



Home Office

26 July 2018

Statistical News Release: Police use of firearms statistics, England and Wales: April 2017 to March 2018

The Home Office published today the latest official statistics on police use of firearms in England and Wales.

The release contains statistics on the total number of police firearms operations, including operations involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs); incidents in which police firearms were discharged; and armed officers.

In the year ending March 2018, compared with the previous year, there were:

- 18,746 police firearms operations, an increase of 19% (2,937 operations). This continues the rise since the year ending March 2016
- 15,794 firearms operations involving Armed Response Vehicles; this was 84% of all police firearms operations (the same proportion as the previous year, and which has remained between 80-85% each year since March 2009)
- 12 incidents in which police firearms were discharged, up from 10 incidents
- 6,459 armed officers as at 31 March 2018, an increase of 3% (181 officers) and continuing the rise in number of armed officers

Notes to editors

1. 'Police use of firearms statistics, England and Wales: April 2017 to March 2018' is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-use-of-firearms-statistics>.

Press enquiries

Journalists with enquiries can call the Home Office news desk on 020 7035 3535.

The desk operates from 7am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

Press office out of hours number: 07623 514 628.

If you are not a member of the media, please use the Home Office public enquiries line: 020 7035 4848.