



20 July 2017

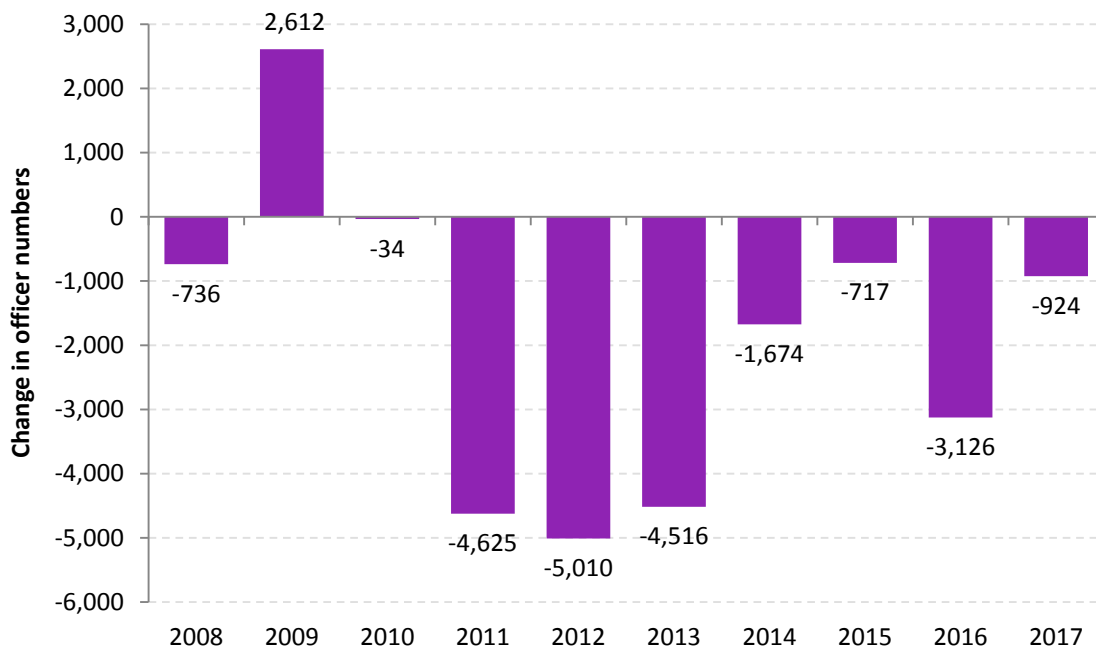
**Statistical News Release: Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2017**

This bulletin contains statistics on the police workforce in the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, as at 31 March 2017.

Total Workforce (excluding British Transport Police)

- The number of police workers fell by 1% between 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017, from 200,922 to 198,684 continuing the downward trend seen in recent years. This is the lowest number in the police workforce since 31 March 2003 (198,375 workers).
- The number of police officers fell by 0.7% over the same period, from 124,066 to 123,142. This is the lowest number of police officers at the end of a financial year<sup>1</sup> since comparable records began in 1996. Records earlier than this are not directly comparable<sup>2</sup>; however, they indicate that this is the lowest number of officers since 1985.

**Change in the number of police officers as at 31 March 2008 to 2017, compared with the previous 12 months, England and Wales**



<sup>1</sup> As at 30 September 2016 there were 122,859 officers.

<sup>2</sup> Police strength statistics were collected monthly by the Police Policy Directorate of the Home Office until 1995, when the responsibility was transferred to the Analysis team and figures were collected on a financial year basis.

- The number of police staff (down 1%), police community support officers (down 8%), and special constables (down 16%) have fallen since 31 March 2016. Designated officers (up 3%) were the only worker type to see an increase compared with the previous year.

#### **Police workforce (FTE), as at 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017, England and Wales**

| <b>Worker type</b>                | <b>2016</b>    | <b>2017</b>    | <b>Percentage change (%)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Police officers                   | 124,066        | 123,142        | -0.7                         |
| Police staff                      | 61,668         | 61,063         | -1.0                         |
| Police Community Support Officers | 11,043         | 10,213         | -7.5                         |
| Designated Officers               | 4,130          | 4,255          | 3.0                          |
| <b>Total police workforce</b>     | <b>200,922</b> | <b>198,684</b> | <b>-1.1</b>                  |
| Special Constables (headcount)    | 15,996         | 13,503         | -15.6                        |

- The number of officers in frontline roles has fallen, from 106,411 as at 31 March 2016 to 105,571 as at 31 March 2017, a fall of 840 officers (1%). However, the proportion of officers in frontline roles has remained stable, at 93%.
- The number of officers in local policing roles fell by 1.7% over the same period, to 56,430. The proportion of officers in these roles has remained stable, at 50%.

#### Diversity

- As at 31 March 2017, 6% of all officers were Black and Minority Ethnic (compared with 14.0% of the population<sup>3</sup>). This was the highest proportion of BME officers since records began.
- The proportion of female officers continues to rise, 29% of officers were female as at 31 March 2017, the highest proportion on record.
- In 2016/17, 11% of joiners were BME, compared with 5% of leavers, and 33% of joiners were women, compared with 25% of leavers. This suggests a trend towards increased diversity.

#### Wellbeing

- As at 31 March 2017, there were 2,358 police officers on long-term sick leave. This was a decrease of 2% compared with the previous year (2,404 officers on long term-sick leave), and accounted for around 2% of all police officers in England and Wales.
- As at 31 March 2017, there were 4,426 police officers (headcount) on recuperative duties, and 4,111 on adjusted/restricted duties in England and Wales. This accounted for 3.6% and 3.3% of all officers respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Population data from the 2011 Census, based on whole population.

**Notes to editors**

The publication is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2017>

**Press enquiries**

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

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

**Other enquiries**

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