

Police bolstered with 6,620 extra officers and extra funding

The government is bolstering the police with extra officers and resources to cut crime and keep communities safe, as new statistics show that an additional 6,620 officers have joined forces across England and Wales.

The figures published today (Thursday 28 January), which show progress from the launch of the campaign up to the end of December, mean that the government's campaign to recruit 20,000 additional officers over the next three years remains ahead of schedule, having exceeded the target to recruit 6,000 officers by March.

Of the new recruits, many will already be out supporting the ongoing police response to the pandemic, helping to stop the spread of coronavirus by assisting with enforcement action against those flouting the rules.

The recruitment drive is at the centre of the government's promise to back the police with more resources and support to cut crime, and today the Home Secretary has also announced an additional £20 million to help crack down on 'neighbourhood crimes' like burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle crime.

This funding forms the second round of the Safer Streets fund, which launched in January last year. It will be open to both Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Authorities and go towards local-crime cutting interventions in residential areas.

This includes simple changes to the design of high-crime areas, such as improved home security, increased street lighting and the installation of CCTV.

The announcement will bring total investment in Safer Streets to £45m over two years, supporting even more areas that are disproportionately affected by neighbourhood crime with the tools to deliver tangible and sustainable impacts.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I am delighted we have exceeded our own target to recruit 6,000 additional police officers by March 2021.

Keeping our streets is my absolute priority and many of these new officers are already on our streets helping to fight the coronavirus pandemic, and for that they get my huge thanks.

These new officers, on top of further funding to tackle crimes such as burglary, robbery and vehicle crime will ensure the police have the powers, tools and resources they need to cut crime and make you feel safer in your community.

National Police Chiefs' Council Chair Martin Hewitt:

These additional officers are most welcomed and have already started to make their difference in our communities.

We are more representative than ever before but still have a long way to go before we truly represent those we serve.

I would like to thank those who have worked with us to achieve this number of 6,620 additional officers, in particular policing networks and associations.

Bernie O'Reilly, interim CEO of the College of Policing:

Today's recruitment figures demonstrate, once again, policing's ability to adapt to challenges and continue to bring new officers into the service in difficult circumstances.

We must continue to build on this progress to ensure we have a strong, diverse and well-supported police force that helps keep the public safe for years to come.

I'm pleased that we are able to support forces through our online assessment process, which allows the police service to continue to recruit new officers during this critical time, and also through the updated Safer Streets Fund toolkit, which supports policing to implement crime prevention initiatives.

Today the Home Secretary will visit Hertfordshire Police to meet with new recruits and hear about their work responding to the pandemic.

The Policing Minister will also be hosting a Zoom call with new officers and others from Nottinghamshire Police, to hear about the work the force is doing within the Safer Streets project, as well as supporting the coronavirus response.

Figures today also show that diversity within the police workforce continues to grow.

Of all new recruits, 788 identified as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, representing 10.2% of recruits who stated their ethnicity. This means the police workforce now includes 9,871 officers from these groups, making it more diverse than ever before.

Also released today are figures for the entire police workforce across England and Wales. These figures show that as at 30 September 2020, the workforce had 216,155 (FTE) officers, staff and PCSOs – a total increase of 5.5% on the previous year.

Anyone interested in applying to their local force can search ['Join the](#)

[Police'](#) to find out more.

Force name/region	Adjusted baseline	Allocation	Uplift progress
			Dec 20
Cleveland	1,246	72	+159
Durham	1,138	68	+58
Northumbria	3,129	185	+266
North East	5,513	325	+483
Cheshire	2,080	90	+91
Cumbria	1,199	51	+66
Greater Manchester	6,787	347	+266
Lancashire	2,988	153	+133
Merseyside	3,447	200	+372
North West	16,501	841	+928
Humberside	1,929	97	+129
North Yorkshire	1,450	58	+61
South Yorkshire	2,535	151	+129
West Yorkshire	5,186	256	+390
Yorkshire and the Humber	11,100	562	+709
Derbyshire	1,827	85	+67
Leicestershire	1,998	89	+155
Lincolnshire	1,020	50	+81
Northamptonshire	1,290	57	+57
Nottinghamshire	2,021	107	+132
East Midlands	8,156	388	+492
Staffordshire	1,648	90	+72
Warwickshire	963	41	+91
West Mercia	2,164	93	+93
West Midlands	6,691	366	+357
West Midlands	11,466	590	+613
Bedfordshire	1,257	54	+54
Cambridgeshire	1,526	62	+114
Essex	3,316	135	+101
Hertfordshire	2,077	91	+111
Norfolk	1,677	67	+70
Suffolk	1,224	54	+54
Eastern	11,077	463	+504
London, city of	809	44	+42
Metropolitan Police	31,943	1,369	+1,369
London	32,752	1,413	+1,411
Hampshire	2,791	156	+220
Kent	3,729	147	+162
Surrey	1,994	78	+78
Sussex	2,737	129	+129

Force name/region	Adjusted baseline	Allocation	Uplift progress
Thames Valley	4,250	183	+258
South East	15,501	693	+847
Avon and Somerset	2,835	137	+128
Devon and Cornwall	3,115	141	+141
Dorset	1,267	50	+19
Gloucestershire	1,161	46	+91
Wiltshire	1,025	49	+27
South West	9,403	423	+406
England	121,469	5,698	6,393
Dyfed-Powys	1,163	42	+27
Gwent	1,300	62	+27
North Wales	1,507	62	+78
South Wales	2,995	136	+95
Wales	6,965	302	+227
England and Wales	128,434	6,000	+6,620