

## Monitoring the Mayor's policing and crime priorities

March 2016

Contact:

[dan.maton@london.gov.uk](mailto:dan.maton@london.gov.uk)

### Key points:

- The Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 included six headline performance targets; of these, the Met is on course to meet only two.
- The Met may struggle to meet its 20 per cent crime reduction target as the downward trend in crime appears to be ending.
- The Met will miss its target to improve public confidence by 20 per cent; confidence has remained the same over the Police and Crime Plan period.
- The Met has reduced costs by over 20 per cent, but savings have not always come from where they were planned.
- Only one of the three criminal justice challenges in the Police and Crime Plan is likely to be met (reducing reoffending by young people leaving custody in London by 20 per cent).
- The Met's sanction detection rate was 11 per cent in December 2015, lower than in any month since April 2008.

### About this report

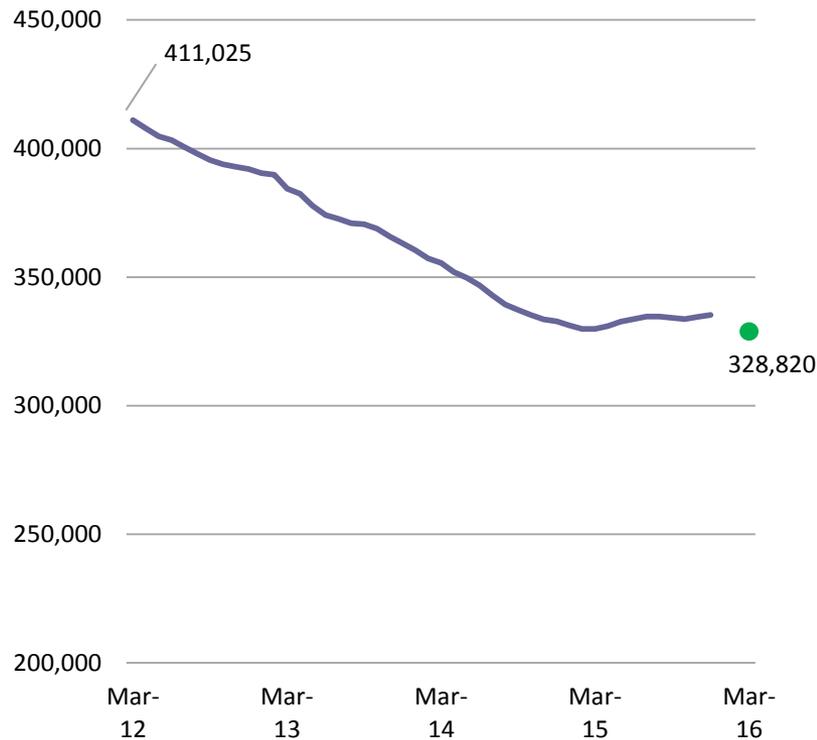
The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Committee with an update on the Met's progress against the Mayor's policing priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-16. The report includes a review of performance up to September/December 2015 against the Mayor's targets to reduce key crimes, improve public confidence and cut costs – all by 20 per cent; it also reviews the Met's performance in other areas of importance to Londoners.

**The Met may fall just short of MOPAC’s 20 per cent crime reduction target in 2015-16**

*The Mayor’s aim is to drive down crime by at least 20 per cent in the key categories of burglary, criminal damage, theft of and from motor vehicles, violence with injury, robbery and theft from the person. (Police and Crime Plan 2013-16, page 33)*

**To meet this target, the Met must record fewer than 328,820 offences in 2015-16. But the downward trend in crime in recent years appears to be ending**

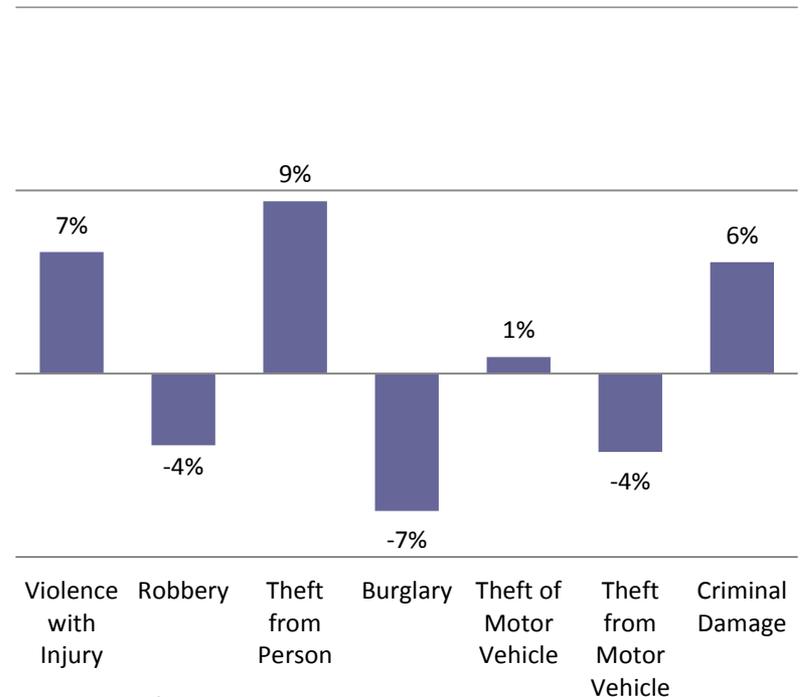
MOPAC 7 offences, rolling 12 month totals



Source: London Datastore

**Increases in violence with injury, theft from the person and criminal damage offences have made meeting this target more difficult**

The change in the number of recorded priority offences in the 12 months to December 2015, compared to the previous year.



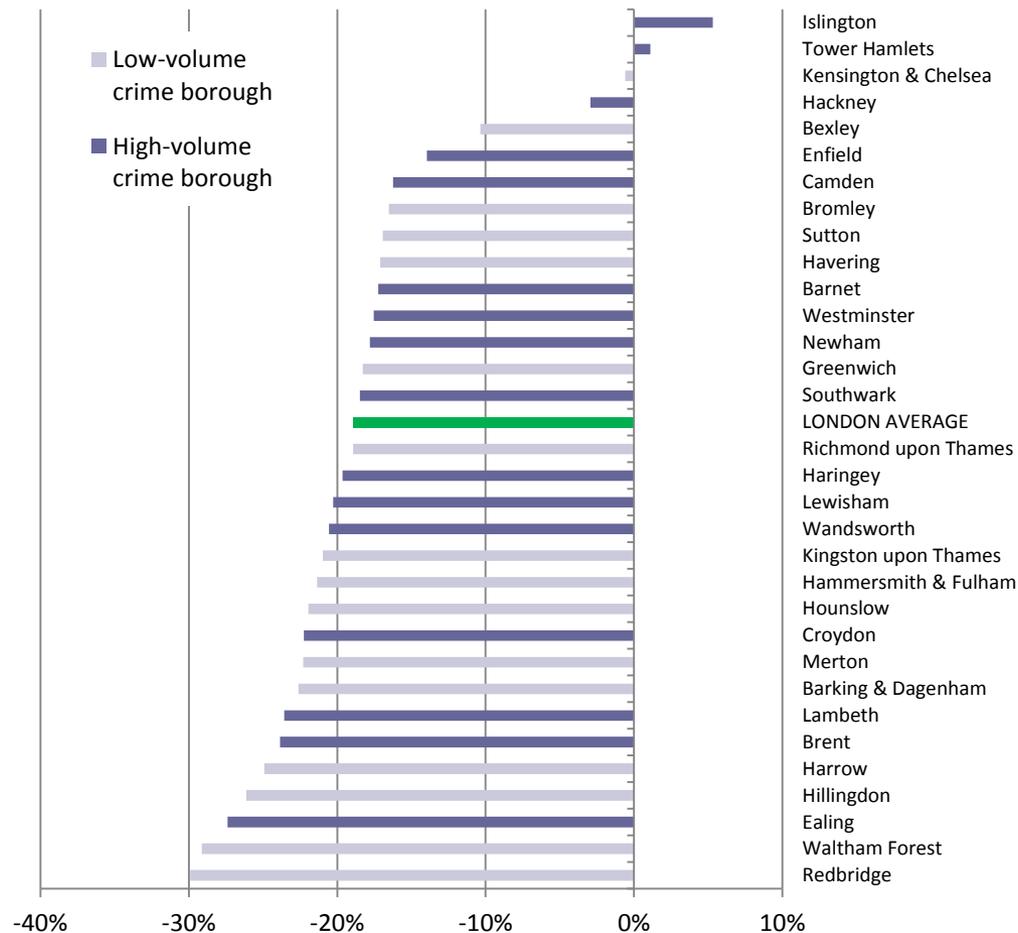
Source: London Datastore

**18.4 per cent**

Reduction in crime in MOPAC7 crimes in 12 months to December 2015, compared to baseline year (2011-12).

To help it meet its MOPAC 7 crime reduction target, the Met has launched Operation Omega.

**Recorded MOPAC 7 offences have changed at different rates across London**  
 Change in total number of MOPAC 7 offences in the 12 months to Dec 2015 compared to 2011-12



Source: London Datastore. 'High-volume' boroughs are defined as having an above average number of MOPAC7 offences. 'Low-volume' boroughs are defined as having a below average number of MOPAC7 offences.

**What is Operation Omega?**

Operation Omega is an ongoing operation to provide central support for the boroughs with the highest volume of crime, with “borough-led plans for the top 30 volume wards.”

**Resourcing**

The Commissioner has said there are no plans to take officers away from their boroughs to support the Operation in other areas. But London-wide teams could be used, as well as overtime.

**Risks?**

The Committee has previously raised concerns about pressures to meet targets creating incentives not to record crime, but the Commissioner has given assurances that the Met’s compliance regime is sufficiently robust to reduce this risk.

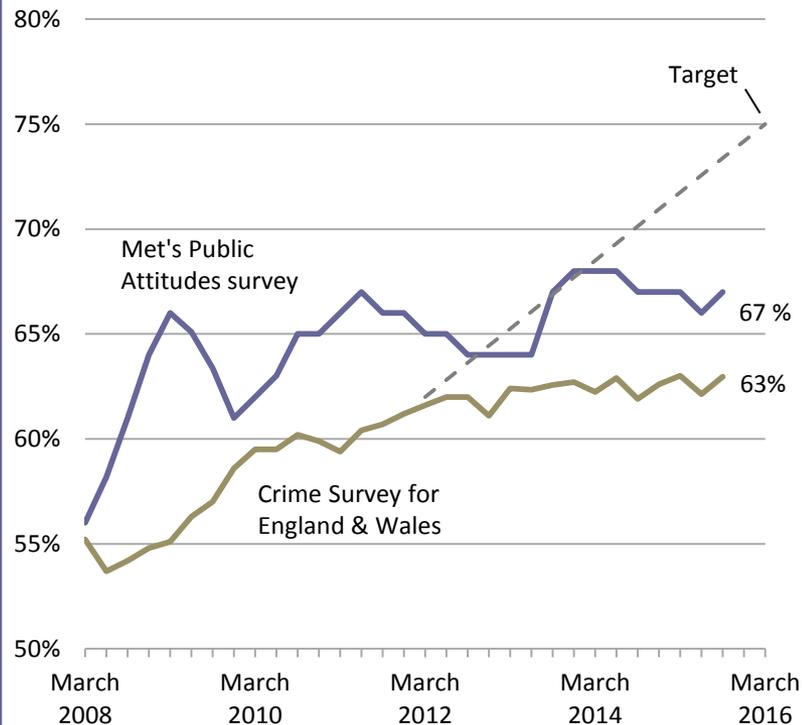
“What it [Operation Omega] is noticing is that some [boroughs] are doing well and some are not doing as well. Our intention is to concentrate to get the whole down. One of the ways you best achieve that with those who are least effective is to make sure they work in a different way.”  
 – Bernard Hogan-Howe, Met Commissioner (PCC, 9 July 2015)

**The Met will miss its target to increase public confidence. And for victim satisfaction, it remains behind its most similar police forces.**

*MOPAC wants the Met to improve public confidence so that by 2016, 75 per cent of Londoners think that the police are doing a 'good' or 'excellent' job, as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).*

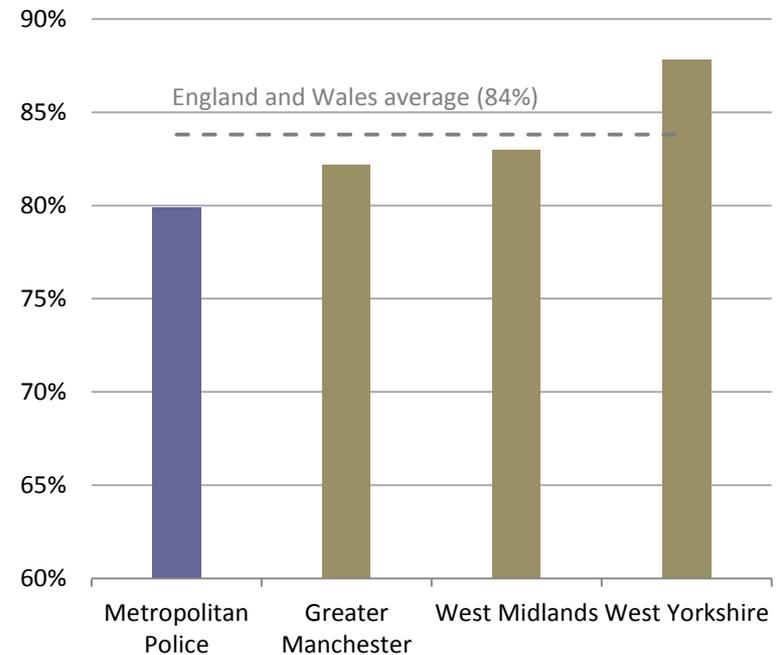
*(Police and Crime Plan 2013-16, page 38)*

**Public confidence in the Met was on an upward path before March 2012, when the Police and Crime Plan was introduced. Since then, it has flatlined.**



**The Met is behind its most similar forces for victim satisfaction**

12 months to March 2015 (latest available data)



Source: HMIC crime and policing comparator data

**80 per cent**

The proportion of victims in HMIC's survey that were satisfied with overall service the Met provided in the 12 months to March 2015.

## The Met's police grant settlement is much better than it anticipated, but further savings still need to be found

### Reducing costs

*The Mayor's aim is to cut costs to absorb a reduction in the central grant to the Met budget of 20 per cent (around £500 million)*

*(Police and Crime Plan 2013-16)*

### Current performance

- MOPAC expects the Met to have found savings of £573 million over this Mayoral term – exceeding the Police and Crime Plan target.
- However, the Met's auditors have pointed out that savings have not always come from where they were planned.
- While the Met has budgeted for "at or around 32,000" since 2012 – another Mayoral priority – the actual number of officers over that period has averaged 31,100, which has led to underspends.
- In other areas, planned savings have been slow to materialise. Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, the Met spent £28 million more than it budgeted for premises costs.
- Technology savings have also slipped, although it is not clear by how much.

**£114 million**

The amount the Met expects to under-spend on policer officer and PCSO budgets between 2012-13 and 2015-16.

### Future financial outlook

- Following the Sending Review last November, the Chancellor announced he would protect overall police spending in real terms over this Parliament.
- At one point prior to that, MOPAC had expected the Met to have to make £1 billion of savings between 2016-17 and 2019-20.
- Despite a brighter outlook the Met will need to make savings over the next few years; indeed MOPAC's budget for 2016-17 includes savings and efficiencies totalling £125 million in that year.
- As a result, while there is no longer a pressing need to reduce the number of police officers, the Met's other plans to reduce the cost of its back-office will continue.

*"In order to maintain the commitments around officer numbers and also neighbourhood policing, we have to continue to reform and also to look to get efficiencies in the back and middle office"*

*– Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, 5 January 2016*

- The Met's National and International Capital City (NICC) grant allocation for 2016-17 is £174 million, the same as in the previous year.
- This is less than MOPAC and the Met had hoped. They calculated that additional NICC duties cost the Met around £340 million per year.

As well as 20:20:20 policing targets, the Police and Crime Plan set three further challenges for the criminal justice system – only one is likely to be met

Criminal justice system targets:

To seek swifter justice for victims by reducing delays in the criminal justice system by 20 per cent

The average time from offence to completion was 165 days in the year to September 2015 – **a reduction of two per cent** against the baseline of 168 days.

To meet the target, the average time would need to fall to 134 days.

**Not on target**

To achieve surer justice by increasing compliance with community sentences by 20 per cent

The compliance level was 81 per cent in 2014-15 (latest available data) – **an increase of five per cent** against the baseline of 77 per cent.

To meet the target, the compliance level would need to reach 92 per cent.

**Not on target**

To reduce reoffending by young people leaving custody in London by 20 per cent

The level of youth reoffending in London stood at 59.6 per cent in the 12 months to December 2013 (latest available data) – **a reduction of 16 per cent** against the baseline of 70.8 per cent.

To meet the target, the level of youth reoffending would need to drop to 56.6 per cent in 2015-16.

**On target**

Source: MOPAC

Other priorities: the Met’s sanction detection rate was 11 per cent in December 2015, lower than in any month since April 2008.

**PCC crime dashboard**

In its response to the draft Police and Crime Plan, the Committee highlighted a number of crimes that were not included in MOPAC’s seven priority crimes.

	12 months to December 2014	12 months to December 2015	Change	
Rape offences	4,967	5,417	9.1%	↑
Knife crime offences	9,497	9,962	4.9%	↑
Serious youth violence victims	5,992	6,275	4.7%	↑
Racist and religious hate victims	11,463	13,876	21.1%	↑
Faith hate victims	1,189	1,659	39.5%	↑
Domestic offences	64,576	72,469	12.2%	↑

Source: London Datastore

**11 per cent**

The Met’s sanction detection rate for victim-based crimes in December 2015. This is lower than in any month since April 2008.

Source: London Datastore.

**Comparing the Met to similar forces**

HMIC publishes crime statistics for all police forces in England and Wales.

Crimes per 1,000 residents:

	12 months to June 2014	12 months to June 2015*	Change
Greater Manchester	67.6	76.8	+13.6%
The Met	81.6	84.0	+2.9%
West Midlands	61.9	63.3	+2.2%
West Yorkshire	68.9	74.6	+8.3%
MSF average	70.0	74.7	+6.7%

\*Latest available data. HMIC data may differ to London Datastore statistics which are live. It also measures crime differently: as a rate (i.e. crimes per head). The London Datastore, in contrast, shows the absolute number of recorded offences.

**2.9 per cent**

The overall increase in recorded crime per 1,000 residents in the Met’s policing area in the year to June 2015 compared to the previous year.

Source: HMIC Crime and Policing Comparator Data.

### Other key priorities: reducing gang crime and serious youth violence

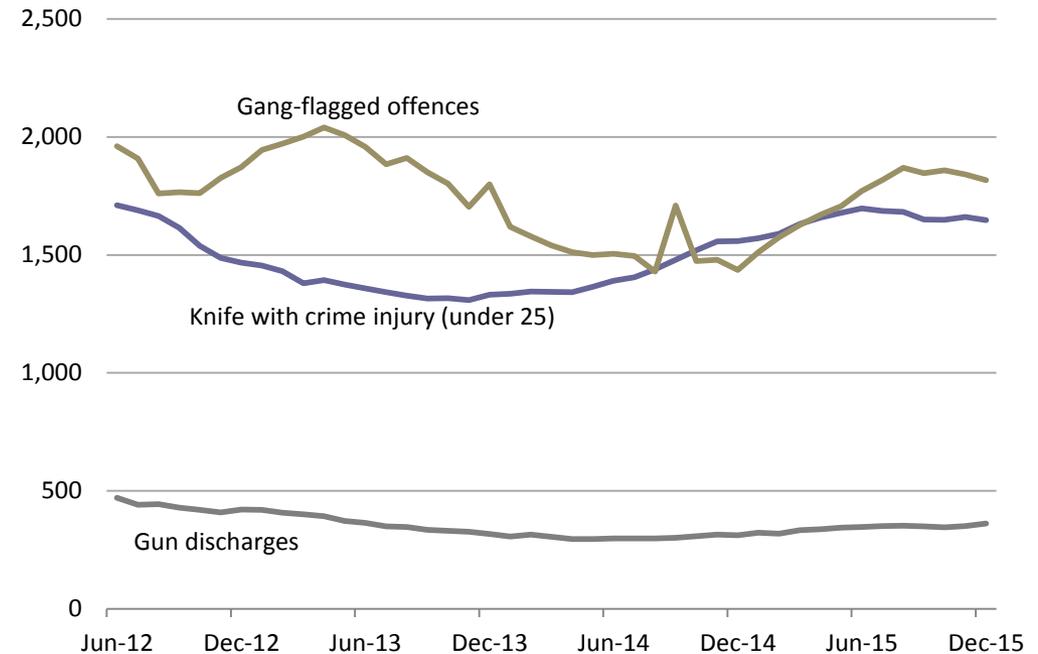
*The Police and Crime Plan identifies gang crime as a priority for people living in London.*

There is some indication that gang-related crime is on the increase as three proxy measures for gang activity have increased in the 12 months to December 2015, compared to the previous year: violence and knife crime with injury victims under the age of 25 (27 per cent); gun discharges (6 per cent); and gang-flagged offences (16 per cent).

The number of victims of serious youth violence has also increased by 5 per cent in the 12 months to December 2015, compared to the previous year.

#### After declining in 2012, offences that indicate gang crime have started to increase

12 month rolling totals



Source: MOPAC Gangs Dashboard

6,266

The number of serious youth violence victims in 2015. This number grew by 5 per cent compared to 2014.

**27 per cent** ↑

Increase in gang-flagged offences (12 months to Dec 2015, compared to previous year)

**6 per cent** ↑

Increase in knife crime with injury victims under age of 25 (12 months to Dec 2015, compared to previous year)

**16 per cent** ↑

Increase in gun discharges (12 months to Dec 2015, compared to previous year)

The Met has moved more police officers into “visible” roles over the Police & Crime Plan period

*The Mayor intends to increase the visibility and availability of police officers by working with the MPS to roll out a new Local Policing Model that enhances neighbourhood policing (Police and Crime Plan 2013-16, page 22)*

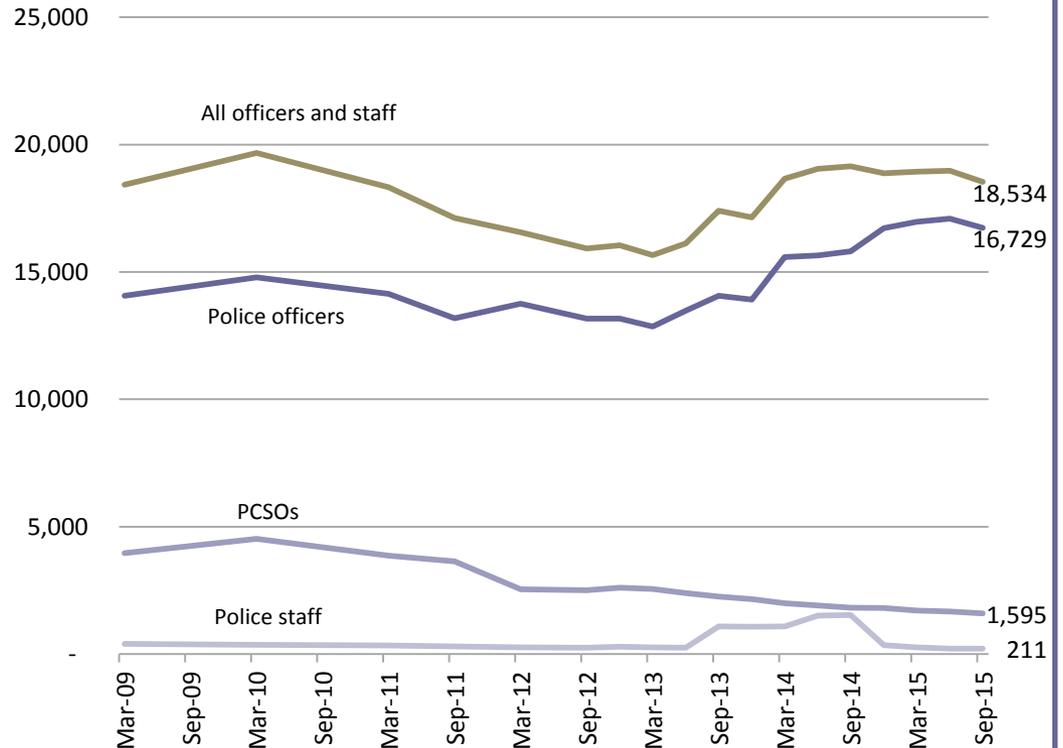
**Key points**

- In September 2015, there were 16,729 police officer posts classified as “visible”.
- This represents a six per cent increase compared to September 2014.
- The proportion of police officers in “visible” roles increased to 54 per cent in September 2015; it stood at 50 per cent in September 2014.
- Meanwhile the proportion of police officers in “back-office” roles fell to 2.5 per cent in September 2015; it stood at 5.5 per cent in March 2010.
- The total number of officer and staff visible posts in September 2015 (18,534); this was lower than the previous peak in March 2010 (19,670) due to the fall in the number of PCSOs since then.

54 per cent

The proportion of police officers in “visible” roles in September 2015.

**Operational policing: there were 16,729 police officers in “visible” roles in September 2015**



Source: MPS (HMIC's Demanding Times (1) category).

921

The increase in the number of police officers in visible roles between September 2014 (15,807 officers) and September 2015 (16,729 officers).