



26 January 2017

Statistical News Release: Police Workforce, England and Wales, 30 September 2016

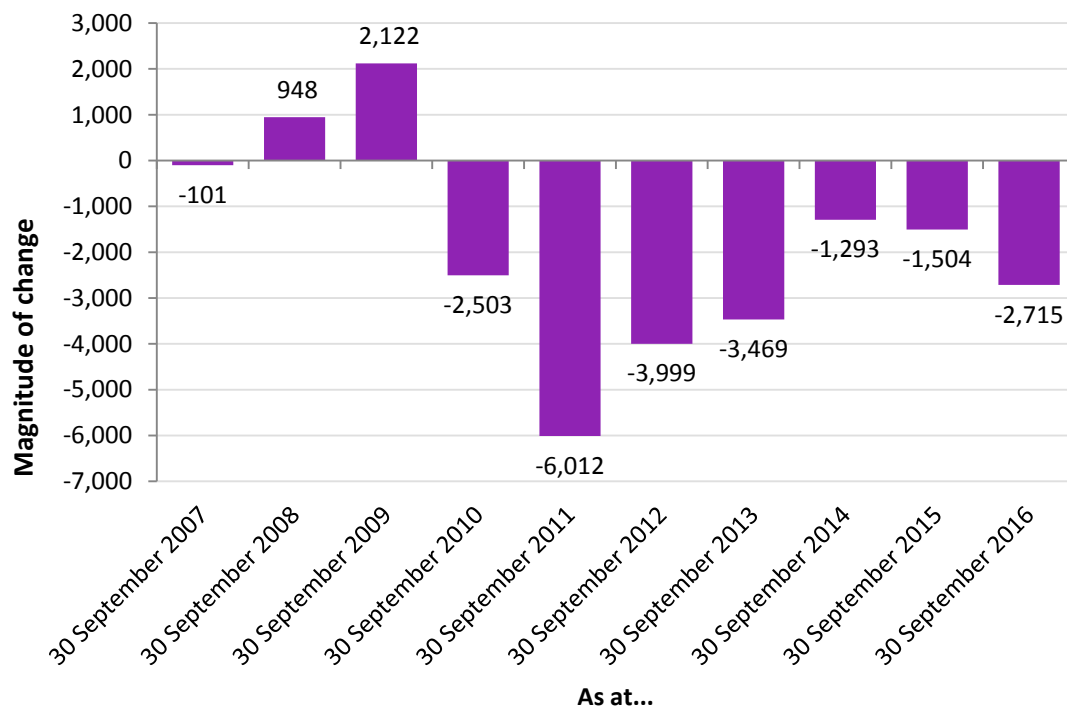
This bulletin contains statistics on the police workforce in the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, as at 30 September 2016.

It also contains statistics on the age of the police workforce as at 31 March 2016, and in previous years, and misconduct and criminal investigations involving police workers in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Total Workforce (excluding British Transport Police)

- The number of police workers fell by 3.0% between 30 September 2015 and 30 September 2016, to 198,228. This continues the downward trend of recent years.
- The number of police officers fell by 2.2% over the same period. This was a larger fall than those seen in the previous two years (see chart below).

Change in the number of police officers as at 30 September 2007 to 2016, compared to a year earlier, England and Wales



- The number of police staff (down 3.1%), Police Community Support Officers (down 10.7%), designated officers (down 5.9%), and special constables (down 7.3%) have also fallen since 30 September 2015.

Age of the workforce (as at 31 March 2016)

- As at 31 March 2016: 4% of police officers were under 26 years old, 48% were aged 26 to 40 years old, 47% aged 41 to 55 years old, and 1% were over 55 years old.
- Over the last ten years (since 31 March 2007) the proportion of police officers aged over 40 has increased from 39% to 48%, while the proportion of officers under 26 has fallen from 8% to 4%.
- The Special Constabulary had a younger age profile than paid police ranks, with 44% of special constables being under 26 years old, compared with 11% of PCSOs and 6% of civilian staff.

Misconduct and criminal investigations (Experimental Statistics – year ending 31 March 2016)

- These data have been designated as Experimental Statistics, to reflect the fact that they are new data and will be developed further in future years.
- In the year ending 31 March 2016, the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales assessed 48,729 cases involving officers or staff following a public complaint or conduct matter.
- Of these, 3,945 cases were investigated as misconduct or gross misconduct, and proceedings were brought in 1,844 cases:
 - 1,115 were referred to a misconduct meeting; and
 - 729 required a misconduct hearing or special case hearing (where gross misconduct is involved, or an individual who has previously received a final written warning for misconduct was the subject)
- There were 359 dismissals in the year ending 31 March 2016, 259 of which related to officers and 100 to staff.
- 100 officers and 27 staff members were found guilty following criminal investigations

Notes to editors

The publication is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-30-september-2016>

Press enquiries

Please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with the Crime and Policing Analysis Unit.

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Monday - Thursday: 07:00 – 21:00

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

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only.

Other enquiries

Members of the public should phone 020 7035 4848.

Alternatively, email: crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Crime and Policing Analysis Unit, 1st Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF.