



28 November 2013

Statistical News Release: Metal theft, England and Wales, financial year ending March 2013

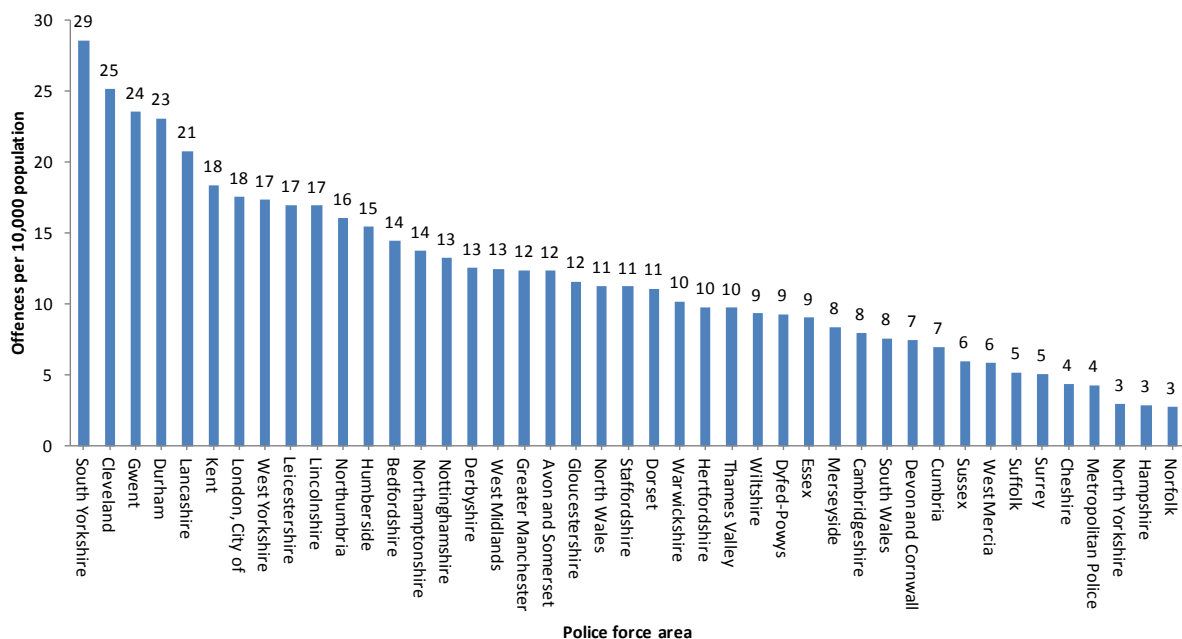
Statistics on metal theft offences recorded by the police in England and Wales for 2012/13 are released today. Data are presented by police force area. This is the first time that these figures have been published.

'Metal theft' is a subset of the police recorded crime series published by the Office for National Statistics. Police forces classify metal theft offences as either infrastructure-related or non-infrastructure-related metal theft.

There were 61,349 metal theft offences recorded by the police between April 2012 and March 2013, corresponding to 2% of all crime in England and Wales recorded during this period. The metal theft offences were categorised as follows:

- 28,843 (47%) were infrastructure-related;
- 25,869 (42%) were non-infrastructure-related; and
- 6,637 (11%) were not classified.

There were 11 metal theft offences per 10,000 members of the population in England and Wales between April 2012 and March 2013. Data for all forces are shown in the chart below.



Quarterly data for 2012/13 show a fall of 40% within the year, from 20,151 in the first quarter (April to June 2012) to 12,076 in the last quarter (January to March 2013). Caution should be applied when interpreting a fall in the number of metal theft offences over a one year period, as changes could be affected by seasonal variation.

Additional data obtained from 23 police forces showed that the majority of metal theft offences (63%) in these areas were linked to offences categorised as other theft offences. The remainder were linked to: burglary offences (20%), offences against vehicles (16%) and other offences (1%).

Notes to editors

1. 'Metal theft, England and Wales, financial year ending March 2013' is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and the Home Office website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/metal-theft-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-march-2013>
2. Forces were asked to provide breakdowns to categorise metal thefts as either infrastructure-related or non-infrastructure-related. Where an offence involved both categories of metal theft, forces were asked to categorise the offence as infrastructure-related only.
3. Note that some police forces were unable to categorise metal theft offences as either infrastructure or non-infrastructure-related.
4. These statistics are being published by the Home Office for the first time since the data collection became mandatory for all police forces in England and Wales in April 2012.
5. 'Crime Statistics – Focus on Property Crime, 2012/13' is also being released on 28 November 2013 by the Office for National Statistics. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-property-crime--2012-13/index.html>

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

Newsdesk - **020 7035 3535**

Monday - Thursday: 07:00 – 21:00

Friday: 07:00 – 20:00

Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 020 7035 6434

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.