



Home Office

User guide to:

Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: Arrests, outcomes and stop and search, Great Britain

Last updated: **April 2016**

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1 Introduction and data quality

This user guide is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes on the issues and classifications that are key to the production and presentation of the Home Office's quarterly statistical releases [Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000](#).

Data providers

The statistics in this release come from a range of sources. Information on what is included in each section is outlined in the [statistics covered](#) section below. The Home Office considers the data to be sufficiently robust, and the quality assurance process undertaken by data providers and Home Office Statisticians ensure the risk of any errors in the data are minimised. Further details on the strength and limitations of each dataset are provided in the [quality assurance](#) section below.

- Data for the 'arrests and outcomes' section are provided by the National Counter Terrorism Policing Functions Command (NCTPFC).
- Data for the 'court proceedings' section are provided by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).
- Data for the 'terrorist and extremist/separatist prisoners' section are provided by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Scottish Prison Service (SPS).
- Data on section 43 stop and search are provided by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
- Data on powers under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 are provided by the National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ).

Statistics covered

The series covers the use of various powers under terrorism and terrorism-related legislation in Great Britain. The topics covered are outlined in the table below.

Chapter	Content	Coverage	Annual / quarterly
Arrests and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arrests for terrorism-related offences- Charging outcome (such as charged, released without charge, and alternative action)- Prosecution outcome (such as convicted, acquitted, and not proceeded against)	Great Britain	Quarterly
Court proceedings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number of proceedings brought by the Crown Prosecution Service for terrorism-related offences- Appeals against convictions and sentences	England and Wales	Quarterly Annual
Terrorist and extremist/separatist prisoners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Persons in prison for terrorism related offences- Persons released from prison	Great Britain	Quarterly
Stop and search	- Stops and searches and resultant arrests under s.43 of the Terrorism Act 2000	Metropolitan Police Service	Quarterly
	- Stops and searches and resultant arrests under s.47A of the Terrorism Act 2000	Great Britain	Quarterly
	- Examinations (of persons, and sea and air freight), strip searches, and postponement of questioning refusals under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000	Great Britain	Quarterly
	- Cordons under section 33 of the Terrorism Act 2000	Great Britain	Annual

Quality Assurance

Before the data are published, they undergo a strict quality assurance (QA) process. The first part of this is done by data providers, who need to keep administrative datasets accurate and up to date for operational purposes. The table below provides details of both *why* it is important to ensure datasets are accurate, and *how* these datasets are quality assured by data providers.

The second part of the QA process is undertaken by the Home Office Statistics team. This part of the process identifies any potential data quality issues in the data, which are then raised and resolved with data providers. As well as the specific checks carried out, trend analysis is also undertaken. Any unusual trends are raised with data providers to ensure they are genuine, and not a result of data quality issues.

Once the data have been quality assured and any issues resolved, the final data are sent back to the relevant data providers for verification before they are published.

While all datasets undergo a thorough QA process, the level of quality assurance varies according to factors such as the profile of the dataset, the likelihood of error, and what the data are used for. The relative level of risk is in brackets below each dataset.

Dataset	Data providers	Why are the data quality assured?	How are the data quality assured?
Arrests and outcomes (High)	NCTPFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NCTPFC is responsible for coordinating information on counter-terrorism activity nationally. It is essential that records are accurate and up to date, to ensure security services have access to reliable information. If systems are not accurate, this can pose issues of national security. - Data from this system are provided to the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) for security and intelligence monitoring on a monthly basis. - The data are used internally for monitoring purposes and are often quoted publically by senior members of the police. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data providers maintain regular contact with the police to ensure records are accurate and up to date. They record bail and court dates so that any outstanding cases can be queried. The NCTPFC have a robust reminder system to ensure these are not missed. - Counter-Terrorism (CT) hubs are required to report arrests to the NCTPFC as soon as they occur. Where this does not happen, the NCTPFC have daily briefings with CT hubs to ensure details of any arrests are collated. The risk of an arrest not being recorded is very small. - A number of consistency checks are carried out on the data before they are sent to the Home Office. Any errors are flagged, and where necessary, amended in the source system. Any missing values are resolved with CT hubs.
Court proceedings (Medium)	CPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CPS maintains up to date and accurate information in order to process individuals through the court system. It is important that the CPS is able to monitor the demand on their services in order to be able to provide an effective service. - The CPS generates quarterly reports for internal monitoring purposes. These include detailed breakdowns of individual cases. - Information on offenders and sentencing is shared between the courts and prison services to ensure relevant provisions can be implemented to manage offending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To minimise the risk of missing and inaccurate data, offender details are cross checked against physical copies of indictments, charge sheets and hearing notes to ensure the information is accurate. - The data are monitored and spot checked on a monthly basis by a dedicated performance manager. - In order to ensure cases are correctly categorised as terrorism cases, individual charges (used to categorise a case) are monitored and checked on a monthly basis to ensure each case has been correctly categorised.
Prison populations (Medium)	SPS and NOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SPS and NOMS regularly monitor prison populations and sentence lengths to ensure the prison system can meet changing demands. - The data are used to monitor when prisoners are due for release. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NOMS prison list which feeds the data in this release is cross-referenced against the Prison National Offender Management Information System (Prison-NOMIS) on a weekly basis. This ensures data are up to date and any

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The data feed into other national statistics publications such as the quarterly offender management statistics, published by the Ministry of Justice. See the accompanying information for more details on the data quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - missing information is queried. - Records of any changes to prisoner status are kept and can be cross referenced when data quality issues arise. - The NOMS team work closely with the police on a weekly basis to ensure any amendments are accounted for and records are kept up to date.
Section 43 stop & search (Medium)	MPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MPS use stop and search data to monitor police performance. The data are also used for other management information purposes, such as the use of police time and resources, and the effectiveness of stop and search. - The data feed into monthly monitoring reports that are published by the MPS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers are required to complete an accurate record of a stop and search encounter so that they can be held to account. This process is supervised to ensure data are input accurately. - The force will dip sample the data on an ad hoc basis to check records for accuracy. The force is currently developing a more formal QA process which will examine all s43 stops for accuracy. - Analysts QA the data and identify potential errors before data are submitted to the Home Office.
Schedule 7 (Medium)	NCTPHQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NCTPHQ monitor the use of Schedule 7 powers to ensure resources are efficiently allocated to the areas where they are most needed. It is important these data are accurate to ensure the uses of counter-terrorism powers are effective. - The use of intrusive powers, such as strip searches and postponement of questioning refusals must be monitored closely to ensure they are only used when absolutely necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data received from ports officers are reviewed by regional analysts on a quarterly basis. - Once the data are sent to the NCTPHQ, analysts check the data for errors (missing fields, incorrect totals etc.). Any errors are flagged and resolved with the relevant ports. - Before data are submitted to the Home Office, the NCTPHQ undertake a number of consistency checks. - The NCTPHQ also hold regular meetings with ports to question trends and discrepancies in the data, and to ensure compliance with the data requirements.

Once the data are sent to the Home Office, a number of checks are undertaken. These are designed to identify things such as:

- incomplete fields
- extreme values
- inconsistencies in the data
- duplicated cases
- cases that are not up to date
- incorrect values in data fields

Once issues from the initial checks have been resolved, analysis is undertaken to check for unusual or unexpected trends in the data. Where these are identified, they are flagged with data providers who may provide an explanation for the observed trend, or resubmit corrected data to the Home Office. Where alternative data sources are available, data may be cross-checked. Specifically, trends in the publication data are checked against the monthly data feed received by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism.

Limitations of the data

The limitations of each dataset are outlined below. Many of these limitations will be a by-product of the large-scale administrative processes required to collate these statistics. While the QA process is designed to minimise the scale of any data quality issues, there remain some limitations that even the most comprehensive of QA processes are unable to eliminate. The implications of the limitations are also outlined below.

Arrests and outcomes

- These data come from a live dataset which is regularly updated. In some cases there may be a delay in a particular case being entered into the system. Therefore at any given time the published figures may not be 100% accurate. Most cases are entered within a few days of the arrest taking place; however in a small number of exceptional cases (in particular fraud cases), this may take longer.
- Whether an arrest is deemed to be terrorism-related or not is based upon an assessment by the NCTPFC, based on the information available at the time. Although the briefing notes that the assessment is based on facts detailed, there is still some degree of subjectivity involved. Therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting the data.
- The offence for which an individual is charged or convicted against is based on the principle offence rule. This means that when an individual is charged/convicted for multiple offences at the same time, only one offence is recorded (usually the most serious). This means the number of charges/convictions for less serious offences is likely to be undercounted to a greater extent than more serious offences. The extent of this will vary from one quarter to the next due to the variable nature of investigations from one quarter to the next. (See the [glossary of terms](#) for more information on the principle offence rule).
- Fraud cases are often more complicated than other cases, and links to terrorism may not be immediately obvious. In such cases, the arrest may not be immediately recorded as a terrorism-related arrest. However, these arrests will eventually be picked up as more details of the cases unfold. For the small number of cases that come to light a few months after the initial arrest, figures for previous quarters will be updated to account for these changes.
- Where an individual is arrested multiple times, such as for breach of bail offences, in some cases the arrest may not be recorded, and any subsequent outcome will be recorded against the initial offence.
- Demographic information on persons arrested may not be completely accurate in all cases. In particular, ethnicity and nationality data may be based on the officer's best judgement, rather than the actual ethnicity/nationality of the arrestee.

Court proceedings

- The offence for which an individual is prosecuted against is based on the principle offence rule. This means that when an individual is prosecuted for multiple offences at the same time, only one offence is recorded (usually the most serious). This means the number of prosecutions for less serious offences is likely to be an undercount relative to more serious offences. The figures show the number of offenders who were prosecuted and convicted, rather than the number of offences.

Prison population

- The categorisation of prisoners is based upon the definitions in section 9 of the user guide. There are some cases where a prisoner could fit into multiple categories, or doesn't fit into any. Where this is the case, the categorisation is based on the best judgement of the data providers.
- Offences under non terrorism legislation may or may not be terrorism related. Those considered terrorism related are based on assessment by senior managers. This has a level of subjectivity to it which may vary from one assessment to the next.
- The ethnicity, nationality, and religion of prisoners in this section are all self-defined characteristics. As these are defined by individual prisoners, they are based on the information given by the prisoners and are not necessarily a true reflection of that individual. For example, a prisoner may give incorrect details deliberately, or they may identify themselves differently to the way that others would.

Stop and search

- The ethnicity of persons stopped and searched is self-defined. As it is defined by individual at the time of a search, it is based on the information given by the individual and is not necessarily a true reflection of that individual's ethnicity.
- There may be some cases where an officer does not record an encounter, or key details of an encounter. This may lead to a slight undercounting of the number of searches, or missing details for the search (such as ethnicity).

Schedule 7

- A large number of schedule 7 examinations take place at ports across Great Britain. When collating data on these centrally, it is likely that a number of details may be missed, or delaying in being uploaded onto the system. This may lead to some discrepancies in the figures.

Data quality statement

Based on the summary above, we are satisfied that the data in this release are of a high quality and are fit for purpose. As with all large administrative datasets, there will be some inaccuracies in the data. However, we believe that the effect of these is minimal, and while they should be considered, they do not detract significantly from the quality of the data. The quality assurance processes in place at all stages of the process further minimise the scale of any data quality issues.

Where there are known data quality issues, these are highlighted in the relevant parts of the bulletin, user guide, or accompanying data tables. Any substantial revisions to the dataset are flagged in the 'revision analysis' section in each release.

Uses of the data

The statistics produced in the series are used to monitor the use of counter-terrorism powers in Great Britain throughout the criminal justice process. Specific uses of the data are listed below.

Informing the general public – the statistics are used by the media, which in turn informs the public about trends in counter-terrorism powers (in particular arrests). Information on the statistics is also routinely requested by Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information requests.

Policy making and monitoring – the statistics are used to monitor the performance and effectiveness of various criminal justice agencies, as well as the uses of various counter-terrorism powers and legislation. The statistics are used to assess demand on the police and other criminal justice agencies, which feeds into things such as resource allocation and funding work.

Third parties – the statistics are used by a range of third parties from civil liberty groups, to academics.

Independent reviewer of Terrorism Legislation – the statistics are used in the independent review of the operation of counter-terrorism laws in the UK. These [reports](#) are laid before parliament scrutinise the use of such powers, recommending change where necessary.

Other sources of statistics

[Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales](#) – the Home Office annual statistical publication includes data on the use of stop and search by police in England and Wales only. This includes data on stop and search under section 44/47A of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Data on the use of stop and search under section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are included within the 'other' category of searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). These cannot be separately identified from searches for other reasons within the 'other' category.

This statistical release also includes details on the use of other police powers in England and Wales, from arrests, to the broader use of stop and search, as well as various areas of roads policing.

[Police Recorded Security Situation Statistics](#) – the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) provide monthly updates on statistics such as arrests under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent charges. The release also contains data on deaths in Northern Ireland due to security situations. This release does **not** include data on terrorism-related arrests under 'other legislation' (although these numbers are believed to be small in Northern Ireland).

[Northern Ireland Terrorism Legislation](#) – the Northern Ireland Office produces an annual statistical report that includes data on a number of powers under terrorism legislation. This publication includes data on arrests and subsequent outcomes, as well as stop and search.

Where are the latest published figures?

Dates of future releases are pre-announced on the [statistics: release calendar](#) on GOV.UK.

Home Office statistical releases on the [Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000](#) are available on the GOV.UK website. A brief history of the collection, with links to past releases, appears in Appendix B.

Information on how the Home Office complies with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) is also on the GOV.UK website.

Feedback and enquiries

We welcome feedback on the statistics. Enquiries should be made by writing to:

Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Press Office
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Home Office Responsible Statistician

Damon Wingfield, Programme Director of Crime and Policing Statistics

Contact via crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk if you have any statistical comments or need any assistance in accessing the data.

The statistical releases on terrorism statistics are produced by statisticians working in the Crime and Policing Analysis Unit. Although this output is not currently given National Statistics accreditation, the protocols for such statistics have been mirrored as closely as possible.

The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the direct management of a Chief Statistician who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.

2 User Engagement

Consultation

In 2015 the Home Office consulted users of the statistics on a series of planned changes. This followed informal conversations with key users, the aim of which was to establish their priorities for the statistics. The consultation was done in two ways:

1. A user feedback survey posted on the gov.uk website and available via the statistical bulletin.
2. Further conversations were held with known users of the statistics, both inside and outside the Home Office.

The second stage included conversations with the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, one of the key users of the statistics. They produce an annual report on the use of the Terrorism powers in the United Kingdom, which draws heavily on these statistics. These conversations, along with conversations with Home Office operations colleagues, indicated that the timeliness of the statistics was a major factor for several users.

The small number of respondents to the user feedback survey came from a number of areas, both within the Home Office, and externally (such as police forces and other government departments). The main findings from the survey are listed below:

- the most used part of the publication was the data tables
- while the reliability and quality assurance of the statistics was seen as the most important part of the statistics, the data tables and timeliness of publishing the statistics were also seen as highly valued
- all topics within the bulletin are used by at least some users

Response to User Feedback

Following user feedback, the Home Office made a number of changes to improve this release and better meet user needs. The changes included:

- Making the publication more timely. Previously data were published 6 months after the period to which they referred. The Home Office has worked with data providers to reduce this to 3 months. The data are still quality assured to the same high standard.
- Amending commentary in the quarterly publications to focus on the key points, making the release shorter and more focused. All of the data are still provided in the data tables.
- Amending the flow chart produced alongside the bulletin, to include only key information, and outline the process through the criminal justice system.

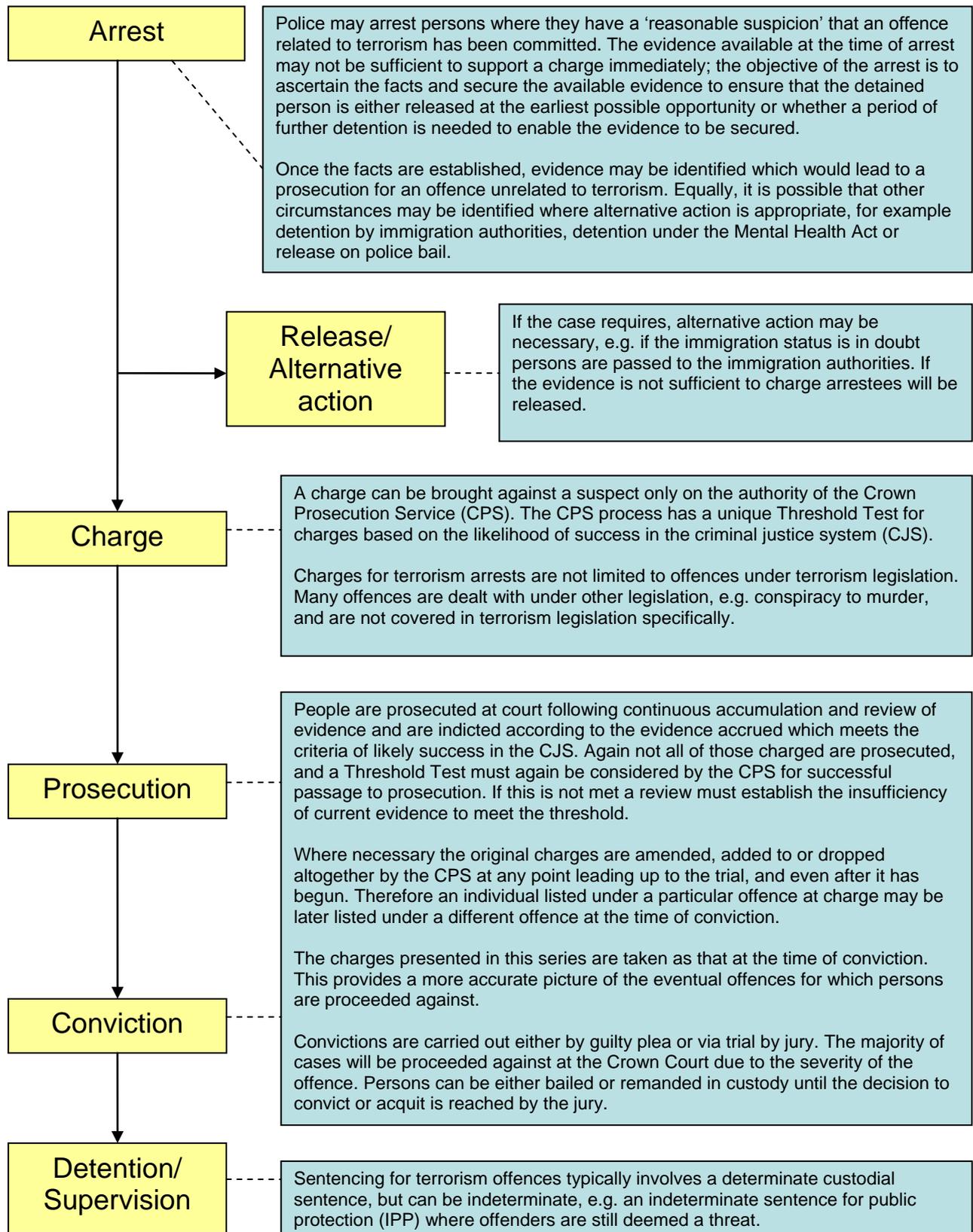
Ongoing User Engagement

In addition to the user survey, the Home Office continues to engage with users of the statistics, both internally and externally. In 2015 a consultation highlighted demand from users such as Police and Crime Commissioners, the Law Society, and Stop Watch, to increase the transparency around the use of Schedule 7 search powers by publishing additional data.

The Home Office therefore worked with data suppliers to publish data on goods examinations, strips searches and postponement of questioning refusals for the first time in December 2015. These data are now published quarterly.

Feedback is always welcome on the future direction of the statistics. Please email CrimeandPoliceStats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk with any feedback.

3 Summary of criminal justice process



4 Glossary of terms

This glossary is intended to give an overview of the terms used in the statistical release, rather than full legal/technical descriptions. If there are terms in the terrorism statistics releases that you would like to be included in this glossary, please contact Home Office Statistics via: crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Within an explanation of a term, words in bold are explained elsewhere in the glossary.

All Offence basis	Method of counting charges and prosecutions where a person has been charged or prosecuted for multiple offences at the same time. This method counts all offences and is an alternative to a principal offence basis where only the most serious charge or prosecution is recorded against each person.
Appeal	A process for requesting a formal change to an official decision made at court.
Arrest	This refers to the power of police officers to deprive a person of their liberty in relation to the investigation and prevention of crime. Police officers have the power to arrest anyone who has committed an offence, is about to commit an offence, or is in the act of committing an offence. They also have the power of arrest when a person is suspected of involvement in an offence.
Bailed to return	Where an accused person is released prior to charge or conviction pending further investigation, and is expected to return on a date set by the investigating police force.
Caution	A caution may be given by the police when there is sufficient evidence for a conviction and it is not considered to be in the public interest to instigate criminal proceedings. Offenders must admit guilt and consent to a caution in order for one to be given.
Charge	A formal accusation by the police that a person has committed a criminal offence.
Conviction	When a person is found guilty of an offence in a court.
Cordon	A line or circle of police preventing access to or from an area or building, for the purposes of public safety. For more information please see section 9 of this user guide.
Custodial sentence	A sentence handed down by the courts consisting of compulsory detention of a convicted person, either in prison or in some other closed therapeutic or educational institution. Imprisonment is the most severe sentence available to the courts in Great Britain. Custodial sentences are reserved for the most serious offences and are imposed when the offence committed is so serious that neither a fine nor a community sentence can be justified for the offence, or for the purposes of public protection.
Defendant	Any person accused of an offence under criminal law.
Domestic extremism	Refers to terrorist activity where there are no links to either Northern-Ireland-related or international terrorism.
Ethnic appearance	Ethnicity classification based upon the observation of a person by a police officer at the time of arrest , charge or stop and search .
Financial year	Twelve months ending 31 March.

Goods examination	Refers to the examination of air or sea freight under Schedule 7.to the Terrorism Act 2000.
Great Britain	Refers to England, Wales, and Scotland. Excludes Ireland and UK Channel Islands.
Hospital order	Referral for medical treatment in a closed hospital made by the courts, instead of a prison sentence. Hospital orders may be given on conviction for any offence which carries a custodial sentence with the exception of murder. Issuing a hospital order is entirely a decision for the court, acting on the medical evidence.
International terrorism	Refers to activity by an individual or a group of individuals (regardless of nationality) linked to or motivated by any terrorist group that is based outside the UK which operates in and from third countries (other than Northern Ireland).
Life sentence	A sentence which lasts for the rest of a person's life, although in most cases a prisoner will be eligible for early release after a fixed minimum term set by the judge. If they are released from prison and commit another crime they can be sent back to prison at any time.
Minimum term	The minimum period of time in custody that a person given a life sentence has to serve before they are eligible for early release.
Nationality	The status of belonging to a particular country or nation.
Non-criminal prisoner	Persons held in prison custody under immigration powers or for a civil offence, e.g. contempt of court.
Northern-Ireland-related terrorism	Refers to activity by an individual or a group of individuals (regardless of nationality) linked to or motivated by any terrorist group that is based outside the UK which operates in and from Northern Ireland.
Offender	A person convicted or cautioned for breaking the law.
PACE	Refers to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which instituted a legislative framework for the powers of police officers in England and Wales to combat crime, as well as providing codes of practice for the exercise of those powers.
Postponement of questioning refusals	When an examining officer refuses the request of an examinee for their examination to be postponed. This may be done if the examining officer considers that postponing the questioning would prejudice the purpose of the examination.
Principle offence basis	When a person is charged or prosecuted for multiple offences at the same time, this method counts only the most serious offence, known as the principal offence. This differs from an all offence basis which counts all offences when they occur at the same time. The principle offence rule is in place to ensure the statistics count the number of individuals who were charged or prosecuted, rather than the total number of charges/prosecutions.
Proscribed organisations	Organisation banned under UK law by the Home Secretary if it is believed to be participating, promoting or encouraging terrorism.
Prosecution/court proceeding	The bringing of legal action against a person in respect of a criminal charge.

Self-defined ethnicity	Ethnicity classification declared by an individual or suspect who is subject to arrest, or stop and search, at the time of arrest or stop and search. This system comprises 16 distinct ethnic categories (plus a 'not stated' category). Further details can be found in section 9 of this user guide.
Stop and search	Statutory powers exist under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) , for a police officer to search a person or vehicle without first making an arrest . Other police powers not under PACE include stops and searches in anticipation of violence (under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) and searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants (under sections 47A – formally section 44 – of the Terrorism Act 2000). Searches for drugs are still permitted by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and those for firearms under the Firearms Act 1968.
Strip search	A search involving the removal of more than outer clothing. It does not extend to requiring a person to undergo an intimate search (searching a person's body orifice other than the mouth).
TACT	Refers to any offence or process under the Terrorism Acts 2000 or 2006.
Terrorism	The use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public; made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.
Terrorism legislation	In these releases, this term refers to any offence or process under any one of the following Acts: the Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006, the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 and the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011.
Terrorism prevention and investigation measures (TPIM)	Measures imposed by the Secretary of State to restrict the movements of suspected terrorists where there is insufficient evidence to charge or prosecute them.
Terrorism-related arrest	An arrest is considered to be 'terrorism related' when, at the time of arrest or during the course of the subsequent investigation, a police officer suspects a person of being involved with terrorism . For more information please see section 7 of this user guide.
Terrorism-related offence	Includes offences under terrorism legislation and other offences considered to be terrorism related.
Third country	A country of which a person is not a national or citizen and in which a person's life or liberty is not threatened by reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
Trial	A formal examination of evidence by a judge, typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings.
Vehicle only searches	Searches of unattended vehicles conducted by the police.

5 Conventions and revisions

Rounding

Data are provided unrounded in the data tables of the terrorism statistics releases. This is to promote transparency and allow users to exploit the data further.

Percentages, percentage changes and proportions presented in the releases are rounded to the nearest per cent using the round-half-away-from-zero method. Therefore, in the borderline case where the fraction of the percentage is exactly 0.5, the rounded figure is equal to $y + 0.5$ if y is positive, and $y - 0.5$ if y is negative. For example, 23.5% is rounded to 24%, and -23.5% is rounded to -24%. When rounding whole numbers the result is similar; for example, when rounding to the nearest 100, 1,250 would be reported as 1,300.

Where data are rounded, they may not sum to the totals shown, or, in the case of percentages, to 100%, because they have been rounded independently.

Small numbers

Due to the relatively small numbers of persons arrested each year for terrorism-related offences, releases in this series contain a number of trends which are based on base numbers fewer than 50. In general, trends based on these small numbers are expressed in numerical terms only in these releases, because expressing these in terms of percentage changes may be misleading.

Use of symbols

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

- Nil.
- .. Not available.
- * Not applicable, for percentage changes where the base number is fewer than 50, the amount is not reported.

Revisions

The presented figures are correct at the time of publication and may include revisions for the periods covered by, and received since, the publication of the previous edition in the series.

Data may be revised for various reasons. For example, data on arrests and outcomes presented in this release are based on the latest position with each case as at the date of data provision to the Home Office. Since some arrests can take a number of months to progress from arrest to charge and subsequently conviction, data will be updated as cases progress through the criminal justice system. Additionally, data providers regularly review their systems to ensure that records are up to date, which can result in records being added, removed or reclassified. Substantial revisions to figures presented in earlier editions of 'Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation', should they occur, are described in the 'revisions analysis' section in each release.

Corrections and revisions follow the Home Office corporate revisions policy, as detailed on page 6 of its [statement of compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

6 Legislation

This release includes data on charges and convictions under both terrorism and non-terrorism legislation. Detailed information on the legislation covered in this release can be found on the [UK legislation website](#). Details on the powers under the Terrorism Act (TACT) 2000 and subsequent legislation are outlined below.

Cordons under section 33 of TACT

[Section 33 of TACT](#) gives police officers the power to cordon an area if they consider it expedient to do so for the purposes of a terrorist investigation. Cordons are typically set up to investigate a suspect package, to deal with the consequences of an explosion or series of arrests.

Stop and search under section 43 of TACT

[Section 43 of TACT](#) is available to police for stopping and searching persons whom they reasonably suspect are involved in terrorism-related activity.

Stop and search under sections 44 and 47A of TACT

Searches under [section 44 of TACT](#) applied to situations where police required the power to stop and search persons for involvement in terrorism-related activity where there was no suspicion of involvement.

As a result of a legal challenge made by the European Court of Human Rights, and as a part of the UK government's commitment to introduce safeguards against the misuse of powers under TACT, the Home Secretary conducted a review of these powers, the findings of which were announced on 11 January 2011.

One of the recommendations of the review was that stop and search powers under section 44 of TACT should be repealed and replaced with a much more targeted and proportionate power. The Home Secretary therefore made a [remedial order](#) under [section 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998](#) to make immediate changes to the legislation. This new power came into force on 18 March 2011. [Section 47A of TACT](#) allows the police to stop and search persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism, without reasonable suspicion of their involvement in terrorism. Searches under this power may only be authorised in a specific area for a defined period where the police reasonably suspect an act of terrorism will take place.

Examinations under schedule 7 to TACT

Under [Schedule 7 to TACT](#) individual examining officers at port areas can examine a person who is entering or leaving, or travelling by aircraft within, Great Britain to find out whether they are or have been involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Depending on individual circumstances, an examination may consist of basic questioning, a search of property and/or a period of detention of up to 9 hours while investigations take place.

7 Data providers for this release

National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ)

The National Counter-Terrorism Policing Functions Command (NCTPFC) (previously ACPO's Counter Terrorism Coordination Centre, or ACTCC) collects data covering all terrorism arrests in Great Britain (i.e. excluding Northern Ireland) through to their subsequent outcome at the point of charge and prosecution. This information relates to data collected from 11 September 2001; although the total number of arrests between February 2001 and 11 September 2001 are known, no further breakdown is possible.

For each quarterly edition of the '[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation](#)' statistical series, a partial data snapshot of the NCTPFC's live database is provided to the Home Office, based on a person's principal charge. It is not unusual for charges to be amended or added during police investigations or criminal trials. As a result, all figures in an edition are subject to change in future ones and are correct at the time of data provision.

Cordons data are supplied to the Home Office by NCTPFC on an annual basis only.

Data on Schedule 7 examinations are provided to the Home Office on a quarterly basis by the Organisational Performance and Improvement Unit within the NCTPHQ.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

The CPS's Counter Terrorism Division holds information on all trials of terrorism-related defendants, including sentences and appeals. They regularly share information with the NCTPFC to validate data.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

NOMS maintain a list of known terrorists and extremists/separatists in prison custody in England and Wales which includes persons held on remand or as convicted prisoners and those subject to extradition orders or held under immigration powers. The list includes those who entered prison before 11 September 2001 and who are excluded from the data collected by the NCTPFC. Data are quality assured by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) before being supplied to the Home Office.

Data covering the whole England and Wales prison population are supplied by NOMS to MoJ for publication in its quarterly statistical release [Offender Management Statistics](#).

Scottish Prison Service (SPS)

The SPS provide information on known terrorists/extremists held as remand or convicted prisoners in Scotland.

Police forces

Data published in this release on stop and search under section 47A (and, previously, section 44) of TACT are provided to the Home Office by individual police forces as a part of formal statistical returns.

Not all police forces are able to separately identify searches under section 43 of TACT from other searches in their data. Therefore, data on section 43 searches included in the release cover the Metropolitan Police Service only. Persons stopped and searched are asked to self-define their own ethnicity using the 2001 census categories (see [section 10](#) of this user guide).

Additional information on the use of stop and search powers by police in England and Wales are published in the annual Home Office [Police Powers and Procedures](#) publication.

8 Arrests and outcomes

Terrorism-related arrests

An arrest is considered to be terrorism related when, at the time of arrest, or during the course of the subsequent investigation, a police officer suspects a person of being involved with terrorism.

When there is immediate suspicion of involvement with a terrorism-related activity, the police have the option of arresting a person under [section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000](#) (TACT). These powers are similar to standard powers of arrest given by the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#) (PACE); however, section 41 of TACT allows for the detention of persons for an extended period before release (detailed below). PACE is not applicable in Scotland; many of its police powers are based on common law.

Not all persons suspected of terrorism-related offences are initially arrested under section 41 of TACT since a link to terrorism is not always evident at the time of arrest. As a result, both terrorism-related arrests made under section 41 of TACT and those made under PACE legislation (or Scottish common law) are included in this release.

Pre-charge detention under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000

Under section 41 of TACT, police officers have the power to arrest persons suspected of terrorism-related offences without a warrant. These arrest powers also allow the extended detention of persons beyond the maximum 4 days available under standard arrest powers.

The period of detention allowed under section 41 has varied. From the commencement of the legislation, on 19 February 2001, the maximum period of pre-charge detention was 7 days. From 20 January 2004 the limit was extended to 14 days and, from 25 July 2006, the maximum period was extended further to 28 days. Since 25 January 2011, it has reverted to a maximum of 14 days.

Charges resulting from terrorism-related arrests

Terrorism-related arrests can result in charges for any criminal offence, not just those covered by terrorism legislation. Unless otherwise specified, all data described in this release as being 'terrorism related' refer collectively to:

- offences under terrorism legislation;
- the failure to comply at border controls under Schedule 7 to TACT;
- non-terrorism legislation offences though considered to be related to terrorist activity (e.g. offences under the Explosive Substances Act 1883).

Outcomes at court

Not all charges for terrorism-related offences result in convictions for terrorism-related offences. In some instances a person arrested for a terrorism-related offence may be charged for a non-terrorism-related offence (for example when, after investigation, there is no evidence of a link to terrorism but another offence has been committed). All resultant convictions (whether terrorism related or non-terrorism related) are presented in the tables.

Categorisations of terrorism-related suspects

Categories presented in this section are based on whether an individual is found to have involvement with any type of terrorism at the time of arrest or during the subsequent investigation. These are based on assessment by ACTCC and may not be mutually exclusive in all cases. Additionally, the categories may change as further information on each case comes to light as they progress. The categories are:

International – Refers to activity by an individual or a group of individuals (regardless of nationality) linked to or motivated by any terrorist group that is based outside the UK which operates in and from third countries.

Northern Ireland related – Refers to activity by an individual or a group of individuals supporting the actions or ideology of a proscribed Northern-Ireland-related terrorist group.

Domestic – Refers to terrorism-related activity where there are no links to either Northern-Ireland-related or international terrorism.

Not classified – Refers to persons currently considered to have no links to any domestic, international or Northern-Ireland-related terrorism, for example, members of the public who are arrested for failure to comply with border controls under Schedule 7 who do not have any terrorist links.

Data quality and interpreting the figures

The relatively small numbers of persons arrested for terrorism-related offences each year mean that proportionally large fluctuations in arrests can result from particular police operations, or individual cases involving multiple suspects. This should be borne in mind when interpreting trends over time.

In line with the normal procedures for criminal justice statistics, and in order to present an accurate count of the number of persons arrested and charged, data on arrests and outcomes and court proceedings are presented on a principal offence basis. This means that, when a person is arrested, charged, or prosecuted for multiple offences at the same time, the most serious offence is the one counted in these data. If a person is subsequently arrested on another occasion for a different offence, the additional arrest will also be counted separately in the data.

Due to the complex nature of terrorism investigations, court proceedings may take place several months or even years after an arrest or charge takes place. All data in the arrests and outcomes section are based on the time of arrest. If an individual is arrested in 2013/14, but subsequently charged and/or convicted in 2014/15, the arrest, charge and conviction will be recorded as 2013/14 (time of arrest). This differs from the data in the court proceedings section, which is based on the time of case completion.

Data in this section are taken from a live database and are subject to change. As time progresses, incomplete cases will be updated, and the number of charges, convictions and releases may increase in a given quarter from one publication to the next. Specifically, more recent quarters are likely to see a more cases where individuals are 'released on bail' (which will later become 'charged', 'released without charge', or 'alternative action') and 'awaiting prosecution' (which will later become 'convicted' or 'acquitted').

Nationalities of persons arrested for terrorism-related offences presented in the arrests and outcomes section are self-declared, therefore they may differ from the actual nationalities of persons arrested; this must be borne in mind when interpreting the figures.

9 Terrorist and extremist/separatist prisoners

Definition of prisoner types

Terrorism legislation or terrorism related – This refers to individuals convicted and sentenced to custody for offences under terrorism legislation, and those sentenced to custody for terrorism-related offences under other legislation.

Domestic extremists/separatist – These are defined as individuals who belong to groups or causes that originate in the United Kingdom (although they may have international links) and are often associated with ‘single issue’ protestors who seek to further their cause through the committing of criminal offences. Some of these cases may not require the involvement of police counter-terrorism resources but may involve other specialist criminal justice resources. There is a wide spectrum of domestic extremist/separatist causes including extreme left- and right-wing groups, animal rights extremists and domestic (sometimes called “lone wolf”) bombers. Of those held in prison custody, the majority belong to extremist animal rights groups, or are members or associates of far-right groups.

Historical terrorist cases – These individuals' court cases pre-date the introduction of the Terrorism Acts. They were imprisoned pre-2001 following a terrorist investigation, acts of terrorism, or for membership of a proscribed terrorist organisation. They include convicted terrorists from the 1970s to 1990s for a range of offences and who remained in prison custody on 31 March 2008. They include members of groups such as the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and domestic bombers. It should be noted that a number of convicted terrorists, particularly Irish Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries, have been released either through completion of sentence or under the terms of the Belfast Agreement of 1998. These cases are not included in these figures.

Definition of types of prisoner release

Discharged – Released from prison custody into the community in Great Britain on completion of a custodial sentence. This will include those released on licence for supervision by the Probation Service.

Repatriated – The removal of a person in custody from Great Britain to their country of origin. The removal does not have to be enforced.

Deported – The enforced removal of a person in custody from Great Britain to another country. The country does not have to be the country of origin of the suspect.

Border Force bail – Individuals released from detention in NOMS or Border Force custodial sites on licence issued by Border Force.

Extradition cases – Individuals held under Home Office powers awaiting extradition to another country or jurisdiction on the authority of an international jurisdiction.

Hospital transfers – Those individuals transferred from prison to a secure hospital under the Mental Health Act for treatment. Individuals may be transferred back to prison, discharged on completion of their custodial sentence, or continue to be held under Mental Health Act powers following completion of their sentence, whilst remaining eligible for release on the authority of a Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Other – Includes persons released after being acquitted, found not guilty or discharged as a result of an appeal or if a case is withdrawn by the prosecution.

Self-declared religions of prisoners

Religions presented in this release are based upon those which prisoners self-declare on admission to prison custody. The categories (in bold) below are the ones presented in the terrorist and extremist prisoners section of this release, and are used by the Ministry of Justice when classifying prisoners' religions in its [Offender Management Statistics](#) releases; the individual religions from within each category are shown below.

Anglican

Anglican
Church of England
Church of Wales
Church of Ireland
Episcopalian

Free Church

Baptist
Celestial Church of God
Church of Scotland
Congregational
Methodist
Non Conformist
Pentecostal
Presbyterian
Quaker
Salvation Army
United Reformed Church
Welsh Independent

Other Christian

Calvanist
Christadelphian
Christian Scientist
Church of Sweden
Coptic
Dutch Reform Church
Ethiopian Orthodox
Evangelist
Greek/Russian Orthodox
Jehovah's Witness
Mormon
Protestant
Seventh Day Adventist
Other Christian Groups

Roman Catholic

Jewish

Other religious groups

Ba Hai
Druid
Jain
Pagan
Spiritualist
Taoist
Rastafarian
Zoroastrian
Other non-Christian

Buddhist

Muslim

Other non-recognised groups

Black Muslim
Nation of Islam
Scientology
Other non-recognised religion

Hindu

Sikh

No Religion

Agnostic
Atheist
No religion

Data quality and interpreting the figures

Data presented on terrorist and domestic extremist/separatist prisoners include persons held on remand as well as those held after conviction or sentencing. Categories for types of prisoners are based on assessment at the time of entering custody.

Self-declared religion is given by prisoners on entry to prison. Some prisoners may subsequently change religion. These changes will not be accounted for in the figures. As with all self-declared characteristics, self-declared religion, self-declared ethnicity and self-declared nationality assume that the prisoner has given the correct details. This may not always be the case.

Due to the relatively small numbers of persons in custody for terrorism-related offences, caution is needed when examining the ethnic breakdown of those in custody. Small changes in the number of persons belonging to each ethnic group can lead to large percentage changes.

10 Stop and search and Schedule 7

More detailed information about the legislation outlined below is included in section 5 of this user guide.

Section 33 of TACT 2000

Police force area breakdowns of the number of cordons set up by police in Great Britain under section 33 of TACT are included only within the 'annual' edition of this series.

Section 43 of TACT 2000

Not all police forces are able to separately identify stops and searches under section 43. Data presented in the quarterly release are, therefore, restricted to those conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service. Breakdowns by self-defined ethnicity (see section below) and the numbers of resultant arrests are included. Vehicle-only searches are excluded.

Section 47A of TACT 2000

As there have been no searches under section 47A of TACT since its introduction in 18 March 2011, no tables on section 44/47A searches have been included this release. The most recent data on section 44/47A searches can be found in [Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, year ending March 2014](#). Data for England and Wales on stop and search under s.44/47A of TACT 2000 are also published in the Home Office annual publication [Police Powers and Procedures](#).

Schedule 7 to TACT 2000

Data on the number of examinations conducted in Great Britain, and resultant detentions, are presented on a quarterly basis. Breakdowns by self-defined ethnicity (see section on 'Ethnicity of persons searched' below) have been available from the NCTPHQ since the 2010/11 financial year.

From April 2015, the NCTPHQ started collecting additional data on Schedule 7 to TACT 2000. This includes data on the number of strip searches and the number of times postponement of questioning was refused by the examining officer, as well as accurate breakdowns of goods examinations by type of freight (air and sea).

Goods examinations

Goods are defined non-exhaustively under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 as "property of any description, and containers". The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 clarified the legal position around the examination of goods in remote storage outside the immediate boundary of a port and the examination of goods comprising items of post. A goods examination under Schedule 7 may only be carried out by a trained, accredited and designated examining officer. An examining officer may only examine goods for the purpose of determining whether they have been used in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

Strip searches

A strip search is a search involving the removal of more than outer clothing. Strip searches do not extend to requiring a person to undergo an intimate search (searching a person's body orifice other than the mouth). A strip search may only take place where an examining officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person has concealed something which may be evidence that the person is a person who appears to be or to have been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. The search must be authorised by an officer of at least one rank higher than the examining officer and who has not been directly involved in the questioning of the person. Strip searches can only be conducted when a person has been detained. The Schedule 7 Code of Practice sets out the procedures an examining officer must follow when conducting a strip search.

Postponement of questioning refusals

A person being examined under Schedule 7 is able to request that their examination be postponed in order for them to be able to consult with a solicitor. If reasonably practicable, an examining officer must

allow this. However, a request for postponement may be refused if the examining officer considers that postponing the questioning would prejudice the purpose of the examination.

Examinations under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000

Under Schedule 7 to TACT individual examining officers can examine a person at a port area when they are entering or leaving, or travelling by aircraft within, Great Britain. Depending on individual circumstances, an examination may consist of basic questioning, a search of property and/or a period of detention of up to 9 hours while investigations take place.

If a person fails to comply with a Schedule 7 examination (but is not found to have committed a more serious offence at the time of the examination) they may be charged under Schedule 7 for failure to comply with the examination; data on these charges are presented in this release.

It should be noted, however, that a Schedule 7 charge may result in a conviction for a different offence or, conversely, a charge for a more serious offence under terrorism legislation may occasionally result in a conviction under Schedule 7 if an examination took place at the time of charge, and all of the other charges are dropped. As a result, the total Schedule 7 convictions shown in this release may not have resulted directly from a Schedule 7 charge, and vice versa.

Ethnicity of persons searched

Self-defined ethnicity data in the stop and search section are based upon the 16 distinct ethnic categories (plus a 'not stated' category) used during the 2001 census, and are grouped into 6 main categories:

White

British
Irish
Other

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean
White and Black African
White and Asian
Other Mixed

Asian (or Asian British)

Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Other Asian

Black (or Black British)

Caribbean
African
Other Black

Chinese or Other

Chinese
Other

Not stated

Data quality and interpreting the figures

Ethnicities of search recipients reported under section 43, 47A and Schedule 7 are self-defined, and therefore may differ from the actual ethnicities of persons searched in a small number of cases. For example, the persons stopped and searched may give a false ethnicity at the time of the search.

The use of stop and search practices are regularly reviewed by the Home Office, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, and other policing-related bodies, to ensure the practices are used fairly and proportionally. Such reviews can affect the way in which police officers enforce stop and search powers, which will in turn have an impact on the figures in this section of the publication.

Due to the relatively small number of persons stopped and searched by the MPS under section 43 of TACT 2000, caution is needed when examining the ethnic breakdown of those arrested as a result of such stops and searches. Small changes in the number of persons belonging to each ethnic group can lead to large percentage changes.

APPENDIX A: A brief history of the Home Office's compilation of statistics on the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000

Statistics on the operation of terrorism legislation have been collected and published by the Home Office since the 1970s. The initial legislation was the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1974, which gave the police new arrest and detention powers to deal with terrorism suspects. This was updated by the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976 and the Prevention of Terrorism (Supplemental Temporary Provisions) Amendment Order 1979, which created specific offences of terrorism and modified the detention powers.

Statistics covering Great Britain (but not Northern Ireland) were collected by the Home Office to monitor the implementation of the detention powers under this legislation. By 1979 (the earliest record) the Home Office was publishing quarterly statistical bulletins containing commentary and tables on applications made to extend the period of detention; persons charged under the Acts; persons charged with other offences following detention; and persons detained but not charged or excluded from the country. The tables provide a time series from 1974, the commencement of the legislation.

See the [Statistics on the Prevention of Terrorism \(Temporary Provisions\) Acts 1974 and 1976](#) bulletins.

During the 1980s further legislation provided more modifications, and the quarterly bulletin reflected this by adding comparisons between Northern-Ireland-related and international terrorism, and persons excluded from the country.

In 1992, the [Statistics on the Operation of Prevention of Terrorism Legislation](#) bulletin became annual, with the similar topic content, apart from the inclusion of outcomes of detention. The commentary covered the latest calendar year, but tables contained some quarterly details for the latest two years.

After the 2001 edition, the annual bulletin was stopped. Figures continued to be collected for internal use by the Metropolitan Police, under the guidance of the National Police Chiefs Council (formerly the Association of Chief Police Officers). This resulted in the National Counter-Terrorism Policing Functions Command (NCTPFC, formerly the ACPO Counter Terrorism Coordination Centre, or ACTCC) assuming the role of collecting individual record data on terrorism cases (its title started as the Office of the National Coordinator of Terrorist Investigations). The Home Office had previously collected arrests and detention data directly from police forces.

The Home Office received data from the Met and elsewhere on a more ad hoc basis, e.g. for answering Parliamentary Questions. The Home Office bulletins resumed in 2009, following a request for reinstatement by John Reid, the then Home Secretary. The first release was a bulletin covering the intervening period: [Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes, Great Britain, 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008](#).

The main change over this period was the implementation of the Terrorism Act 2000; a wider scope of offences connected with terrorism; the extension of the allowed period of detention (further extended by the Terrorism Act 2006); and searches at ports (under Schedule 7 of the 2000 Act) and cordons set up by the police (under section 33 of the 2000 Act).

After a further bulletin for 2008/09, the series broadly adopted its current quarterly format and content. In 2013/14, the collection was extended to include extra breakdowns of terrorist arrests and outcomes. For example, additional details on the nationality of persons arrested.

In December 2015, the release was brought forward by 3 months to make it more timely. This meant that going forward, the data are published 3 months after the period to which they refer. Previously, data were published 6 months after the period to which they refer.

The releases since the quarterly one covering the period to December 2009 can be accessed on [GOV.uk](#).