

Brief: Analysis of Police Officers per Population Data (31 March 2025)



August 2025

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This brief examines the distribution of police officers across England and Wales, based on full-time equivalent (FTE) data as of 31 March 2025, sourced from the Home Office Police Workforce Open Data Tables.

Methodology

- Data were extracted from the official Home Office Police Workforce Open Data Tables, reflecting full-time equivalent (FTE) total police officer numbers.¹
- Population figures (mid-2023 estimates), the latest available in that format per police force, were used to calculate officers per 100,000 and per 1,000 population.²
- The City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police were combined into a single "London All" category to address the unusually high number of officers concentrated in the City of London, providing a more balanced representation of police coverage across the region. The 'London All' category combines approximately 34,285 FTE officers and 8,945,300 population, yielding 383 officers per 100,000 (please see the addendum for the Detailed London Police Force Data).
- Rankings were assigned based on officers per 100,000, from highest to lowest.

Key Points

- **Total Figures:** The total number of police officers is 146,442, serving a population of 66,940,600, resulting in an average of 219 officers per 100,000 people or 2 officers per 1,000 people.
- **Highest and Lowest Ratios:** London leads with 383 officers per 100,000 (rank 1), while West Midlands has the lowest at 88 officers per 100,000 (rank 42).
- **Regional Disparity:** London All and Greater Manchester has 383 officers per 100,000 and 275 officers per 100,000 respectively (rank 1 and rank 3), while other regions like Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (166 officers per 100,000) and Lincolnshire (150 officers per 100,000) show lower ratios, rank 39 and rank 41 respectively.

¹ **Home Office. (2025).** *Police workforce, England and Wales: 31 March 2025: open data tables.* Available at: [Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK](#)

² **Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2025).** *Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables.* Available at: [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics](#)

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Data

Table 1: England and Wales: Police officers per 100,000 people by police force area - At 31 March 2025 - Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Police force area	Police officers	Population figures (mid-2023) rounded to 100	Officers per 1000,000 population	Officers per 1,000 population	Rank
London All	34,285	8,945,300	383	4	1
Merseyside	4,159	1,456,600	286	3	2
Greater Manchester	8,112	2,948,600	275	3	3
Cumbria	1,365	505,100	270	3	4
Gwent	1,549	595,400	260	3	5
South Wales	3,511	1,354,400	259	3	6
Northumbria	3,829	1,480,300	259	3	7
Cleveland	1,520	588,400	258	3	8
West Yorkshire	6,138	2,402,200	256	3	9
North Wales	1,736	692,000	251	3	10
Dyfed-Powys	1,291	522,600	247	2	11
Humberside	2,273	950,500	239	2	12
Lancashire	3,561	1,570,400	227	2	13
Kent	4,168	1,897,100	220	2	14
South Yorkshire	3,026	1,407,100	215	2	15
Durham	1,376	642,700	214	2	16
Cheshire	2,395	1,119,500	214	2	17
Norfolk	1,911	931,900	205	2	18
Gloucestershire	1,346	659,300	204	2	19
Nottinghamshire	2,391	1,173,800	204	2	20
Bedfordshire	1,481	729,200	203	2	21
Devon and Cornwall	3,618	1,822,200	199	2	22
North Yorkshire	1,655	834,400	198	2	23
Essex	3,760	1,896,600	198	2	24
Hertfordshire	2,379	1,215,400	196	2	25
Derbyshire	2,102	1,077,900	195	2	26
Leicestershire	2,248	1,154,400	195	2	27
Thames Valley	5,000	2,584,900	193	2	28
Surrey	2,330	1,228,700	190	2	29
West Mercia	2,509	1,325,300	189	2	30
Cambridgeshire	1,720	919,100	187	2	31
Avon and Somerset	3,327	1,784,500	186	2	32
Sussex	3,206	1,736,000	185	2	33
Warwickshire	1,131	617,800	183	2	34
Northamptonshire	1,465	802,300	183	2	35
Suffolk	1,403	776,400	181	2	36
Dorset	1,420	788,900	180	2	37
Staffordshire	1,997	1,161,700	172	2	38
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	3,370	2,035,900	166	2	39
Wiltshire	1,213	756,400	160	2	40
Lincolnshire	1,173	782,800	150	1	41
West Midlands	7,991	9,066,600	88	1	42
Total	146,442	66,940,600	219	2	-

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Addendum: Detailed London Police Force Data

City of London and Metropolitan Police: Police officers per 100,000 people by police force area - At 31 March 2025 - Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Police force area	Police officers	Population figures (mid-2023) rounded to 100	Officers per 100,000 population	Officers per 1,000 population
London, City of	992	13,500	7,349	73
Metropolitan Police	33,293	8,931,800	373	4

- **City of London:** 992 FTE officers, 13,500 population, approximately 7,349 per 100,000.
- **Metropolitan Police:** 33,293 FTE officers, 8,931,800 population, approximately 373 per 100,000.
- **Note:** These figures show the unusually high concentration of officers in the City of London (due to its small resident population and economic significance), which is why the main brief combines the City and Metropolitan Police into a single "London All" category (383 per 100,000) for analysis.

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