

## Where are the police?

### Extract from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's Value for Money Profiles on variations in police force staffing

HMIC has asked the public what they most want to know about police. The answer is clear. They want to know where nearly 160,000 full officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) actually are, and what they do.

### What can the profiles tell you?

Overall there are over 243,000 police staff in the 43 forces – around 143,800 full officers, 16,500 PCSOs and 82,190 civilian support staff. Staff account for about 80 percent of all police spending.

### How officers and staff spend their time:

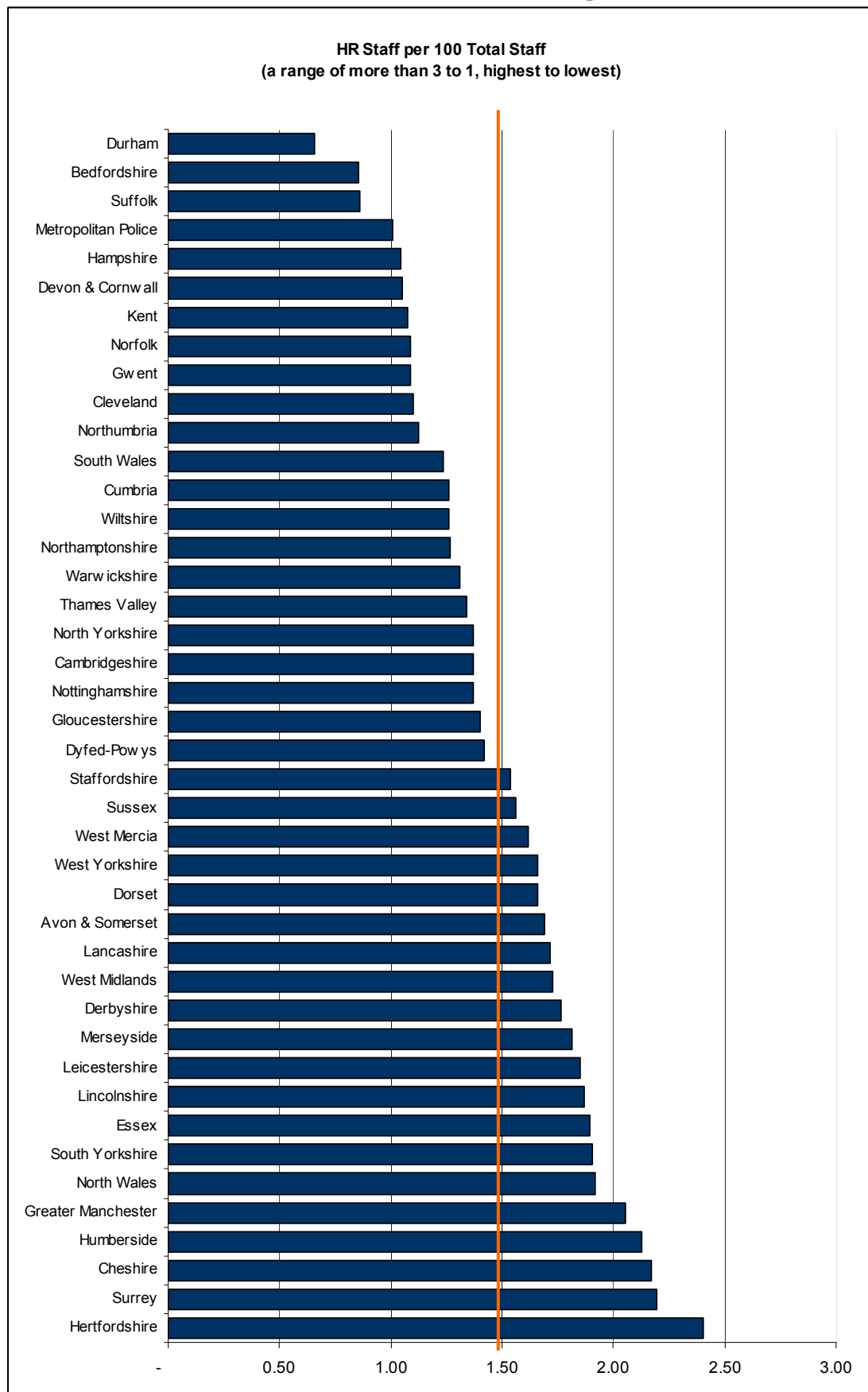
<b>Aiding the public</b>	<b>47%</b>
• Working in the community	36%
• Policing roads	4%
• Taking 999 calls and tasking (control room)	7%
<b>Dealing with criminals</b>	<b>31%</b>
• Investigating crime (for example CID)	13%
• Specialist functions (such as air support, firearms, dogs)	4%
• Gathering intelligence	4%
• Processing forensic evidence	2%
• Preparing cases for court (criminal justice)	5%
• Holding people in custody	3%
<b>Helping to support</b>	<b>22%</b>
• Operational Support (including planning, estates, vehicles)	8%
• Business Support (including HR, finance, IT)	11%
• Training	2%
• Other (such as catering and stores/supplies)	1%

The profiles show that there are wide variations in costs and the use of staff between forces. Some forces have:

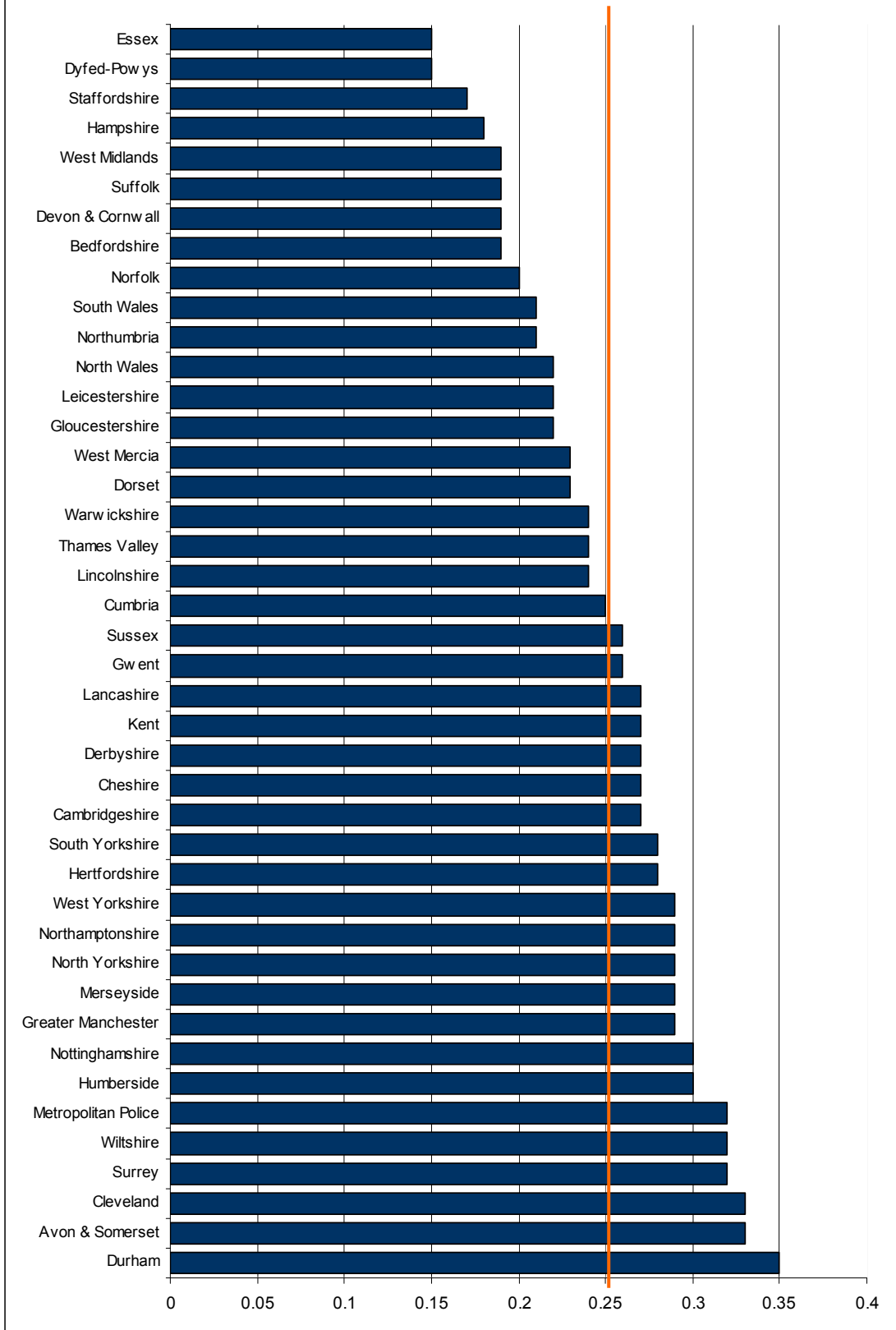
- more than three times as many HR staff per 100 total staff as others.
- more than twice as many control room staff per 1,000 residents as others.
- more than three times as many PCSOs per 1,000 residents as others.

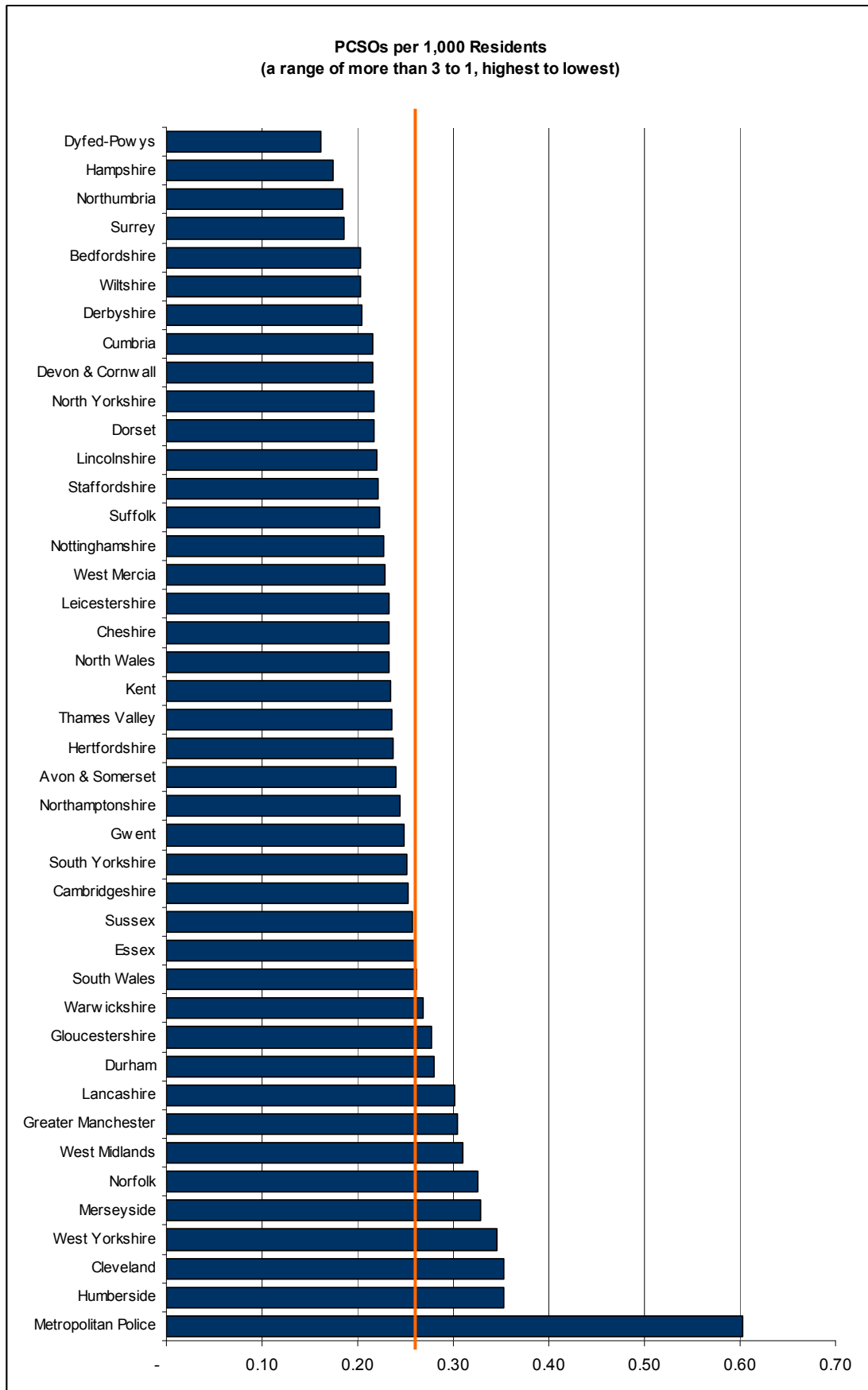
more than twice as many community officers per 1,000 residents as others.

## Police force variations in staffing

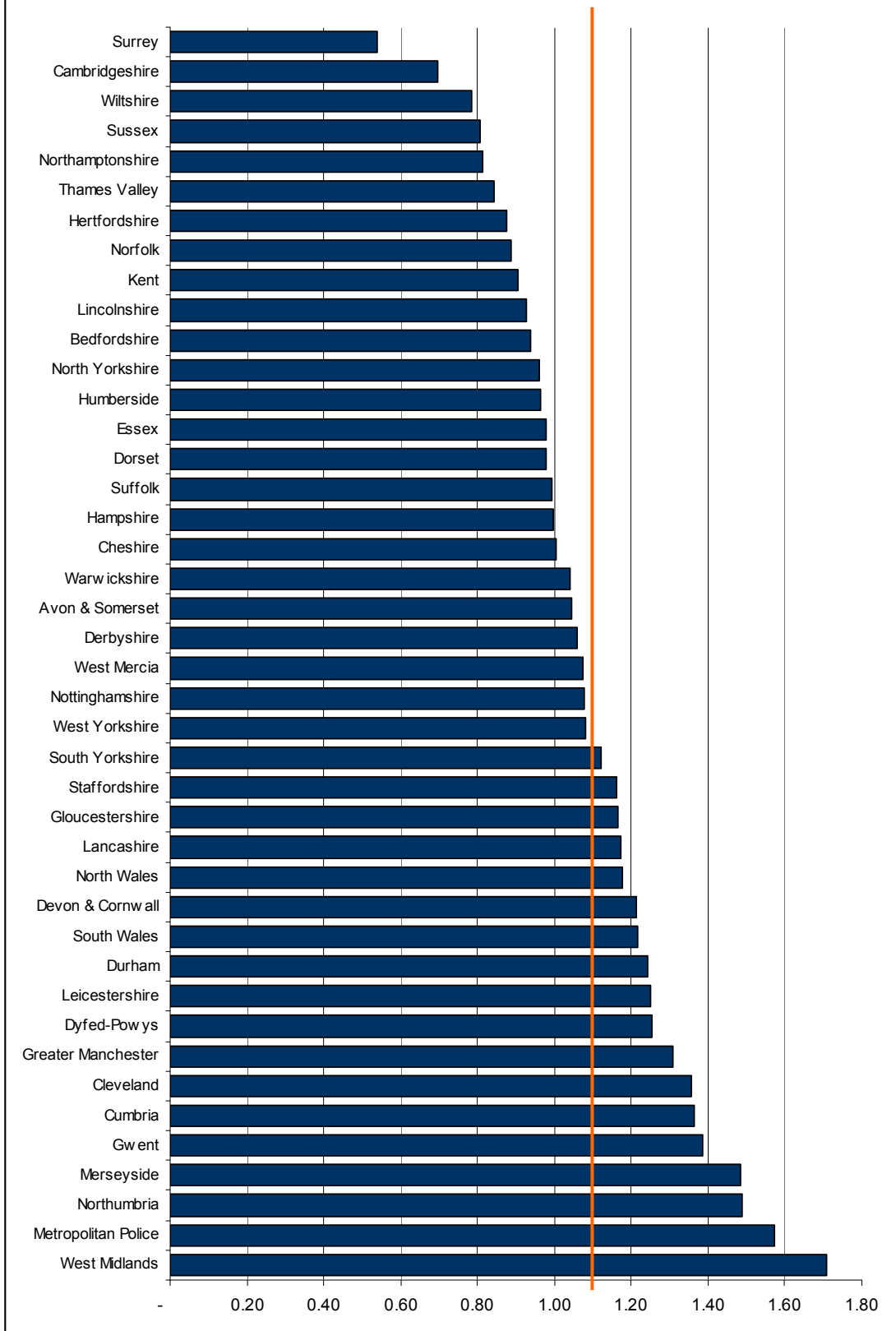


**Control Room Staff per 1,000 Residents**  
 (a range of more than 2 to 1, highest to lowest)





**Community Officers per 1,000 Residents**  
 (a range of more than 2 to 1, highest to lowest)



This information is available in alternative languages and formats on request.

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This information is also available from the HMIC website:  
<http://hmic.gov.uk>

Published March 2010

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