

MORE TROUBLE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

POLICE PATROLS CUT BY A QUARTER SINCE 2010

On the eve of the 2015 general election, recently published Home Office figures show that government funding cuts to neighbourhood policing have seen a 27 per cent cut in the police patrol presence on our streets. That's because there are 4,430 fewer police community support officers (PCSOs) patrolling and looking after your neighbourhood.

Here's a map that shows the impact of losing 4,430 PCSOs is the equivalent of cutting **every** PCSO who was employed in the following forces in March 2010:

Cutting 4,430 police community support officers is equivalent to cutting every PCSO in fifteen of the 39 police forces in England.

| PCSOs: March 2010 | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Force | PCSO Total |
| Avon and Somerset | 430 |
| Cambridgeshire | 209 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 363 |
| Dorset | 164 |
| Essex | 445 |
| Gloucestershire | 148 |
| Hampshire | 347 |
| Kent | 387 |
| Hertfordshire | 262 |
| Norfolk | 275 |
| Suffolk | 173 |
| Surrey | 224 |
| Sussex | 377 |
| Thames Valley | 500 |
| Wiltshire | 126 |
| Total | 4,429 |



UNISON represents police community support officers who make up 75 per cent of the police workforce in neighbourhood policing teams across England and Wales. They have made a real difference to policing, but while the Welsh government has protected neighbourhood policing and PCSO numbers, in England exactly the opposite is true.

UNISON is determined to bring the impact of these cuts to neighbourhood policing to public attention. Here the research on PCSO cuts published 12 months ago is compared with the most recently available official figures.

What we said in 2014

Back in the spring of 2014, UNISON research showed that:

- In September 2013, there were 3,585 fewer PCSOs in England than in March 2010
- The Welsh government bucked this trend by funding an additional 409 PCSOs, over the same period, in the four Welsh forces
- This equated to a 22 per cent cut to PCSO numbers in England
- This figure was higher than the overall 20 per cent cut to police budgets, showing that neighbourhood policing had been cut harder than other police functions
- Sixty one per cent of UNISON PCSO members reported at the time that neighbourhood policing teams in their force had been the subject of cuts in staffing or resources
- The impact of the cuts were being felt in the following key areas:
 - Falling numbers of neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs
 - Detrimental changes to overall resourcing for neighbourhood policing
 - PCSOs having to cover much larger beats and more lone working
 - Frustration that PCSOs could no longer provide the service to communities they want to
 - Cuts to transport, equipment, buildings and uniform provision.

What has changed in 2015?

The latest Home Office police workforce figures show that the PCSO trends identified back in 2014 have carried on and got worse in 2015.

What do the latest statistics show?

- In overall terms, cuts to the number of PCSOs in England has continued as follows:
 - **March 2010 to September 2013:** 22 per cent cut to PCSO numbers
 - **March 2010 to September 2014:** 27 per cent cut to PCSO numbers
 - See tables 1, 2 & 3 below for full details
- **4,430 PCSO jobs were cut between March 2010 and September 2014 in England**
- **That's the equivalent of losing all of the PCSOs who were employed in March 2010 in the following 15 forces:**

| Force | PCSOs |
|------------------|-------|
| Avon & Somerset | 430 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 363 |
| Dorset | 164 |
| Gloucestershire | 148 |
| Wiltshire | 126 |
| Hampshire | 347 |
| Kent | 387 |
| Surrey | 224 |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Sussex | 377 |
| Thames Valley | 500 |
| Cambridgeshire | 209 |
| Essex | 445 |
| Hertfordshire | 262 |
| Norfolk | 275 |
| Suffolk | 173 |
| TOTAL | 4,429 |

Conclusion

PCSOs make up the vast majority of the neighbourhood policing workforce (75 per cent) and cuts to their numbers have meant that more than a quarter of the police patrol presence on our streets has disappeared.

Since the last election 4,430 of them have been cut in England. It does not take a mathematical genius to work out that cutting over a quarter of the PCSO workforce is going to be bad news for communities who rely on them to patrol their neighbourhoods.

The government has stood by and watched as police forces have been forced to cut their patrol function by 27 per cent, just to cope with the drastic reduction in Home Office funding for policing over the last five years.

(May 2015)

Table 1: PCSO cuts by force (alphabetical order)

| Police force area | 31/03/10 | 31/03/14 | 30/09/14 | Change March 2010 to September 2014 | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | Number | % |
| Avon & Somerset | 430 | 334 | 338 | -92 | -21.40 |
| Bedfordshire | 116 | 96 | 97 | -19 | -16.38 |
| Cambridgeshire | 209 | 141 | 155 | -54 | -25.84 |
| Cheshire | 237 | 190 | 206 | -31 | -13.08 |
| Cleveland | 193 | 150 | 134 | -59 | -30.57 |
| Cumbria | 111 | 83 | 95 | -16 | -14.41 |
| Derbyshire | 181 | 160 | 158 | -23 | -12.71 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 363 | 382 | 346 | -17 | -4.68 |
| Dorset | 164 | 154 | 155 | -9 | -5.49 |
| Durham | 175 | 152 | 148 | -27 | -15.43 |
| Essex | 445 | 298 | 280 | -165 | -37.08 |
| Gloucestershire | 148 | 118 | 133 | -15 | -10.14 |
| Greater Manchester | 842 | 789 | 822 | -20 | -2.38 |
| Hampshire | 347 | 323 | 312 | -35 | -10.09 |
| Hertfordshire | 262 | 190 | 209 | -53 | -20.23 |
| Humberside | 317 | 294 | 287 | -30 | -9.46 |
| Kent | 387 | 345 | 350 | -37 | -9.56 |
| Lancashire | 428 | 301 | 321 | -107 | -25.00 |
| Leicestershire | 233 | 235 | 235 | 2 | 0.86 |
| Lincolnshire | 149 | 145 | 151 | 2 | 1.34 |
| London, City of | 52 | 12 | 10 | -42 | -80.77 |
| Merseyside | 468 | 316 | 323 | -145 | -30.98 |
| Metropolitan Police | 4,645 | 2,087 | 1,946 | -2,699 | -58.11 |
| Norfolk | 275 | 247 | 234 | -41 | -14.91 |
| North Yorkshire | 198 | 185 | 192 | -6 | -3.03 |
| Northamptonshire | 164 | 134 | 127 | -37 | -22.56 |
| Northumbria | 438 | 234 | 238 | -200 | -45.66 |
| Nottinghamshire | 268 | 332 | 337 | 69 | 25.75 |
| South Yorkshire | 328 | 334 | 325 | -3 | -0.91 |
| Staffordshire | 237 | 215 | 212 | -25 | -10.55 |
| Suffolk | 173 | 181 | 175 | 2 | 1.16 |
| Surrey | 224 | 153 | 135 | -89 | -39.73 |
| Sussex | 377 | 349 | 362 | -15 | -3.98 |
| Thames Valley | 500 | 485 | 462 | -38 | -7.60 |
| Warwickshire | 138 | 95 | 86 | -52 | -37.68 |
| West Mercia | 279 | 237 | 226 | -53 | -19.00 |
| West Midlands | 811 | 676 | 676 | -135 | -16.65 |
| West Yorkshire | 763 | 679 | 649 | -114 | -14.94 |
| Wiltshire | 126 | 132 | 123 | -3 | -2.38 |
| TOTAL | 16,201 | 11,963 | 11,770 | -4,431 | -27.35 |

Table 2: PCSO cuts by region

| English region | Police force area | 31/03/10 | 31/03/14 | Change March 2010 to September 2014 | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | Number | % |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 181 | 160 | -23 | -12.71 |
| East Midlands | Leicestershire | 233 | 235 | 2 | 0.86 |
| East Midlands | Lincolnshire | 149 | 145 | 2 | 1.34 |
| East Midlands | Northamptonshire | 164 | 134 | -37 | -22.56 |
| East Midlands | Nottinghamshire | 268 | 332 | 69 | 25.75 |
| Eastern | Bedfordshire | 116 | 96 | -19 | -16.38 |
| Eastern | Cambridgeshire | 209 | 141 | -54 | -25.84 |
| Eastern | Essex | 445 | 298 | -165 | -37.08 |
| Eastern | Hertfordshire | 262 | 190 | -53 | -20.23 |
| Eastern | Norfolk | 275 | 247 | -41 | -14.91 |
| Eastern | Suffolk | 173 | 181 | 2 | 1.16 |
| London | London, City of | 52 | 12 | -42 | -80.77 |
| London | Metropolitan Police | 4,645 | 2,087 | -2,699 | -58.11 |
| North East | Cleveland | 193 | 150 | -59 | -30.57 |
| North East | Durham | 175 | 152 | -27 | -15.43 |
| North East | Northumbria | 438 | 234 | -200 | -45.66 |
| North West | Cheshire | 237 | 190 | -31 | -13.08 |
| North West | Cumbria | 111 | 83 | -16 | -14.41 |
| North West | Greater Manchester | 842 | 789 | -20 | -2.38 |
| North West | Lancashire | 428 | 301 | -107 | -25.00 |
| North West | Merseyside | 468 | 316 | -145 | -30.98 |
| South East | Hampshire | 347 | 323 | -35 | -10.09 |
| South East | Kent | 387 | 345 | -37 | -9.56 |
| South East | Surrey | 224 | 153 | -89 | -39.73 |
| South East | Sussex | 377 | 349 | -15 | -3.98 |
| South East | Thames Valley | 500 | 485 | -38 | -7.60 |
| South West | Avon & Somerset | 430 | 334 | -92 | -21.40 |
| South West | Devon & Cornwall | 363 | 382 | -17 | -4.68 |
| South West | Dorset | 164 | 154 | -9 | -5.49 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | 148 | 118 | -15 | -10.14 |
| South West | Wiltshire | 126 | 132 | -3 | -2.38 |
| West Midlands | Staffordshire | 237 | 215 | -25 | -10.55 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 138 | 95 | -52 | -37.68 |
| West Midlands | West Mercia | 279 | 237 | -53 | -19.00 |
| West Midlands | West Midlands | 811 | 676 | -135 | -16.65 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | Humberside | 317 | 294 | -30 | -9.46 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | North Yorkshire | 198 | 185 | -6 | -3.03 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | South Yorkshire | 328 | 334 | -3 | -0.91 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | West Yorkshire | 763 | 679 | -114 | -14.94 |

Table 3: PCSO Cuts in descending order

| English region | Police force area | 31/03/10 | 30/09/14 | Change March 2010 to September 2014 | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | Number | % |
| London | London, City of | 52 | 10 | -42 | -80.77 |
| London | Metropolitan Police | 4645 | 1946 | -2,699 | -58.11 |
| North West | Northumbria | 438 | 238 | -200 | -45.66 |
| South East | Surrey | 224 | 135 | -89 | -39.73 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 138 | 86 | -52 | -37.68 |
| Eastern | Essex | 445 | 280 | -165 | -37.08 |
| North West | Merseyside | 468 | 323 | -145 | -30.98 |
| North East | Cleveland | 193 | 134 | -59 | -30.57 |
| Eastern | Cambridgeshire | 209 | 155 | -54 | -25.84 |
| North West | Lancashire | 428 | 321 | -107 | -25.00 |
| East Midlands | Northamptonshire | 164 | 127 | -37 | -22.56 |
| South West | Avon & Somerset | 430 | 338 | -92 | -21.40 |
| Eastern | Hertfordshire | 262 | 209 | -53 | -20.23 |
| West Midlands | West Mercia | 279 | 226 | -53 | -19.00 |
| West Midlands | West Midlands | 811 | 676 | -135 | -16.65 |
| Eastern | Bedfordshire | 116 | 97 | -19 | -16.38 |
| North East | Durham | 175 | 148 | -27 | -15.43 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | West Yorkshire | 763 | 649 | -114 | -14.94 |
| Eastern | Norfolk | 275 | 234 | -41 | -14.91 |
| North West | Cumbria | 111 | 95 | -16 | -14.41 |
| North West | Cheshire | 237 | 206 | -31 | -13.08 |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 181 | 158 | -23 | -12.71 |
| West Midlands | Staffordshire | 237 | 212 | -25 | -10.55 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | 148 | 133 | -15 | -10.14 |
| South East | Hampshire | 347 | 312 | -35 | -10.09 |
| South East | Kent | 387 | 350 | -37 | -9.56 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | Humberside | 317 | 287 | -30 | -9.46 |
| South East | Thames Valley | 500 | 462 | -38 | -7.60 |
| South West | Dorset | 164 | 155 | -9 | -5.49 |
| South West | Devon & Cornwall | 363 | 346 | -17 | -4.68 |
| South East | Sussex | 377 | 362 | -15 | -3.98 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | North Yorkshire | 198 | 192 | -6 | -3.03 |
| South West | Wiltshire | 126 | 123 | -3 | -2.38 |
| North West | Greater Manchester | 842 | 822 | -20 | -2.38 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | South Yorkshire | 328 | 325 | -3 | -0.91 |
| East Midlands | Leicestershire | 233 | 235 | 2 | 0.86 |
| Eastern | Suffolk | 173 | 175 | 2 | 1.16 |
| East Midlands | Lincolnshire | 149 | 151 | 2 | 1.34 |
| East Midlands | Nottinghamshire | 268 | 337 | 69 | 25.75 |