



19 July 2018

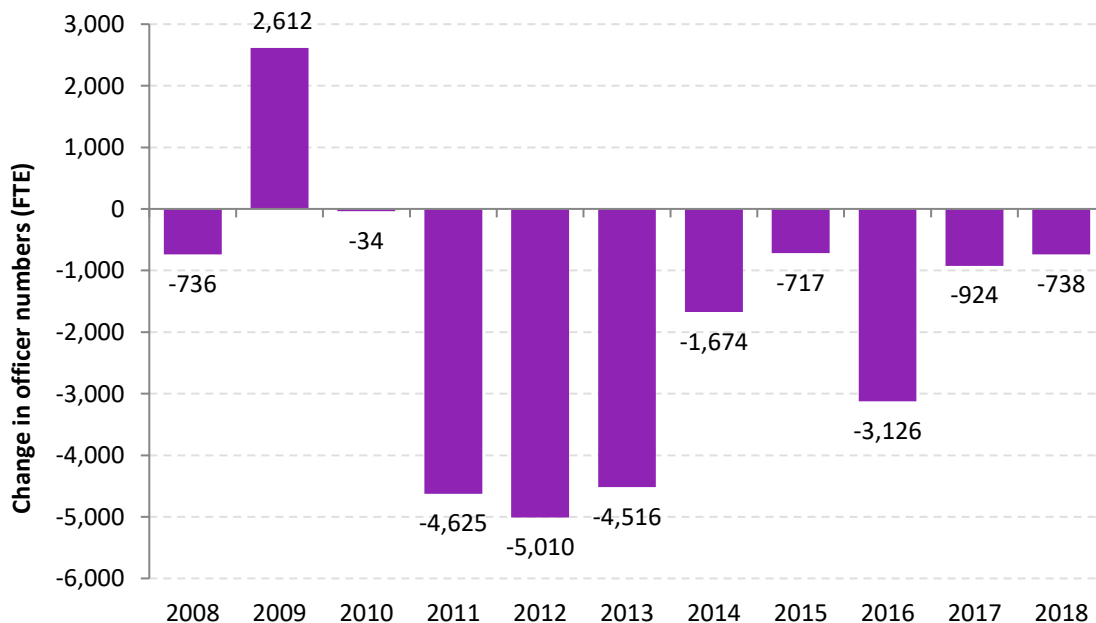
Statistical News Release: Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2018

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 2018.

Total Workforce (excluding British Transport Police)

- The number of police workers increased slightly by 0.5% between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018, from 198,686 to 199,752. This is the first yearly increase in police workers since 2010.
- However, the latest rise was due to an increase in the number of police staff and those referred to as “designated officers” (who have limited powers designated to them by a chief constable) rather than officers. The number of police officers fell slightly in the last year, from 123,142 to 122,404 (down 0.6%). This is the lowest number of police officers at the end of a financial year since comparable records began in 1996. Records earlier than this are not directly comparable¹; but this is the lowest number of officers since 1981.

Change in the number of police officers (FTE) as at 31 March 2008 to 2018, compared with the previous 12 months, England and Wales



¹ 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 Community Support Officers (down 1%), and special constables (down 13%) have fallen since 31 March 2017. Police staff (up 3%), and designated officers (up 3%) saw an increase compared with the previous year.

Police workforce (FTE), as at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018, England and Wales

Worker type	2017	2018	Percentage change (%)
Police officers	123,142	122,404	-0.6
Police staff	61,065	62,820	2.9
Police Community Support Officers	10,213	10,139	-0.7
Designated Officers	4,255	4,380	3.0
Total police workforce	198,684	199,752	0.5
Special Constables (headcount)	13,502	11,690	-13.4

- The number of officers in frontline roles has fallen, from 105,502 as at 31 March 2017 to 103,837 as at 31 March 2018, a fall of 1,665 officers (1.6%). The proportion of officers in frontline policing roles has fallen one percentage point, to 92%, after previously remaining stable over the last three years.
- The number of officers in local policing roles fell by 5% over the same period, to 53,822. The proportion of officers in these roles has fallen two percentage points, to 48%.

Diversity

- As at 31 March 2018, 7% of all officers were Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) which is the highest proportion of BME officers since records began. However, the police service continues to under-represent those from a BME background (who comprise 14% of the population²).
- The proportion of female officers continues to rise, 30% of officers were female as at 31 March 2018, the highest proportion on record but still well below the proportion of women in the general population.
- In 2017/18, 9% of joiners were BME, compared with 5% of leavers, and 34% of joiners were women, compared with 24% of leavers. This suggests a trend towards increased diversity.

Wellbeing

- As at 31 March 2018, 1.9% of police officers were on long-term sick leave. This was a fall of 5 officers (FTE) compared with the previous year.

² 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-2018>

Press enquiries

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

Newsdesk - 020 7035 3535

Monday - Friday: 07:00 – 20:00

Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 07659 174 240

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:

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