Independent Office for Police Conduct

Most Similar Force (MSF) groups

Effective in data published from 1 November 2026

Most Similar Force (MSF) groups

What are Most Similar Force groups?

MSF groups are determined by the Home Office. They are groups of police force areas that have been found to be the most similar to each other based on an analysis demographics, geography, force size, structures etc.

How are they used

MSF groups are designed to help make a fairer comparison between police forces than the average of all forces across England and Wales can sometimes offer. The IOPC and police forces use them as a comparator in police complaint statistics.

All police forces in England and Wales (except for City of London Police and British Transport Police) are in a group consisting of themselves and seven other similar forces.

Most Similar Force groups by police force

Police Force Area	Other forces in group
Avon and Somerset	Hampshire
	Wiltshire
	Cheshire
	Warwickshire
	Cambridgeshire
	Sussex
	Gloucestershire
Bedfordshire	Northamptonshire
	Leicestershire
	Cambridgeshire
	Sussex
	Kent
	Hampshire
	Cheshire
Cambridgeshire	Hampshire
	Avon and Somerset
	Sussex
	Wiltshire
	Cheshire
	Northamptonshire
	Leicestershire

Cheshire	Sussex
	Leicestershire
	Avon and Somerset
	Northamptonshire
	Hampshire
	Dorset
	Essex
Cleveland	Merseyside
	Northumbria
	South Yorkshire
	West Yorkshire
	West Midlands
	Greater Manchester
	Durham
Cumbria	Dyfed-Powys
	Devon & Cornwall
	Norfolk
	Suffolk
	Lincolnshire
	West Mercia
	North Wales
Derbyshire	Essex
	Staffordshire
	North Wales
	Kent
	Leicestershire
	Suffolk
	Northamptonshire
Devon & Cornwall	Suffolk
	West Mercia
	Dorset
	Cumbria
	Dyfed-Powys
	North Wales
	Norfolk
Dorset	West Mercia
	Warwickshire
	Devon & Cornwall
	Cheshire
	Avon and Somerset
	Suffolk
	Gloucestershire

Durham	Humberside
	Gwent
	South Wales
	Lancashire
	South Yorkshire
	Northumbria
	Nottinghamshire
Dyfed-Powys	Cumbria
	Devon & Cornwall
	Norfolk
	Suffolk
	Lincolnshire
	West Mercia
	North Wales
Essex	Derbyshire
	Kent
	Leicestershire
	Northamptonshire
	Staffordshire
	Sussex
	Cheshire
Gloucestershire	Warwickshire
	Wiltshire
	North Yorkshire
	Avon and Somerset
	Hampshire
	Dorset
	West Mercia
Greater Manchester	West Yorkshire
	West Midlands
	Cleveland
	Merseyside
	Northumbria
	South Yorkshire
	Metropolitan Police
Gwent	Humberside
	Durham
	South Wales
	Lancashire
	Nottinghamshire
	South Yorkshire
	Northumbria

Hampshire	Cambridgeshire
	Avon and Somerset
	Wiltshire
	Cheshire
	Sussex
	Warwickshire
	Northamptonshire
Hertfordshire	Thames Valley
	Cambridgeshire
	Bedfordshire
	Hampshire
	Surrey
	Wiltshire
	Avon and Somerset
Humberside	Gwent
	Durham
	South Wales
	Lancashire
	South Yorkshire
	Nottinghamshire
	Northumbria
Kent	Leicestershire
	Northamptonshire
	Essex
	Sussex
	Derbyshire
	Cheshire
	Bedfordshire
Lancashire	South Wales
	Nottinghamshire
	Humberside
	Gwent
	Durham
	South Yorkshire
	Kent
Leicestershire	Northamptonshire
	Sussex
	Kent
	Cheshire
	Essex
	Derbyshire
	Cambridgeshire

Lincolnshire	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Suffolk
	Staffordshire
	Cumbria
	Dyfed-Powys
	Devon & Cornwall
Merseyside	Cleveland
	Northumbria
	South Yorkshire
	West Midlands
	West Yorkshire
	Greater Manchester
	Durham
Metropolitan Police	Greater Manchester
	West Midlands
	West Yorkshire
	Cleveland
	Merseyside
	South Yorkshire
	Northumbria
Norfolk	Lincolnshire
	Cumbria
	North Wales
	Dyfed-Powys
	Suffolk
	Devon & Cornwall
	Staffordshire
North Wales	Staffordshire
	Suffolk
	Lincolnshire
	Derbyshire
	Norfolk
	Devon & Cornwall
	Essex
North Yorkshire	Gloucestershire
	Warwickshire
	Wiltshire
	West Mercia
	Dorset
	Avon and Somerset
	Devon & Cornwall

Northamptonshire	Leicestershire
	Sussex
	Kent
	Cheshire
	Essex
	Cambridgeshire
	Bedfordshire
Northumbria	South Yorkshire
	Cleveland
	Durham
	Humberside
	West Yorkshire
	South Wales
	Merseyside
Nottinghamshire	Lancashire
	South Wales
	Kent
	Derbyshire
	Staffordshire
	Essex
	Humberside
South Wales	Lancashire
	Nottinghamshire
	Humberside
	Gwent
	Durham
	South Yorkshire
	Northumbria
South Yorkshire	Northumbria
	Durham
	South Wales
	Humberside
	West Yorkshire
	Lancashire
	Cleveland
Staffordshire	North Wales
	Derbyshire
	Essex
	Suffolk
	Lincolnshire
	Kent
	Norfolk

Suffolk	Devon & Cornwall
	North Wales
	West Mercia
	Staffordshire
	Dorset
	Lincolnshire
	Cumbria
Surrey	Thames Valley
	Hertfordshire
	Wiltshire
	Gloucestershire
	Hampshire
	Cambridgeshire
	Avon and Somerset
Sussex	Northamptonshire
	Leicestershire
	Cheshire
	Kent
	Cambridgeshire
	Hampshire
	Avon and Somerset
Thames Valley	Hertfordshire
	Surrey
	Cambridgeshire
	Hampshire
	Wiltshire
	Bedfordshire
	Avon and Somerset
Warwickshire	Gloucestershire
	Dorset
	Wiltshire
	Avon and Somerset
	West Mercia
	North Yorkshire
	Hampshire
West Mercia	Dorset
	Devon & Cornwall
	Suffolk
	Warwickshire
	Cumbria
	Cheshire
	Avon and Somerset

West Midlands	Greater Manchester
	Cleveland
	Merseyside
	West Yorkshire
	Northumbria
	South Yorkshire
	Metropolitan Police
West Yorkshire	Greater Manchester
	South Yorkshire
	Northumbria
	Cleveland
	South Wales
	Lancashire
	Merseyside
Wiltshire	Avon and Somerset
	Hampshire
	Gloucestershire
	Warwickshire
	Cambridgeshire
	Cheshire
	Dorset

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn y Gymraeg, ni fydd oedi mewn ymateb.