



Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

Freedom of Information Act

Request Response

No. 03072015-1

Question

Under the FOI Act can you please provide the following information:

1. How many Special Constables were registered with your Force as at 01.06.15 ?
2. What was the attrition rate for your Special Constabulary for the last reported 12 months (please define if any left to join the regulars) ?
3. What was the total number of hours worked by your Special Constables for the last reported 12 month period ?
4. How many of your Special Constabulary currently have Independent Patrol Status (as defined by the Home Office)?
5. Please list each different role description of your Special Constabulary officers and the Department that they work in?
6. Please describe any plans to increase the number of Special Constables and/or roles to be undertaken in the future?

Answer

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by this Department.

1. How many Special Constables were registered with your Force as at 01.06.15 ?

The Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission set out its strategic goal of protecting and enhancing the number of front line police officers. As part of this ambition, Northamptonshire Police now has more Special Constables per head of the population than any other force in the country and we have almost doubled the size of the Special Constabulary from 240 in 2013 to over 462 and we hope to have over 700 by the end of 2015.

2. What was the attrition rate for your Special Constabulary for the last reported 12 months (please define if any left to join the regulars) ?

The attrition rate for our Special Constabulary over the last 12 month period is 1.8% with the number of Specials leaving to joining the regulars during this period being 46.

3. What was the total number of hours worked by your Special Constables for the last reported 12 month period ?

*Throughout 2014, the **Special Constabulary contributed over 100,000 policing hours** to the county, which was **a 43% increase** on the previous year.*

4. How many of your Special Constabulary currently have Independent Patrol Status (as defined by the Home Office)?

Currently the number of Specials who have independent patrol status is 124.

5. Please list each different role description of your Special Constabulary officers and the Department that they work in?

The different roles within the Special Constabulary and their descriptions are as follows:

Role	Role description
Special Chief Officer-Special Constabulary Chief Officer	Manages, develops & supports S/Chf Insp, supports Chief Officer Group as the Subject Matter Expert regarding Specials and helps utilise & develop the Special Constabulary to meet the strategic needs of the force.
Special Chief Inspector-Special Chief Inspector	Helps coordinate, manage & develop S/Insp, supports the regular OCU Commander in using & developing Specials to meet the Operational Command Unit strategic needs
Special Inspector-Special Inspector	Manages & supports S/Sgts, supports Regular Sector Insp in using Specials to meet Sector tactical needs
Special Sergeant-Special Sergeant	Mentors & develops Independent Special Constables, supports regular Sgts in utilising SCs for day to day policing tasks
Special Sergeant-Student Development Officer	Mentors & develops newly attested Non Independent Special Constables
Special Constable-Special Constable	Attested Specials - Both general duties supporting local policing (LRO,SCT, PIU, CID) or Role Specific (Parish Special Constable, Safer Roads Team, Rural Crime Team, Training Support etc)

Special Constable-Foundation in Training	Unattested Special Constables going through training
Parish Special Constable	To patrol the local community in line with an agreed patrol plan, providing reassurance and deterring crime and antisocial behaviour. To work with partners to build long term, sustainable solutions to crime and ASB issues in their area.

The majority of Special Constables support local policing as local response officers (LRO), Safety Community Officers and they also support the Prisoner Investigation Unit (PIU)

6. Please describe any plans to increase the number of Special Constables and/or roles to be undertaken in the future?

Specials are at the heart of The Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission’s ambition to increase the amount of frontline, visible policing in our county. We will deliver the biggest increase of the Special Constabulary seen anywhere in modern times. Already the largest in the country per head of population, we are set, by the end of the Commissioner’s first term, to more than treble the Special Constabulary to 900; this expansion will massively enhance the efforts of our ‘protected’ 1,220 regular police officers. As part of the expansion, in addition to the traditional ‘General Duties Special Constable’, we have developed a new role, the Parish Special Constable, to specifically address the concerns and problems which residents tell us are blighting our rural communities. This means issues such as metal theft, fly-tipping, speeding and hare coursing can now be robustly and sustainably prevented and policed by a locally dedicated resource. This exciting new role gives people the chance to use their passion and experiences to protect their own rural community. Parish Special Constables are dedicated to policing an area of their choice and are part of the local Safer Community Team. They will work with local town/parish councils, community groups and local people to identify and resolve the issues that matter most to the local community. Parish Special Constables patrol the area in uniform, speaking to people, providing prevention advice and reassurance and discouraging crime and anti-social behaviour. Our application process to become a Special Constable in Northamptonshire is one of the most streamlined nationally, meaning now really has never been a better time to join. Additionally, we are helping communities attract their own Parish Special Constables by running recruitment events in local pubs and village halls across the county.

<http://northantspolicespecials.co.uk/>

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Iain Britton, Chief Executive, Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, West Wing, Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton, NN4 0JQ

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF