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Statistical News Release

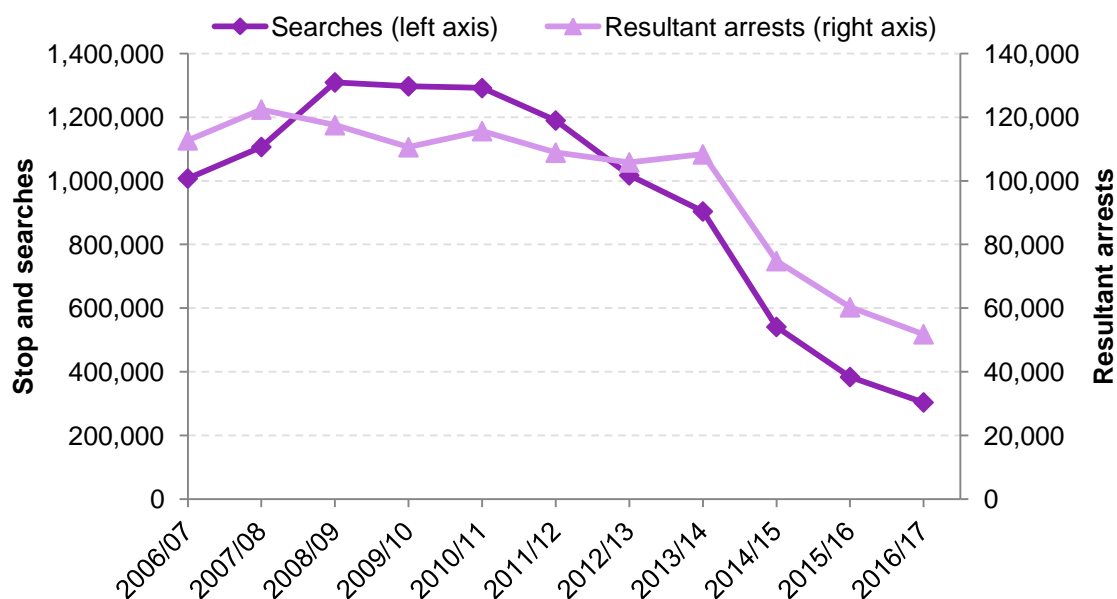
Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2017

This National Statistics release contains figures on stops and search (including the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme; BUSS), arrests for notifiable offences, detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983, fixed penalty notices for motoring offences, breath tests, and other PACE powers. The key findings are as follows:

Stop and Search

- In the year ending March 2017, there were 303,845 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police), the lowest number since the data collection began in 2001/02.
- The number of stop and searches fell by 21% compared with the previous year (383,595) continuing the downward trend since the peak in the year ending March 2009 (1,309,548 stop and searches).
- The number of resultant arrests fell by 14% in the year ending March 2017 compared with the previous year, from 60,288 to 51,813, also to the lowest number since the collection began in 2001/02.

Figure 1: Number of stops and searches and resultant arrests<sup>1</sup>, 2006/07 to 2016/17



1. Includes stop and searches under section 1 PACE and section 60. Excludes section 44 and 47a stop and searches due to a change in the legislation that means that none of these stops have been carried out since 2010/11.

- Individuals from BME groups are 4 times as likely to be stopped and searched compared with those who are White. In particular, individuals who are Black (or Black British) are 8 times more likely to be stopped than White.

### **Best Use of Stop and Search**

- In around 1 in 5 (21%) of stop and searches, in the year ending March 2017, the outcome of the search was linked to the initial reason for the search.
- In 71% of stop and searches the outcome was 'No further action'. In a further 17% of stop and searches the initial outcome was an arrest, and in the remaining 12% an alternative outcome such as a caution, or community resolution took place.

### **Arrests**

- There were 779,660 arrests made by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2017, a fall of 12% on the previous year (885,516 arrests). This continues the downward trend since a peak in year ending March 2008, when there were almost 1.5 million arrests.
- In the year ending March 2017, the majority (78%) of persons arrested for notifiable offences considered themselves to be White. Proportionately, persons who identified themselves as being Black (or Black British) were over 3 times more likely to be arrested than those who were White.

### **Detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983**

- In the ending March 2017 there were 26,328 detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. A police station was used as a place of safety in 4% of cases following a section 136 detention.

### **Fixed Penalty Notices for motoring offences**

- There were just under 2.4 million FPNs issued for motoring offences (excluding those subsequently cancelled) by the police in England and Wales in 2016, a fall of 1% compared with the previous year.
- Over four-fifths (82%) of FPNs issued in 2016 were for speed limit offences, up 1 percentage point compared with the previous year.
- In 2016, 46% of individuals receiving an FPN for motoring offences attended a driver retraining course, a fine was paid by the individual in a further 40% of FPNs, and 13% of individuals faced court action, similar proportions to the previous year.

### **Breath Tests**

- Police in England and Wales carried out 463,319 breath tests in 2016, a fall of 11% compared with the previous year (520,219). Of these, 13% were positive or refused, up 1 percentage point on the previous year.

### **Other PACE Powers**

- In the year ending March 2017, 3,383 persons were detained under part IV of PACE for more than 24 hours by police in England and Wales, representing an increase of 2% on the previous year.
- There were 85 intimate searches carried out by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 8 searches compared with the previous year.

## Notes to editors

1. 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2017' is available via the GOV.UK websites.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2017>

2. Tables providing a greater level of detail on each of the topics, and a user guide giving further information about the measures, are also published.

**For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics:**

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