

30 April 2009

## Statistical News Release: Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2007/08

**The police made fewer arrests in 2007/08, but conducted more stops and searches. Falls in numbers of motoring fixed penalty notices and breath tests.**

Figures were published today on a range of police powers and procedures. The National Statistics bulletin contains figures on Arrests and Detentions, Stops and Searches, Fixed Penalty Notices and Breath Tests. It also refers to figures on other police powers and procedures already published elsewhere, e.g. football arrests and police use of firearms. In previous years, these statistics were published in two separate publications: *Arrests and Operations of Certain Powers under PACE* and *Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics*.

These statistics show that:

- There were 1,475,266 persons **arrested** by the police for recorded crimes in 2007/08, down 0.5 per cent on 2006/07. The number of recorded crimes decreased by nine per cent over the same period.
- The police **stopped and searched** 1,045,923 persons and/or vehicles under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) in 2007/08, nine per cent more than in 2006/07. Resultant arrests rose by eight per cent. Stops and searches on suspicion of drugs accounted for 45 per cent of the overall total.
- The police made 124,687 stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism (under section 44 of the terrorism Act 2000), a threefold increase on 2006/07. They also made 53,250 stops and searches in anticipation of violence (under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994), 19 per cent more than in 2006/07
- The police (including traffic wardens) issued 2.6 million **fixed penalty notices** for motoring offences in 2007, down 13 per cent on 2006. Speed limit offences accounted for over half of them
- The police carried out 599,800 screening **breath tests** during 2007, 0.3 per cent down on 2006. The number of positive or refused tests fell by six per cent, accounting for 16 per cent of the total.

The statistical bulletin, 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2007/08' contains statistics at police force area level. While it contains analyses by age and

gender, it does not contain any ethnicity data. Figures on arrests and stops and searches by ethnicity of those arrested or stopped are published by the Ministry of Justice, also on 30 April, in 'Race and the Criminal Justice System 2007/08'.

### **Notes to editors**

'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2007/08' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0709.pdf>