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## INTRODUCTION

This statistics bulletin provides information about the deaths that occurred during or following police contact from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

104 deaths occurred during the relevant period. Last year's bulletin showed 70 deaths between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2002. However, those earlier statistics were based on a more restricted definition of the relevant deaths. If the previous definition had been applied to deaths taking place in 2002-2003, the figure for that period would be 77 which would represent an increase of 7 over 2001/02. The definitions are set out on pages 3-8.

On 1 April 2002 the Home Office introduced revised categories of deaths of members of the public during or following police contact. This revision had two main purposes. First, to ensure that all deaths involving any form of significant contact with the police are included in the statistics. Second, to draw a clear distinction between those where there was direct contact with the police and those where it was less immediate. Following a process of consultation, four specific categories were defined. The revised categories have been agreed with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) and other interested parties and cover road traffic incidents, shootings, deaths in or following custody and deaths following other types of contact with the police.

During 2002/03 there was a significant increase in the number of people from ethnic minority groups who died during or following police contact. There were 22 such deaths in 2002/03 compared to just 7 recorded for 2001/02. Part of the increase in ethnic minority deaths could be explained as a result of the widening of our revised categories of deaths. We have commissioned research in an attempt to discover whether there are any common factors underlying those deaths.

There is already a great deal of positive work taking place in forces to reduce the risk of all deaths where there has been contact with the police. However, more needs to be done to ensure that best practice is taken up in all areas so that the benefits from effective local and national initiatives can be realised throughout England and Wales. In Appendix A we have set out the key actions currently taking place. An outline of these initiatives was circulated to Chief Officers in May 2003 to raise forces' awareness of additional measures they could take or procedures they could adopt to help reduce the number of deaths. The emphasis is on practical steps which can be taken rather than theoretical concepts.



## MAIN POINTS

Of the 104 deaths in total:

- Category 1

40 were as a result of fatal road traffic incidents involving the police.

- Category 2

3 deaths were as a result of fatal shooting incidents involving the police.

- Category 3

40 occurred in or following police custody. Of these, 8 took place at police stations.

- Category 4

21 took place during or following other types of contact with the police.



DEFINITIONS OF DEATHS  
APPLICABLE  
PRIOR TO 1 APRIL 2002

## DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE PRIOR TO 1 APRIL 2002

Category A is defined as:

Where the deceased is in police detention as defined in Section 118(2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. That is, for the purpose of the Act, if:

- he has been taken to a police station after being arrested for an offence; or,
- he is arrested at a police station after attending voluntarily at the station or accompanying a constable to it,
- and is detained there or is detained elsewhere in the charge of a constable, except that a person who is at a court after being charged is not in police detention for those purposes.

This category also encompasses deaths of those under arrest who are held in temporary police accommodation and those who have been taken to hospital following arrest. It also includes those who die, following arrest, whilst in a police vehicle.

Category B is defined as:

Where the deceased is otherwise in the hands of the police or death results from the actions of a police officer in the purported execution of his duty. This category includes, for example deaths which occur:

- when suspects are being interviewed by the police but have not been detained;
- when persons are actively attempting to evade arrest;
- when persons are stopped and searched or questioned by the police;
- when persons are in police vehicles (other than whilst in police detention);

- when persons are in police custody having been arrested by officers from a police force in Scotland exercising their powers of detention under section 137(2) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994;
- when persons are in police custody having been arrested under section 3(5) of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993;
- when persons are in police custody having been served a notice advising them of their detention under powers contained in the Immigration Act 1971;
- when persons are convicted or remanded prisoners held in police cells on behalf of the Prison Service under the Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) Act 1980;
- when there is a siege situation or ambush;
- when persons are in the care of the police having been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983; and,
- when children or young persons are in police protection under the Children Act 1989.

The two categories of deaths are designed to distinguish between deaths which occur when a person is detained by the police and those which occur otherwise following contact with the police.

The categories of death to be reported exclude:

- those attending police stations as innocent visitors or witnesses who are not suspects;
- those who have left a police station, whether freely or on bail (except when taken to hospital (see Category A));
- those involved in fatal road accidents involving the police; and,
- those which occur in a police vehicle which is being used as an ambulance to transport a dying person to hospital quickly but not under circumstances as described under Category A.



DEFINITIONS OF DEATHS APPLICABLE  
FROM  
1 APRIL 2002

## DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE FROM 1 APRIL 2002

### ■ Category 1 – Fatal Road Traffic Incidents Involving the Police

This definition covers all deaths of members of the public resulting from road traffic incidents involving the police, both where the person who dies is in a vehicle and where they are on foot.

### ■ Category 2 – Fatal Shooting Incidents Involving the Police

This definition covers circumstances where police fire the fatal shots.

### ■ Category 3 – Deaths in or Following Custody

This definition covers the deaths of persons who have been arrested or otherwise detained by the police. It also includes deaths occurring whilst a person is being arrested or taken into detention. The death may have taken place on police, private or medical premises, in a public place or in a police or other vehicle.

Deaths in the following circumstances are amongst those covered by the definition:

1. Where the person dies in or on the way to hospital (or some other medical premises) following or during transfer from police detention.
2. Where the person dies after leaving police detention and there is a link between that detention and the death.
3. Where the person is being detained for the purposes of exercising a power to stop and search.
4. Where the person is a child or young person detained for their own protection.
5. Where the person is in the care of the police having been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.
6. Where the person is in police custody having been arrested by officers from a police force in Scotland exercising their powers of detention under section 137(2) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

7. Where the person is in police custody having been arrested under section 3 (5) of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.
8. Where the person is in police custody having been served a notice advising them of their detention under powers contained in the Immigration Act 1971.
9. Where the person is a convicted or remanded prisoner held in police cells on behalf of the Prison Service under the Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) Act 1980.

■ Category 4 – Deaths during or following other types of contact with the police

This definition covers circumstances where the person dies during or after some form of contact with the police which did not amount to detention and there is a link between that contact and the death.

Examples of deaths which would be covered by the definition are as follows:

1. Where the person is actively attempting to evade arrest and the death occurs otherwise than as the result of a road traffic incident.
2. Where there is a siege situation, including where a person shoots himself, or another, whilst police are in attendance.
3. Where a person is present at a demonstration and is struck by a police baton and subsequently dies.

■ Deaths which follow police contact but which are not linked to that contact would not be covered. For example:

1. Those attending police stations as innocent visitors or witnesses who are not suspects.
2. Those which occur in a police vehicle which is being used as an ambulance to transport a dying person to hospital quickly, but not under the circumstances described under the category 'Deaths in or following police custody'
3. Those where police attend the scene of an incident where a person, who has not been detained, has received fatal injuries.

#### Notes

- The above categorisations cannot be considered completely exhaustive. Cases will still have to be considered individually to decide whether and how they should be recorded.
- The term 'police' includes police civilians as well as police officers.
- Deaths involving off-duty police personnel are not included.



# TABLE 1

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE  
104 INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF DEATH

Category 1 - Fatal Road Traffic Incidents Involving the Police - 1 April 2002 - 31 March 2003

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
10.04.02	West Midlands	At scene	20	Male	White-British	1 Multiple injuries 2 No Inquest held – Section 16 Coroners Act 1988	Police attempted to stop a person driving at speed. The offender made off and the pursuit was terminated. Within two minutes the offender's vehicle crashed into a car being driven by the deceased.
12.04.02	Nottinghamshire	At scene	15	Male	White-British	1 Head Injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased was driving a stolen car and was being initially pursued by trained traffic officers until they called the pursuit off. The car was later seen and followed at distance by section officers. During this period the car accelerated away and collided with a kerb and flipped into iron railings, killing the deceased.
20.04.02	Northumbria	At scene	20	Male	White-British	1 Internal injuries, broken neck 2 Awaiting	The deceased's vehicle was involved in a head on collision with a bus whilst being pursued at a safe distance by a police vehicle.
20.04.02	Merseyside	At scene	54	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 No Inquest Held	Police Officers' attention was drawn to a car containing two males acting suspiciously. As the officers approached the vehicle, it drove off without lights. Officers followed the vehicle. The offender drove through traffic lights and collided with the deceased who was standing on the pavement.
09.05.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	34	Male	White-British	1 Broken neck 2 Accidental Death	The deceased was followed by the police, having undertaken them on his motor bike at excessive speed. He went through a 'No Entry' sign and collided with a car, which resulted in his death.
03.06.02	Durham	At scene	19	Male	White-British	1 Burst aorta and broken neck 2 Accidental Death	The deceased, who was apparently not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from his vehicle following a collision with a police vehicle.
12.06.02	Merseyside	At scene	53	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased was observed travelling on a motorway at excessive speed on his motorbike. He failed to stop for police and on leaving the motorway collided with a barrier. The deceased was thrown from his bike and collided with a lamp-post, which resulted in his death.
24.06.02	Metropolitan	At scene	29	Female	Black-African	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased, a pedestrian, was struck accidentally by a police vehicle, which was responding to an intruder alarm.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
10.07.02	Merseyside	Hospital	22	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	Officers were on duty in an armed response vehicle, when they saw the deceased, who was pillion passenger on a motorbike, and his friend, the driver of the bike. Officers believed that these persons answered the description of persons and a vehicle earlier circulated for a robbery. The police vehicle's blue lights were activated to enable them to turn their vehicle around in the traffic to follow the motorcycle. Sight of the motorcycle was then lost in traffic. The motorcycle was then ridden along the wrong carriageway through red traffic lights and collided with the side of a double decked bus. Both parties sustained fatal injuries.
22.07.02	Merseyside	Hospital	26	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	Officers were on duty in an armed response vehicle, when they saw the deceased, who was the driver of the bike and his friend who was a pillion passenger on the motorbike. Officers believed that these persons answered the description of persons and a vehicle earlier circulated for a robbery. The police vehicle's blue lights were activated to enable them to turn their vehicle around in the traffic to follow the motorcycle. Sight of the motorcycle was then lost in traffic. The motorcycle was then ridden along the wrong carriageway through red traffic lights and collided with the side of a double decked bus. Both parties sustained fatal injuries.
23.07.02	Devon and Cornwall	Hospital	19	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased was suspected to be driving a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner. A police vehicle saw the deceased driving the vehicle and turned round to follow it. A short time later the police vehicle came across the accident scene, involving the deceased. He was taken to hospital but later died.
29.08.02	Nottinghamshire	At scene	18	Male	Mixed Caribbean	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Police were pursuing a stolen vehicle. The vehicle contained the deceased. The car went out of control, hit a wall and flipped onto its roof killing the deceased.
29.08.02	Nottinghamshire	At scene	19	Male	Mixed Caribbean	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Police were pursuing a stolen vehicle. The vehicle contained the deceased. The car went out of control, hit a wall and flipped onto its roof killing the deceased.
30.08.02	Avon and Somerset	At scene	45	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Multiple injuries 2 No Inquest	A police vehicle and helicopter were attempting to follow a vehicle escaping from a burglary. The vehicle was seen to go through a red traffic light at speed and struck a taxi being driven by the deceased.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
09.09.02	South Yorkshire	Hospital	21	Male	White-British	1 Cerebral contusion due to severe head injuries 2 Accidental Death	On 7 September police were made aware of an assault in a nearby social club and were searching a field for the offender. An officer heard a motorcycle, which was being ridden by the deceased. As the headlights were off, the officer shone his torch in the direction of the motorcycle, in order to identify the rider(s). At this point the deceased accelerated and rode down an embankment, where the front wheels stalled on a gradient. The passenger on the motorcycle was thrown forward into the deceased; the deceased was thrown into the handlebars and frame. The deceased was taken to hospital, having sustained serious injuries, where he died two days later.
23.09.02	Norfolk	At scene	33	Male	White-British	1 Massive Head Injuries 2 Awaited	The deceased was seen driving at speed by two officers in a marked police vehicle. Unsuccessful attempts were made to stop the vehicle, which then crashed into a wall, and a stationary vehicle, resulting in the death of the deceased.
25.09.02	Essex	At scene	22	Male	White-British	1 Skull Fracture and Massive Brain Injury 2 Awaited	A large number of motor cyclists started to gather for a local event, which is a regular occurrence. As a result of complaints from residents and in response to "Responsible Rider", police developed Operation Barbican to deal with the increase in road crashes and address the complaints. An officer was rostered to police the event. During the evening the officer witnessed a motorcyclist perform a number of stunts on the road, then rode off. The officer put on his blue lights and siren to stop them. One motorcyclist pulled over but the deceased's motorcycle accelerated away. The officer followed but saw the deceased accelerate further witnessing sparks from the motorcycle light up the area. He therefore decided he should stop and switched off his blue lights and siren. He had lost sight of the motorcycle. The deceased's body and motorcycle were later found in a field.
01.10.02	Thames Valley	At scene	22	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Accidental Death	Two officers stopped a vehicle that was being driven erratically on the A5 southbound carriageway. As an officer approached the vehicle it made off northbound on the southbound carriageway. It was involved in a head on collision with another vehicle killing both occupants of the pursued vehicle.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
01.10.02	Thames Valley	At scene	25	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Unlawful Killing	Two officers stopped a vehicle that had been driven erratically on the A5 southbound carriageway. As an officer approached the vehicle it made off northbound on the southbound carriageway. It was involved in a head on collision with another vehicle killing both occupants of the pursued vehicle.
18.10.02	Surrey	At scene	59	Male	White-British	1 Major Internal Injuries 2 Awaited	The deceased was driving his car when it was involved in a head on collision with a stolen vehicle that was being pursued by a marked police vehicle. He died instantly.
24.10.02	Hampshire	At scene	19	Male	White-British	1 Drowning and Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	The police were pursuing the deceased, a disqualified driver. He failed to stop and went through red lights. The pursuit was called off, and a short while later a 'stinger' tyre device was deployed which deflated the offside front tyre of the deceased's vehicle. The police resumed their pursuit and after five miles the deceased's vehicle veered off the road, over a sloping grass area and over a cliff edge onto the beach. The deceased was found by officers in the sea, but despite resuscitation efforts was pronounced dead at the scene.
26.10.02	Essex	At scene	44	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	Police Officers attempted to stop a vehicle by flashing their blue lights. Having made several attempts, the officers pulled into the middle lane of the motorway drew alongside the vehicle and signalled to the driver to follow them onto the hard shoulder. The vehicle was travelling in the fast lane of the motorway. The officers moved to the hard shoulder and checked whether the vehicle had followed. They however realised that the driver had stopped in the fast lane of the motorway. The deceased travelling in a vehicle was obliged to take sudden action to avoid the driver. The deceased had swerved to the left crossing all three lanes and crashed into the roadside barrier. He sustained multiple injuries and was taken to hospital but later died.
12.11.02	South Wales	At scene	25	Male	White-British	1 Head Injury and Broken Neck 2 Awaited	The deceased was a passenger in a vehicle that failed to stop for the police. The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a roundabout at speed and struck the centre of it, skewed across the carriageway, collided with a lamp post, and turned over several times. The driver was arrested and charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
12.11.02	South Wales	At scene	35	Male	White-British	1 Head Injury and Broken Neck 2 Awaited	The deceased was a passenger in a vehicle that failed to stop for the police. The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a roundabout at speed and struck the centre of it, skewed across the carriageway, collided with a lamp post, and turned over several times. The driver was arrested and charged with causing death by dangerous driving.
17.11.02	South Wales	Hospital	32	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was a passenger in a vehicle that failed to stop for the police. The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a roundabout at speed and struck the centre of it, skewed across the carriageway, collided with a lamp post, resulting in the vehicle turning over several times. The deceased was taken to hospital where he remained until he died. The driver was arrested and charged with causing death by dangerous driving.
1.12.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	71	Female	White-British	1 Tears to the aorta 2 Awaited	The deceased died as a result of injuries received in a road traffic accident. A stolen vehicle collided with the deceased's car, when the stolen vehicle failed to comply with a red traffic signal. Just prior to the collision the stolen vehicle had driven past a stationary police van which then commenced to travel behind it in a line of traffic.
12.12.02	Avon and Somerset	At scene	52	Male	White-British	1 Head injury 1a Chronic Ischaemic heart disease 2 Awaited	A marked police vehicle with emergency beacon on, was en route to an incident when the deceased's car appeared on the nearside and despite evasive action on behalf of the police a collision occurred. The deceased was trapped and was pronounced dead.
16.12.02	Metropolitan	At scene	22	Male	Black-Irish	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	Officers in a marked police car attempted to stop a vehicle, which was being driven erratically. The vehicle made off at speed, and the police car lost contact. Shortly afterwards the police car found the vehicle crashed into an unattended parked car. The deceased was the front passenger. The driver was later arrested for causing death by dangerous driving.
25.12.02	Lincolnshire	At scene	35	Male	White-Other	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	A police patrol vehicle was pursuing the deceased in a car for not displaying any lights. Attempts at trying to catch up with the vehicle had failed as the deceased accelerated and drove off at high speed. Police at this stage reduced their speed and the flashing of their blue lights. The police continued and came across a road traffic accident, involving the deceased.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
25.12.02	Lincolnshire	Hospital	42	Female	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	A police patrol vehicle was pursuing a car which was not displaying any lights. Attempts at trying to catch up with the vehicle had failed as the vehicle accelerated and drove off at high speed. Police at this stage reduced their speed and the flashing of their blue lights. The police continued and came across a road traffic accident, involving the deceased.
25.12.02	Lincolnshire	Hospital	46	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	A police patrol vehicle was pursuing a car, which was not displaying any lights. Attempts at trying to catch up with the vehicle had failed as the vehicle accelerated and drove off at high speed. Police at this stage reduced their speed and the flashing of their blue lights. The police continued and came across a road traffic accident, involving the deceased.
30.12.02	West Midlands	At scene	57	Male	White-British	1 Impact from at least two vehicles 2 No Inquest Held	A marked police patrol observed a stationary suspect vehicle and put on the blue lights indicating they wished to speak to the occupants. The vehicle sped off at very high speed across a busy junction. The police patrol vehicle lost contact due to not being able to safely enter the junction. The police car resumed in the direction that the vehicle was last seen and encountered the scene of a fatal road traffic accident. It is believed that the suspect vehicle was involved and that the deceased was a pedestrian.
31.12.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	16	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased was driving a stolen vehicle, which the police were pursuing. The stolen vehicle collided with a brick wall. The deceased was taken to hospital where he later died from his injuries.
3.01.03	North Yorkshire	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	A car made off from an isolated location when approached by a police vehicle. The vehicle was spotted several times by police, following a radio transmission and observed. It was seen to leave the road at high speed, eject the occupants out of the car and crash. The deceased was the front seat passenger in the car.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
27.01.03	Thames Valley	At scene	23	Female	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Officers in an unmarked police car attempted to stop a suspected stolen vehicle. The target vehicle pulled out of sight and the police vehicle took a different route to the suspect vehicle. After a short time, police officers became aware of an incident in the distance. They went to the incident and discovered that the target vehicle had collided with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction resulting in the death of the deceased. The driver of the target vehicle ran away from the scene and has not yet been traced.
11.02.03	Greater Manchester	Hospital	19	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Blunt force injury to head 2 Awaited	The deceased was driving a vehicle, which was being followed, at a distance by a police vehicle after having fled the scene of a burglary. The vehicle was observed going through three sets of red traffic lights. At the third junction the car was in a collision with another vehicle which led to the death of the deceased.
25.02.03	Greater Manchester	Hospital	12	Female	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	A police vehicle was responding to an emergency incident. The deceased, a pedestrian was struck by the police vehicle. She was taken to hospital and was placed on a life support machine. A few days later the life support machine was turned off.
2.03.03	Merseyside	At scene	14	Male	White-British	1 Diffuse Brain Damage-Multiple Injuries 2 Unlawful Killing	Officers observed two stolen vehicles enter a tunnel. Two police vehicles were used to block the tunnel exit. A private HGV and double-decker bus were also using the tunnel. As the HGV and bus were coming to a stop, one of the stolen vehicles passed between them and collided with one of the tunnel police vehicles. It then carried on and was later found abandoned. The second stolen vehicle containing the deceased subsequently collided with the rear of the HGV. He was later pronounced dead at the scene.
2.03.03	Merseyside	At scene	14	Male	White-British	1 Diffuse Brain Damage-Severe Frontal Skull Fractures 2 Unlawful Killing	Officers observed two stolen vehicles enter a tunnel. Two police vehicles were used to block the tunnel exit. A private HGV and double-decker bus were also using the tunnel. As the HGV and bus were coming to a stop, one of the stolen vehicles passed between them and collided with one of the tunnel police vehicles. It then carried on and was later found abandoned. The second stolen vehicle containing the deceased subsequently collided with the rear of the HGV. He was later pronounced dead at the scene.
12.03.03	West Midlands	At scene	22	Male	Asian-Pakistani	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	A police officer saw a vehicle suspected of committing motor offences. The officer had signalled the vehicle to stop, upon which the suspect vehicle was driven off at speed and collided with a stationary car and a skip, resulting in the deceased's death.

Category 2 - Fatal Shooting Incidents Involving the Police - 1 April 2002 - 31 March 2003

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
24.06.02	Thames Valley	Hospital	27	Male	White-British	1 Gunshot wound 2 Awaiting	Police were telephoned by the deceased who claimed to have a gun and was threatening to use it. Officers attended the scene and there were reports of several shots being fired from the house. The deceased came out of the house with a gun and a sword. He failed to respond to police warnings and was shot by an officer.
16.08.02	Avon and Somerset	Hospital	20	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Gunshot wound to abdomen 2 No Inquest Held	On 15 August plain clothes officers attempted to arrest two men who offered to supply them with controlled drugs. The suspects made off on foot and one of them fired a shot at the officers. The men were later sighted and armed officers attempted to stop them. The deceased was seen to fire a shot and the armed officers returned fire. The deceased was shot and the other suspect escaped.
23.01.03	Bedfordshire	Hospital	39	Male	White	1 Gunshot wound 2 Awaiting	The police had received information that the deceased was armed with a handgun and driving a vehicle on the A6. A vehicle matching the description was sighted on the A6 in heavy traffic. The vehicle was stopped and the deceased alighted. He threatened officers with a firearm and was shot by a trained firearms officer. The deceased was certified dead on arrival at the hospital.

Category 3 - Deaths in or Following Police Custody 1 April 2002 - 31 March 2003

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
06.04.02	Northumbria	At Scene	45	Male	White-British	1 Injuries to head and chest 2 Suicide	The deceased was released from police custody after being cautioned for being drunk and disorderly. Half an hour later he was seen to fall/jump off the Tyne Bridge to his death.
18.04.02	Hampshire	Hospital	19	Male	Asian - Arabic	1 Severe Abdominal Trauma 2 Accidental	On 17 April the deceased was arrested for possession of drugs with intent to supply after a road traffic accident. He was taken to hospital where he died the following day.
23.04.02	Metropolitan	At scene	57	Male	Mixed - Black and Chinese	1 Unknown 2 Awaiting	Police arrested three occupants of a vehicle on suspicion of theft. The deceased appeared to be unwell but declined first aid. On the way to the police station an officer became more concerned about his condition and first aid was administered. He was taken to hospital where he died.
26.04.02	Metropolitan	Police Station	23	Male	White-British	1 Manual strangulation 2 Killed himself	The deceased was detained at 15:30 hrs on 25 April after being arrested for theft. Regular checks were carried out but at 01:40 hrs on 26 April police found him hanging from the cell wicket by a shoelace. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 02:10 hrs.
13.05.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	31	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Cocaine poisoning 2 Misadventure	Police arrested the deceased, whilst in hospital, on 8 May for the importation of drugs – he had swallowed cocaine wraps in Jamaica. Later that evening he became violent and was handcuffed to the rails of the bed but continued to struggle. When his breathing became difficult he was taken to the resuscitation department. The deceased remained in hospital until he died.
02.06.02	Bedfordshire	Hospital	62	Male	White-Irish	1 Head injury 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested on 1 June for his own safety after an ambulance crew refused to treat him – he was intoxicated and appeared to have a minor head injury. The custody sergeant requested he be taken to hospital where he was operated on but died shortly afterwards.
08.06.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	49	Male	White-British	1 Haemorrhagic Pancreatic 2 Haemorrhagic Pancreatic	On 6 June the deceased was arrested for unlawfully wounding his wife. At the police station he became unwell and was examined by a police surgeon who advised that he should be taken to hospital. The deceased died in hospital following a cardiac arrest

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
05.07.02	Northamptonshire	Hospital	29	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Police were called by the ambulance service for assistance as the deceased who was holding a razor blade, had slashed his arms/wrists and was alleged to have swallowed a large quantity of tablets. Officers restrained the deceased with handcuffs and he was taken to hospital where he died.
10.07.02	West Midlands	Hospital	30	Male	White-British	1 Ingested fatal amount of cocaine 2 Non dependent drug abuse	Police responded to a domestic incident, where the deceased was reported to have taken cocaine. He began to have convulsions and an ambulance was called. The deceased continued to struggle and was restrained with handcuffs. He was taken to hospital but died following a cardiac arrest.
20.07.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	31	Male	White-British	1 Cocaine Poisoning 2 Misadventure	On 19 July the deceased was arrested to prevent a breach of the peace after threatening to ignite an aerosol with a lighter in a pub. Officers became concerned that he was chewing drugs and efforts were made to remove the object from his mouth. He was taken to hospital and seen to spit an object out of his mouth. The deceased was de-arrested and left in hospital care. Shortly before midnight his condition deteriorated and he died the following morning.
12.08.02	Sussex	Hospital	56	Male	White-British	1 Advanced Alcoholic Liver Disease 2 Awaited	On 10 August the deceased was arrested on warrant for not appearing at court. He was detained until 12 August when the court was next sitting. At 05:40 on the 12 August the deceased did not appear to be breathing and was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.
16.08.02	Thames Valley	Hospital	51	Male	White-British	1 Drug Overdose 2 Non dependent abuse of drugs	On 27 July police arrested the deceased for causing a disturbance. At the police station he was in an 'excited state' and was taken to hospital where he was treated for an amphetamine overdose. He remained in hospital until he died.
16.08.02	Sussex	Hospital	47	Male	White-British	1 Left Inter-Cerebral Haemorrhage due to Cerebrovascular Disease 2 Awaited	On 14 August the deceased was behaving in an unusual manner at his daughter's house. She called an ambulance. Paramedics were unable to establish an illness at the time, but before they could fully assess the deceased, he ran away, believing that they were the police. The following day the police received a call that a drunken man was lying near some flats. The deceased was arrested and taken to a police station. The custody officer refused to authorise his detention and directed officers to take him to hospital, where he was examined using a CT scan and was found to have a haemorrhage on his brain. He was taken to the Intensive Therapy Unit, and was put on a life support system. It was turned off the next day.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
30.08.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	23	Male	Black-African	1 Cardiomyopathy 2 Awaiting	The deceased was detained after a chase by supermarket security staff, for attempting to purchase goods with an altered bank card. Passing police officers were called to help. They restrained the deceased with handcuffs and arrested him. He complained of feeling unwell but was suspected of feigning the condition. At the police station the custody officer requested the deceased be seen by the police surgeon, who declared him fit for detention. He was visited every half-hour but on one of the visits he could not be roused. The police surgeon and custody staff attempted to revive him. He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead.
09.09.02	Avon & Somerset	Hospital	39	Male	White-British	1 Suspected Heart Attack 2 Awaiting	On 6 September the deceased was seen by members of the public to steal a parcel from a doorstep. They immediately gave chase and followed him into a nearby school and police were called. He began to have breathing difficulties and as officers went to arrest him, they became aware that he was not listening because he had become preoccupied by his breathing problem. The deceased was taken to a police car where an ambulance was called. He was admitted into hospital where he died having suffered from a heart attack.
14.09.02	Metropolitan	Police Station	23	Male	White-British	1 Death by Suspension 2 Awaiting	On 13 September police were called to an incident where a male and female were interfering with an unattended motor vehicle. The deceased was arrested and taken to the police station where he was detained. He was interviewed and charged with this and other offences in the early hours of 14 September. He was detained in custody to appear in court the following day. During a check carried out by the gaoler, the deceased was found hanging in his cell.
15.09.02	Northumbria	Hospital	37	Male	White-British	1 Massive Head, Chest and Abdominal injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested on 14 September and released on police bail the following day. His subsequent behaviour was erratic. He died after jumping from the wall of a ramp above the police station car park.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
28.09.02	Thames Valley	Police Station	45	Male	White-British	1 Asphyxiation 2 Awaited	Members of the public found the deceased apparently collapsed in the street. He was placed in the recovery position and a passing police car was flagged down. The deceased was found to be semi-conscious and smelt of alcohol. He was detained for being drunk and incapable and taken to the police station. His condition appeared to worsen and an ambulance was summoned, with a doctor having already been called. Unsuccessful efforts were made to revive the deceased and he was certified dead by the Police Surgeon.
02.10.02	Sussex	Hospital	44	Male	White-British	1 a) Myocardial Infarction b) Coronary Atheroma 2 Natural Causes	The deceased was arrested for assault. At the police station he was examined by the police doctor who prescribed medication for his panic attacks and certified him fit for interview. He was interviewed and taken back to his cell. When the Custody Assistant went to take his fingerprints, she found him collapsed on the floor and not breathing. Efforts were made to resuscitate him and he was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
07.10.02	Essex	Hospital	30	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was running round hotel grounds naked and acting in a violent manner. Ambulance staff in attendance called the police for assistance. Attempts were made to calm the deceased down but to no avail. He was arrested for affray, handcuffed and placed on the floor. He was later helped to a sitting position, but collapsed shortly after. Ambulance staff gave immediate CPR and took him to hospital where he was certified dead on arrival.
15.10.02	Thames Valley	Hospital	37	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for allegedly assaulting his mother. Upon arrest he struggled violently and was taken to a police station. The deceased was restrained by officers and was given a sedative injection by the Police Surgeon, after which he stopped breathing. Resuscitation was given and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he later died.
25.10.02	West Midlands	Hospital	31	Male	Asian-Pakistani	1 Multiple Organ failure 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for possession of a controlled drug. He was taken to a police station, where his condition was described as fit and well with no underlying medical condition. The doctor confirmed this. The deceased was detained but not interviewed for six hours and was placed on overnight rest period. He was interviewed and charged the next morning and was released from custody to appear in court. A few days later the deceased was admitted to hospital where he died.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
10.12.02	Metropolitan	At scene	26	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon. He was escorted by two officers, un-handcuffed, towards a police vehicle when he suddenly struggled and pulled away from the officers. While being pursued the deceased ran around a blind corner into the path of a bus. Attempts to revive the deceased at the scene failed and he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.
15.12.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	42	Male	White-European	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for drunk and disorderly after being seen behaving in an inappropriate manner in the middle of traffic. He had been in contact with the police during the day, after an incident involving the Ambulance Service. Following a struggle, the deceased was handcuffed and at the police station was placed in a police cell for vulnerable detainees. He was checked every 15 minutes and, following the arrival of the police surgeon, the deceased was found collapsed in his cell. He was taken to hospital where he died.
21.12.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	30	Male	White-European	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Police attended the scene following a request by the ambulance service for assistance. The deceased was arrested for Breach of Peace and placed in the rear of a police van. He was taken to hospital where he later died.
21.12.02	Wiltshire	At scene	55	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for alleged offences concerning child pornography. He was taken to a police station for questioning and was later released that day on police bail. A few days later, the deceased's estranged wife discovered his body in the bath of his home where he had cut his wrists and apparently bled to death. He had also left a note for his wife in which the deceased made reference to accessing child pornography but did not make any admission.
25.12.02	South Wales	Police Station	55	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested after he had contacted the police. It transpired that he was wanted for failing to appear in court. He was placed in a cell and visited periodically, but was later found dead.
25.12.02	West Yorkshire	Hospital	50	Male	White-British	1 Death due to pancreatitis which may have been caused by hyperthermia. 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable on 21 December. He was released without charge the next day, but was still incoherent and was taken to hospital where he remained until he died.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
31.12.02	Cheshire	Police Station	46	Male	White-British	1a) Acute Myocardial Ischaemia b) Stenotic Coronary Artery Atheroma 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested in the town centre for begging in a public place. On arrival at the police station he was sober but disclosed that he was an alcoholic. The deceased did not disclose any other medical conditions and was co-operative. He was seen by the police surgeon. After charge bail was refused, he was detained to attend court the following day. Regular visits were made to the cell throughout the night, but the deceased was later discovered motionless and not breathing.
10.01.03	North Yorkshire	Hospital	33	Male	White-British	1 Pneumonia 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested on a drink driving charge. He was taken to a police station. On arrival he was found to be unconscious and was resuscitated. He was taken to hospital where he died.
11.01.03	Wiltshire	At scene	42	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for alleged offences concerning child pornography. He was taken to a police station for questioning and was released later that day on police bail. A few days later the deceased left a note claiming he had done nothing wrong but could not bare the stigma attached to child pornography, which ultimately lead to his death when he jumped off a cliff.
24.01.03	Greater Manchester	Hospital	40	Male	White-British	1 Toxicology (requires analysis) 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for wounding and taken to a police station where he was placed in a cell. He was later found unconscious and not breathing. He was taken to hospital, where he died of a massive heart attack.
28.01.03	West Midlands	Hospital	48	Male	White-British	1 Asphyxia due to hanging 2 Hung himself whilst suffering depression	Following a search at his house the deceased was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods. The deceased was later released from a police station. He went home and then onto work. The wife of the deceased returned from work and found him hanging having left a suicide note.
4.02.03	Merseyside	Police Station	74	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was in custody through the night for being drunk and incapable. He was subject to hourly checks. A few hours later he was found dead sitting slumped on a toilet.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
3.02.03	West Midlands	Hospital	32	Male	Asian-Pakistani	1 Head Injury fractured skull 2 Awaiting	The ex-girlfriend of the deceased went to a house to which he had followed her. Police were called to an address near to where the deceased's ex girlfriend was visiting. The deceased was demanding entrance to the house. They arrested him for being drunk and disorderly and being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle. The deceased had visible injuries which police were informed had been sustained when the ex-girlfriend ran over him after having left the house she had visited. At the police station it was noticed that the deceased had an injury to the back of his head and he started to vomit. He was taken to hospital and placed on a life support machine where he died a few days later.
13.02.03	Lancashire	Police Station	69	Female	White-British	1 Inter abdominal haemorrhage 2 Awaiting	The deceased was involved in a road traffic collision. She was examined at the scene by paramedics and appeared uninjured and declined the opportunity to attend the local hospital for further checks. The deceased was subsequently arrested for disqualified driving and driving with excess alcohol and taken to a police station. The deceased was placed in a cell to await charging and appearance in court. The next morning she was found in a collapsed state in the cell. Attempts to revive the deceased failed and she was pronounced dead.
8.03.03	West Midlands	Hospital	62	Male	White-British	1 Hypothermia 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested under the Mental Health Act and examined by 'Healthcall'. He was deemed fit and was released the following day. He was again arrested for Breach of the Peace after smashing his windows. The deceased appeared in court and was then released. He was later found dead in a car park, naked.
15.03.03	Northumbria	Hospital	17	Male	White-British	1 Cardiac Arrest 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and disorderly and placed in a cell. He was later found collapsed in the cell. The deceased was transferred to hospital where he died.
28.03.03	West Midlands	Hospital	73	Male	White-British	1 Severe chronic heart failure 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested for criminal damage to a police station. Whilst in custody he was seen by two police surgeons. The deceased was deemed fit to be detained by the first doctor, but it was later decided by another surgeon that he should be taken to a hospital. The deceased was transferred to hospital where he subsequently died from chronic heart failure.
30.03.03	North Yorkshire	Police Station	33	Male	White-British	1 Unascertained – Toxicology 2 Awaiting	The deceased was brought to the police station either under arrest or for his own safety (to be established)

Category 4 – Deaths During or Following Other Types of Contact With The Police 1 April 2002 – 31 March 2003

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
13.04.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	31	Male	Black British	1 a) Hypothermia b) Immersion 2 Misadventure	Police were following the deceased who was driving his car with its fog lights on. He stopped at a petrol station and then drove off and crashed into railings. The deceased was chased on foot and jumped off a wall into a river. He was later found in the water and taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
20.04.02	Greater Manchester	At scene	20	Male	White-British	1 Drowning 1a Injuries consistent with a fall 2 Awaited	The deceased, who was suspected of assault, was pursued on foot by police but they lost sight of him. He was later found drowned in a drainage culvert after falling 35 feet off a wall as a result of trying to evade arrest.
1.05.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	23	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries consistent with fall 2 Deceased had taken his own life while the balance of his mind was unstable	Officers, were called to an eight-storey block of flats to investigate a male acting suspiciously. Officers attended and on approaching the deceased on the floor of the flats, he jumped over a balcony.
4.05.02	Wiltshire	At scene	24	Male	White-British	1 Injuries consistent with impact of vehicle 2 Accidental Death	Following initial enquiries conducted with members of the public, it became apparent that there had been police involvement with the deceased. He had been drinking with other soldiers and had consumed 8/9 pints of beer and was refused anymore alcohol by the proprietor of the public house as the deceased was inebriated and needed assistance to stand. Two police officers assisted when the deceased was ejected from a restaurant. The officers spoke to the deceased for a short time suggesting he get a cab home. Later in the evening the same police officers were sent to investigate a 999 call where a male wandering in the road, was causing cars to swerve and skid. It turned out to be the deceased. He died when he was hit by a car which was driven by an off duty officer travelling to his shift.
12.06.02	Devon & Cornwall	At scene	19	Male	White-British	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police were notified of three missing patients from a psychiatric centre who were contemplating a suicide pact. The patients were located on a cliff edge. They refused to respond to a police officer who was in attendance, before the arrival of the police negotiators. The three patients jumped to their deaths.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
12.06.02	Devon & Cornwall	At scene	17	Male	White-British	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police were notified of three missing patients from a psychiatric centre who were contemplating a suicide pact. The patients were located on a cliff edge. They refused to respond to a police officer who was in attendance, before the arrival of the police negotiators. The three patients jumped to their deaths.
12.06.02	Devon & Cornwall	At scene	29	Female	White-Australian	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police were notified of three missing patients from a psychiatric centre who were contemplating a suicide pact. The patients were located on a cliff edge. They refused to respond to a police officer who was in attendance, before the arrival of the police negotiators. The three patients jumped to their deaths.
30.07.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	14	Male	Black-African	1 Drowning 2 Awaited	The deceased attended a police training college as a member of a youth group supervised by local borough youth workers. The deceased engaged in a swimming activity with others in the college pool. The attendant lifeguard was a serving police officer. During the course of the swimming activity the lifeguard was alerted to the deceased and another youth under water. The lifeguard effected rescue and provided CPR. An ambulance was called and the deceased was transferred to hospital where he later died.
7.08.02	Metropolitan	Hospital	14	Male	Black-African	1 Hypoxic Ischaemic brain injury following drowning 2 Awaited	The deceased attended a police training college as a member of a youth group supervised by local borough youth workers. The deceased engaged in a swimming activity with others in the college pool. The attendant lifeguard was a serving police officer. During the course of the swimming activity the lifeguard was alerted to the deceased and another youth under water. The lifeguard effected rescue and provided CPR. An ambulance was called and the deceased was transferred to hospital where he later died.
24.09.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	19	Female	White-British	1 Injuries consistent with fall 2 Awaited	The deceased was seen by police officers to climb over the parapet of a bridge and lie down on a ledge. She then fell from the ledge onto a footpath below.
26.09.02	North Yorkshire	At scene	18	Male	White-British	1 Impact of vehicle 2 Awaited	Police were in contact with the deceased on two occasions during the day, firstly at a service station and secondly near a village. On both occasions he was checked by police and was given a lift. Later that evening the deceased was believed to be walking the wrong way down a carriageway in darkness and was hit by a vehicle which caused his death.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
09.10.02	Surrey	Hospital	74	Female	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Police were executing a misuse of drugs warrant at the deceased's house. A forced entry was made and shortly after performing the search, the deceased became unwell and started vomiting blood. An ambulance was called and the deceased was taken to hospital where she died.
17.10.02	Thames Valley	At scene	60	Male	White-British	1 Hanging 2 Suicide	The deceased telephoned 999 to complain of an assault by his lodger. He explained he was not injured, but requested police to attend. Police attended, but did not have grounds to arrest the alleged offender. A further 999 call from the same number was received. The caller withheld identification and highlighted his disappointment in the police's response, and said he was about to hang himself. Police attended the address and found the deceased hanging from a tree in the garden.
03.11.02	Greater Manchester	At scene	36	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased and his son were ejected from a public house by police at the request of the licensee due to threatening and violent behaviour. He later contacted the police and ambulance service stating his intent to commit suicide. The police attended, but the deceased was abusive and refused to let them in the house, speaking to them through the front door. A visit made by the son found the deceased to be sleeping, however a short time later the son found him dead.
03.12.02	Surrey	At scene	39	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	On 25 May 2002 police officers attempted to stop a motor vehicle believed to be the deceased's company car. Following a collision, the deceased ran off and was last seen running across a recreation ground, bordering a river. The deceased's body was later recovered from a river.
12.12.02	Metropolitan	At scene	29	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Awaiting	During an operation to combat the sale of drugs, an attempt was made to enter a flat. The first officer to enter saw the deceased climbing out of a front window and fall onto a set of railings.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
10.01.03	Metropolitan	At scene	32	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Bullet Wound to the head 2 Awaiting	The deceased was wanted for the attempted murder of two police officers. Enquiries into this investigation led officers to a car with which the deceased was associated and to which officers were deployed for surveillance on 26 December 2002. The vehicle was about to be removed from the area for forensic examination, when the deceased shouted from a window. Officers armed with firearms attempted to enter the building but came under fire from the deceased and they withdrew from the premises without injury. Negotiators conversed with him but to no avail and the incident became a siege. A few days later a person whom the deceased was holding as a hostage escaped from the venue. He set fire to furniture within the venue and also on the following day. The deceased continued to fire shots at officers and police returned fire. At this point it was considered that the deceased was unlikely to survive the fire. Officers decided to enter the building and found the seriously burnt body of the deceased. A special post mortem concluded that he died as a direct result of a bullet passing through the middle of his head. It was clear that the deceased had fired this shot himself committing suicide. A bullet was recovered from the rear of the deceased's head believed to have been from a police firearm. The pathologist was able to state categorically that this was not the bullet that killed him.
26.01.03	West Midlands	At scene	45	Male	White-British	1 Severe Head Injuries 2 Awaiting	Police had spoken to the deceased regarding a report that he had kicked out at passing cars. Later that day the deceased was crossing a road when he was struck by a bus and subsequently died from his injuries.
1.03.03	Essex	At scene	84	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Police had visited the deceased's home to investigate the claim made by two boys that the deceased was involved in an inappropriate sexual act with another male in the toilet area of a public swimming bath. When the deceased opened the front door he stated to police that he felt unwell and then collapsed. An ambulance crew and further police attempted to resuscitate him but he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
8.03.03	City of London	Hospital	44	Male	Black-African	1 Heart Attack 2 Awaited	The deceased was seen by a uniformed police officer to commit a road traffic offence and was subsequently stopped. Whilst being spoken to about the felony, the deceased suffered a heart attack. He was taken to a hospital but later died.
27.03.03	West Midlands	At scene	44	Male	Black-Caribbean	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The police went to the deceased's flat to arrest him as his parole licence had been revoked and he was in breach of parole licence conditions. An attempt had been made to arrest the deceased previously but he had escaped by using a shared balcony and entering a neighbour's flat. With this knowledge, two of the officers went to the neighbour's flat and out on to the balcony. The other two officers had knocked on the door of the deceased's flat. The deceased went to the balcony and realised that two officers were already there. The officers tried to arrest him but he went over the balcony and fell to his death.



## TABLE 2

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS BY ETHNIC ORIGIN  
FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 APRIL 2002 - 31 MARCH 2003

Table 2 - DEATHS DURING OR FOLLOWING CONTACT WITH THE POLICE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

For the period 1 April 2002 - March 2003

<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>Number of Deaths</b>
White	82
Asian	4
Black	17
Other	1
Total	104

## TABLE 3

PLACE OF DEATH BY POLICE FORCE AREA FOR THE PERIOD  
1 APRIL 2002 TO 31 MARCH 2003

Table 3 - PLACE OF DEATH BY POLICE FORCE AREA

For the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003

Police Force	Police station	Hospital	Other	Total
Avon and Somerset	0	2	2	4
Bedfordshire	0	2	0	2
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	1	0	0	1
Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	3	4
Dorset	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	1	1
Essex	0	1	3	4
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	8	2	10
Hampshire	0	1	1	2
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	1	0	0	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	2	1	3
London, City of	0	1	0	1
Merseyside	1	2	4	7
Metropolitan	2	9	6	17
Norfolk	0	0	1	1
Northamptonshire	0	1	0	1
Northumbria	0	2	2	4
North Yorkshire	1	1	2	4
Nottinghamshire	0	0	3	3
South Yorkshire	0	1	0	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	1	2	3
Sussex	0	3	0	3
Thames Valley	1	3	4	8
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	5	6	11
West Yorkshire	0	1	0	1
Wiltshire	0	0	3	3
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0
South Wales	1	1	2	4
Total	8	48	48	104

TABLE 4  
INQUEST VERDICTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 APRIL 2001 - 31 MARCH 2003

Table 4: Deaths of members of the public during or following police contact - England and Wales  
By result of Inquest and Cause of Death

For the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003

### Inquest held and verdict given

#### Death due to:

Cause of death as stated on Death certificate or established at Inquest	Accidental Death	Unlawful Killing	Misadventure	Suicide	Non dependent drug abuse	Natural Causes	Inquest Pending	Inquest not Held	Total
Asphyxiation by hanging				3					3
Asphyxiation by other means							1		1
Death by Suspension							1		1
Cerebral or internal haemorrhage	2						4		6
Gunshot wound							3	1	4
Heart /respiratory related						1	6		7
Drowning							4		4
Multiple Injuries	1	1		1			17	3	23
Poisoning due to drugs/alcohol			2		2		1		5
Skull and/or brain injury		2		1			11		14
Other/not yet established	3		1			1	30	1	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>104</b>

# TABLE 5

## INQUESTS VERDICTS AND AWAITED CASES FOR THE PERIODS

1 APRIL 2001 - 31 MARCH 2002  
1 APRIL 2000 - 31 MARCH 2001  
1 APRIL 1999 - 31 MARCH 2000  
1 APRIL 1998 - 31 MARCH 1999

Table 5a - Result Cases for the period 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
15.04.01	West Yorkshire	Hospital	14	Male	White-British	1 Head Injuries 2 Tragic Accident	Officers reported that they were following the deceased on a stolen moped, which was not displaying lights. The deceased, who was not wearing a crash helmet, lost control of the moped and crashed causing head injuries. He was taken to hospital where he later died.
22.04.01	Hampshire	At scene	50	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Misadventure	The deceased was seen by police speeding on his motorcycle. He failed to stop for them and shortly after collided with an oncoming car. The deceased was pronounced dead at the scene.
17.05.01	Cheshire	Hospital	33	Male	White-British	1 Cocaine poisoning 2 Misadventure	Following the execution of a search warrant the deceased was arrested for alleged drugs offence. He collapsed in the custody suite prior to detention being authorised by the custody sergeant. His co-accused commented that the deceased had swallowed a quantity of cocaine when the search warrant was executed. First aid was given and an ambulance summoned to take him to hospital where he died.
18.05.01	Merseyside	Hospital	35	Male	White-British	1a) Intra Abdominal Haemorrhage. b) Blunt Force Trauma 2 No Inquest Held	Following a disturbance in a public house, in which the deceased was punched and kicked by several men, he ran away from police officers. A few minutes later he was found nearby lying on the pavement. Officers believed him to be drunk and arrested him. He was later taken to hospital where he died.
2.06.01	West Mercia	Hospital	20	Male	White-British	1 Acute subdural haematoma and right intracerebral haematoma 2 Accidental Death – Blunt Force Head Injury	Officers were called to the home of the deceased at the request of the deceased's mother as he was smashing up the house. Officers entered using keys provided and called out to the deceased. On going upstairs they heard the sound of breaking glass followed by a loud thud. They found the deceased lying on a concrete area bleeding from a head wound. He was taken to hospital where he later died.
30.06.01	North Wales	Hospital	59	Male	White-British	1a) Acute Myocardial Ischaemia b) Ischaemic Heart c) Occlusive Coronary Artery Arteroma 2 Suicide	The deceased was arrested at home for an offence of intimidation of a witness and taken to a police station. At his request he was seen by the police surgeon who prescribed painkillers and a relaxant for a long-standing and chronic back complaint. The deceased was interviewed and later in the day was found collapsed in his cell. Custody staff attempted to resuscitate him and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he died.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
11.07.01	Gwent	Hospital	32	Male	White-British	1 Injuries as a result of an accident 2 Misadventure	The deceased was driving his car at speed without any lights. Police pursued but aborted the pursuit on instruction from the force control room inspector. Instead they followed at a safe distance but lost sight of the car for a short time before sighting it crashed into a wall. The deceased was taken to hospital where he later died.
14.08.01	North Wales	At scene	26	Male	White-British	1 Natural causes 2 Death by Natural Causes	The deceased was arrested for offences of theft and burglary. At the conclusion of the interview he collapsed. Paramedics attended and their attempted resuscitation was unsuccessful. He was certified dead at the scene.
24.08.01	Surrey	At scene	18	Male	White-British	1 No cause given 2 Misadventure	Following a smash and grab at a chemist, police pursued a motor vehicle that had made off from the scene. The vehicle travelled along the wrong side of the carriageway and was involved in a head on collision with another vehicle travelling on the correct side of the carriageway, causing fatal injuries
24.08.01	Surrey	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 No cause given 2 Unlawful Killing	Following a smash and grab at a chemist, police pursued a motor vehicle that had made off from the scene. The vehicle travelled along the wrong side of the carriageway and was involved in a head on collision with another vehicle travelling on the correct side of the carriageway, causing fatal injuries
24.08.01	Surrey	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 No cause given 2 Unlawful Killing	Following a smash and grab at a chemist, police pursued a motor vehicle that had made off from the scene. The vehicle travelled along the wrong side of the carriageway and was involved in a head on collision with another vehicle travelling on the correct side of the carriageway, causing fatal injuries
25.08.01	West Yorkshire	Hospital	21	Male	Asian-British	1 a) Adult respiratory distress syndrome b) Pulmonary contusions 2 Tragic Accident	The deceased was one of two occupants in a vehicle that sped off at high speed after failing to stop for police officers. Police followed but were some distance behind when the vehicle hit a wall and overturned. The deceased was taken to hospital and placed in intensive care where he died.
1.09.01	West Mercia	At scene	15	Male	White-British	1a) Multiple Injuries b) Road Traffic collision 2 Accidental Death- Multiple Injuries	The deceased stole a car with his accomplice and he was later seen driving the car in an erratic and dangerous manner by members of the public who alerted the police. A marked police vehicle then intercepted the car and followed it until the scene of a collision. The deceased's car had collided with a lorry. The deceased was pronounced dead at the scene.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
1.09.01	Gloucestershire	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Misadventure	The deceased was in a vehicle being pursued by an unmarked police video car equipped with covert blue lights and siren. The vehicle failed to stop and within two minutes of the pursuit starting, collided with a lamppost causing fatal injuries.
1.09.01	Gloucestershire	At scene	31	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Open Verdict	The deceased was in a vehicle being pursued by an unmarked police video car equipped with covert blue lights and siren. The vehicle failed to stop and within two minutes of the pursuit starting, collided with a lamppost causing fatal injuries.
7.09.01	West Midlands	At scene	36	Male	White-British	1 Gunshot wound to head – took his own life 2 Suicide	Officers received information on the possible whereabouts of the deceased. Officers, including firearms officers, went to arrest him for criminal offences, including firearm offences. They located him but he refused to leave the premises and a siege situation developed. This continued for a few days, when the deceased shot himself in the head.
8.09.01	West Yorkshire	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 Injuries to head 2 Tragic Accident	The deceased failed to stop for police following a traffic accident and drove off at speed. Officers followed at normal speed but lost sight of the car. They came across it at a junction where it had collided with a barrier and wall causing fatal injuries.
24.09.01	Staffordshire	Hospital	34	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Accidental Death	The deceased was wanted on warrant having previously been charged with indecent assault. Police officers knocked on his door but the deceased failed to answer. The officers heard a thud and the deceased was found outside lying semi-conscious on the ground. He was taken to hospital where he died.
5.10.01	Bedfordshire	At scene	21	Male	White-British	1 Aspiration of blood; Multiple skull fractures and Trauma; Multiple facial injuries 2 No Inquest Held	The deceased was a passenger in a car that was being pursued after being disturbed trying to steal money from a public phone kiosk. The driver lost control of the vehicle whilst trying to negotiate a bend in the road at excessive speed. The deceased was thrown from the vehicle causing fatal injuries. He was certified dead at the scene.
7.10.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	36	Male	White-British	1 Cocaine Poisoning 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested for a drink driving offence. Upon arrival at the police station he became ill and collapsed. Officers gave first aid and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he later died.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
25.10.01	Devon and Cornwall	At scene	31	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Accidental Death	Following a short pursuit, the deceased, who was a disqualified driver, failed to negotiate a bend and collided with a concrete post at speed causing fatal injuries.
1.11.01	Derbyshire	Hospital	30	Male	White-British	1 Fatal gunshot wound 2 Lawful Killing	Armed response unit were called following a report that the deceased was threatening his ex-partner with a knife, and who then returned to the scene with what appeared to be a shotgun. He threatened armed officers and was shot once in the chest area, causing fatal injury. The deceased was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
3.11.01	Greater Manchester	At scene	14	Male	White-British	1 Blunt force, head and chest injuries 2 Accident	The deceased was seen driving a motor vehicle without his seat belt on. Officers followed the vehicle and the deceased lost control while leaving the M60 and collided with a traffic sign causing fatal injuries.
4.11.01	Cumbria	Hospital	47	Male	White-British	1 Fractured Skull 2 Accidental Death	Officers attended the deceased's home to arrest him for burglary. They forced open his door and found him at the foot of the stairs leading to his first floor flat. He was arrested but upon examination officers found that he was incoherent and smelt of alcohol and de-arrested him. He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he died the following day.
14.11.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	62	Male	White-British	1 Firearm wound to chest 2 Suicide	Police were called to a domestic incident at the deceased's home. A siege ensued with the deceased who alleged he was armed with a weapon and had locked himself in a bedroom. A hostage negotiator maintained contact with him. A shot was heard from inside the premises. The deceased was then heard to shout words to the effect "you better get your guns ready I'm coming out". Police warned him to stay where he was but he stepped out of the bedroom aiming his pistol at armed officers. Police discharged a single round which struck the deceased in chest. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
22.11.01	Devon and Cornwall	At scene	37	Male	White-British	1 No cause given 2 Open verdict	Police were called to the deceased's neighbour's house, where the deceased was lying, apparently drunk, in the garden with his two children beside him. He was arrested and placed in the recovery position. As he was being moved, prior to taking him to a police vehicle, he stopped breathing. Resuscitation attempts by police and a doctor were unsuccessful.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
25.11.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	41	Male	Black-British	1a) Haemorrhage b) Ruptured Aorta 2 Accidental Death	Police attended an address to assist immigration officers with an enquiry and entered a third floor flat. While conducting their enquiries the deceased made his way out of the kitchen window on to the communal balcony. The deceased then lowered himself from the 3rd floor balcony and fell. The deceased was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
11.12.01	Avon and Somerset	Hospital	27	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Accidental Death	At 23:59 on 10 December the deceased called the police and informed them that he had assaulted his girlfriend. Two officers attended where the deceased was seen running about the roadway. He then placed himself in the police car and accompanied the officers' back to his flat. While officers attended to his girlfriend the deceased disappeared and was located on the balcony of an adjoining flat. He was asked to come in but a short time later a loud thump was heard and the deceased was seen lying on his back two floors below. First aid was administered and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead.
29.12.01	Dyfed Powys	At scene	20	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 Misadventure	Police attempted to stop a car containing three occupants for a minor traffic offence. The car made off at speed and within a short time left the road and crashed into an outbuilding causing fatal injuries to the deceased.
29.12.01	Dyfed Powys	At scene	17	Female	White-British	1 Blunt Head Injury 2 Unlawful Killing	Police attempted to stop a car containing three occupants for a minor traffic offence. The car made off at speed and within a short time left the road and crashed into an outbuilding causing fatal injuries to the deceased.
5.01.02	Sussex	At scene	23	Male	White-British	1 Blunt traumatic injury 2 Accident	Officers in a marked police vehicle saw the deceased driving erratically and caused the vehicle to stop. On approaching the vehicle on foot the deceased drove off at speed. A police van, travelling in opposite direction saw the vehicle travelling towards them on the wrong side of the road. The deceased violently corrected this and drove past. The police van turned to pursue but had lost sight of the vehicle. A short while later the car was found crashed in a private driveway, the deceased having received fatal injuries. Attempts were made to revive the deceased but he was confirmed dead by the ambulance crew, which had attended.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
8.01.02	Greater Manchester	At scene	20	Male	White-British	1 Ruptured aorta 2 Accident	Police were following the deceased who was driving a stolen vehicle. The vehicle subsequently collided with a garden wall and burst into flames causing fatal injuries.
9.02.02	Derbyshire	At scene	19	Male	White-British	1 Multiple Injuries 2 No Inquest held	The deceased's vehicle was seen by a police officer and drove off at speed. The vehicle was pursued by a police car using lights and sirens. Within one minute of the pursuit starting, the vehicle crashed into a wall resulting in the death of the driver and injury to the other two occupants.
14.02.02	Greater Manchester	Hospital	65	Male	White-British	1 Alcohol and drugs overdose 2 Open Verdict	The deceased collapsed and stopped breathing when being interviewed at home by police following a domestic dispute with his wife. He was resuscitated and taken to hospital where he later died.
21.02.02	Lancashire	Hospital	70	Male	White-British	1 Heart Attack 2 Natural Causes	The deceased was being detained at home by social workers under a Mental Health Order. He was initially non-compliant with a social worker and the police but eventually allowed police to handcuff him. Whilst being led away from his house the deceased collapsed. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
2.03.02	Merseyside	Hospital	14	Male	White-British	1 a) Diffuse Brain Damage b) Multiple Skull fractures 2 Unlawful Killing	Police were following two stolen vehicles when one, travelling at speed, crashed into the rear of a heavy goods vehicle killing both the occupants. The deceased was taken to hospital where he died.
2.03.02	Merseyside	At scene	14	Male	White-British	1 a) Diffuse Brain Damage b) Severe Fatal Skull fracture 2 Unlawful Killing	Police were following two stolen motor vehicles when one, travelling at speed, crashed into the rear of a heavy goods vehicle killing both the occupants. The deceased was taken to hospital where he died.
13.03.02	Humberside	Hospital	51	Male	White-British	1 Stroke a) Cerebral Infarction b) Corotid Artery Thrombosis 2 Death by Natural Causes	The deceased was arrested for a public order offence. On arrival at the police station he was in a semi-collapsed state. First aid was administered and he was placed in the recovery position. The deceased was taken to hospital where he died a few days later.
16.03.02	North Wales	At scene	47	Male	White-British	1 Road Traffic collision 2 Accidental Death	The deceased was reported by a member of the public as being drunk and driving a vehicle. Police Officers saw the vehicle and followed it. The deceased failed to stop and the police followed him for over 5 miles before the vehicle crashed, causing fatal injuries.

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
25.03.02	Dyfed Powys	Hospital	53	Male	White-British	1 Natural Causes 2 Natural Causes	<p>The deceased was being arrested for being drunk and incapable and was conveyed to the police station and detained. He was charged and was due to appear the following day. The deceased was found collapsed in the rear of the van on arrival at the court. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.</p>

Table 5b - Verdict Cases Awaited for the period 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
8.04.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	55	Male	White-British	1 Heart Attack 2 Awaited	The deceased, and his son, were arrested for assault (spraying another with CS spray) following an alleged road rage incident and placed in a police van. On the way to the police station the driver of the van became concerned about the deceased and diverted to hospital where the deceased was admitted and remained until he died.
24.05.01	Devon and Cornwall	Police Station	24	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable and taken to a police station where he was notionally arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis resin. He was checked every half hour for the first night and then hourly the next morning. It was however noticed that the deceased was not breathing. All attempts by custody staff, paramedics and doctor to resuscitate him were unsuccessful.
12.07.01	Merseyside	Hospital	37	Male	White-British	1 Gun Shot 2 Awaited	Officers attended the home of the deceased, who suffered from schizophrenia, at the request of medical staff and his family. He left his home in possession of a sword and police attempts to detain him were unsuccessful. Police believed that the deceased intended to enter a nearby public house with the sword. An armed officer discharged two shots one of which struck the deceased in the chest causing fatal injuries. He was taken to hospital where he died.
16.07.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	30	Male	Black-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Police, including armed officers, were called to a location by a member of the public who reported a man in possession of a handgun. A description of the deceased was circulated and shortly after he was located and challenged by armed police, who shot him. He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead.
31.07.01	West Yorkshire	Hospital	58	Male	White-British	1 Suspected fracture of the skull 2 Awaited	On 29 July the deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable. His condition deteriorated in custody, where he was vomiting blood and he was transferred to hospital where he later died.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
25.08.01	Greater Manchester	Hospital	43	Male	White-British	1 Drugs overdose and asphyxiation 2 Awaiting	Following his arrest for providing a positive breath test, the deceased swallowed a plastic bag of tablets. Due to his violent behaviour police were unable to remove the bag and following a struggle the deceased was handcuffed. He then collapsed into unconsciousness and was taken to hospital where he died.
13.9.01	South Wales	Hospital	34	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	Following a spell in custody, the deceased was being transported in an unmarked vehicle by an on duty officer. He started to fit on several occasions and was taken to hospital by ambulance. The deceased was pronounced dead on arrival.
30.10.01	Cambridgeshire	Hospital	44	Male	White-British	1 Alcohol withdrawal following sedative 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested at a hospital for a breach of the peace and taken to a police station. He was returned to the hospital and officers remained with him. The deceased was handcuffed due to his aggression towards hospital staff. His condition deteriorated and he died the following day.
22.11.01	Metropolitan	Hospital	26	Male	Black-British	1 Cocaine toxicity 2 Awaiting	The deceased was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by the police due to the manner of its driving. The driver was arrested and the deceased taken to the police station in order that a search for drugs could be carried out. Officers believed that he had drugs concealed in his mouth and a struggle ensued when they tried to remove them. The contents were eventually located and removed, and the deceased was taken to the custody suite. The custody officer directed that an ambulance was called and he was taken to hospital where he complained of feeling unwell and suffered an apparent fit. His condition deteriorated and he was pronounced dead.
23.12.01	Devon and Cornwall	Hospital	30	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested after providing a positive roadside breath test. On an hourly visit he was discovered rolling on the floor of his cell. The Police Surgeon advised that he should be put on 15 minute visits. On the first visit his condition had worsened and he was taken to hospital by an ambulance where he died.
6.01.02	Bedfordshire	Hospital	30	Male	White-British	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested on two warrants for failing to appear at court for theft offences. He was found collapsed in his cell and taken by ambulance to hospital where death was certified. The suspected cause of death is that the deceased hanged himself by his shoelaces from the tap on the sink in his cell.

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
23.02.02	Staffordshire	At scene	45	Male	White-British	1 Inhalation of vomit and hypothermia 2 Awaited	The deceased was seen by a police officer to fall in the town centre. An ambulance crew attended the scene but refused to take the deceased to the hospital, as he was drunk. Police officers subsequently conveyed the deceased to his home in a police vehicle. Some hours later the deceased was found dead outside his home.
11.03.02	Humberside	Hospital	53	Male	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Police were speaking to the deceased regarding a traffic related matter. An argument ensued and he was arrested for a public order offence. The deceased was taken to the ground in what was described as a controlled manner. He collapsed either before, during or after this taking place. The deceased was taken to hospital where he died.
17.03.02	Lancashire	Police Station	50	Female	White-British	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for drug offences. She was found dead in her cell the following morning.

Table 5c - Result Cases for the period 1 April 2000 - 31 March 2001

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
6.05.00	South Yorkshire	Hospital	41	Male	White-British	1 Crush injuries to abdomen 2 Accidental Death	The deceased was outside a football ground when he came into contact with a police horse. An ambulance was summoned and he was taken to hospital and examined in A & E. His blood pressure dropped and he was taken to surgery where he later died.
8.05.00	Greater Manchester	Hospital	35	Male	White-British	1 Head Injuries 2 No Inquest Held	The deceased was a passenger in a vehicle, which was being pursued by police. The car left the road and collided with wooden fencing, causing fatal injuries.
30.06.00	Hertfordshire	At scene	51	Male	Asian-British	1 Drugs overdose 2 Accidental Death	Police officers attempted to arrest the deceased for drug offences. During the struggle he put several packets of a substance in his mouth. He stopped breathing and despite attempts to resuscitate him by officers and paramedics he was pronounced dead at the scene.
16.09.00	Metropolitan	Hospital	27	Male	White-British	1 Hanging 2 Killed himself	The deceased was arrested by BTP officers for suspected theft of pedal cycles. He was taken to a police station and was further arrested on a warrant issued in Cornwall. The deceased remained in custody awaiting transfer to Cornwall. He was found hanging in his cell the following day. An ambulance was immediately called and he was taken to hospital where he died.
8.01.01	West Midlands	At scene	23	Male	Black-British	1 Hypothermia and Exposure 2 Misadventure	Following a police campaign where the deceased's image was projected onto the side of the police HQ building, police were informed that the deceased was at a local social club. When officers attended, the deceased escaped through a fire exit. After scaling an eight foot metal fence, three officers grabbed him through the metal rails and where he may have been struck on the head by a police officers torch. The deceased broke free from the officers and dropped 15 feet into a concrete culvert taking the river flow. A search for him was negative and abandoned. A few days later the deceased's body was found face downwards on a raised concrete section above water level about 100yds away by two of his friends.
9.03.01	Northumbria	Hospital	20	Male	White-British	1 Drug Abuse 2 Misadventure	The deceased was in custody to appear at court the following day. A daily Methadone dose, already prescribed by the deceased's GP, was authorised whilst in custody by the Police Surgeon. Normal overnight checks were carried out. The deceased could not be roused the following day and paramedics were called. He was removed to hospital where he died.

Table 5d - Verdict Cases Awaited for the period 1 April 2000 - 31 March 2001

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
4.08.00	South Yorkshire	Hospital	40	Male	White-British	1 Heart Attack 2 Awaited	Police attended a domestic dispute where the deceased was drunk and causing trouble. He was arrested for breach of the peace. On route to the police station the deceased became unconscious and was transported immediately to hospital where he later died.
28.01.01	Leicestershire	Hospital	34	Male	Asian-British	1 Hypothermia 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable. On arrival at the police station he was seen by a police surgeon and was placed on constant supervision. His condition deteriorated and he was taken to hospital believed to be suffering from hypothermia. At the hospital the deceased showed signs of recovery before his condition worsened and he subsequently died.

Table 5e - Verdict Cases Awaited for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March 2000

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
16.10.99	Kent	Hospital	21	Male	White-British	1 Ingestion of Cocaine 2 Awaited	An emergency call was made by the deceased's mother who stated that her son had taken an overdose. Police Officers attended with ambulance personnel and the deceased had to be forcibly restrained in order that medical treatment could be administered to him. He was handcuffed and placed in ankle restraints and subsequently conveyed to hospital, still struggling violently and restrained by police officers and the ambulance personnel. The deceased was pronounced dead at hospital.

Table 5f – Result Cases for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Force</b>	<b>Place of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
19.01.99	Metropolitan	Hospital	30	Male	Black-British	<p>1 a) Hypoxic Brain Damage b) Asystolic/bradycardic arrest c) Metabolic hypoxic cardiovascular &amp; respiratory consequences during restraint d) Cannabis induced delirium</p> <p>2 Unlawful Killing</p>	Police were called by a member of the public to investigate a person acting strangely at an address. Officers attended, restrained the deceased and then conveyed him to local psychiatric hospital. Whilst there, he collapsed, an ambulance was called, and he was taken to a hospital where he later died.



TABLE 6  
NUMBER OF DEATHS  
FOR  
EACH YEAR  
BETWEEN 1981 AND 2003



Table 6 - NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR EACH YEAR BETWEEN 1981 AND 2003

Year	Metropolitan Police	Year	Provinces	Total
1981	27	1981	22	49
1982	27	1982	28	55
1983	18	1983	25	43
1984	15	1984	19	34
1985	14	1985	23	37
1986	15	1986	26	41
1987	28	1987	26	54
1988	30	1988	38	68
1989	37	1989	36	73
1990	20	1990	41	61
1991	24	1991	36	60
1991/92 <sup>1</sup>	21	1992	33	-
1992/93	18	1993	18	-
1993/94	16	1994	36	-
1994/95	15	1995	39	-
1995/96 <sup>2</sup>	13	1995/96	37	50
1996/97	18	1996/97	39	57
1997/98	12	1997/98	57	69
1998/99	17	1998/99	50	67
1999/00	16	1999/00	54	70
2000/01	7	2000/01	45	52
2001/02	9	2001/02	61	70
2002/03 <sup>3</sup>	17	2002/03	87	104

Key:

<sup>1</sup>Change to financial year basis includes some figures previously counted in 1991

<sup>2</sup>Change to financial year basis includes some figures previously counted in 1995

<sup>3</sup>Change in definition of categories for deaths during or following police contact which came into effect on 1 April 2002



# APPENDIX A

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DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY

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#### Leadership and Communication

1. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) (with the assistance of the National Operations Faculty) organises periodic national conferences on custody issues in order to spread good practice. They are keen to encourage the organisation of similar regional conferences.
2. The Professional Standards Departments or similar departments, of some forces issue periodic bulletins in which they highlight and review procedures and practices which regularly give rise to complaints against the police, including those which have led to self-harm or deaths in police custody. Some forces have introduced communication systems (meetings, email, bulletins etc) whereby staff at all units are able to learn both from mistakes made and good practice identified in other custody areas. These systems are used to assess any changes which are necessary to force procedures or training as recommended in Home Office Circular 28/2002 'Learning the lessons from adverse incidents' (see paragraph 18 below).

#### Organisation of custody facilities

3. A number of forces already concentrate custody facilities at a smaller number of police stations where superior provision for detention and care is available. This is certainly a positive development in terms of reducing deaths in custody and merits wider consideration.
4. Some forces are also creating a custody specialism with its own management and command structures. This also deserves further attention as a means of increasing the professionalism, knowledge and skills of those responsible for the custody of detainees. A number of forces now operate custody user groups where officers involved in this area of work can share experience, learning and skills amongst themselves and with other professionals involved in the custody environment. This is an excellent way of spreading good practice, particularly in relation to critical issues linked to deaths in custody.

#### Custody officer training

5. CENTREX provide a national custody officer training programme which is reviewed and updated every six months. Many forces now use this programme or have amended their existing courses in light of the national programme. Many forces provide two or three weeks training before officers are appointed to custody duties and refresher training is becoming much more common. Input into the central framework comes from bodies such as the ACPO Medical Working Group. The key areas regarding deaths in custody are: risk assessment, adequate checking on vulnerable prisoners, first aid, liaison with medical personnel, searching, hazard awareness, record keeping, and conflict resolution. It is imperative that all new custody staff are trained appropriately (and given refresher training as necessary). Forces need to be proactive in seeking custody staff's views on where they would benefit from additional training on issues which are relevant to reducing risks.

6. A number of forces have introduced additional training for operational officers in the searching of detainees in order to identify and remove all possible ligatures or items which could be used to cause self harm.

7. The Metropolitan Police have produced a training video which gives various scenarios which could lead to a death in custody, whether in cells or otherwise. This is used by a number of forces as part of their custody officer training package. Another video, "Their lives in your hands", has been produced by South Wales Police. This analyses a death by suicide in custody and includes open input by the custody officer on duty at the time. He describes how the incident affected him, his colleagues and family.

### Training for police officers on restraint techniques

8. The ACPO/Centrex Personal Safety Manual of Guidance should form the basis of all training for police officers in restraint techniques. Civilian support staff such as Detention Officers who come into contact or have dealings with persons who are detained in police custody should also receive training based on this manual. The content of the manual has been extensively researched in terms of the legality of all the techniques and tactics described together with possible medical implications.

9. Recent cases involving restraint were considered during this research process. The manual contains specific sections on restraint and control techniques. The section on medical implications includes information on positional asphyxia, excited delirium, and dealing with persons who may be affected by alcohol, drugs or mental illness. It provides guidance on cell extraction and insertion, and tactics to assist in the safe taking of fingerprints and DNA samples by force when appropriate. Other sections contain information and guidance on communication skills to assist in the diffusion of potentially violent situations without the use of force.

10. The manual is subject to an annual review and updated as required to ensure it remains a live and valid document. This process will take account of any emerging cases that may impact upon use of force issues, including persons in police custody. ACPO makes recommendations in respect of the amount of training that police officers should receive in Personal Safety, but the final decision as to how much time will be allocated for such training lies with the chief constable of the force concerned. However it is vital that fully adequate and regular training should be provided, particularly for custody staff.

11. The Police Complaints Authority report 'Policing Acute Behavioural Disturbance' offers guidance to police officers, Forensic Medical Examiners and Pathologists which, if followed, could greatly assist in preventing some deaths and identifying the causes of others.

### Policing the mentally ill

12. There are currently several strands of work focused on improving police practice in relation to mentally ill individuals. Together with the Department of Health and ACPO, the Home Office is developing national protocols covering the interaction between the police and health services in dealing with the mentally ill. The revised PACE Codes of Practice strengthen protections for mentally ill detainees, particularly in terms of assessing their vulnerabilities and fitness for interview. In addition, the review of the Mental Health Act that is underway recognises that police cells are not generally appropriate places for assessing whether a person needs medical treatment.

## Provision of medical services at police stations

13. The revised PACE Codes of Practice improve the availability and timeliness of medical services and clinical treatment by enabling a wider range of healthcare professionals, such as nurses, to take a broader role in the custody suite.

14. The intention is to move towards a significantly greater role for registered healthcare professionals within custody suites, where they work in partnership with police surgeons, and police surgeons retain clearly defined responsibilities to intervene where their broader skills are required. Home Office Circular 20/2003 issued on 1 April 2003 advises Chief Officers, where they plan to introduce healthcare professionals to work alongside police surgeons in their custody suites, to make arrangements for relevant local protocols and clinical guidelines to take account of the guidance contained in the National Protocol on Custody Care.

15. Increasing the range of custody healthcare professionals is expected to result in increased flexibility, improvements in response times and the opportunity for efficiencies in the way healthcare is delivered in custody suites. By improving the standard and delivery of clinical treatment for detainees, the introduction of nurses and other healthcare professionals to police custody suites is seen as a key initiative in helping to reduce the number of deaths in police custody.

16. Some forces have reviewed their provision of police surgeon services and have brought in new requirements regarding their training in forensic medicine and medical jurisprudence. Some forces have also produced good practice guidelines for police surgeons and national good practice guidelines for the clinical management of substance misuse detainees in police custody have been published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in conjunction with the Association of Police Surgeons.

17. The ability to understand the handwriting of medical staff on individual care plans for detainees is crucial to the risk assessment process and some forces ask the custody officer to check the custody record entries of police surgeons to check legibility before the doctor leaves the unit.

## Reviewing the PACE Codes

18. A comprehensive review of the Codes of Practice issued under PACE has now been completed and the revised Codes of Practice came into effect on 1 April 2003. The revision of the PACE Codes of Practice has provided an opportunity to deal with several critical issues linked to deaths in custody. The revised Code C has been extended to include guidance on risk assessment procedures and an observation checklist for use when rousing drunken detainees. There is a generally increased emphasis in the revised Code C on effective care of vulnerable detainees. The revisions involve a significant reworking of many of the provisions relating to the care and treatment of detainees to allow scope for a wider range of healthcare professionals to operate in custody suites.

## Risk assessment and information

19. Prisoner risk assessment has historically been a difficult issue within the police service, but many forces are making rapid strides to improve their procedures and ensure that structured processes are in place to assess and document specific risks presented by detainees coming into custody. All forces have responded to Home Office Circular 32/2000 which relates to prisoner risk assessment, including the Prisoner Escort Record form. The responses vary from introducing a formal written risk assessment process to amending previously used systems.

20. Home Office Circular 28/2002, 'Learning the lessons from adverse incidents', highlighted a case where a detainee was returned to his cell without having his trainers removed and subsequently hanged himself with his shoe laces. It was suggested that laces were not always removed due to the requirement for proportionality under the Human Rights Act. However, under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights 'Everyone's right to life shall be protected by the law', and the police must have the highest regard for this. It is worth re-inforcing that items such as shoelaces and belts that can most easily be used for self-harm should be removed where there are grounds for believing that someone may be a suicide risk. There is no legal obstacle under the Human Rights Act to doing this.

21. Many forces have a local index of detainees who have harmed themselves whilst in custody. These are normally computerised and many form part of the custody handling system. Those which form part of the custody handling systems are configured so that the warning notice appears on the screen whenever that person is being booked in.

22. There are some forces which have introduced written guidelines for custody officers which advise on identification of risks to ensure that additional supervision is given where appropriate. Other forces have introduced written briefing instructions to custody staff who are given the duty of constantly monitoring any detainee who presents a high risk.

23. Some forces have piloted a system whereby details of incidents relating to individuals which take place in prisons, which would assist and inform future risk assessments of that individual are communicated to the local force. The force then evaluates the information and, where appropriate, it is placed on the PNC. The ACPO Prison Intelligence Group is currently evaluating this system.

24. One force is considering introducing a policy whereby all detainees who are suspected of having swallowed drugs or are suspected of being 'mules' would be taken directly to hospital. The revised PACE Code C stipulates that where there is any doubt about the condition of a detainee, especially when substance misuse may be involved, "the police should always act urgently to call an appropriate healthcare professional or an ambulance".

#### Diverting people who are drunk from police custody towards other (detoxification) facilities

25. There has been recognition for many years that people who are incapable through drink would usually be better and more safely cared for in dedicated facilities rather than at a police station. Drunkenness remains a significant factor in some deaths in custody. It also imposes a burden on the police, who have to deal with severely intoxicated people who might be better cared for elsewhere. Recent Home Office research studies have indicated that alcohol is a factor in almost a third of arrests and have recommended a number of approaches related to the care and management of intoxicated detainees in custody suites, including the provision of alternative settings for the care and treatment of those who are incapable through drink.

26. Arrest referral and diversion pilots have an extremely important contribution to make in improving the framework within which intoxicated detainees are handled and we are giving serious consideration to the use of alcohol treatment centres as an alternative to police custody for intoxicated detainees. At present only a minority of forces have dedicated alcohol referral schemes for those in police custody and even fewer forces are seeking to divert intoxicated people to alternative treatment facilities. Historically there have been examples of good practice, for example the St Ann's Centre in Leeds, and arrest referral and diversion schemes at Holborn and Watford will offer an opportunity in the short term to evaluate innovative best practice.

27. There is scope for broader action in this area across the police service, particularly in terms of pilot projects. Some forces have established policies of taking the grossly intoxicated and communication incapable arrestee to hospital for assessment or at least to have them assessed immediately by the police surgeon before detention for any length of time is contemplated.

### Use of CCTV to monitor (vulnerable) detainees in custody suites

28. Many forces have CCTV (including sound) at their custody reception points and CCTV (vision only) in all corridors, entrances, exits etc. Some have installed CCTV cameras in a limited number of cells suitable for vulnerable persons. The effective use of CCTV equipped cells for vulnerable prisoners presupposes early and accurate identification of such persons by custody staff but the use of CCTV does not remove the need for effective monitoring and checking. There is clearly considerable scope for these systems to reduce the overall level of risk and all forces are encouraged to consider how they can most usefully be applied.

### Designing out suicide/self harm risks from cells

29. The Home Office Building and Estate Management Unit (BEMU) is a source of expertise in the area of designing out flaws in custody suites (including cells) and police station specifications. General guidance on making police cells safer was included in Home Office Circular 28/2002, 'Learning The Lessons From Adverse Incidents'.

30. All new cells in all forces should be constructed in accordance with the Home Office design guide. Some forces have instigated periodic custody unit inspections by officers from other custody units. In this way, familiarity with cells is not a hindrance in the identification of possible ligature points. Most forces have replaced the old 'T' shaped cell door handles with anti-ligature handles. All forces have local instructions which state that cells hatches should be kept closed at all times. Some have attached a notice to the outside of each cell door reminding staff of this instruction.

31. Where forces have a totally computerised custody system, many have been designed or amended to give reminders that the maximum time since a detainee was last checked is almost complete. This can be set according to the instructions of the custody officer following the risk assessment.

32. The cells in some forces are regularly searched by experts to ensure that any dangerous objects, which have been missed at a time the detainee was searched and are later secreted in a cell, are safely removed.

33. Many forces provide ligature cutters on cell key rings, or at various places throughout the custody units, or as a personal issue to all custody staff. Some forces use a restraint belt to prevent self-harm and suicide attempts by detainees who have been identified as presenting a high risk.

34. There are also broader design and technology issues to take account of in establishing good practice. For example, to reduce self harm some forces supply safer unbreakable plastic cutlery for use by detainees while the majority of forces only supply unbreakable spoons to detainees irrespective of the meal being provided.

35. Some forces now use rip-proof prisoner replacement clothing and blankets to minimise the risk of detainees making ligatures by tearing clothing and blankets.

## Encouraging the use of innovative new technology

36. Some forces have been testing a life signs monitoring system which uses low power microwave transceivers to detect movement within custody cells. Progressive warnings are sounded if an occupant's breathing becomes very low or ceases altogether. The system is currently being assessed. Early indications are favourable and a further letter will be sent to police forces shortly.

37. One force is researching the possibility of installing electronic information screens in new cells. The screen will relay messages to the detainee in various languages and it is possible that it may be developed to show video/DVD/television pictures, adverts such as Crimestoppers and about drug/alcohol referral services, Alcoholics Anonymous, Samaritans etc. The screens will be touch sensitive and be able to withstand attack. They may be able to display such messages as 'solicitor contacted and on way to station' and could be linked to a hand free telephone system to allow calls from solicitors to be taken in cells.

