

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply to become a PC, PCSO or SPC without qualifications

Yes – Qualifications are not part of the essential criteria therefore you are more than welcome to still apply. Without qualifications, you will be required to complete an online Maths and English assessment as part of the assessment process.

Is the process the same for someone looking to transfer from another force?

No - there is a separate process for this. You will not be required to take the Maths and English or complete the Situational Judgement Test.

Is there is an average timescale from application to start date?

We usually have monthly PC intakes (on average) but its dependant on assessment centres, vetting, references and other checks so it's not that easy to say specific timescales. Posting requests are requested via HR based on the force establishment therefore recruitment do not the location request until approx. 10/12 weeks ahead of the intake start date.

Is BTP compatible with Army Reserves?

We are part of the Armed Forces Covenant.

What do the typical shift patterns look like for a BTP police officer?

Depends on location and job role - but we operate on a 6 on and 4 off shift pattern with a mixture of Early, Late and Night shifts (nights aren't at every location though).

What is the training process for special constables?

The training is 11 weeks long. Training is typically delivered during weekends to fit around other commitments. Training will be down in London and online.

Prior to starting the bleep test, what does the warmup consist of?

Warm up is up to level 3. Then a short break (stretches) and then run to level 5.4

Will my conditional offer expire after 12 months of awaiting in the conditional offer pool?

Yes – we will of course look to get you started as quickly as we possible however if it reaches 12 months from your conditional offer date and you have not commenced on an intake, you will be required to reapply.

How many attempts do I get to take my fitness test?

You have 3 attempts however you must have successfully passed within 6 months.

Is it possible to access practice materials for each step of the application process e.g., situational judgements?

The SJT (Situational Judgement Test) is a standard assessment, but it's set within a British Transport Police context. The scenarios are tailored to reflect situations you might encounter in the role, but the format and what it's assessing - your judgement and decision-making; are consistent with typical SJTs.

Is the interview similar to typical job interviews or do they involve something specific?

They are aligned to the CVF framework, Mixture of scenario and competency-based questions.

What is the difference between BTP and regular police force?

Both BTP and Home Officer police officers have the same police powers. However, BTP are specifically responsible for policing the railway network.

I have not lived in the UK for 3 years, can I still apply?

No – Unfortunately not, you can apply once you meet the criteria – detailed on the job advert.

Is there an upper age limit?

No - There is no upper age limit.

I do not have a driving license, can I still apply to become a PC?

Holding a valid full UK driving licence is essential for all outer London areas within B Division.

Do you cover travel costs to the assessment centres in London?

No - Travel to assessment centres is at an individual's own expense. We encourage you to plan ahead as we are unable to provide free parking at our assessment centre venues.

Can I transfer my results from a previous assessment centre with another Force?

Unfortunately, as we operate a bespoke assessment process, scores are not transferable. This is why we agree for you to have a live application with another Force.

Where will I complete my training?

Highbury & Islington is where our training centre is located. Depending on what role you are applying for, the training duration/schedule will differ however the location will remain the same.

Is there home learning as part of the PC training schedule?

Yes – that's correct, there will be a proportion of the training element delivered remotely. Your recruit trainer will be able to confirm exactly what your intake program will look like once you commence on your intake.

Can I request to take the alternative fitness test?

This option is only available if you have an underlying medical condition. Our Occupational Health team will assess and advise on this based on appropriate medical evidence.