

Forces should keep figures that could cut assaults

Forces are not properly recording the circumstances in which police officers get assaulted – despite the potential for cutting the number of incidents.

Paul Davis, secretary of the Federation's operational policing subcommittee, said that most forces do not record details of the context that assaults happen in, such as use of force which looks at the techniques they use. His comments come on the back of figures released by the Liberal Democrats in Parliament last month stating that nearly 80,000 working days are being lost following assaults on police officers.

"If use of force data is collected it can assist a force in spotting training needs and ensuring appropriate resources. If officers are consistently being injured because they are using a particular technique or they are patrolling alone when the incidents happen, something can be done, but if the figures aren't there, how can you cut these incidents?"

The Home Office do collate statistics but do not publish the context of assaults.

Research by the Police Research Group, *Assaults on Police Officers: An examination of the circumstances in which such incidents occur*, published back in 1994, looked at 226 incidents in forces in Bedfordshire, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

One fifth of assaults occurred when officers tried to calm or pacify individuals, particularly during public disorder and dispute situations. This suggested that some types of conflict management training would be of benefit in these types of situation

Number of police staff working days lost due to assaults(1) from 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Avon and Somerset	81	0	5	71	133	290
Bedfordshire	10	0	3	0	n/a	13
Cambridgeshire	36	0	9	0	2	47
Cheshire	2	42	0	3	17	64
Cleveland	0	0	0	3	2	5
Cumbria	0	6	0	n/a	n/a	6
Derbyshire	0	82	16	0	18	116
Devon and Cornwall	0	3	1	0	20	24
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	2	2
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Essex	14	0	31	0	5	50
Gloucestershire	1	149	2	10	n/a	162
Greater Manchester	133	83	94	69	78	457
Gwent	5	13	n/a	0	n/a	18
Hampshire	21	4	3	22	n/a	50
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Humberside	0	0	0	369	62	431
Kent	0	41	40	0	n/a	81
Lancashire	86	110	0	13	26	235
Leicestershire	n/a	0	46	0	2	48
Lincolnshire	20	0	0	1	2	23
London, City of	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Merseyside	12	0	0	0	13	25
Metropolitan Police	305	n/a	299	802	347	1753
Norfolk	13	0	22	2	21	58
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	5	5
Northumbria	7	5	9	15	30	66
North Wales	31	0	0	20	n/a	51
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Nottinghamshire	9	18	n/a	3	5	35
South Wales	0	0	0	n/a	5	5
South Yorkshire	6	0	0	25	n/a	31
Staffordshire	0	5	0	0	10	15
Suffolk	0	2	4	0	2	8
Surrey	0	0	90	1	n/a	91
Sussex	0	0	17	8	0	25
Thames Valley	0	n/a	n/a	0	15	15
Warwickshire	0	0	9	3	16	28
West Mercia	0	7	32	20	12	71
West Midlands	126	97	113	147	208	691
West Yorkshire	173	18	47	5	60	303
Wiltshire	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Total	1,091	685	892	1,612	1,118	5,398

Source: Liberal Democrats

Paul Davis: forces should record details



Photography: Police Federation

Detail behind statistics could reduce assaults on police



Photography: PA Photos