

Matt Vickers MP
Member of Parliament for Stockton West
Shadow Minister of State for Police, Crime and Fire
(via email)

31 March 2025

Dear Mr Vickers,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February regarding the use of police workforce statistics by Dame Diana Johnson, Minister of State for Police, Crime and Fire.

The claim in question was made during the debate on the Police Grant Report¹ on 5 February 2025. The Minister stated, “there were 149,769 police officers in March 2024, but in June – when the Conservative Government were still in power – that figure had been reduced by 1,232 to 148,536 officers.”

We examined this and determined that the figures cited by the Minister were published on 22 January 2025 as an annex in the Police workforce: 30 September 2024 bulletin². As such, the figures were publicly available at the time the claim was made.

However, we note that these figures are published management information rather than part of the regular statistics on police numbers, and so were not included or referred to in the separate data tables accompanying the bulletin.

We have discussed this approach with Home Office statisticians and will continue to support them in finding the best ways to publish management information outside of regular statistical releases, so that they are readily accessible when ministers and officials use them publicly. Thank you again for raising this matter with us.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Robert Chote
Chair

¹ [Police Grant Report, Hansard Volume 761](#)

² Annex A, [Police workforce, England and Wales: 30 September 2024, Home Office](#)