

FACTSHEET- The Police in England and Wales

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1. INTRODUCTION

Police mission statements frequently refer back to Richard Mayne’s 1829 speech:

“The primary object of an efficient police is the prevention of crime: the next that of detection and punishment of offenders if crime is committed. To these ends all the efforts of police must be directed. The protection of life and property, the preservation of public tranquility, and the absence of crime, will alone prove whether those efforts have been successful and whether the objects for which the police were appointed have been attained.”

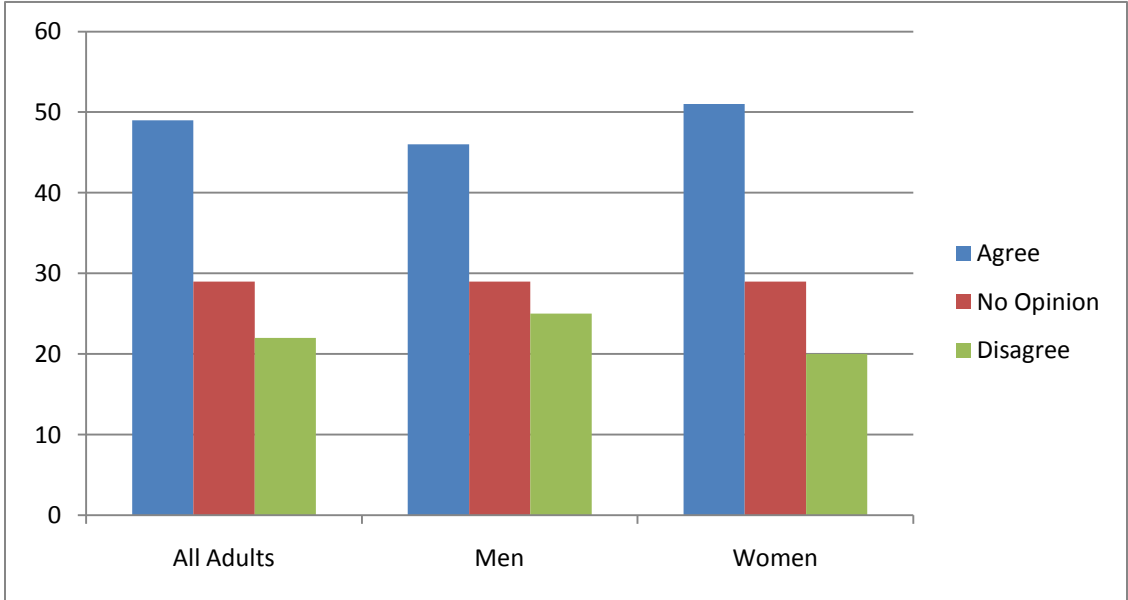
In attaining these objects, much depends on the approval and co-operation of the public, and these have always been determined by the degree of esteem and respect in which the police are held. One of the key principles of modern policing in Britain is that the police seek to work *with* the community and *as part of* the community.

2. FACTS AND STATISTICS

(i) Effectiveness of the Police in tackling crimeⁱ

49% of British Crime Survey respondents in 2008/9 agreed that police and local councils were dealing with issues, 29% had ‘no opinion’ and 22% disagreed.

Public confidence: ‘The police are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area’ⁱⁱ



Age	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
16-24	48	28	24
25-34	42	33	24
35-44	42	31	27

45-54	43	30	27
55-64	47	27	26
65-74	51	26	22
75+	57	25	17

Marital Status	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
Married	49	29	22
Cohabiting	44	31	25
Single	48	29	24
Separated	48	28	24
Divorced	50	28	23
Widowed	58	27	15

Total Household Income	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
Less than £10,000	56	24	20
£10,000 less than £20,000	53	26	21
£20,000 less than £30,000	48	27	25
£30,000 less than £40,000	47	28	24
£40,000 less than £50,000	48	30	22
£50,000 or more	45	32	23

Living environment deprivation index	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
20% most deprived output areas	50	25	25
Other output areas	48	29	23
20% least deprived output areas	50	32	18

Sanction Detection Rates

Recorded offences 2008/9 - 702,468ⁱⁱⁱ

Recorded crime cleared up by a sanction detection^{iv} - 28%

Sanction detection rates totals (all percentage values):^v

Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Offences against vehicles	Other theft offences	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
28	47	31	21	13	11	25	28	14	95	71

(ii) How the Police are regulated

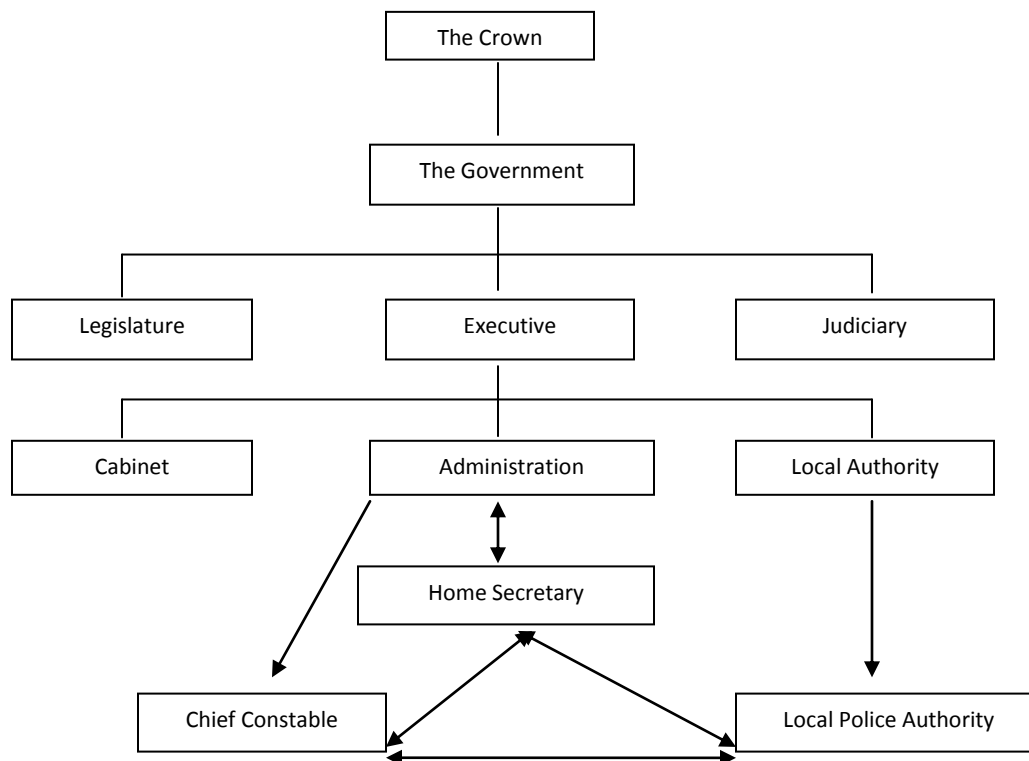
Police forces are strategically managed by a *Police Authority*, or Board, that ensures there is local accountability for policing. Their duties include:

- Negotiating and aligning policing and community safety priorities,
- Working with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) partners and other local bodies.
- Assessing the success of locally developed strategies to tackle anti-social behaviour and volume and violent crime at basic command unit and neighbourhood level
- Ensuring adjustments are put into place and remedial action taken where necessary.

The tripartite system of police accountability^{vi}: Responsibilities are distributed between the Home Office, the local police authority, and the chief constable of the force.

However, case-law has made it clear that the police are the servants of the law in terms of their operational discretion, and are not subject to administrative or political direction in this respect.

Home Secretary/Home Office	Local Police Authority	Chief Constable
Determines key national policing objectives. Produces annual National Policing Plan and presents it to Parliament	Responsible for maintaining an effective and efficient force	Responsible for direction and control of the force
Directs police authorities to establish performance targets. Can require a police force to take remedial action if HMIC judges them inefficient or ineffective	Determines local policing priorities. Produces a three-year strategy consistent with National Policing Plan	Responsible for operational Control
Determines cash grant to police Authorities	Determines arrangements for public consultation	Drafts local policing plan in conjunction with local police authority
Approves appointment of chief Constables	Established as precepting body responsible for budgeting and resource allocation	Responsible for achieving local and national policing objectives
Issues statutory codes of practice and directions to police authorities	Responsible for appointment and dismissal of the chief constable (subject to ratification by the Secretary of State). Can require suspension or early dismissal on public interest grounds	Responsible for resource Allocation
Issues statutory codes of practice to Chief Officers	Membership of 17 (usually). 9 from local government 5 local independents. 3 magistrates	Chief constables and deputy/assistant chief constables on fixed term contracts
Has authority to order amalgamations		



The *Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)* is an organisation that has overall responsibility for the system and complaints against the police (as well as for the Serious Organised Crime Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency). Any conduct matters, or the consideration of appeals made by members of the public about the way their complaints were handled, also fall under the IPCC remit.

(iii) **Cost of the police force**

£4,683mn: Total grant allocated to the police by government in England and Wales for 2009/2010.^{vii} But the total annual budget of the Police Service is **£17.5bn**^{viii}, more than half the entire public order and safety budget (which includes fire services, law courts and prison services).

The government grant to the police increased by more than £3.7billion between 1998 -2011 – this is an increase of 60%.^{ix}

(iv) **Composition of Police Force Areas**

There are 44 Police Force Areas in England and Wales. These are localised police forces that operate under the umbrella of central government funding and for which information and evaluation are gathered and analysed independently.

They are:

England		Wales
Avon and Somerset	London (City of)	Dyfed-Powys
Bedfordshire	Merseyside	Gwent
Cambridgeshire	Metropolitan Police	North Wales
Cheshire	Norfolk	South Wales
Cleveland	Northamptonshire	
Cumbria	Northumbria	
Derbyshire	North Yorkshire	
Devon and Cornwall	Nottinghamshire	
Dorset	South Yorkshire	
Durham,	Staffordshire	
Essex	Suffolk	
Gloucestershire	Surrey	
Greater Manchester	Sussex	
Hampshire	Thames Valley	
Hertfordshire	Warwickshire	
Humberside	West Mercia	
Kent	West Midlands	
Lancashire	West Yorkshire	
Leicestershire	Wiltshire	
Lincolnshire		

The most costly Police Force Area is the Met Police £1,138bn and the force allocated the smallest grant was Cleveland with £22.4m.

(v) Staff Breakdown^x

There are **239,104 police staff in total**, of which **141,647** are **police officers**.^{xi} This ratio of police workers to population of England and Wales is currently **1:231**.^{xii} The force is split into the following categories:

<i>Rank</i>	<i>All Staff</i>	<i>Salaries^{xiii}</i>	<i>Job Description</i>
ACPO Ranks	217	N/A	
Chief Superintendents	478		Ensure the provision of an efficient and comprehensive Finance, Administration and Facility Management service to the Chief Superintendent/Deputy Head of Department and Senior Management Team including the Personnel Manager, Resource Manager, Planning & Performance Manager and SDO/DSDO's. Proactively participate at regular meetings with other members of the Divisional Business Unit Management team Manage the administrative and financial practices and procedures within the Division Manage the Business and Administration processes within the Division and ensure the implementation of authorized changes to these. Manage internal/external funding
Superintendents	1,011		Lead/deputise for leaders of large police teams. liaising with forces at ACPO level to negotiate and

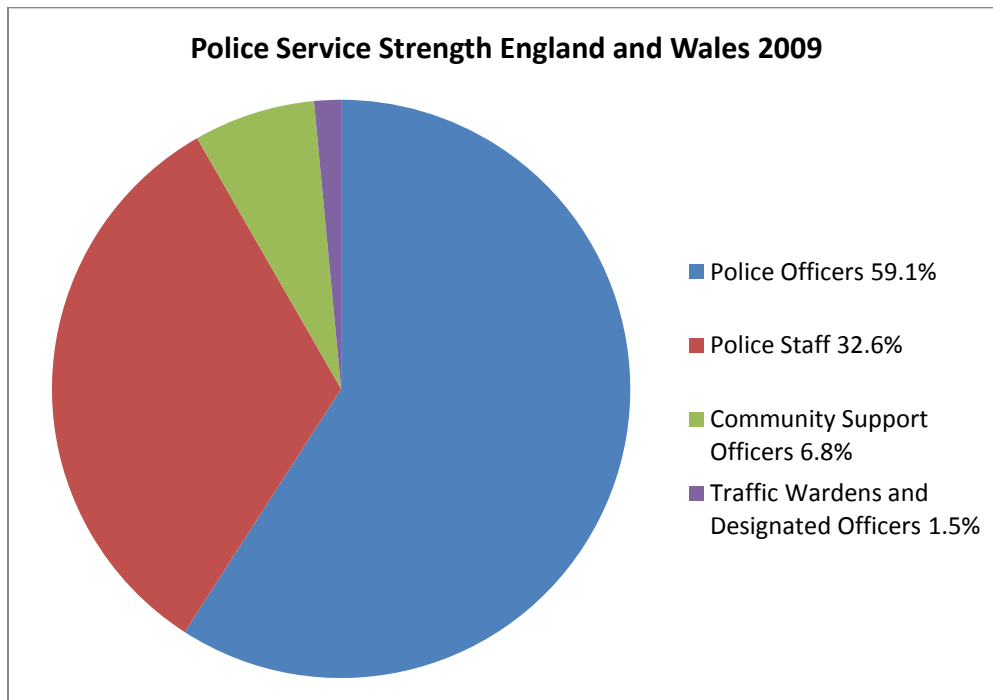
			agree the terms of reference for the deployment of NPIA support, including the scope of the problems to be examined, the extent of external resources deployed, the identification of local ownership and the outcomes to be delivered; role includes responsibility to ensure that this “contract” has been delivered and the deployment signed off and closed.
Chief Inspectors	1,907	£50,000- £54,000	supervisors and managers of Inspectors
Inspectors	7,350	£45,600- £51,000	Investigate serious crime and act upon intelligence that can lead to an arrest. Middle managers responsible for supervising the ranks of constable and sergeant in the detection and prevention of crime and the investigation of serious incidents. Much of an inspector's time is spent at the police station, controlling, planning and organising the work of others. Responsibilities may also include paperwork such as risk assessment and health and safety procedures.
Sergeants	22,412	£35,500- £40,000	Duties largely overlap those of lower rank police officers. In addition to basic police functions, however, sergeants also have additional management responsibilities. Sergeants are responsible for disciplinary measures and implementing new laws and policies. They are more likely to interact with media or testify in court about police procedures. Police sergeants typically work for municipal police departments, and generally have several years of uniformed experience.
Constables	108,272	£22,600- £35,000	Undertake various tasks, from conducting high-visibility uniformed patrols to responding to calls and requests for assistance. A peacekeeping role, protect the public from violence and minimise risks to public safety, by providing a reassuring presence in the community, support victims of crime and offer help to those who have witnessed crimes. Investigate crimes using a mixture of technology and traditional methods.
TOTAL POLICE RANKS	141,647		
Police Staff (exc PCSO, TW & DO)	77,609		Admin etc
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)	16,331		Operate much like regular police officers, although their role can vary from force to force. More high-visibility roles, eg conduct visits as part of an anti-crime education programme, or working at crime scenes. Although they do not have the same powers as regular police officers, they do share many of those powers.(eg, issuing fixed penalty notices). Depending on where they work, PCSOs: deal with minor offences, work closely with young people to prevent crime, provide support for police on the street, conduct house-to-house enquiries, guard crime scenes and.

			provide crime prevention advice. PCSOs do not have powers of arrest, cannot interview or process prisoners, cannot investigate crime and do not carry out the more complex and high-risk tasks that police officers perform.
Traffic Wardens (TW)*	458		
Designated Officers (DO)	3,058		
TOTAL POLICE SERVICE STRENGTH	239,104		
Special Constabulary	14,251		Volunteer police officers

*The number of traffic wardens in Great Britain has dropped significantly since 1991, when the Road Traffic Act gave local authorities the option to apply for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement powers, under which they can employ civil enforcement officers to monitor parking regulations. The Metropolitan Police has recently merged the roles of traffic warden and Police Community Support Officer to create the Traffic Police Community Support Officer role. These officers have the powers of both a Police Community Support Officer and a Traffic Warden.

Gender: 36,187 of the 144,274 officers in England and Wales (including Central Service secondments) were female, representing 25.1% of the total. This is compared with 24.2% in 2008

Ethnicity: As at 31 March 2009, there were 6,310 minority ethnic police officers in England and Wales, accounting for 4.4 % of all officers. This is compared with 4.1% in 2008.



Designated Officers

Designated Officers are persons employed by the police authority who have been chosen by Chief Officers to exercise specified powers which would otherwise only be available to police officers. Designated Police Staff were introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002, sections 38 and 39 and legislation enables the appropriate designation of skilled police staff to one or more of four roles: Police Community Support Officer, Investigation Officer, Detention Officer and Escort Officer.

(vi) List of Police powers^{xiv}

Power	Description
<i>Arrest</i>	Searches by police under PACE of a person's body cavities when suspected of hiding drugs or offensive weapons upon their person. There must be reasonable grounds for suspicion.
<i>Stop and Search</i>	Searches by police under PACE of a person's body cavities when suspected of hiding drugs or offensive weapons upon their person. There must be reasonable grounds for suspicion.
<i>Intimate Search</i>	Searches by police under PACE of a person's body cavities when suspected of hiding drugs or offensive weapons upon their person. There must be reasonable grounds for suspicion.
<i>Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND)</i>	On the spot fines issued by police for minor disorder offences such as being drunk and disorderly, wasting police time and littering. Accepting a PND for an offence is not an admission of guilt and does not appear on a person's criminal record.
<i>Road Check</i>	Police power under PACE to block roads and search vehicles for persons suspected of intending to commit, committing or witnessing an indictable offence, or is unlawfully at large. <i>Vehicle Only Searches</i> - Searches of unattended vehicles conducted by the police.
<i>Vehicle Only Searches</i>	Searches of unattended vehicles conducted by the police.
<i>Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS)</i>	Voluntary scheme introduced by police forces whereby police officers issue VDRS notices to motorists where a vehicle is found in a defective condition. Upon receipt, the motorist must rectify the defect and submit the vehicle for inspection by an approved garage to avoid prosecution.
<i>Warrant of Further Detention</i>	Where the police need to detain a person beyond 36 hours an application must be made at a magistrates' court, which can issue a warrant of further detention up to 36 hours. Further extensions can be applied for, but any extension granted cannot exceed 36 hours or permit the total period of detention to exceed 96 hours.

How police spend their time:

In 2001-2 only 1% of an officer's time was guaranteed to be spent on foot patrol.^{xv} However, in 2009 the Home Office widely publicised their campaign pledging to ensure that 'bobbies spend 80% of their time on the beat'.^{xvi}

3. PROBLEMS

Issues that have been acknowledged by Home Office policy and have had counteractive measures implemented, all with the ultimate aim of enhancing the responsiveness of the police:

Bureaucracy

- Reducing paperwork to focus resources on front-line policing
- Flexibility in finance arrangements wherever possible.

Technology

- Reviewing Existing information and communications technology (ICT) to ensure that it supports increased capacity and capability, efficiency and productivity.
- The new National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) will deliver the changes.

Targeted support

- The Home Office and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) will continue to deliver this nationally.
- Performance management, good practice guidance and training.

Serious/organised crime

- 'Protective services' to cover the response to serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism and domestic extremism, civil contingencies and emergency management, critical incident management, major crime, public order, protection of vulnerable people and strategic roads policing.
- 30 police forces across England and Wales to take part in a programme to establish new initiatives for combating serious organised crime and other threats to public safety.
- National protective service standards for the police service will also be developed.
- The Government is developing sustainable police counter-terrorism capability by establishing three Counter Terrorism Units in Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester,
- Pre-established Regional Intelligence Cells being expanded.

Public confidence

- Civil Liberties Panels, especially in the wake of the Ali Dizaei scandal, to restoring declining public trust in policing tactics.

4. NEWLY DEVELOPED GENERAL STRATEGIES

- Developing e-crime prevention strategies: The Metropolitan Police has set up a Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU) with aim of creating a national centre of excellence to combat electronic crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **Neighbourhood Policing is being rolled out nationally.** Neighbourhood Policing focuses on local people using local information to help the police and other agencies set priorities and consequently,

are better able to hold them to account for delivery. Many neighbourhood policing teams have already implemented approaches to engaging local people and keeping them updated on progress in tackling their concerns. In places where a neighbourhood policing approach has already been introduced, local communities perceive less crime and lower levels anti-social behaviour, they feel safer, and have greater confidence in the police.

ENDNOTES

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- ⁱ Alison Walker, John Flatley, Chris Kershaw and Debbie Moon, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, July 2009. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol1.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ Home Office Statistical News Release: Public Confidence in the Police and their local partners, September 2008 <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/pubcon-bcs-snr.pdf>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Hansard, 26 January 2010 Written Answers, <http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/ByDate/20100126/writtenanswers/part014.html>
- ^{iv} P10. Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Home Office. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109summ.pdf>
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- ^{vii} P31. Independent Reviews of reported CSR07 Value for Money savings, National Audit Office <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0910/hc00/0086/0086.pdf>
- ^{viii} HM Treasury, Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008: National Statistics (London: HM Treasury, 2008), http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/9/A/pesa08-09_pu548_210408.pdf, Table 5.2. Cited in A Force to be Reckoned With, The Centre for Social Justice. <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/20090330PoliceReportKeyFacts.pdf>
- ^{ix} House of Commons debate, 4 February 2009. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2009-02-04c.850.0>
- ^x All statistics from this source, unless otherwise indicated. Police Service Strength, Home Office, March 2009. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1309.pdf>
- ^{xi} Police Service Strength, House of Commons Library, SN/SG/634 <http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/briefings/snsg-00634.pdf>
- ^{xii} <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1309.pdf>
- ^{xiii} <http://www.police-information.co.uk/policepay.htm#inspectors>
- ^{xiv} Home Office: Police Powers and Procedures 2008/9, Glossary <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf>
- ^{xv} Home Office, A Summary of Recorded Crime Data 1898 to 2001/2, (London: Home Office, 2008) <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/recordedcrime1.html>.
- ^{xvi} Home Office press release, Feb 2009 <http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/More-time-police-on-the-beat>