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Monday, 2 March 2009

HOME OFFICE

**STATISTICS ON POLICE USE OF FIREARMS IN ENGLAND AND WALES
2007-08**

The Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security (Mr. Vernon Coaker):

The latest figures from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 show that the number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 21,181 – an increase of 17.5% on the previous year.

The number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's) was 6,780 – an increase of 52 (1%) officers overall on the previous year. The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 16,712 – an increase of 2,197 (15%) on the previous year.

The Police discharged a conventional firearm in 7 incidents (up from 3 incidents in the previous year).

Full details are set out in the tables below:

NUMBER OF OPERATIONS IN WHICH FIREARMS WERE AUTHORISED							
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
TOTAL	13991	14827	16657	15981	18891	18032	21181
AVON & SOMERSET	195	262	311	333	247	285	328
BEDFORDSHIRE	237	301	442	475	575	663*	1217
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	114	57	104	241	201	207	316
CHESHIRE	419	451	397	358	367	340	317
CLEVELAND	37	170	453	530	657	293	577
CITY OF LONDON	40	131	364	404	323	239	365
CUMBRIA	71	77	72	152	112	92	92
DERBYSHIRE	275	401	369	287	305	223	211
DEVON & CORNWALL	101	96	112	71	84	80	143
DORSET	184	193	231	223	263	354	258
DURHAM	89	83	156	144	291	340	206
ESSEX	323	312	275	296	432	245	529
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	165	185	127	176	229	280	162
GTR MANCHESTER	580	518	507	461	478	481	497
HAMPSHIRE	198	162	208	237	289	352	382
HERTFORDSHIRE	112	172	195	185	187	280	303
HUMBERSIDE	297	187	183	206	362	235	209
KENT	115	137	207	163	219	170	202

LANCASHIRE	232	238	318	241	240	410	388
LEICESTERSHIRE	300	268	295	260	363	334	318
LINCOLNSHIRE	477	392	386	294	220	157	158
MERSEYSIDE	1020	628	751	733	669	727	829
METROPOLITAN	2447	3199	3563	2964	4711	3878	4948
NORFOLK	175	200	178	195	175	153	174
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43	138	148	158	137	156	159
NORTHUMBRIA	1440	1275	1140	977	611	332	229
NORTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	147	185	183	282	329
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	384	452	459	408	394	289	270
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	258	463	484	546	749	737	628
STAFFORDSHIRE	232	281	255	216	171	250	244
SUFFOLK	163	270	251	153	202	256	193
SURREY	245	247	203	151	222	222	375
SUSSEX	248	204	280	187	190	201	331
THAMES VALLEY	179	167	195	289	427	264	293
WARWICKSHIRE	130	149	164	124	180	162	150
WEST MERCIA	117	91	197	162	122	155	202
WEST MIDLANDS	822	902	1377	1264	1044	1557	2350
WEST YORKSHIRE	757	604	575	853	1335	1272	1130
WILTSHIRE	45	58	63	88	139	226	128
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	51	63	72	155
GWENT	20	37	40	81	94	133	334
NORTH WALES	302	259	197	223	350	340	259
SOUTH WALES	283	281	250	236	279	308	293

NUMBER OF AUTHORISED FIREARMS OFFICERS (AFOs)							
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
TOTAL	5776	5763	6096	6243	6584	6728	6780
AVON & SOMERSET	116	84	122	118	117	103	123
BEDFORDSHIRE	48	53	58	56	59	57	53
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	56	71	60	60	50	46	49
CHESHIRE	81	89	75	76	73	80	72
CLEVELAND	85	80	95	100	100	105	97
CITY OF LONDON	73	72	86	89	86	45	49
CUMBRIA	92	87	89	90	89	90	97
DERBYSHIRE	80	69	70	74	75	69	61
DEVON & CORNWALL	108	115	132	123	122	132	142
DORSET	57	59	60	64	62	67	71
DURHAM	86	102	97	103	100	102	89
ESSEX	180	184	186	202	205	220	225
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	71	80	82	93	92	94	95
GTR MANCHESTER	219	202	205	187	245	217	250
HAMPSHIRE	87	94	94	92	97	83	85
HERTFORDSHIRE	46	47	50	53	52	49	53
HUMBERSIDE	96	96	96	101	92	83	87
KENT	113	93	90	94	94	98	87
LANCASHIRE	138	129	122	115	123	103	143
LEICESTERSHIRE	69	68	51	53	59	67	64
LINCOLNSHIRE	91	87	78	86	87	75	77
MERSEYSIDE	78	84	94	93	129	139	153
METROPOLITAN	1805	1823	2060	2134	2331	2584	2530
NORFOLK	104	109	114	125	119	127	114

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	51	56	52	50	56	59	53
NORTHUMBRIA	125	99	90	93	98	92	96
NORTH YORKSHIRE	66	64	60	56	78	67	67
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	136	131	138	138	149	146	137
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	98	122	116	118	106
STAFFORDSHIRE	71	63	67	76	70	82	82
SUFFOLK	90	80	96	88	84	78	74
SURREY	62	48	53	49	51	45	54
SUSSEX	120	141	134	130	129	129	123
THAMES VALLEY	156	180	172	176	180	186	180
WARWICKSHIRE	50	51	46	53	55	59	63
WEST MERCIA	125	131	139	141	152	133	163
WEST MIDLANDS	111	110	124	134	145	175	177
WEST YORKSHIRE	116	132	140	130	150	148	147
WILTSHIRE	71	78	80	74	72	69	67
DYFED POWYS	77	62	58	79	68	72	67
GWENT	57	60	71	74	86	64	63
NORTH WALES	83	75	73	65	57	56	57
SOUTH WALES	138	125	139	134	130	115	138

NUMBER OF OPERATIONS INVOLVING ARMED RESPONSE VEHICLES (ARVs)							
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
TOTAL	11574	11848	13218	13137	14355	14515	16712
AVON & SOMERSET	173	215	249	312	167	192	292
BEDFORDSHIRE	172	269	414	419	534	639*	1171
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	43	45	155	172	160	172	221
CHESHIRE	523	337	356	773	807	793	642
CLEVELAND	13	63	86	154	285	290	554
CITY OF LONDON	39	131	364	275	234	183	200
CUMBRIA	53	45	65	134	90	72	74
DERBYSHIRE	253	363	312	254	257	183	187
DEVON & CORNWALL	76	32	94	54	54	76	120
DORSET	182	180	215	195	246	322	238
DURHAM	57	66	96	91	256	204	192
ESSEX	165	176	138	138	155	224	226
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	140	166	109	121	145	213	147
GTR MANCHESTER	528	406	440	364	306	214	196
HAMPSHIRE	116	108	128	167	178	270	271
HERTFORDSHIRE	81	129	157	155	160	226	262
HUMBERSIDE	273	170	158	184	335	232	183
KENT	89	132	193	124	183	373	364
LANCASHIRE	192	185	273	228	232	383	313
LEICESTERSHIRE	292	232	269	232	328	313	268
LINCOLNSHIRE	470	367	355	276	210	147	153
MERSEYSIDE	974	547	687	677	611	644	734
METROPOLITAN	1667	2447	2423	2322	2572	2770	2303
NORFOLK	157	186	169	163	149	133	165
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	25	90	99	89	101	119	127
NORTHUMBRIA	1349	1204	1063	893	585	299	199
NORTH YORKSHIRE	60	67	110	144	208	268	318
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	333	397	404	336	342	256	246
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	221	280	322	438	632	522	493

STAFFORDSHIRE	208	241	212	183	154	222	231
SUFFOLK	116	160	194	119	149	204	148
SURREY	225	240	190	140	204	209	380
SUSSEX	189	171	250	163	162	165	311
THAMES VALLEY	174	167	179	265	355	227	254
WARWICKSHIRE	104	31	138	102	144	121	113
WEST MERCIA	100	111	241	152	94	120	121
WEST MIDLANDS	563	592	975	952	745	518	2003
WEST YORKSHIRE	609	565	543	656	1040	1048	1098
WILTSHIRE	43	39	28	54	124	190	359
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	48	55	72	135
GWENT	16	16	23	74	85	109	257
NORTH WALES	265	198	153	180	299	295	221
SOUTH WALES	218	253	161	165	223	283	222

Notes:

i) Source: Home Office Public Order Unit, based on information aggregated from figures provided by individual police forces as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement. This was followed by a further quality assurance process involving the Home Office asking individual forces to verify and sign off their figures.

ii) * indicates revised figures for 2006-07 from Bedfordshire Police

iii) The information provided is a regular annual update of figures previously published (Hansard 31 Jan 2008 : Column WS49), and on the Home Office website.

iv) Home Office guidance to forces for providing these figures is contained within the booklet *Annual Data Requirement, Police Personnel and Performance Data, Notes for Guidance*. For the purpose of this statistical return AFOs are deemed to be deployed when “they are required to conduct a specific task during which their possession of a firearm (with appropriate authorisation) is a required element” (*Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1 ACPO Manual of Guidance*).

v) In addition to the total number of operations, a further sub-category is required regarding those operations where the initial or sole response is by Armed Response Vehicle (ARV).

vi) Each incident will be classed as only one operation regardless of the number of personnel/deployments or tactics employed to deal with the incident.

vii) Deployments also include those incidents where AFOs “self-authorise”.

viii) The number of officers authorised to use firearms as at 31 March 2008.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WHERE CONVENTIONAL							
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FIREARMS WERE USED.							
YEAR	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006/07	2007/08
INCIDENTS	11	10	4	5	9	3	7
% OF INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH NUMBER OF AUTHORISED OPERATIONS	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048	0.017	0.033

Notes:

- i) Information on number of incidents provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)