

Job of The Week

Police Officer

Key Skills

- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- knowledge of public safety and security
- negotiation skills for keeping people safe
- excellent verbal communication skills
- leadership skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- sensitivity and understanding for dealing with traumatic situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages
- the ability to understand people's reactions

Salary

£19,164 - £41,130

Working hours

37-40 per week
Evenings/ weekends/ bank
holidays/ shifts

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Police Officer

Apprenticeship

You could start by doing a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA). It's a 3 year work-based programme that leads to a degree in Professional Policing Practice.

If you want to work in non-emergency response situations you could do a serious and complex crime investigator degree apprenticeship.

In this role, as well as police forces you could also be employed by organisations like:

The National Crime Agency
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
The Ministry of Defence

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

Volunteering

You can get a taste of what it's like to work with the police by volunteering as a special constable or in the mini police or police cadets. You could also get paid work as a police community support officer (PCSO) before applying for police officer training

Restrictions and Requirements

You'll need to pass enhanced background checks and be over 18 years of age
You will also need to pass a fitness test

College

You could gain some of the skills and knowledge you need to apply directly or through the degree apprenticeship route by doing a course like:

- Level 3 National Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services
- Level 3 Certificate in Public Services
- Level 3 Diploma in Policing

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:
4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 or equivalent, for a level 3 course

University

With a degree in any subject you apply to:

- the Degree Holder programme
- the Police Now graduate leadership scheme

Alternatively you could self-fund a Professional Policing Degree before applying to join a force. You are not guaranteed a job at the end of the course. Instead, you have to apply for probationary constable roles within 5 years of completing this degree.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:
2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree



Career path and progression

There are clearly defined ranks in the service which you can move through with experience as well as taking additional examinations. There are opportunities to specialise in a particular type of policing, for example:

- criminal investigation department (CID), anti-fraud or road traffic
- drugs or firearms
- counter-terrorism
- air support or underwater search
- dog-handling or mounted policing

With experience, you may be able to apply for promotion to Sergeant, Inspector or Chief Inspector.

In the CID you'll also have the title of Detective added to your rank, for example Detective Sergeant or Detective Chief Inspector.

Day to Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- investigate crimes and offences
- interview suspects and make arrests
- give evidence in court
- respond to calls for help from the public
- control traffic and crowds at large public events and gatherings
- advise the public on personal safety and crime prevention
- promote respect for people in relation to their race, diversity and human rights

Working conditions

You could work on a patrol or at a police station

Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers. It will be physically and emotionally demanding. You may need to wear a uniform.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Police officers (sergeant and below)	
Weekly Pay £910	Annual Pay £47,320
Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £23
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -0.2%	Replacement 38.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 400 jobs. In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 65,100 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Public admin. & defence Computer programming, etc Sport & recreation Rental & leasing Metal products</p>	
More info	Clear card

Senior police officers	
Weekly Pay £1,310	Annual Pay £68,120
Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £33
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 4.8%	Replacement 47.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 4.8% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs. In the same period, 47.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,000 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Public admin. & defence</p>	
More info	Clear card

Police community support officers	
Weekly Pay £600	Annual Pay £31,200
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -0.2%	Replacement 38.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 0 jobs. In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 7,300 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Public admin. & defence</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Police officers (sergeant and below)

Police officers (Sergeant and below) co-ordinate and undertake the investigation of crimes, patrol public areas, arrest offenders and suspects and enforce law and order. Officers of the British Transport Police operate within the specialised police service for the railway network across Britain.

- Common tasks in this job:
- receives instructions from senior officers and patrols an assigned area on foot, horseback, motorcycle, motor car or boat to check security and enforce regulations;
 - directs and controls traffic or crowds at demonstrations and large public events;
 - investigates complaints, crimes, accidents, any suspicious activities or other incidents;
 - interviews suspects, takes statements from witnesses and stops, searches and/or arrests suspects;

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Police community support officers

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) support the local police force by patrolling the streets to provide a visible and reassuring presence and to tackle a range of crime and disorder problems. PCSOs are also attached to the British Transport Police who operate the specialised police service for the railway network across Britain.

- Common tasks in this job:
- patrols a geographic area to monitor and deter criminal and anti-social activity and disorderly conduct;
 - assists police officers at crime scenes and major events;
 - carries out house-to-house enquiries;
 - provides crime prevention advice and helps to support victims of crime;

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Senior police officers

Senior police officers plan, organise, direct and co-ordinate the resources and activities of a specific geographical or functional area of generalised or specialised police work. Senior officers of the British Transport Police direct the specialised police service for the railway network across Britain.

- Common tasks in this job:
- liaises with senior officers to determine staff, financial and other short- and long-term needs;
 - plans, directs and co-ordinates general policing for an area or functional unit;
 - directs and monitors the work of subordinate officers;
 - establishes contacts and sources of information concerning crimes planned or committed;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[How to become a police officer | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

[Are you eligible to become a police officer? | Lincolnshire Police \(lincs.police.uk\)](#)

[UK police forces | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

[Want to become a police officer? | Join The Police \(joiningthepolice.co.uk\)](#)

[Joining as a PCSO | College of Policing](#)

[Police Apprenticeship and Traditional Entry | Join The Police \(joiningthepolice.co.uk\)](#)

[Uniformed Public Services Courses at Boston College](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

An Officer with second language skills



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K33_hc0W

Becoming Police Officer



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvY6z0xPM/A>

Degree Apprenticeship



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpa1fq_MCUQ

A day in the life



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLI_2h7uBMD

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