individuals. The aim is to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

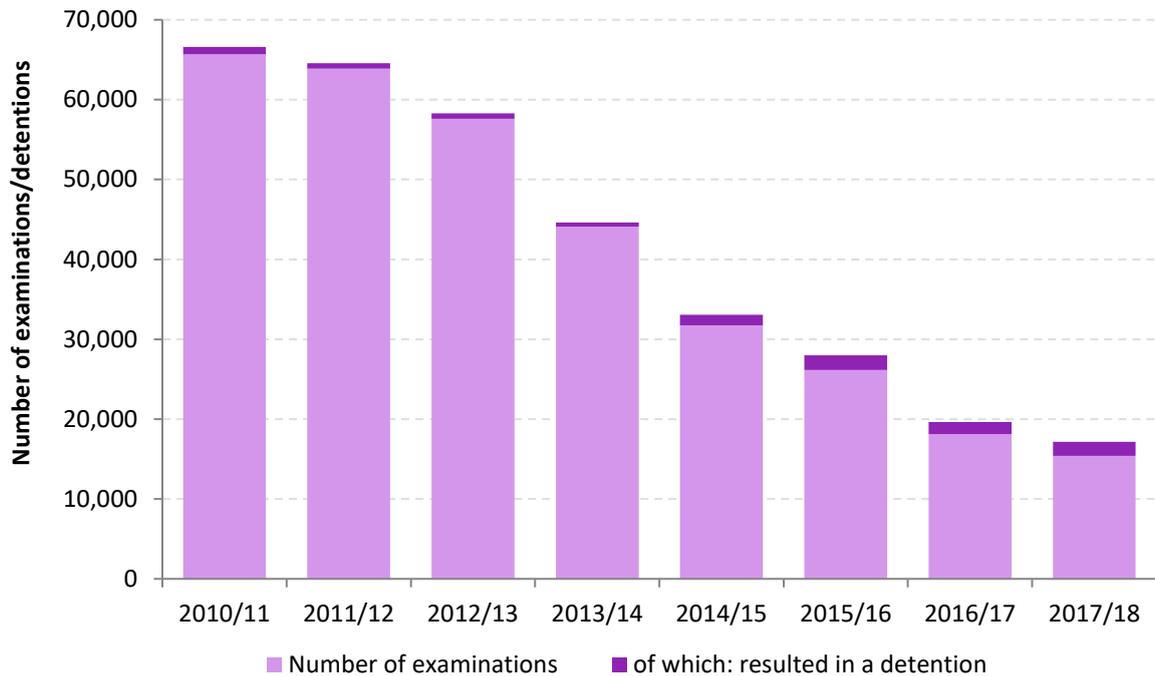
In the year ending 31 March 2018, a total of 15,391 persons were subject to the use of this power in Great Britain, which allows an examining officer to stop and question, and where necessary, to search and detain any individual travelling through a port, airport, international rail station or the border area to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. This was a fall of 15% compared with the previous year (18,103 examinations), and a fall of 82% since the data were first collected in the year ending 31 March 2010 (when 85,557 persons were examined under Schedule 7). Since the data collection began there have been average annual falls of 19%. There has been increased public scrutiny of this power in recent years, which may have driven a more targeted approach in its use. This is reflected in the increased rate of detention.

Of these 15,391 persons (excluding the 2,469 whose ethnicity was not stated):

- 33% identified as 'White'
- 30% identified as 'Asian or Asian British'
- 23% identified as 'Chinese or other'
- 9% identified as 'Black or Black British'
- 5% identified as 'Mixed'

The number of detentions following examination increased by 16% to 1,776 from 1,530 in the previous year. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which came into effect in October 2014, amended the powers under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000 to ensure that a mandatory detention takes place where an examination lasts for longer than 1 hour. The rate of detention following an examination in the latest year was 12%, up from 8% in the previous year. This continues the upward trend in the rate of detention following examinations in recent years. The year ending 31 March 2018 saw the highest detention rate in a financial since the data collection began.

**Figure 6.2:** Number of Schedule 7 to TACT 2000 examinations<sup>1</sup> and resultant detentions, 9 quarters to 31 March 2018, Great Britain



**Source:** NCTPHQ (see [data table S.04](#))

**Notes:**

1. Excludes examinations of unaccompanied freight.

## 6.4 Other powers under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000

The following section includes information on a number of additional powers under Schedule 7 to TACT 2000. This includes:

- strip searches
- postponement of questioning refusals
- goods examinations (sea and air freight)

Data on these powers have been collected by the Home Office since April 2015. Details on each of these powers can be found in the [user guide](#).

In the year ending 31 March 2018:

- 5 strip searches were carried out under the power
- postponement of questioning (usually to enable an individual to consult a solicitor) was refused on two occasions
- a total of 2,417 air freight and 7,675 sea freight examinations were conducted in Great Britain

## 6.5 Cordons under section 33 of the Terrorism Act 2000

Section 33 of TACT 2000 gives police officers of at least the rank of superintendent the power to authorise the use of a cordon in an area where it is considered expedient to do so for the purposes of a terrorist investigation. A police officer may order persons and drivers to leave cordoned areas, and prohibit pedestrian or vehicle access. Cordons are typically set up to investigate a suspected package or to deal with the consequences of a terrorism-related incident. Further information on this power can be found in the [user guide](#).

In the year ending March 2018, there were 51 cordons set up in Great Britain, 26 greater than the number set up in the previous year and the highest number in any year since the data collection began in 2009. Of these, 28 of these were set up by Greater Manchester Police, 25 more than the previous year. Eleven were set up by MPS, 4 fewer than in the previous year. Further details on police cordons can be found in [table S.04](#).

## 7 Revisions analysis

Data in this release have previously covered statistics on arrests where the offence is considered to be related to terrorist activity. In response to feedback from stakeholders, Home Office statisticians have now widened the scope of the data collection on terrorism arrests to include all arrests with a terrorist element whether the offence was terrorism related or not. This better reflects policing activity in recent years. Data in this release now include information on all arrests related to terrorism activity.

The table below shows revisions to the year to March 2017 figures, first published in June 2017, after the inclusion of these arrests.

**Table 1: Persons arrested for terrorism-related activity under 'other legislation'.**

	Published June 2017	Published June 2018	% change
Year to March 2012	156	157	1%
Year to March 2013	197	225	14%
Year to March 2014	187	207	11%
Year to March 2015	241	277	15%
Year to March 2016	212	282	33%
Year to March 2017	244	319	31%

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Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Analysis and Insight under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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