

30 June 2011

Statistical News Release

Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation - arrests, outcomes and stops and searches, Great Britain Quarterly update to December 2010

This is the latest in a series of quarterly statistical bulletins to go alongside the annual publication and brings together information on terrorism arrests, outcomes and stop and searches. The latest published annual report covers the period up to 31 March 2010.

Terrorism arrests & outcomes:

In the year ending 31 December 2010:

- There were 125 terrorism arrests compared with 209 in the previous twelve months. In total there have been 1,945 terrorism arrests since 11 September 2001.
- Thirty-four per cent of terrorism arrests resulted in a charge. Fifty per cent of these charges were terrorism related.
- No individuals were held in pre-charge detention for longer than 14 days.
- For the 21 persons charged with terrorism related offences in this period two
 were convicted of a terrorism related offence by 31 December 2010 and 16
 were still awaiting prosecution. Following charges made since 11 September
 2001, 241 persons have been convicted of terrorism related offences while 20
 persons were still awaiting prosecution at 31 December 2010.
- Twenty-eight terrorism related defendant trials were completed in this period, with 64 per cent of defendants convicted. Seventeen of the 18 offenders convicted were sentenced to custody including four life sentences; the remaining defendant was given a community sentence.
- There were 123 persons in prison for terrorist related offences at 31 December 2010 of which 22 were classified as domestic extremists/separatists.

Stops and searches under s43 & s44 Terrorism Act 2000

In the year ending 31 December 2010:

- There were 23,882 stops and searches in Great Britain under s44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, an 84 per cent fall over the previous twelve months. There were 30 stops and searches made in the third quarter of 2010/11, compared with 22,092 during the same quarter in 2009/10. Nineteen per cent of those stopped and searched under these powers classified themselves as Asian or Asian British.
- The Metropolitan Police made 995 stops and searches under s43 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Thirty per cent of those searched classified themselves as Asian or Asian British.
- A total of 163 arrests were made following s44 stops and searches in Great Britain with one arrest identified as terrorism related. The defendant arrested under the terrorism act following a s44 search was cautioned for a non-terrorism related offence.

Notes to editors

This statistical bulletin has been developed from the Terrorism arrests and outcomes 2007/8 statistical bulletin by extending coverage to include data on the use of police powers under s43 and s44 Terrorism Act 2000. The bulletin extends up to 31 December 2010 the data in the annual bulletin covering 2009/10 published on 28 October 2010.

Although most of the statistics enclosed in the publication are not classified as National Statistics the publication arrangements for this report are in line with these procedures. Following further improvements in quality and content we will seek to have the series considered for designation as National Statistics by the UK Statistics Authority.

The report is available online through the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website.

This Statistical Bulletin has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit. Although this output is not currently given National Statistics accreditation, the protocols for such statistics have been mirrored as closely as possible.

The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the direct management of a Chief Statistician who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.