**Special Constabulary - FAQs**

**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 as defined by Equality Act 2010 i.e. a person is disabled under this Act if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term (over 12 months) adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

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.

Please note that once a conditional job offer has been made, an applicant will be asked to attend a health screening where appropriate, which will require them to meet the health criteria intrinsic to the functions of that role where specified with or without reasonable adjustment.

**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.

**What happens if my application is unsuccessful?**

You can reapply to join South Wales Police six months from the date of your notification letter, but only if we are currently recruiting

**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. This includes anyone who has received a formal caution in the last five years, committed a violent crime or public order offence.