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28 January 2020

Dear **Ed**

Recruitment of 20,000 additional police officers in England and Wales

As you are aware, the Home Office currently reports on the size of the police workforce twice a year. Detailed statistics, covering the workforce as at 31 March each year, are published in July with an update of headline figures, as at 30 September each year, the following January.

Last September, the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers in England and Wales by the end of March 2023. Given the significant public interest in the issue we have decided to introduce a new statistical output to provide a quarterly update to allow scrutiny of progress towards meeting the commitment to recruit the additional officers. We are working with the National Police Chiefs Council and individual forces to develop a new data stream which allow us to report on such progress.

Tomorrow when the next set of the Police Workforce Statistics for England and Wales will be released, we intend to publish an information note for users of our workforce statistics. This will explain how the baseline has been set and how the additional police officers will be counted and reported on. In line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, we will shortly pre-announce the release dates for this new output. We plan for the first of these to be in April 2020 with quarterly updates thereafter during the lifetime of the recruitment campaign.

Also, tomorrow we will be seeking views from our users on a proposal to extend the coverage of our regular police workforce statistics to cover National Crime Agency officers employed in England and Wales.

Your office has recently focused on policing and highlighted the need for official statistics to contribute to improving public understanding and debate. I hope these developments serve to do so and will be welcomed by users of our statistics.

John Flatley
Acting Home Office Chief Statistician