

UK Missing Persons Bureau

Missing Persons Data Report 2014/2015

Date: 16th May 2016

Version number: 1.0

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

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Foreword

We would like to thank police forces for their time and efforts in returning data to the UK Missing Persons Bureau (UK MPB) for this annual assessment of missing persons in Great Britain. Thanks to their combined efforts we have been able to compile the most complete assessment to date.

An improvement in the quality and completeness of the data provided is starting to enhance our understanding of missing persons. This understanding, together with good intelligence analysis and information sharing, will enable police forces to identify risk, safeguard vulnerable people, support their families and friends as well as bring to justice those who prey on vulnerable people.

This is the first report where the data collected has allowed for analyses of missing people, rather than incidents created on command and control systems or records on case management systems. It has also allowed for an assessment of the reasons for people going missing, and a preliminary analysis of people missing from care settings. For the 2016/17 report, a new template will be sent out to police forces to enable us to further improve and refine our understanding of the data.

Finally and very importantly, when talking about the numbers of missing people, we need to remember that behind each of the numbers is a real person, a person in crisis and in need of support and a person with a family or people who care for them. The numbers in this report must not hide these individuals but instead improve and build on our service to them.



Johnny Gwynne, NCA Director, CEOP Command
May 2016



Mike Veale, Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police
NPCC Policing Lead for Missing Persons'
May 2016

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Glossary

Glossary items are shown in *italics* in the report text.

Absent

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) definition: "A person not at a place where they are expected or required to be and there is no apparent risk." Absent cases are required to be monitored over certain periods of time with consideration given to escalating to an at risk category if the level of risk increases. The interpretation of the definition differs across police forces, making it difficult to directly compare data. From March 2015 the absent category was developed to include the term 'no apparent risk'.^a

Adult

An adult is anyone 18 years old and over.

Calls

Telephone calls to the police relating to a missing or absent person, recorded on a command and control system. In previous reports 'calls' were reported as the total incidents figure.

Child

A child is anyone under 18 years old.

Command and Control System

A system used for the recording and management of information relating to calls received by a police control room and the subsequent allocation and management of police resources.

COMPACT

A missing persons case management system currently used within 22 police forces.

Found reports

Reports completed by the police when a missing person is found or has returned. The content of the found report is based on information from the previously missing person derived from safe and well checks or return home interviews.

Harm suffered

Details of emotional or physical harm, including being a victim of crime, drawn from found reports in case management systems.

Incident

A single episode of someone being reported as missing or absent, which is recorded on a missing persons system. Multiple incidents can be attributable to a single individual. Some single incidents may involve more than one individual. This explanation of incident differs from definitions of incident in previous reports.

^a See NPCC (2015).

Individual

A single person who has been reported missing or absent, recorded on a missing person system.

Length of time missing

The interpretation of duration varies. For the purposes of this report, the duration missing data quoted in individual returns from police forces has been used.

Missing

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) definition: "Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character to the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another."^b

Missing Persons System

A case management system used by the Police to manage the investigation of missing person cases, for example COMPACT or Niche.

Niche

A Records Management System (a commercial product from Niche Computer Systems Limited), which records most aspects of police-related information, including but not limited to, a crime/case management system. Niche is used by 22 police forces with eight using it as a missing persons case management system.

Repeat missing

For the purposes of this report, repeat missing relates to an individual who goes missing on more than one occasion.

^b See ACPO (2013) p.5.

Executive Summary

As highlighted in the 2014/15 high level report published in December 2015,^c an increase has been noted in the number of *calls*^d relating to *missing* persons, within England, Wales and Scotland. This increase has been recalculated as 5% (not 3% as set out in the 2014/15 high level report).^e In 2014/15, 321,992 calls were made to police forces, 14,820 more than in 2013/14.

This report provides narrative and context to the published statistical data in the high level reports. This report will include references to the data supplied for the 2013/14 year as well as for 2014/15.

In previous reports call data was used to report total incident figures. Police forces are now able to break this call data down, into the number of incidents created and the number of individuals to whom the incidents refer. This is due to improved data recording and system changes.

All 43 police forces in England and Wales supplied full (all four quarters) call, *incident* and *individual* data for missing persons reported during 2013/14 and during 2014/15. Police Scotland provided an annual figure only for calls relating to missing persons.^f The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was not able to provide a validated data return. The current code of practice does not require PSNI to provide data.

In the 2014/15 year, across the English and Welsh police forces there were 282,066 missing person-related calls, of which 210,632 were created as incidents, relating to 129,046 individuals. Police Scotland received 39,926 missing person-related calls, an increase of 9% compared with the 2013/14 year.

The 2014/15 year is the first year in which the adoption and use of the *absent* category can be seen clearly, with 38 police forces in England and Wales using the category. The application of the absent category varies across the police and this is reflected in the figures provided. However, most police forces appear consistent in categorising fewer people as absent than missing.

23 police forces have provided data for missing from care incidents recorded by police for 2014/15; a total of 41,017 incidents, of which 87% are children.

Risk assessment data for the 2014/15 year shows 72% of incidents are graded as medium risk with only 11% of incidents graded high risk. An ability to correlate risk, gender and age data would enable more in-depth analysis, providing a fuller assessment and profile of the risks involved with missing persons.

^c National Crime Agency (2015) *Missing Person Highlights Report 2014/15*

^d Words and phrases in *italics* are explained in the glossary

^e The increase is as a result of subsequently corrected data returns from police forces.

^f Police Scotland is unable to provide further data at present due to its current IT systems not allowing the required data extraction. A unified national IT system is in the process of development.

In 2014/15 just over one third of the incidents were attributable to *repeat missing*. This demonstrates that in line with the previous year, there is a slight increase in repeat incidents.

The limitations found within this report are set out in detail on page 11. It is important to recognise that police forces use a variety of *command and control* and *missing person systems* and use different methods of recording and extracting data. For these reasons, data may not be directly comparable year-on-year between police forces and within police forces.

Understanding the data collection

This full data analysis report has been produced to provide a detailed assessment of missing, including absent, person cases for the financial year 2014/15, with references to data received for the financial year 2013/14. A 2013/14 highlight report was published December 2015.^g

The data used to produce this report has been taken from both police force command and control and missing person case management systems. Data has been obtained from the 44 police forces in England, Wales and Scotland. Data from Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not available.^h Police forces use a variety of recording systems and practices, restricting the ability to compare data across police forces, for example, not all police forces use the absent category and the interpretation of the definition differs across police forces, making it difficult to compare data directly.

Data used in this report is provided to UKMPB under a statutory code of practice.ⁱ The code demands the provision of quarterly data returns. It is important to note that this report does not break the data down by quarter. In the report the four quarters' call and incident figures have been added together to produce annual call and incident figures. Some police forces have been able to provide annual figures for individuals recorded as missing. Other police forces have been able to provide quarterly data only which has been summed to show an annual figure. This summing has the potential to give rise to duplication issues.

This report is not directly comparable to previous reports produced by the UKMPB, due to the change in definition of missing and the introduction of absent in April 2013. The increase in data returned by police forces that use the *COMPACT* missing persons system to record and manage missing persons cases has enabled additional data to be included, for example, harm suffered, reason missing and length of time missing. This report also makes a preliminary assessment, based on data from 23 police forces, of police-recorded incidents of children and adults missing from care.

All police forces have been able to provide data for missing incidents and individuals in 2014/15, broken down by *child* and *adult*. This is due to the introduction, changes to and increased use of missing person case management systems, which have enabled police forces to provide more accurate incident data than reported in previous years. Figures differ slightly from the 2014/15 high level data report as a result of corrected data returns from police forces.

In this report, the 'calls received' figure can be directly compared with the figures reported by police forces in the previous four years. Incident data has been

^g National Crime Agency (2015) *Missing Person Highlights Report 2013/14*.

^h There is no statutory requirement for PSNI to submit data but it does fully engage with the work of the UK Missing Persons Bureau.

ⁱ Code of Practice for the Police Service on the Collecting and Sharing of Data with Public Authorities (2009) NPIA.

collected consistently between 2013/14 and 2014/15. However, changes to recording practices in some police forces mean that year-on-year comparisons should be undertaken with caution. Individual data is not comparable due to reporting duplication (discussed in Limitations).

Note: Percentages featured in this report have been rounded to one decimal point in the tables and whole numbers in the text. Where percentages are less than 0.1% "<0.1%" has been used.

Limitations to the data

As highlighted throughout the report the data obtained has limitations. However, despite these limitations this is still the most complete and tested data the UKMPB has ever received. It is important to note that not all missing persons will be officially reported to the police or recorded as missing and it is beyond the scope of this report to identify the extent of unreported missing people. Equally, we have not been able to determine to what extent missing incidents are reported twice.

Limitations

- The main issue with the data sent in by the police forces was that on some occasions it was incomplete, this was mainly due to varying IT systems being unable to provide all data requested
- 21 police forces provided a yearly figure for individual data which simply summed all four quarters and failed to remove duplicates. Future returns will ask for police forces to re-run the individual totals at the end of the year, to get a figure which excludes these duplicates across the quarters. This should provide a more accurate picture of the number of individuals going missing. The level of duplication is assessed as having potential to produce over- and under-estimates in the report
- Data relating to outstanding (i.e. not found or returned) missing persons could not be analysed due to the varying standard of returns
- Differing recording practices across police forces restrict the ability to compare data; police forces apply the absent category in different ways, with some restricting its use from certain individuals (such as children). Police forces may also differ in their definitions of missing from care, as this is determined by a local police force and an assessment made by the officer dealing with an individual
- Three police forces could not provide a breakdown of ethnicity and one could not provide a breakdown of gender or ethnicity.

Additionally, Police Scotland is unable to provide further data than the number of calls at present due to its current IT systems not allowing for the data extraction. A unified national IT system for Police Scotland is in the process of development, which should allow the provision of more complete data in the future. Whilst there is no statutory requirement for PSNI to submit data it does fully engage with the work of the UKMPB.

Key statistics: Calls, Incidents and Individuals

Calls received by the police in 2014/15

Great Britain **321,992** Calls made to the police regarding a missing or absent person. A 5% increase when compared to 2013/14.^j

Table 1: Calls made to the police in England, Wales and Scotland regarding missing or absent persons 2010 – 2015.

Financial year	Total Missing related Calls	England & Wales related calls	Scotland related calls ^k
2014/15	321,992	282,066	39,926
2013/14	307,172	270,699	36,473
2012/13	306,118	273,319	32,799
2011/12	313,019	280,357	32,662
2010/11	326,764	287,567	39,197

England & Wales

282,066

A slight increase of 4% compared with 2013/14 (270,699). This equates to 773 missing person-related calls per day.

Scotland

39,926

An increase of 9% compared with last year (36,473). This equates to 109 missing-related calls per day.

Incidents created on a missing persons system 2014/15

England & Wales

210,632

This equates to 577 missing person incidents created per day.

Individuals created on a missing persons system 2014/15

England & Wales

129,046

Up to 350 people are reported missing per day, with up to 15 people reported missing every hour.^l

^j After further refinement of the data, this increase has been recalculated at 5% (not 3% as set out in the 2014/15 high level report). The increase is as a result of corrected data returns from forces.

^k Police Scotland has changed the method by which the yearly figure is calculated so the figures are not directly comparable year on year.

^l Note that the figures quoted may contain duplicates due to some police forces summing the quarterly figures instead of re-calculating the yearly total to remove duplicates. It is possible there is some duplication of reports across police force areas as well. The level of duplication is assessed as having potential to produce over- and under-estimates in the report.

The number of calls received will not directly equal the number of missing incidents or individuals created on a missing person system. This could be for a number of reasons, including numerous repeat calls relating to a single missing incident; a missing person being found before details are entered into a case management system; and because some people are reported missing more than once increasing the overall number of missing incidents.

For a handful of police forces, the number of incidents is higher than the number of calls received. This will partly be due to calls to the police which involve the reporting of more than one person as missing at the same time. However, it will also be due to the style in which data is searched on a command and control system. Command and control systems use 'opening' and 'closing' codes for all occurrences, including missing persons. An opening code reflects information received at the time of a first call to the police whereas a closing code reflects final information acquired during the course of the whole occurrence/incident. Searching data using one or other code, or both codes may produce different results. As an example, an incident may have an opening code of 'absent' but then is closed as 'missing'. UKMPB advises that closing codes only are used.

It is difficult to say exactly how many individuals go missing in the UK every year as not all missing people are reported to the police or are recorded as missing.

Over the last few years there has been greater awareness within the police of the importance of recording missing people. This has led to many police forces improving recording practices. A handful have shown increases of above 50% in terms of missing incidents, when compared with 2013/14:^m

- Dyfed Powys Police, West Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Police reported large increases of between 87-157% incidents (an increase of 7,834 incidents on the previous year; 3,027 adults and 4,807 children). These large increases are believed to be due to the implementation of new recording methods; including (but not limited to) direct entry from command and control to case management systems
- In addition, West Yorkshire Police, which has had the largest increase of child and adult incidents from 2013/14 (157%; 4,052 incidents), provided several reasons for this. It reports that the increase of child incidents is due to encouraging children's homes to report all missing persons, rather than deal with them themselves, providing a fuller picture of children missing from care.

Please see [Appendix A, Table A](#) for the full breakdown of calls, incidents and individuals by police force.

^m National Crime Agency (2015) *Missing Person Highlights Report 2013/14*.

Calls per 1,000 population

The GB population for 2014 was estimated as 62.8m,ⁿ an increase of 0.8% on the previous year. A comparison between population figures and the total number of missing person calls received in England, Wales and Scotland (321,992) shows a ratio of 5.1 calls per 1,000 people. Police Scotland has a higher ratio of 7.5 calls per 1,000 population than England and Wales at 4.9 calls per 1,000 people.

Despite the overall increase in missing-related calls (5%) since 2013/14, the rates per 1,000 population in England and Wales remain consistent with the population increases. Police Scotland has seen an increase from 6.8 per 1,000 in 2013/14 to 7.5 per 1,000 in 2014/15. However, it is assessed that this is the result of a change in recording methods by Police Scotland, rather than an increase in the number of missing-related calls being received.

Table 2: Number of calls received by the police per 1000 population

Police	Population estimate 2014	No. of missing-related calls 2014/15	Per 1,000 population
England & Wales	57,408,654	282,066	4.9
Scotland	5,347,600	39,926	7.5
Total	62,756,254	321,992	5.1

Police	Population estimate 2013	No. of missing-related calls 2013/14	Per 1,000 population
England & Wales	56,948,229	270,699	4.8
Scotland	5,327,700	36,473	6.8
Total	62,275,929	307,172	4.9

ⁿ Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2015) *Population estimates – Mid-year 2014 estimates*.

Demographics

Gender and Age

43 police forces provided data showing the distribution of missing incidents by gender ([Appendix B, Table B](#)) and 42 for missing incidents by age (table below). Men and boys are more likely to go missing (52%), despite there being fewer men in the general population (49%).^o

Table 3: Number of missing incidents by age grouping and gender

Age group	Male Incidents	Female Incidents	Total Incidents	Age group percentage of total incidents
0-4yrs	608	479	1,087	0.6%
5-8yrs	1,120	528	1,648	0.9%
9-11yrs	3,540	1,864	5,404	2.9%
12-14yrs	17,812	20,275	38,087	20.3%
15-17yrs	28,804	37,823	66,627	35.4%
18-21yrs	6,370	6,353	12,723	6.8%
22-39yrs	19,169	11,049	30,218	16.1%
40-59yrs	13,240	6,966	20,206	10.8%
60-79yrs	4,928	2,388	7,316	3.9%
80+yrs	1,922	1,212	3,134	1.7%
Unknown	748	749	1,497	0.8%
Total	98,261	89,686	187,947	
Total percentage	52.3%	47.7%		

Note: As this data refers to missing incidents it will include repeat missing. Greater Manchester Police data is excluded. Due to rounding, the total age group percentages add up to slightly over 100%.

Children

The age group 0-11years accounts for seven percent (8,139) of the total incidents (112,853) of children reported missing; 65% (5,268) were boys. It is not possible to judge from the data the length of time missing, the circumstances, or if these incidents contain a significant number of repeat missing children.

^o www.ons.gov.uk; Table MYE2: population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK, mid 2014.

54% (60,969) of child missing incidents during 2014/15 were girls and of these, 95% (58,098) were between the ages of 12-17 years. In fact, the 12-17 year old age range was the most likely age grouping to go missing representing 56% (104,714) of the total missing incidents (187,947). Population estimates show boys aged between 12-17 years account for seven per cent of the male population and girls of this age group account for six per cent of the female population. When compared with the total incidents, a disproportionately higher number of 12-17 year olds were reported as going missing.

Adults

62% (45,629) of missing incidents attributed to over 18 year olds are men; of these, 42% (19,169) are aged between 22-39 years. This demographic group accounts for only 24% of the population, indicating this group of males are currently over represented. One particular reason for this high volume of missing males is currently being explored by Kingston University, as outlined below.

Missing on a night out - *The project will report in full late 2016.*

Kingston University in collaboration with the UKMPB is carrying out a project examining cases of men missing on a night out. These cases often end in fatal outcomes and have attracted growing attention in recent years. Many take a long time to be resolved, leaving families 'in limbo' and attracting media attention to the investigation. Preliminary findings have identified 97 cases of men found deceased after going missing on a night out in the UK between Jan 2010 – Aug 2015.

- The men were aged between 16-62 years, with the most common age (12 cases) 18 years
- 69% (67 cases) were aged 25 years or under and 35% (31/88 cases) were students
- The winter months December, January and February accounted for over half of the cases
- 89% (86 cases) were found in water; with the majority in rivers (52 cases)
- 38% (36 cases) were missing for less than one week before their body was discovered
- 20% (19 cases) were missing for more than one month.

Ethnicity

Police forces use two different types of ethnicity recording. User-defined ethnic appearance codes which are utilised on the Police National Computer (known as IC 6+1 identity codes) and self-defined ethnicity descriptions (known as the 16+1 system).^p This report uses the PNC codes as follows:

- 'IC1 White – North European' (previously 'White European')
- 'IC2 White – South European' (previously 'Dark European')
- 'IC3 'Black' (previously 'African Caribbean')
- 'IC4 Asian'
- 'IC5 'Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian' (previously 'Oriental')
- 'IC6 'Middle Eastern' (previously 'Arab')
- 'IC0 Other'

^p User-defined codes are PNC codes used by police officers without asking an individual about ethnicity during an encounter. Self-defined ethnicity is declared by an individual during an encounter with the police.

40 police forces provided complete ethnicity data for missing persons, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Number of missing person incidents, by ethnicity and gender

Ethnicity coding	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
IC1 White – North European	64,123	59,743	123,866	67.9%
IC2 White – South European	3,396	2,937	6,333	3.5%
IC3 Black	10,935	9,563	20,498	11.2%
IC4 Asian	3,988	3,933	7,921	4.3%
IC5 Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian	313	341	654	0.4%
IC6 Middle Eastern	862	532	1,394	0.8%
IC0 Other	11,719	10,102	21,821	12%
Total	95,336	87,151	182,487	
Total percentage	52.2%	47.8%		

Note: May include repeat missing and excludes Greater Manchester, Warwickshire and Wiltshire Police.

White people account for the majority of missing persons (IC1 and IC2 = 71%). National population data by ethnicity^q shows White as accounting for 86% of the population; Asian 7.5%; Black/African/Caribbean 3.3%; and, Arab 0.4%. Data for the number of missing incidents relating to Asian people is lower (4.7%)^r and may represent an underestimate of the true figure. The data also shows that missing persons of Black ethnicity are over-represented. Currently full reasons for the observed representation are unknown.

In all ethnicity groups, except IC5, more men are reported missing than women. By contrast, marginally more IC5 Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian women are reported missing than men of the same ethnicity.

^qOffice for National Statistics (ONS), www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_290558.pdf Ethnicity and National Identity in England and Wales 2011. Note: Chinese are included in the Asian ethnicity category. Note: ONS data is from self-defined ethnicity in the Census.

^r This data includes IC4 and IC5 to be consistent with the ONS data

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is a critical aspect of a missing person investigation. The nature and level of the investigation undertaken will be informed by the assessment of the risk posed. It is important to balance the missing person's right to a private life free from unnecessary intrusion by the authorities, against ensuring that opportunities to safeguard a person and detect any crime that may be committed are not missed.

Police guidance^s on the management, recording and investigation of missing persons grades missing person cases into the categories set out below.

- High risk: The risk posed is immediate and there is substantial grounds for believing that the subject is in danger through their own vulnerability; as a victim of serious crime, or the public is in danger
- Medium risk: The risk posed is likely to place the subject in danger or they are a threat to themselves or others
- Low risk: There is no apparent threat of danger to either the subject or the public. Under 18s should not be included in this classification.

In April 2013, a fourth category, absent, was introduced. The implementation of this category has been staggered across the police forces. As of 31st March 2015, 37 of the 43 English and Welsh police forces had implemented the absent category. Of the remaining six police forces:

- North Yorkshire Police implemented absent in April 2015, and Northumbria Police in January 2016
- North Wales Police is looking to adopt the use of absent during 2016
- Kent Police and South Wales Police have, to date, decided not to implement
- Cumbria Constabulary implemented the use of absent in April 2014 but chose to suspend it from January 2015 due to concerns over risks to vulnerable people.

Responses to risk should be viewed as a continuum (absent, low, medium and high). Absent should not be viewed as disconnected from missing. Provided risk assessment and management are conducted effectively, leading to the correct application of a risk category, then relevant resources will be applied to the incident which should lead to achieving the necessary and proportionate safeguarding outcome.

It is expected that risk will be continually reassessed throughout an investigation, to take into account any new information which may influence the assessment of risk and require a greater (or lesser) response. The initial risk assessment grade applied when the person is first reported as missing may differ from the grade applied at the time the person is located. Due to the way in which this is recorded in forces, it can be challenging to determine how many reports were categorised as high, medium, low risk or absent throughout the year.

^s ACPO (2010) p. 21 et seq.

For 2014/15, 41 police forces provided data for missing person risk assessment levels. Of the data provided, 11% were graded as high risk, 72% medium and 17% low, showing a change from 2013/14, where 12% of cases were graded as high, 73% medium and 15% low. Please see [Appendix C](#), Table C and Figure C.

20 police forces provided full data (all four quarters) for incidents graded as 'absent' and 14 police forces provided data for individuals only. Six police forces have been unable to provide any absent data, due mainly to case management systems not being able to support data extraction. [Appendix D](#), Table D shows a breakdown of the absent data provided by child and adult incidents and individuals. Three police forces have been excluded as they were only able to provide a joint total for child and adult incidents. It should be noted that the data provided ranges from one quarter through to all four quarters depending on when the absent definition was adopted. Comparing data across police forces should be approached with caution.

The recent HMIC PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 vulnerability reports^t identified that "although the majority of police forces use the NPCC definitions of 'absent' and 'missing', there are some local interpretations". The variations in the way police record and monitor absent cases has resulted in some considerable data disparities. For example, some appear reluctant to classify children missing from care as absent as they perceive them to be at risk, whereas others class missing children from care only as absent. Also several police forces have chosen different age limits to exclude the use of the absent category for some or all children adding to already clear variations in practice which limit cross comparison of the data.

When compared to missing incidents, with the exception of a few police forces, absent is used considerably fewer times than missing with, on average, 22% of child incidents and 12% of adult incidents being categorised as absent. In relation to child incidents, four police forces are well above the 22% average, ranging from 51% to 84%, therefore classifying significantly more children as absent rather than missing. Of these same four police forces, one classifies more adults as absent than missing, with 67%.

The incident data shows approximately three times as many child-related incidents are classed as absent than adult-related incidents; 21,339 compared to 6,889.

Whilst the level of investigation for low risk and absent cases may be minimal, the majority of reports are deemed to be medium or high risk (as shown above), which require more concerted investigation and as a result utilise a significant amount of police resources. It is estimated that a medium risk, medium term missing person investigation costs between £1,325.44 - £2,415.80.^u Based on 72% of all missing incidents in England and Wales being graded as medium risk, the total financial cost

^t Page 18, PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) A national overview, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, December 2015

^u Shalev-Greene, K. and Pakes, F. (2012) *Establishing the Cost of Missing Person Investigations*. (see p.3).

of medium risk missing person investigations is in the range £200m to £366m per annum.

Repeat missing

For the purpose of this report figures were calculated from the total number of incidents divided by the total number of individuals provided by each police force, see [Appendix E](#), Tables E1-E3. The data provides an indication of the percentage of missing incidents attributable to individuals who have previously been reported missing. These figures may be an underestimation as approximately half of the police forces did not account for duplicate individuals in their returns.

In 2014/15 approximately one third (39%) of the total missing incidents were attributable to repeat individuals. This is broadly in line with previous years (36% in 2013/14, 38% in 2012/13).

Approximately half (52%) of the missing child incidents are attributable to repeat missing episodes, whereas one fifth (18%) of the missing adult incidents are repeat missing episodes. It is evident that a much higher percentage of cases relate to repeat missing children episodes than those for adults.

Harm suffered

This analysis looks to identify the type of harm missing persons may suffer and the number of people this affects. The information was collated from 20 of the 22 police forces, in England and Wales, that use the COMPACT system. Therefore it is only an indication of the national picture of the likelihood of coming to harm whilst missing.

The data utilised is based on the *found report*, which is required to be completed by an officer once a missing person is located. There are limitations to the entries provided on the found report. The found report is based on an officer's interpretation, dependent on the accuracy with which the officer completes the report and how it is later transposed onto COMPACT. In addition, the report relies on disclosures by a missing person, during the return home interview or safe and well check, as to whether they came to any harm whilst missing. The police can report more than one category of harm suffered for each missing incident.

Analysis of this data shows that in the majority of missing incidents people return home safely (96%). This is the same percentage as in 2013/14.

Table 5: Incidents, broken down by type of harm suffered for both 2014/15 and 2013/14.

	Accidental harm ^v	Emotional harm	Found deceased	Physical injury	Self-harmed	Sexual offence victim	No harm suffered	Total
2014/15 Total	223	67	255	795	965	162	59,588	62,055
Percentage	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	1.3%	1.6%	0.3%	96%	
2013/14 Total	160	47	254	802	821	115	55,600	57,798
Percentage	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	1.4%	1.4%	0.2%	96%	

Please note: Due to inconsistent data recording not all resolved incidents have an outcome endorsed. The percentages provided above sum to slightly over 100% due to rounding.

The figures for emotional harm appear low in comparison to the other categories of harm. This may be due to the difficulty in assessing what constitutes emotional harm or in identifying if a person has been emotionally affected by their missing episode.

Table 6: Percentage of incidents, by child and adult, and by type of harm suffered for both 2014/15 and 2013/14.

Category	2014/15			2013/14		
	Child n=38,450	Adult n=23,605	Total n=62,055	Child n=35,244	Adult n=22,555	Total n=57,799
No harm suffered	98.1%	92.7%	96.0%	98.4%	92.8%	96.2%
Hurt or harmed^w	1.6%	6.1%	3.3%	1.3%	6.0%	3.2%
Sexual offence victim	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Found deceased	<0.1%	1.1%	0.4%	<0.1%	1.1%	0.4%

Please note: As per table 5, due to inconsistent recording the above figures do not include all resolved incidents, and percentages sum to slightly over 100 due to rounding.

According to the data reported missing adults are significantly more likely to come to some form of harm, including being found dead, than missing children; whereas missing children are more likely to be victims of a sexual offence than missing adults.

^v Accidental harm may include harm caused by a fall, for example.

^w Hurt or harmed includes Accidental harm, Emotional harm, Physical injury and Self-harmed.

Research

A study, "Lost from view, missing persons in the UK", (Biehal et al, 2003), which examined data from the charity Missing People found that over one third (36%) of the missing adults interviewed suggested they had felt to be in danger at some point whilst missing. Dangers experienced included being physically or sexually assaulted or feeling threatened by those around them. Out of the 40 missing young people interviewed, 1 in 8 (13%) reported being physically hurt whilst missing and 1 in 9 (11%) having been sexually assaulted whilst missing.

Reason for missing episode

The reasons why children and young people go missing are multi-faceted and complex. According to Rees and Stein (1999), the most common reason cited by children and young people is 'problems at home', in most instances this is as a result of conflict with parents or other family members. Other reasons quoted by Rees and Stein include emotional and physical abuse or neglect. Biehal et al. (2003) found that whilst over two-thirds of children and young people go missing deliberately, one in ten children go missing unintentionally and one in twelve children are forced into going missing, either due to parental or stranger abduction or being thrown out of their home environment. Children and young people are also known to be at-risk of going missing as a result of grooming for exploitative means, e.g. trafficking and sexual exploitation (CEOP, 2011).

COMPACT reports feature a 'reason missing' category. This category of data has been provided by 21 police forces. There are more 'reason missing' options available to police forces using later COMPACT versions. See [Appendix F, Table F](#) for a breakdown of the data.

Note:

- This is an assessment made by the officer completing the form and more than one category can be selected. In all categories, but particularly in the 0-8 years old categories, some officer reported reasons for missing appear as unusual and may have been reported incorrectly
- Official statistics record suicides for ages 10+ years only.

Data for 2014/15 show categories for 'depression/anxiety' and 'mental health' account for 21% (7,925 people) of 38,556 cases. Of these, 17% (1,361) are children.

Suicide attempts were assessed as being the reason people went missing for 1,522 incidents, 33% (503) were aged 22-39 years with 23% (356) children. This data cannot be broken down by gender. Research from Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)^x shows suicide as the single biggest killer of men aged under 45 in the UK, with 76% of all suicides in 2014 being by men.

^x www.thecalmzone.net/help/get-help/suicide/

Length of time missing

22 police forces using the COMPACT system provided data on the length of time for which a person was missing. This data represents a partial picture, giving an indication only of the national picture.

Table 7: Number of incidents broken down by duration missing

	Length of time missing						
	0 - 8 hours	8 - 16 hours	16 - 24 hours	24 - 48 hours	2 - 7 days	7+ days	Total
2014/15 Total	20,687	8,605	5,375	5,567	4,584	2,299	47,117
Total percentage	43.9%	18.3%	11.4%	11.8%	9.7%	4.9%	
	74% found within 24 hours						
2013/14 Total	20,101	11,760	5,287	5,737	4,659	2,598	50,142
Total percentage	40.1%	23.5%	10.5%	11.4%	9.3%	5.2%	
	74% found within 24 hours						

These findings are consistent with those in previous years; the majority (74%) of missing people return or are located within 24 hours with only five per cent remaining missing for longer than a week.

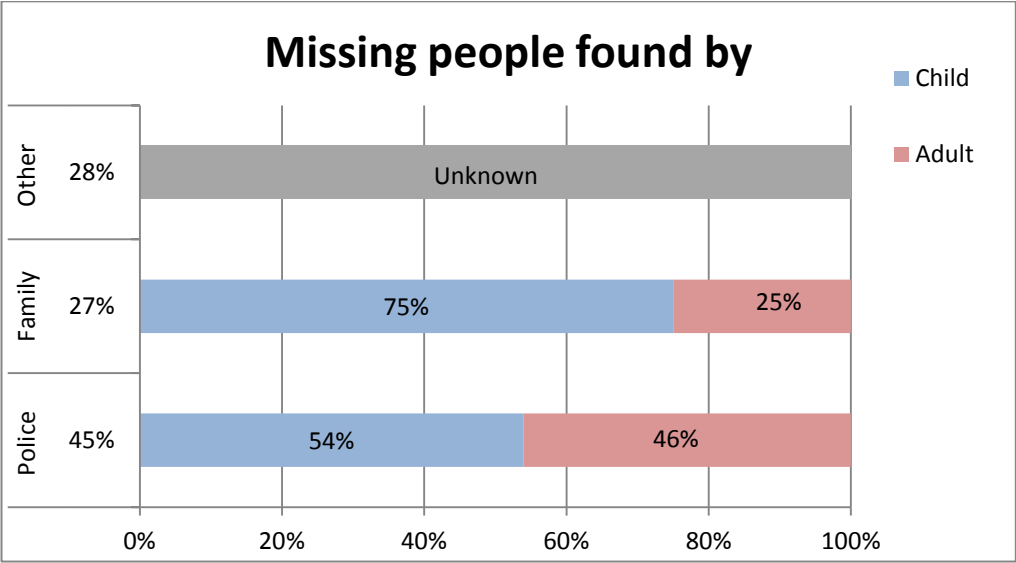
Who finds missing people?

The COMPACT returns include a section relating to finding missing people. This data has been taken from all 22 police forces using COMPACT. This information is based on the 'found report' so the limitations previously highlighted apply.

On average, 45% of missing persons are found by the police, with a further 27% being located by a family member of the missing person. The remaining 28% are found by other means, such as by care home staff, social services, friends or other agencies. The data for 14/15 shows a 2% increase in missing people being found by the police compared to 2013/14.

Of the 45% found by police forces, 54% were children and 46% were adults. Of those found by family, 75% were children and 25% were adults.

Figure 1: Who missing people are found by



Missing from care

Data for missing from care has been received and collated from 23 of 43 police forces in England and Wales. It should be noted that definitions of a child in care and an adult in care applied in police reports may differ to statutory definitions as police reports are based on an officer's assessment and dependent on police force guidelines and training received.

For the purposes of this report, 'missing from care' refers to reports where an officer has endorsed the child/adult as being 'in care', or where the address the person is missing from is known to be a residential care unit. This will therefore include individuals in a range of care situations, including those living in children's homes, in foster care, those living with parents/guardians in family homes, in health placements and in care homes or nursing homes.

Since the last full data report for 2012/13, more police forces have been able to provide data for incidents, individuals, and child and adult categories. However, not all of these categories are provided for missing from care cases. Data (containing incident and/or individual, child and adult) for each quarter shows that the 23 police forces recorded 41,017 child and adult incidents of missing from care in 2014/15 (35,578 child and 5,439 adult). These incidents relate to 16,537 individuals (12,958 children and 3,579 adults). This indicates that 28% of missing incidents and 18% of missing individuals recorded by these police forces, relate to people missing from care (see [Appendix G](#), Tables G1-G2).

It should also be recognised that the majority of these police forces are now utilising the absent category and it has not been possible to provide an indication of how many children and adults in care have been recorded as absent.

Of the 41,017 of incidents linked to missing from care, 35, 578 (87%) incidents related to children (see [Appendix G](#), Tables G1 and G2). Approximately two thirds (65%) of children missing from care incidents were attributable to repeat individuals. 12,958 (31%) missing children were missing from care. For adults, 5,439 (9%) incidents and 3,579 (7%) of missing adult individuals related to those missing from care.

There are limitations to this data and it should be noted that it is not comparable with data produced by the Department for Education (DfE).^y There is a possibility the police data could contain duplication, both within police forces and across police forces. Despite these limitations, significant improvements to police recording of missing from care have been made over the last two years and police recording practices continue to improve.

^y Department for Education (2015) *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. Statistical First Release (SFR 34/2015).

Initiatives and improvements

During collation of the data for this report, a number of police forces provided qualitative information to explain the data they provided which also included details of initiatives to respond more effectively to safeguard missing persons.

The following case study is a reported example of effective partnership working between West Mercia Police and local authorities.

Case Study

West Mercia Police (WMP) is working with partners to reduce both the number of children that are going missing from care and incidents occurring in children's homes.

- WMP has 137 children's homes, 51% of which are in Shropshire and this includes 12 dedicated *Child Sexual Exploitation* (CSE) children's homes. 91 different local authorities provide placements and in 2014/15 nearly 300 calls for service were received from them
- Challenges faced were: action not being taken immediately upon a child going missing, children being criminalised and the Police being called to incidents in care homes that they would not be called to if they occurred in a family home
- The police Care Home Team aims to better safeguard children from the risks faced when going missing and to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children
- WMP visited and built relationships with all care home staff and worked with them to assist their understanding of the risks to children when away from adult supervision
- Following this a bespoke trigger plan was created for every child for use when they go missing. A trigger plan is also now created when the children's home or responsible local authority advises WMP that a child who usually resides outside of the area is being placed into care
- WMP and the home will then have a meeting to discuss all the risks and intelligence linked to the child being placed in care. WMP create a COMPACT Person Record on the missing person database in advance of receiving any missing or absent report that may be generated later
- Multi-agency decision making forums consider every case involving a looked after child who is suspected of committing an offence so that a decision is made which considers the best interests of the child
- WMP arranged for identified care home staff to be trained in level 1 Restorative Justice so that they had a real alternative to calling the police for low level behaviour problems.

Successes:

When comparing incidents involving looked after children for the first 6 months of the project to the same period the previous year there have been:

- 48% reduction in missing incidents and
- 21% reduction in criminal offences.

A case study below from Avon and Somerset Constabulary outlines the steps taken in dealing with a repeat missing 15 year old child where there are fears she is being sexually exploited.

Case Study – Avon and Somerset Constabulary (A&S)

Situation:

A 15 year old girl missing from home regularly. Her mother told A&S she was visiting older men in the Midlands. There were fears she was being sexually exploited.

Steps taken:

- Telecoms enquiries were conducted and cell site work carried out when she next went missing
- Her phone was located in the Midlands. Mobile surveillance officers deployed
- Overt investigators deployed with the victim's Social Worker in anticipation of her being found
- Phone work failed to locate the victim, but enquiries identified an associate, via car and mobile phone details, which was located travelling south with the victim from the Midlands to Bristol
- Decision taken to stop the car and despite there being no complaint, arrest the two suspects for child abduction and sexual activity with a child
- The victim was interviewed but maintained that she was not in a sexual relationship with any of her associates
- The men were forensically examined, along with their car and phones, interviewed, bailed and given 'abduction notices' informing them of the girl's age
- The victim's mother engaged with A&S and she agreed to provide the contents of her child's wash basket, including underwear. These were forensically examined and the results retained pending further work with the victim
- Over a period of nine months A&S engaged with the victim and gained her trust and confidence. She has now provided evidential accounts, which led to a plan to arrest five men whose DNA were found on the underwear and three older men for a series of sexual offences against the child.

Textsafe™

At police request, a supportive message (Textsafe™) can be sent to a missing person's phone to allow them to contact the charity, Missing People for free and confidential support. It lets the missing child or adult know how to reach support via phone, text and email 24hours a day. Textsafe™ is sent from Missing People rather than the police. The following page details a case study provided by Missing People, which outlines the benefits of this free service.

In addition, a collaboration with a number of police forces, including West Mercia Police, has led to the piloting of Suicide Risk TextSafe™ in partnership with Samaritans and the charity, Missing People. A Suicide Risk TextSafe™ is sent to a missing adult who is believed to be suicidal or may be experiencing extreme emotional distress as a way of proactively reaching out to a missing adult via text message and telephone call. A text message will be sent from Missing People and a phone call will be made by Samaritans. Although unable to empirically validate the impact, following the introduction of this pilot, West Mercia Police has seen a one third reduction in suicide-related missing person deaths from 2009/10 (27) to 2014/15 (18).

Research: TextSafe™

During 2014/15 6,238 TextSafe™ messages were sent out to those thought to be missing within the UK an increase of 285% on the 2013/14 year (1,621 TextSafe™ messages sent). Approximately one third are duplicates sent to the same individuals. Missing People estimate that it received 300-370 responses during 2014/15, however this is likely to be a significant underestimate; in 2013/14 this figure was an estimated 75-79 responses. This is a large increase in the use of TextSafe™ and shows the success over the last two years, demonstrating the awareness that has been raised for both the Missing People charity and the use of TextSafe™ within the police forces.

Case study:

18 year old Shahida caused concern when she went missing unexpectedly from her family home, leaving a note explaining she felt unhappy and had decided to leave. Shahida was considered by Police as high risk due to her age and uncharacteristic nature of her behaviour.

Amidst concerns that Shahida was in the company of an older man and at risk of harm, the police approached Missing People who began distributing poster publicity in targeted areas and launched online appeals. The charity also sent a TextSafe™ message to Shahida's mobile phone, hoping to establish her well-being and offering the helpline number for confidential support.

The day after the TextSafe™ message was sent, Shahida called to let the charity know that she was safe and well. The advisor explained that she would need to present herself to the Police as was currently considered missing. She was assured that if the police were satisfied she was safe and well, they would not disclose her location to her family. Shahida assured the advisor she was happy and safe and asked for a message to be passed to her father. Both Shahida and her father were made aware they could contact the charity for support. Soon after, the charity was contacted and informed that the police had visited Shahida and established she was safe and well.

This is a case study and therefore some details have been changed to protect the caller's identity.

For more information please visit www.missingpeople.org.uk/police

Unidentified individuals, bodies and remains

UKMPB collects information from police forces and coroners officers in the UK on unidentified deceased bodies and remains (body parts), and individuals who are found alive but cannot be immediately identified. Information is also received from overseas law enforcement where it is believed there is a link to the UK. Unidentified alive individuals may be unable to provide personal details at the time of being found for reasons such as injuries sustained or medical conditions, e.g. amnesia or dementia. The UKMPB stores this information on its database, Hermes, and uses it, together with details of missing person reports to cross match or link the missing and the found.

UKMPB data indicates that in 2014/15 19 police forces in England and Wales recorded at least one unidentified individual, body or body part, totalling 46 records, the majority of which (27) were unidentified bodies. Adding cases recorded by Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Interpol and overseas law enforcement agencies brings the total to 72 records with the majority (43) being unidentified bodies. There has also been a change in process for recording bodies and body parts from Interpol and overseas enforcement agencies. A more thorough assessment is now made about connections to the UK before cases are entered.

The number of unidentified alive individuals, bodies and body parts recorded by the UKMPB, which at the 31 March 2015 still remained unidentified are broken down in Appendix H, Table H.

There are a high proportion of outstanding unidentified cases, 81% of which are unidentified bodies. The majority of these outstanding unidentified cases relate to the Metropolitan Police Service area (25%; 309) and Interpol (24%; 288). The high number of Interpol cases include historic cases notified to the UKMPB between 2008 to 2011 when all Interpol cases were added to the Hermes database regardless of a known or apparent UK connection.

The high number of outstanding unidentified cases is mainly due to DNA techniques being unavailable when the bodies or body parts were found. The level of decomposition and exposure to water can also make identification difficult. Where DNA is available, testing can be undertaken and compared to the profiles stored on the Missing Persons DNA and National DNA Databases.

Conclusion

There are still many gaps in the overall understanding of missing and absent people. This report is the first in which incident and individual data has been provided in more detail, with a breakdown of child and adult categories.

Despite the limitations of police systems to generate comparable data, the increased use of case management systems within police forces has allowed for a higher volume of data to be collected than in previous years. This has enabled UKMPB to draw some degree of comparison across police forces and give an explanation of the national picture for 2014/15.

Continued good relationships between the NCA's UKMPB and charities, police forces and external agencies such as HMIC and DfE are crucial in ensuring that future data collected is the most accurate available.

UKMPB requires additional data from police forces in order to complete further analyses; a new returns template will be sent out to police forces after the 1st April 2016 to allow for a new data collection for the 2016/17 report.

UKMPB is continually working with police forces to enable them to comply with the minimum requirements of data collection. Further work is planned with West Mercia Police and the WPC Software COMPACT team to develop the capabilities and usage of COMPACT. Additionally, similar work is being carried out with *Niche* and the Minerva consortium, to support the future development of the Niche missing person module.

Whilst the report contains many inconsistencies in reporting, recording and practices between agencies and systems it is hoped that the publication of this report will stimulate debate about these and improve the commitment to data quality in this area, in turn allowing better decisions to be taken with better data.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Key statistics: Calls, incidents and individuals

Table A: Calls, incidents and individuals.

Police Force	Total Calls	Child Incidents	Adult Incidents	Total Incidents	Child Individuals	Adult Individuals	Total Individuals
Avon and Somerset	9,765	1,542	1,567	3,109	974	1,400	2,374
Bedfordshire	3,205	271	266	537	219	257	476
Cambridgeshire	2,788	685	376	1,061	398	335	733
Cheshire	4,537	2,490	898	3,388	1,660	990	2,650
City of London	114	6	41	47	8	41	49
Cleveland	3,383	2,392	986	3,378	1,884	928	2,812
Cumbria	1,483	799	429	1,228	664	477	1,141
Derbyshire	3,848	1,223	715	1,938	556	572	1,128
Devon and Cornwall	8,757	4,282	3,747	8,029	2,208	2,896	5,104
Dorset	2,292	416	379	795	219	338	557
Durham ¹	1,095	746	349	1,095	404	326	730
Dyfed Powys	2,171	1,197	741	1,938	653	613	1,266
Essex ⁴	3,248	1,925	1,513	3,438	972	1,314	2,286
Gloucestershire	2,405	1,195	845	2,040	616	697	1,313
Greater Manchester ⁴	20,402	13,673	9,006	22,679	5,809	7,346	13,155
Gwent	3,611	2,952	622	3,574	1,184	594	1,778
Hampshire	11,448	4,795	2,108	6,903	2,351	1,826	4,177
Hertfordshire	3,308	1,841	1,439	3,280	841	1,152	1,993
Humberside	3,950	1,445	563	2,008	581	492	1,073
Kent ⁴	10,406	7,395	3,175	10,570	2,577	2,510	5,087
Lancashire	7,135	4,941	1,792	6,733	1,660	969	2,629
Leicestershire	4,249	1,537	851	2,388	771	800	1,571
Lincolnshire	3,436	326	335	661	205	301	506
Merseyside	10,148	3,500	1,509	5,009	1,197	1,237	2,434
Metropolitan ¹²	42,956	22,220	20,736	42,956	12,357	16,769	29,126
Norfolk	2,617	1,262	1,151	2,413	615	942	1,557
North Wales	3,206	993	651	1,644	591	616	1,207
North Yorkshire	3,819	2,189	833	3,022	950	740	1,690
Northamptonshire	2,786	540	496	1,036	380	448	828
Northumbria	17,645	5,316	3,221	8,537	1,559	2,366	3,925
Nottinghamshire ⁴	3,441	2,491	1,440	3,931	1,190	1,128	2,318
South Wales ¹	7,391	4,717	2,674	7,391	1,544	2,010	3,554
South Yorkshire	7,401	3,928	2,052	5,980	1,573	1,634	3,207
Staffordshire	3,272	2,218	950	3,168	841	755	1,596
Suffolk	3,035	1,272	911	2,183	602	800	1,402
Surrey	1,801	900	896	1,796	575	814	1,389
Sussex	10,405	1,434	933	2,367	584	808	1,392
Thames Valley	10,894	5,874	4,280	10,154	3,335	3,724	7,059
Warwickshire	1,870	752	419	1,171	334	356	690
West Mercia	4,722	1,761	1,281	3,042	847	1,097	1,944
West Midlands	17,529	2,902	2,760	5,662	1,740	2,235	3,975
West Yorkshire	7,238	4,067	2,564	6,631	1,954	2,139	4,093
Wiltshire	2,854	1,014	708	1,722	475	597	1,072
Total E&W	282,066	127,424	83,208	210,632	60,657	68,389	129,046
Total Police Scotland³	39,926						
Total	321,992			210,632			129,046

- ¹ The total call figure is the same as missing person incident figure due to direct entry into missing persons system
- ² Metropolitan Police Service figures adjusted to remove duplicates created by multiple entries into MPS CAD system
- ³ Police Scotland is only able to provide a figure for total calls. A further breakdown is not available at present
- ⁴ The number of incidents is higher than the number of calls received due to reason set out on page 11

Appendix B: Demographics

Table B: Number of persons reported missing, by gender.

Police Force	Male	Female	Unknown	Transgender	Total
Avon and Somerset	1,603	1,522	7	1	3,133
Bedfordshire	168	156	0	0	324
Cambridgeshire	463	596	2	0	1,061
Cheshire	1,713	1,660	0	16	3,389
City of London	28	20	0	0	48
Cleveland	1,802	1,582	0	0	3,384
Cumbria	772	590	0	0	1,362
Derby	991	947	0	0	1,938
Devon and Cornwall	4,890	4,298	3	9	9,200
Dorset	390	405	0	0	795
Durham	589	506	0	0	1,095
Dyfed Powys	960	941	36	0	1,937
Essex	1,781	1,656	1	1	3,439
Gloucestershire	1,100	944	0	0	2,044
Greater Manchester	5,905	4,205	801	0	10,911
Gwent	1,819	1,901	0	0	3,720
Hampshire	3,861	3,234	47	7	7,149
Hertfordshire	1,516	1,444	320	0	3,280
Humberside	1,033	973	1	1	2,008
Kent	5,727	4,440	404	1	10,572
Lancashire	3,745	2,987	0	0	6,732
Leicestershire	1,086	1,273	31	0	2,390
Lincolnshire	372	290	0	0	662
Merseyside	2,542	2,399	68	0	5,009
Metropolitan	22,045	20,868	14	29	42,956
Norfolk	1,314	1,193	1	0	2,508
North Wales	870	772	2	0	1,644
North Yorkshire	1,437	1,544	2	0	2,983
Northamptonshire	445	481	110	0	1,036
Northumbria	5,135	3,399	3	0	8,537
Nottinghamshire	2,035	1,864	10	0	3,909
South Wales	2,606	2,072	13	2	4,693
South Yorkshire	3,166	2,811	5	0	5,982
Staffordshire	1,576	1,586	5	1	3,168
Suffolk	1,156	1,027	0	0	2,183
Surrey	871	927	2	0	1,800
Sussex	1,139	1,227	1	0	2,367
Thames Valley	5,519	4,748	46	1	10,314
Warwickshire	600	575	0	0	1,175
West Mercia	2,233	1,982	0	1	4,216
West Midlands	2,459	3,078	4	1	5,542
West Yorkshire	3,258	3,318	76	0	6,652
Wiltshire	1,446	1,450	28	0	2,924
Total	104,166	93,891	2,043	71	200,171
Percentage	52.0%	46.9%	1.0%	<0.1%	100%

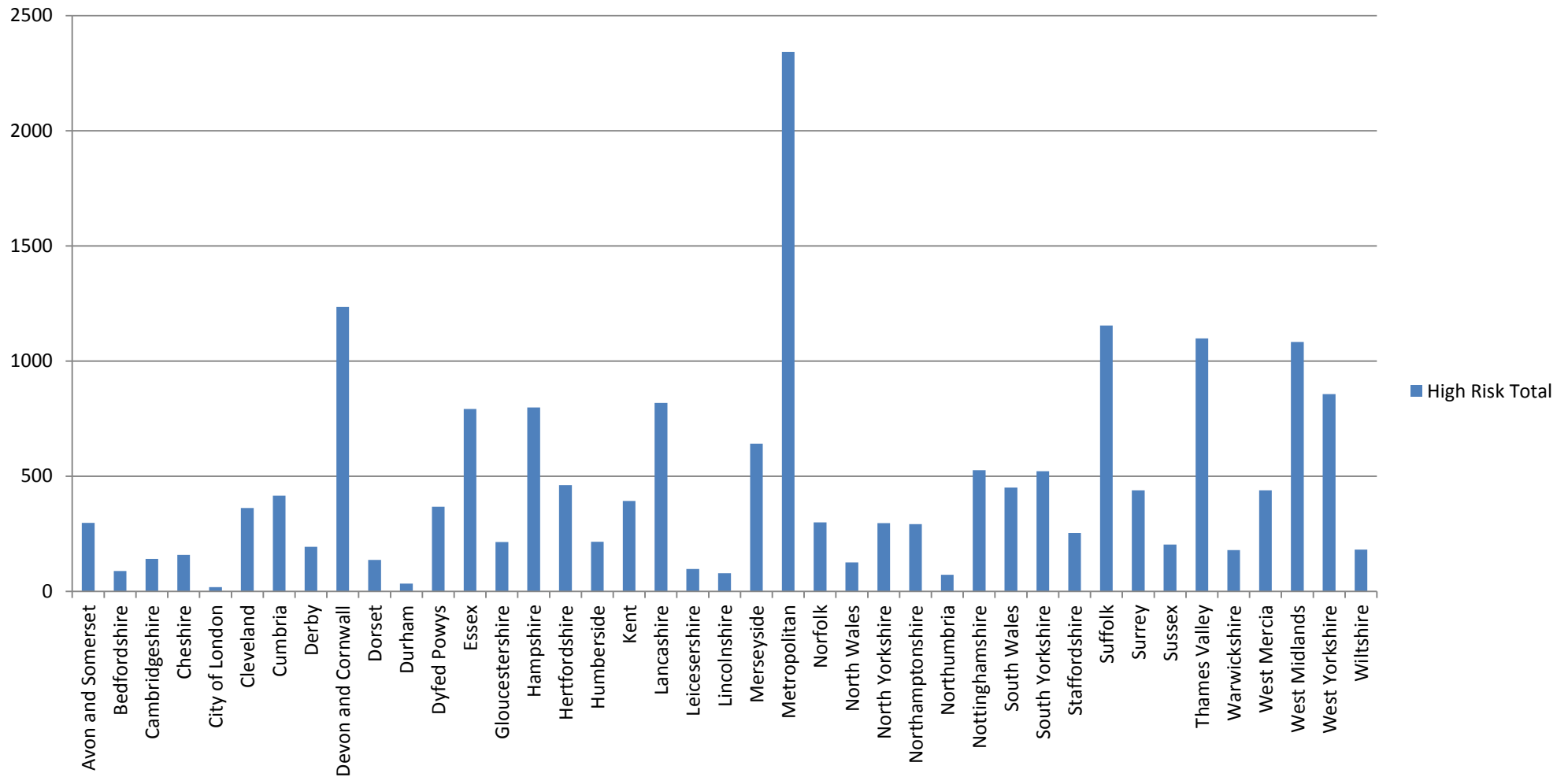
Note: may include duplicates where repeat missing

Appendix C: Risk assessment

Table C: Risk assessment by police force and risk level

Police Force	High Risk	Medium	Low	Total
	Total	Total	Total	
Avon and Somerset	297	1,069	158	1,524
Bedfordshire	88	219	18	325
Cambridgeshire	141	786	136	1,063
Cheshire	158	3,000	558	3,716
City of London	18	10	17	45
Cleveland	362	2,837	189	3,388
Cumbria	415	848	98	1,361
Derby	193	1,577	156	1,926
Devon and Cornwall	1,235	5,718	545	7,498
Dorset	137	519	76	732
Durham	34	974	87	1,095
Dyfed Powys	367	877	161	1,405
Essex	792	2,495	161	3,448
Gloucestershire	214	1,557	281	2,052
Hampshire	798	5,604	551	6,953
Hertfordshire	461	2,334	490	3,285
Humberside	215	1,671	123	2,009
Kent	392	5,611	1,915	7,918
Lancashire	818	5,223	645	6,686
Leicestershire	97	472	45	614
Lincolnshire	78	441	126	645
Merseyside	641	4,153	219	5,013
Metropolitan	2,342	29,785	14,547	46,674
Norfolk	300	1,726	382	2,408
North Wales	125	1,350	169	1,644
North Yorkshire	296	702	2,057	3,055
Northamptonshire	292	597	57	946
Northumbria	72	7,876	589	8,537
Nottinghamshire	526	2,976	378	3,880
South Wales	450	2,702	290	3,442
South Yorkshire	522	4,973	498	5,993
Staffordshire	254	2,831	104	3,189
Suffolk	1,154	784	222	2,160
Surrey	438	1,119	214	1,771
Sussex	203	1,889	279	2,371
Thames Valley	1,098	5,226	1,109	7,433
Warwickshire	179	950	33	1,162
West Mercia	438	2,553	54	3,045
West Midlands	1,083	3,792	694	5,569
West Yorkshire	856	4,722	1,087	6,665
Wiltshire	181	1,622	111	1,914
Total	18,760	126,170	29,629	174,559
%	11%	72%	17%	100%

Figure C: Incident with a High Risk assessment broken down by police force



Appendix D: Absent

Table D: Child and adult incident and individual data for absent people.

Police Force	Child Incidents	Adult Incidents	Child Individuals	Adult Individuals
Bedfordshire ^{3 4}	1,380	529	537	406
Cambridgeshire	702	203	285	186
Cheshire	1,001	147	541	116
City of London ¹	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	688	164	531	152
Cumbria ^{3 4}	67	24	73	24
Derbyshire ^{3 4}	400	30	152	27
Dorset ^{3 4}	486	312	220	264
Durham ³	192	45	Unable to provide	
Dyfed Powys	141	20	Unable to provide	
Essex ^{3 4}	121	20	79	20
Hampshire	996	339	700	330
Hertfordshire	491	132	194	101
Humberside ^{3 4}	191	37	115	32
Lancashire ³	925	148	Unable to provide	
Leicestershire ⁴⁵	372	95	181	92
Merseyside	1,406	280	370	243
Metropolitan ^{3 4}	3,077	641	1,295	344
Norfolk	593	400	346	370
Northamptonshire	1,132	311	969	298
Nottinghamshire ^{3 4}	696	291	362	271
South Yorkshire	1,255	535	530	467
Staffordshire ⁴	795	86	83	79
Suffolk	253	62	164	56
Thames Valley	878	755	393	607
Warwickshire ^{3 4}	55	13	43	12
West Mercia ^{3 4}	323	65	183	59
West Yorkshire	2,261	993	1,107	850
Wiltshire	462	212	327	184
Total E&W	21,339	6,889	9,780	5,590
	28,228		15,370	
Greater Manchester ²	6,125		Unable to provide	
Surrey ²	878		Unable to provide	
Sussex ²	2,626		Unable to provide	
Kent	Not implemented			
North Wales	Looking to implement			
North Yorkshire	Implemented April 2015			
Northumbria	Implemented January 2016			
South Wales	Not implemented			
Avon and Somerset	Unable to provide			
Devon and Cornwall	Unable to provide			
Gloucestershire	Unable to provide			
Gwent	Unable to provide			
Lincolnshire	Unable to provide			
West Midlands	Unable to provide			

¹ Police Force has implemented absent but no incidents recorded.

² A joint figure was provided for adult and child incidents/individuals. Forces have been excluded from total figure.

³ Partial incident data represented in the table due to police force not providing full data (all four quarters) for child and adult incidents, due to not implementing absent at the time or being unable to provide this.

⁴ Partial individual data represented in the table due to police force not providing full data (all four quarters) for child and adult individuals, due to not implementing absent at the time or being unable to provide this.

⁵ Force provided joint child and adult incidents for Q1&2. Only figures from Q3&4 are shown.

Appendix E: Repeat missing incidents

Table E1: Number, percentage and ratio of total repeat missing incidents to individuals, by police force.

Police Force	Total Missing Incidents	Total Missing Individuals	Percentage of Incidents	Ratio reports to people
Avon and Somerset	3,109	2,374	24%	1.3
Bedfordshire	537	476	11%	1.1
Cambridgeshire	1,061	733	31%	1.4
Cheshire	3,388	2,650	22%	1.3
City of London ¹	47	49	-4%	1.0
Cleveland	3,378	2,812	17%	1.2
Cumbria	1,228	1,141	7%	1.1
Derbyshire	1,938	1,128	42%	1.7
Devon and Cornwall	8,029	5,104	36%	1.6
Dorset	795	557	30%	1.4
Durham	1,095	730	33%	1.5
Dyfed Powys	1,938	1,266	38%	1.5
Essex	3,438	2,286	34%	1.5
Gloucestershire	2,040	1,313	36%	1.6
Greater Manchester	22,679	13,155	42%	1.7
Gwent	3,574	1,778	50%	2.0
Hampshire	6,903	4,177	40%	1.7
Hertfordshire	3,280	1,993	39%	1.6
Humberside	2,008	1,073	47%	1.9
Kent	10,570	5,087	52%	2.1
Lancashire	6,733	2,629	61%	2.6
Leicestershire	2,388	1,571	34%	1.5
Lincolnshire	661	506	23%	1.3
Merseyside	5,009	2,434	51%	2.1
Metropolitan	42,956	29,126	32%	1.5
Norfolk	2,413	1,557	36%	1.5
North Wales	1,644	1,207	27%	1.4
North Yorkshire	3,022	1,690	44%	1.8
Northamptonshire	1,036	828	20%	1.3
Northumbria	8,537	3,925	54%	2.2
Nottinghamshire	3,931	2,318	41%	1.7
South Wales	7,391	3,554	52%	2.1
South Yorkshire	5,980	3,207	46%	1.9
Staffordshire	3,168	1,596	50%	2.0
Suffolk	2,183	1,402	36%	1.6
Surrey	1,796	1,389	23%	1.3
Sussex	2,367	1,392	41%	1.7
Thames Valley	10,154	7,059	31%	1.4
Warwickshire	1,171	690	41%	1.7
West Mercia	3,042	1,944	36%	1.6
West Midlands	5,662	3,975	30%	1.4
West Yorkshire	6,631	4,093	38%	1.6
Wiltshire	1,722	1,072	38%	1.6
Total E&W	210,632	129,046	39%	1.6

¹ Individuals figure is higher than incident figure, potentially due to multiple individuals recorded missing on a single incident

² Percentages rounded to no decimal points

Table E2: Number, percentage and ratio of adult repeat missing incidents to individuals, by police force.

Police Force	Total Missing Adult Incidents	Total Missing Adult Individuals	Percentage of repeat incidents	Ratio reports to People
Avon and Somerset	1,567	1,400	11%	1.1
Bedfordshire	266	257	3%	1.0
Cambridgeshire	376	335	11%	1.1
Cheshire ¹	898	990	-10%	0.9
City of London	41	41	0%	1.0
Cleveland	986	928	6%	1.1
Cumbria ¹	429	477	-11%	0.9
Derbyshire	715	572	20%	1.3
Devon and Cornwall	3,747	2,896	23%	1.3
Dorset	379	338	11%	1.1
Durham	349	326	7%	1.1
Dyfed Powys	741	613	17%	1.2
Essex	1,513	1,314	13%	1.2
Gloucestershire	845	697	18%	1.2
Greater Manchester	9,006	7,346	18%	1.2
Gwent	622	594	5%	1.0
Hampshire	2,108	1,826	13%	1.2
Hertfordshire	1,439	1,152	20%	1.2
Humberside	563	492	13%	1.1
Kent	3,175	2,510	21%	1.3
Lancashire	1,792	969	46%	1.8
Leicestershire	851	800	6%	1.1
Lincolnshire	335	301	10%	1.1
Merseyside	1,509	1,237	18%	1.2
Metropolitan	20,736	16,769	19%	1.2
Norfolk	1,151	942	18%	1.2
North Wales	651	616	5%	1.1
North Yorkshire	833	740	11%	1.1
Northamptonshire	496	448	10%	1.1
Northumbria	3,221	2,366	27%	1.4
Nottinghamshire	1,440	1,128	22%	1.3
South Wales	2,674	2,010	25%	1.3
South Yorkshire	2,052	1,634	20%	1.3
Staffordshire	950	755	21%	1.3
Suffolk	911	800	12%	1.1
Surrey	896	814	9%	1.1
Sussex	933	808	13%	1.2
Thames Valley	4,280	3,724	13%	1.1
Warwickshire	419	356	15%	1.2
West Mercia	1,281	1,097	14%	1.2
West Midlands	2,760	2,235	19%	1.2
West Yorkshire	2,564	2,139	17%	1.2
Wiltshire	708	597	51%	1.2
Total E&W	83,208	68,389	18%	1.2

¹ Individuals figure is higher than incident figure, potentially due to multiple individuals recorded missing on a single incident

² Percentages rounded to no decimal points

Table E3: Number, percentage and ratio of child repeat missing incidents to individuals, by police force.

Police Force	Total Missing Child Incidents	Total Missing Child Individuals	Percentage of repeat incidents	Ratio reports to people
Avon and Somerset	1,542	974	37%	1.6
Bedfordshire	271	219	19%	1.2
Cambridgeshire	685	398	42%	1.7
Cheshire	2,490	1,660	33%	1.5
City of London ¹	6	8	-33%	0.8
Cleveland	2,392	1,884	21%	1.3
Cumbria	799	664	17%	1.2
Derbyshire	1,223	556	55%	2.2
Devon and Cornwall	4,282	2,208	48%	1.9
Dorset	416	219	47%	1.9
Durham	746	404	46%	1.8
Dyfed Powys	1,197	653	45%	1.8
Essex	1,925	972	50%	2.0
Gloucestershire	1,195	616	49%	1.9
Greater Manchester	13,673	5,809	58%	2.4
Gwent	2,952	1,184	60%	2.5
Hampshire	4,795	2,351	51%	2.0
Hertfordshire	1,841	841	54%	2.2
Humberside	1,445	581	60%	2.5
Kent	7,395	2,577	65%	2.9
Lancashire	4,941	1,660	66%	3.0
Leicestershire	1,537	771	50%	2.0
Lincolnshire	326	205	37%	1.6
Merseyside	3,500	1,197	66%	2.9
Metropolitan	22,220	12,357	44%	1.8
Norfolk	1,262	615	51%	2.1
North Wales	993	591	41%	1.7
North Yorkshire	2,189	950	57%	2.3
Northamptonshire	540	380	30%	1.4
Northumbria	5,316	1,559	71%	3.4
Nottinghamshire	2,491	1,190	52%	2.1
South Wales	4,717	1,544	67%	3.1
South Yorkshire	3,928	1,573	60%	2.5
Staffordshire	2,218	841	62%	2.6
Suffolk	1,272	602	53%	2.1
Surrey	900	575	36%	1.6
Sussex	1,434	584	59%	2.5
Thames Valley	5,874	3,335	43%	1.8
Warwickshire	752	334	56%	2.3
West Mercia	1,761	847	52%	2.1
West Midlands	2,902	1,740	40%	1.7
West Yorkshire	4,067	1,954	52%	2.1
Wiltshire	1,014	475	64%	2.1
Total E&W	127,424	60,657	52%	2.1

¹ Individuals figure is higher than incident figure, potentially due to multiple individuals recorded missing on a single incident

² Percentages rounded to no decimal points

Appendix F: Reason for missing

Table F: Reason for missing category by age group (years) from COMPACT reports

Reason missing	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-17	18-21	22-39	40-59	60-79	80+	U/K	Total	Total percentage
Abducted	5	3	6	31	98	25	59	51	4	0	0	282	1%
Alzheimers	1	0	0	2	53	17	45	50	208	154	0	530	1%
Asylum seeker	0	1	2	17	68	21	55	44	10	0	0	218	1%
Dementia	2	0	3	18	51	7	2	39	535	416	0	1,073	3%
Depression/Anxiety	6	3	8	208	441	286	1,088	1,040	134	11	0	3,225	8%
Disorientated	4	2	4	10	17	13	51	113	129	98	0	441	1%
Domestic abuse	16	12	14	105	156	24	148	70	10	1	0	556	1%
Drugs/Alcohol	9	0	6	451	1,114	243	1,235	863	107	6	0	4,034	11%
Employment	1	0	0	0	15	14	115	156	11	0	0	312	1%
Female Genital Mutilation	0	0	0	1	11	2	0	4	0	0	0	18	0%
Financial	1	0	0	13	48	44	211	264	27	1	0	609	2%
Forced marriage	0	0	0	2	6	9	10	1	0	0	0	28	0%
Forced to leave	4	2	2	8	35	12	21	9	3	1	0	97	0%
Gang-related	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	0%
Homeless	3	0	1	8	54	36	171	139	12	0	0	424	1%
Honour based violence	1	0	0	6	17	12	5	4	5	0	0	50	0%
Injured	1	1	0	8	23	13	39	38	43	22	0	188	1%
Lost	15	15	18	32	62	25	53	66	90	68	0	444	1%
Mental health	3	7	39	234	412	451	1,773	1,335	338	108	0	4,700	12%
Missing intentionally	22	25	119	1,026	1,915	278	775	435	124	52	0	4,771	12%
Misunderstanding	8	31	71	350	519	173	380	241	96	30	0	1,899	5%
Other medical	1	4	11	28	33	27	127	145	105	39	0	520	1%
Relationship	38	40	149	1,998	2,577	452	1,633	1,178	169	24	1	8,259	21%
School	1	20	174	1275	801	35	19	5	0	0	0	2,330	6%
Sexual exploitation	0	1	2	368	657	16	3	3	0	0	0	1,050	3%
Suicide attempt	5	2	10	90	249	165	503	425	65	8	0	1,522	4%
Terrorist offence	0	0	1	8	44	6	5	6	3	0	0	73	0%
Thrown out	1	1	0	54	199	35	60	43	5	0	0	398	1%
Trafficking	0	0	0	11	14	5	1	1	0	0	0	32	0%
Transient lifestyle	2	0	3	73	188	33	98	64	8	0	0	469	1%
Total	150	170	643	6,435	9,878	2,479	8,688	6,832	2,241	1,039	1	38,556	

Note: Categories for 'unknown', 'other', 'declined' and 'unspecified' account for just over half of the data received – these have been removed so that analysis can be carried out on the remaining categories. Percentages are rounded to no decimal points.

Note: Some officer-reported reasons for missing appear as unusual and may have been reported incorrectly. This is particularly evident in the 0-8 years old categories. It should be noted that official statistics record suicides for ages 10+years only.

Note: This is an assessment made by the officer completing the form and more than one category can be selected.

Appendix G: Missing from care

Table G1: Number of incidents involving children and adults missing from care, by police force during 2014/15

Police Force	Child Incidents	Adult Incidents	Total
Avon & Somerset	413	153	566
Cambridgeshire	248	9	257
Cheshire	995	183	1,178
City of London	0	0	0
Cleveland	1,041	34	1,075
Derbyshire	555	7	562
Devon and Cornwall	1,202	279	1,481
Dyfed Powys	431	8	439
Essex	831	15	846
Greater Manchester	5,981	102	6,083
Kent	2,621	33	2,654
Leicestershire	453	49	502
Merseyside	1,996	153	2,149
Metropolitan	9,041	2,859	11,900
Norfolk	480	18	498
Northumbria	2,608	700	3,308
Nottinghamshire	876	17	893
Staffordshire	849	15	864
Sussex	504	139	643
West Mercia	1,335	11	1,346
West Midlands	948	426	1,374
West Yorkshire	1,458	35	1,493
Wiltshire	712	194	906
Total	35,578	5,439	41,017

Table G2: Number of children and adults missing from care, by police force during 2014/15

Police Force	Child individuals	Adult individuals	Total
Avon & Somerset	262	133	395
Cambridgeshire	129	8	137
Cheshire	557	216	773
City of London	0	0	0
Cleveland	609	34	643
Derbyshire	253	6	259
Devon and Cornwall	513	206	719
Dyfed Powys	178	7	185
Essex	394	11	405
Greater Manchester	1240	77	1317
Kent	612	20	632
Leicestershire	125	46	171
Merseyside	600	99	699
Metropolitan	3595	1696	5291
Norfolk	153	9	162
Northumbria	768	468	1236
Nottinghamshire	372	9	381
Staffordshire	280	5	285
Sussex	290	115	405
West Mercia	658	8	666
West Midlands	442	221	663
West Yorkshire	620	35	655
Wiltshire	308	150	458
Total	12,958	3,579	16,537

Appendix H: Unidentified individuals, bodies and remains

Table H: Number of unidentified individuals, bodies and remains on record for which are outstanding as of 31st March 2015

Police Force	2014/15				2013/14			
	Body	Body Part	Alive	Total	Body	Body Part	Alive	Total
England and Wales								
Avon and Somerset	13	4	0	17	14	4	0	18
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Cheshire	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	5
City of London	8	0	1	9	8	0	1	9
Cleveland	3	0	0	3	3	1	0	4
Cumbria	4	3	0	7	4	2	0	6
Derbyshire	8	0	1	9	8	0	1	9
Devon and Cornwall	22	8	0	30	22	6	0	28
Dorset	13	0	0	13	14	0	0	14
Durham	3	0	2	5	3	0	2	5
Dyfed-Powys	5	5	1	11	5	5	0	10
Essex	27	2	2	31	27	2	2	31
Gloucestershire	3	1	0	4	3	1	0	4
Greater Manchester	10	2	1	13	10	2	1	13
Gwent	8	1	0	9	9	1	0	10
Hampshire	4	12	0	16	4	12	0	16
Hertfordshire	2	0	4	6	3	0	4	7
Humberside	5	1	0	6	5	1	0	6
Kent	29	2	1	32	30	2	1	33
Lancashire	7	3	0	10	7	3	0	10
Leicestershire	2	0	2	4	2	0	1	3
Lincolnshire	2	0	1	3	2	1	0	3
Merseyside	9	4	0	13	9	4	1	14
MPS	274	10	25	309	273	10	26	309
Norfolk	3	3	0	6	4	3	0	7
North Wales	14	4	0	18	14	4	0	18
North Yorkshire	6	1	0	7	7	1	0	8
Northamptonshire	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	7
Northumbria	4	3	0	7	4	4	0	8
Nottinghamshire	3	1	1	5	4	1	1	6
South Wales	9	2	0	11	9	2	0	11
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Staffordshire	11	0	1	12	11	0	1	12
Suffolk	8	2	3	13	7	2	3	12
Surrey	12	1	1	14	12	2	1	15
Sussex	46	7	1	54	45	6	1	52
Thames Valley	11	1	0	12	12	1	0	13
Warwickshire	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
West Mercia	5	3	2	10	5	3	2	10
West Midlands	6	3	1	10	6	3	1	10
West Yorkshire	6	2	1	9	6	3	1	10
Wiltshire	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	3
Total	623	92	53	768	629	94	52	775

Police Force	2014/15				2013/14			
	Body	Body Part	Alive	Total	Body	Body Part	Alive	Total
Police Scotland								
Police Scotland - East	10	2	3	15	10	2	2	14
Police Scotland - North	6	6	0	12	6	6	0	12
Police Scotland - West	34	8	3	45	34	8	3	45
Total	50	16	6	72	50	16	5	71
Other								
British Transport Police	47	1	1	49	47	0	1	48
Guernsey	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	5
Interpol	245	36	7	288	252	36	7	295
Isle of Man	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4
Ministry of Defence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	9	6	1	16	7	5	0	12
PSNI	5	8	0	13	5	8	0	13
States of Jersey	2	1	0	3	2	1	0	3
Total	317	52	9	378	322	50	8	380
Overall Total	990	160	68	1,218	1,001	160	65	1,226