**Special Constabulary – FAQs**

**Am I eligible to apply?**

Our Eligibility criteria is detailed in full on our website. However if you have any questions which we have not answered, please feel free to contact us directly.

**What is the recruitment process?**

First step will be an on-line application process which entails several on-line tests and an application form. All tests must be successfully completed before you can complete the application form. Following successful completion of the application process you will be contact by HR to take part in the remaining elements of the recruitment process, details of which are on our website.

**Proof of Qualification**
You will be required to upload and attach your relevant Degree or Level 3 or equivalent Certificate before you submit your application. If you do not have a copy of this you will need to obtain one from the appropriate educational establishment. If your Degree (or Level 3 qualification) was achieved outside of the UK, you must achieve ratification from a Higher Education Establishment within the UK to evidence your qualification is recognised at Degree standard (or level 3 standard).

**I don’t have level 3 qualification, can I still apply?**

Yes, you can still apply for the role of Special Constable however you will be required to complete the online verbal reasoning and calculation assessment.

**What do the on-line tests consist of:**

If you do not have a Level 3 qualification or above you must also successfully pass a verbal reason and calculation test. This will test your academic ability to Level 3. If you successfully complete the above tests, but if you fail in another part of the recruitment process, you will not be required to retake these tests again, should you wish to re-apply after 6 months.

There are 2 tests that every applicant must complete (regardless of qualifications), these are a Situational Judgement test and a Behavioural Style Questionnaire. Both of these must be passed in order to continue in the application process.

**Can I decide to withdraw from the recruitment process at any point?**

The short answer is yes you can. Policing is an exciting but equally challenging role, which is not for everyone. However, we do ask that all prospective Special Constables fully consider these challenges and their suitability before submitting their application.

**If I fail at any point during the recruitment process, can I resit?**

If you fail at any point in the process, the force will notify you. While it is not possible to complete a resit, it will be possible to re-apply within six months following notification.

**What will happen should an applicant fail to attend an appointment?**

In the case of applicants who fail to attend any appointments during the process, without prior notification and identifying a satisfactory reason, we reserve the right to withdraw them from the process.

**Where will I study?**

All face to face delivery will take place on police premises within the South Wales Police area. Self-study and on-line learning will be carried out remotely.

**How long will I be on probation for?**

Your appointment will be subject to a two year probationary period, during which time you must complete all elements of your training and be certified as independent patrol.

**Will I get paid?**

Special Constables do not get paid as they work on a voluntary basis. You will however be able to claim back any expenses incurred during the course of your duty for example travelling expenses.

**Will wear the same uniform as a police officer?**

Uniforms for Special Constables are exactly the same as police officer uniforms, except their epaulettes will be marked SC (Special Constable).

**Can special constables drive police vehicles?**

Yes.  Once Special Constables have completed a driver training course they are able to drive police vehicles.

**If I have a disability can I still apply?**

South Wales Police welcomes applications from people with disabilities.

If you consider yourself to have a disability, please inform us of the type of adjustments you might need to assist you in participating in the recruitment and selection process. South Wales Police will try to make the reasonable adjustments required where practicable.

**Can you become a special constable if you wear glasses or contact lenses?**

If you successfully reach the medical examination stage of recruitment, you will have to undergo an eye test. New recruits must have at least 6/12 vision in their right or left eye, or at least 6/6 vision in both eyes. Those who wear glasses, spectacles or contact lenses must have at least 6/36 vision in both eyes without wearing their glasses, spectacles or contact lenses.

**I am epileptic – can I still apply?**

You can apply to become a Special Constable as long as you have not had an epileptic attack or taken medication for the illness within the last two years. Your doctor will need to supply a medical report for clarification.

**I have diabetes – can I still apply?**

Yes as long as your diabetes is under control. Your doctor will need to supply a medical report for clarification

**Is there a height restriction?**

No, there is no minimum or maximum height.

**I am not a British citizen – will this affect my application?**

You can still apply to become a Special Constable as long as you are an EC/EEA national, a Commonwealth citizen, or foreign national with no restrictions on your stay in the United Kingdom. You must have lived in the UK for the past three years.

Foreign nationals and UK citizens who have lived abroad may have to wait some time for security and vetting clearance.

**I turn 18 just after the closing date – can I still apply?**

No, you must be 18 when the application is submitted.

**I have a criminal record – can I still apply?**

You may still be eligible to join the police service if you have minor convictions/cautions, but there are certain offences and conditions that will make you ineligible.