

What's in it for you? We ask our Special Constables



"It's not just about wearing a uniform. I'm giving back to my community."

Derek Baxter, Special Constable and Butcher



"I feel lucky to work with a wide range of people. It is very rewarding."

Julie Finlayson, Special Constable and Cabin Crew Manager



**Interested in applying?
JOIN US as a Police Volunteer?**

Find out more and download an application from:
www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/special-constables/

Email us at: policeofficerrecruitment@scotland.police.uk

DISCOVER A NEW SIDE OF YOU

**JOIN US
AS A POLICE VOLUNTEER**

Your guide to becoming a police volunteer.



#ANewYou



Give back to your community and discover a new side of you

Did you know you can volunteer for Police Scotland as a special constable in just a couple of hours a week?

Special constables are volunteers who have full police powers and assist regular officers on the beat and in the heart of our communities.

Our special constables come from all walks of life – they are professionals, parents, taxi drivers, teachers and students and many more like-minded people who want to challenge themselves.

What's more, special constables are only required to clock a minimum of 96 hours per year and you can choose when you use these hours so voluntary commitments can easily be balanced with work and family life.

Who can join as a special constable?

There's no typical special constable. Your success will depend on who you are as a person, not your background or age. Your attitude, enthusiasm, honesty and commitment are extremely important to us.

However, there are some eligibility criteria that must be met:

- You must be 18 years of age to be appointed, although you can apply at 17.5 years of age.
- You must be physically and mentally able to undertake police duties with a Body Mass Index between 18-30.
- You must not have an occupation or business interest which will be considered to be a conflict of interest with the role of a special constable.
- You must meet the mandatory national eyesight standard.
- Only applications from British citizens, EU/EEA nationals, Commonwealth citizens, or foreign nationals with indefinite leave to remain in the UK will be accepted. You should also have been a resident in the UK for a minimum of three years immediately prior to application.

We are committed to all 'Positive about Disabled People' standards and are proud to be accredited by Jobcentre Plus, with the double tick symbol. In terms of recruitment this means we will interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for a job vacancy and consider them on their abilities.

What does a special constable do?

As a voluntary special constable you will be trained to the same standard and hold identical powers to police officers. The role is diverse with special constables doing anything from policing national and local events to attending a road accident.

Special constables provide an excellent bridge between the police service and the public, representing both the community within the police service and the police service within local communities.

Our special constables develop and exercise valuable leadership, problem solving, decision making, team working and communication skills. Induction training will be provided and is available in two structures designed to meet the needs and availability of the individual.

The recruitment process

The application process to become a special constable is split into a number of stages:

- Submit application form
- Standard entrance test
- Fitness assessment
- Interview
- Vetting
- Medical screening
- Substance misuse screening

Police Scotland host regular candidate briefing sessions across the country for those who are currently eligible and interested in volunteering to become one of our special constables.

Details of these sessions can be found on our website:

www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/special-constable-events