

Metropolitan Specials

Special Constables have the same powers as a regular officer, they have received the same training and are taught the same legislation but they also have the day job.

My name is Jan Richter, I'm 42 years old, I'm a graphic designer and I'm a special constable.

The reason I wanted to be a special was because I wanted to give back to the community and it was different to my day job.

There's really a variety on what you see day-to-day, no days really the same. I think the skills I learn as a special is to listen and I think it's great when I'm in presentations amongst sort-of 20,30 people, I'm not phased by the amount of people that I'm talking too. I think being a special has made me far more confident.

All sorts of people can become special constables and they can bring their expertise and their experience from their day jobs into policing and like-wise learn lot's of things from their police work and take back into their day job.

My name is Stanley Pan, I'm 31, my day job is cabin crew. I've been a special constable since December 2008.

The reason I wanted to become a special constable, I like helping people and giving back to the society and it's an extraordinary experience.

I think people can recognise you, what your doing especially people when they find out you're a special they really appreciate it because you can give up your own time to serve the community and give them support and make yourself visible. It's a great opportunity to meet colleagues from different backgrounds, have fun and also it's a completely new skill from your day job.

Special constables can get involved in every duty; they can work with the response teams, they can work safer neighborhood team's response teams, youth engagement teams for children. They can do every duty a regular officer does.

My name is Jennifer Williams, I'm doing my PHD and I've been a special for 18 months. I think the best thing about being a special constable is that you do something different every day. It's challenging, it's exciting its fun and I get to meet great people.

Special constables are taught a lot, they do officer safety training as a form of self-defense. They do emergency life support, which teaches them CPR which they can take back to their families and their work place and they also experience lots of different things and see things that they would never see unless they were a police officer.

It's been a really busy evening, we made an arrest for some drugs crime in a local council

estate, just going to write up my notes for the rest of the day and then I think I'm going to head off.

Every day when I wake up I feel something great about me. At least I have made something different.

I think that the most rewarding thing is to help people that most need you, which are really the victim's that you meet when you're out on duty.

You see people sometimes such tragic situations and you see them in the end of the incident somehow being comforted by what you've done. I think that's just an amazing feeling and a great feeling to come home to.