



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:**

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