



## Special Constable Self Assessment Questionnaire

Considering the important role and nature of work you are applying for, it is essential that Thames Valley Police (TVP) ensures specific entry criteria are met. This form has been designed to assist you to understand our requirements, answer any concerns you may have and help you decide if this is an appropriate volunteering role for you.

### Am I eligible?

There are four sections to this self assessment questionnaire. Red answers will stop your application from proceeding. Yellow answers may stop your application from proceeding or may delay your application whilst further investigation takes place.

This questionnaire is for your personal use only. If any issues are identified on the second or third lists you should contact the Recruitment Team for advice.

### Section 1 – Basic Eligibility Questions

If you tick a red box answer to any of the following questions you are unfortunately ineligible to apply for the role of Special Constable.

| Question   | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>Vetting Questions: In answering these questions, please include 'spent convictions' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, and traffic convictions (other than parking fines).</b>  |     |    |
| Do you have an existing County Court/Tribunal Judgment (CCJ) made against you and / or have you entered into an Individual Voluntary Agreement (IVA)?  |     |    |
| Have you been registered bankrupt and your bankruptcy debts discharged within the last three years or your bankruptcy debts have not been discharged?  |     |    |
| Have you ever committed an offence that has resulted in a prison sentence?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: treason, murder, manslaughter, rape, kidnapping?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: incest / intercourse with a girl under 13, buggery with a person under 16 or a person who has not consented, gross indecency?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for: espionage, terrorism, sabotage or any actions to overthrow/undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means or association with any organisation advocating such activities? |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: hostage taking, hi-jacking or torture or associated with any organisation advocating such activities?  |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for reckless or dangerous driving within the past ten years?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any driving offences causing "death by" reckless / dangerous driving?  |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for driving without insurance within the past five years?   |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for drink/drug driving within the past ten years?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for more than one offence of drink / drug driving or drunk in charge?  |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for failing to stop at an accident within the past five years?  |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for more than three endorsable traffic offences within the past five years?   |     |    |
| Have you been convicted or cautioned for driving whilst being disqualified within the past five years?   |     |    |

| Question  | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any public order offence (excluding PND (Penalty Notice Disorder) notices over two years old) such as involvement in riot, violent disorder or affray?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for grievous bodily harm (GBH)?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: Firearms offences and/or unlawful possession of weapons?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for a hate aggravated offence (Race, Religion, Belief, Sexual Orientation, Transgender, and Disability)?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for abuse or neglect of children?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: Offences which involve elements of dishonesty, corruption, substantial financial gain or serious loss to anyone including theft, fraud and deception?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for interference with the administration of justice or the investigation of offences?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for burglary and/or going equipped to steal?  |     |    |
| Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for any of the following: Serious involvement in drugs including possession of a Class A drug or more than one Class B drug and/or supplying drugs of any kind?   |     |    |
| Have you ever received a caution, conviction or PND (Penalty Notice Disorder) within the last 5 years for any offence except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drunk and disorderly</li> <li>• A minor drug offence</li> <li>• Common assault?</li> </ul>   |     |    |
| <b>Other Questions:</b>   |     |    |
| Are you a member of the British National Party (BNP), Combat 18, National Front or any similar organisations?   |     |    |
| Do you take an active part in politics and intend to continue these activities if successful with your application to become a Special Constable?   |     |    |
| Are you 18 years old or over?<br>You must be at least 18 in order to apply for the role of Special Constable.<br>There is no upper age limit for applying to the police service. But please bear in mind that the normal retirement age for police officers is 60 years and that new recruits are required to undertake a two-year probationary period.   |     |    |
| Have you previously submitted an application, either with Thames Valley Police or any other police force in England and Wales for the role of Special Constable, and been rejected within the last 6 months?  |     |    |
| Are you either a British citizen or residing in the UK free of restrictions?<br>To be eligible for appointment you must be a British citizen or member of the European Community or other states in the European Economic Area (EEA).<br>Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals are also eligible but only if they are resident in the UK free of restrictions. If you are a Commonwealth citizen or a foreign national, you will be required to provide proof that you have no restrictions on your stay in the UK. |     |    |
| If you are a member of Thames Valley Police staff have you completed your probationary period?<br>You can only apply to take on this additional role once you have completed your probationary period.  |     |    |

## Section 2 – Eligibility Questions

If you tick a yellow answer to any of the following questions you are not automatically ruled out from becoming a Special Constable but your application may need to be checked by the recruitment department before proceeding; you are advised to seek advice from the recruitment team at the earliest opportunity.

| Question   | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>Vetting Questions: In answering these questions, please include 'spent convictions' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, and traffic convictions (other than parking fines).</b>  |     |    |
| Have you ever been cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence?   |     |    |
| Have you ever been involved in any other criminal investigation?   |     |    |
| Have you been charged or summonsed for an offence that has not yet been dealt with?  |     |    |
| Do you have any relative or associate (including co-resident) who you know or have reason to believe has criminal convictions (excluding traffic convictions), OR is engaged in criminal activities, OR is a person who associates regularly with such persons?  |     |    |
| <b>Other Questions:</b>  |     |    |
| In the last three years, have you spent any continuous period of over one month outside of the UK?<br>Time spent abroad is unlikely to be a bar to recruitment however you may be asked to supply certificates of good conduct from the local police authorities of the countries you have visited. From experience this may take some time and involve some cost to you.  |     |    |
| Do you intend on continuing with any other employment for hire or gain or any other business interest when you apply to become a Special Constable?  |     |    |
| Do you or your spouse (unless separated) or close relative living with you have a financial interest in any license or permit relating to liquor, betting or gaming or the regulation of places of entertainment?  |     |    |
| Do you have any tattoos or piercings?<br>Tattoos (or piercings) are not a bar to appointment, however, some tattoos (or piercings) could potentially offend members of the public or colleagues, or could bring discredit to the Police Service - it depends on their size, nature, location and sometimes on the extent.  |     |    |
| Is your Body Mass Index (BMI) between 18 and 30?<br>This can be determined if you know your weight and your height. The actual calculation is your weight (in kilograms) divided by your height (in metres). Guidance and easy to use charts on how to calculate your BMI can be found on the NHS website.<br><b>You cannot be appointed to the role if your BMI (or body fat percentage) is outside the acceptable range.</b>   |     |    |
| Do you meet the <a href="http://www.college.police.uk/en/docs/Eyesight_standards_police_recruitment.pdf">Eyesight Standards</a> for police officers?<br><a href="http://www.college.police.uk/en/docs/Eyesight_standards_police_recruitment.pdf">http://www.college.police.uk/en/docs/Eyesight_standards_police_recruitment.pdf</a><br>If you do not meet the eyesight standards you cannot be appointed as a Special Constable. However, you may wish to consider laser eye surgery in order to meet the standards. Candidates, who would consider laser eye surgery, can apply and progress their application through the assessment stages to avoid spending money before knowing whether they are otherwise appointable to the role. |     |    |

### Section 3 – Role Considerations

Before committing to the application process, and a career as a Special Constable, here are some aspects of the role that you are strongly advised to consider:

| Question   | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>Where you will serve and your home address</b><br>Do you live within 20 miles of the station to which you wish to be posted?<br>Thames Valley Police will only pay mileage expenses up to 20 miles each way. This is also considered to be the maximum advisable distance between your Home address and base station for Health & Safety / welfare reasons.   |     |    |
| <b>24 hour, 365 days a year role</b><br>Being a Special Constable will often involve you being out and about on foot patrol, in all weathers and at all hours of the day (shifts cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year). You may be asked to work a variety of shifts including night work, weekends and bank holidays. The Special Constable role is not a weekday only role.<br>As a Special Constable, are you prepared to work shifts and unpredictable hours? |     |    |

| Question   | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>Standards of dress</b><br>Would you be able to put aside your own sense of style and dress and comply with the police uniform and dress code?<br>Please note: The police uniform and dress code makes allowances for items of religious dress.  |     |    |
| <b>Employment / Other Volunteer Roles</b><br>Are you intending to undertake paid employment (or other voluntary work) whilst being a Special Constable?<br>In most cases this will not be a problem; however you should be aware that there are some jobs (volunteer roles) which are known as “precluded occupations”. These are roles where there is potential for a conflict of interest to arise between the job and the role of Special Constable.<br>Some relevant examples are:<br>Precluded Occupations – Roles where you would not be allowed to be appointed as a Special Constable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar work</li> <li>• Door Staff</li> <li>• Custody visitor volunteer</li> </ul> Precluded Occupations – Roles where you may be allowed to be appointed as a Special Constable depending on the nature of the work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security work</li> <li>• Any role in the criminal justice sector</li> </ul> <b>This is not a definitive list. If you have any queries you should contact the Recruitment Department to discuss.</b> |     |    |
| <b>Effect on private life</b><br>Being a Special Constable means that sometimes, in your day-to-day private life, you have to put yourself on duty and take appropriate actions even when you are off duty.<br>Are you prepared for this?  |     |    |
| <b>Following rules</b><br>Could you follow strict rules and authority to carry out the needs of the service?   |     |    |
| <b>Fitness</b><br>The job can involve strenuous physical activity and it is important to maintain high fitness levels to ensure you can effectively protect yourself and others. Police officers (including Special Constables) are expected to take part in annual fitness tests.<br>Do you feel confident about continually maintaining a high level of fitness throughout your career as a Special Constable?   |     |    |
| <b>Training</b><br>You will be required to attend initial training upon appointment which will be every other weekend over 18 weeks. After the initial training you will be required to attend update training on a regular basis.<br>Are you able to make this professional development commitment?   |     |    |
| <b>Minimum Hours</b><br>It is expected that Special Constables will volunteer for a minimum of 18 hours per month.<br>Are you able to make this commitment?  |     |    |
| <b>Prepared to give evidence in court</b><br>Are you prepared to stand up and provide evidence in court?   |     |    |
| <b>Using initiative</b><br>Are you happy about working in a team, but also confident about taking the initiative when needed?  |     |    |
| <b>Paperwork</b><br>Are you able to complete paperwork and meticulously keep detailed records?   |     |    |
| <b>Dealing with difficult situations</b><br>You will have to deal with circumstances or scenes of a difficult or distressing nature e.g. road traffic collisions, child cruelty, sudden deaths.<br>Could you deal with traumatic and distressing situations with sensitivity and a level head?   |     |    |

If any of your answers in the third section fall into the yellow column, you may want to take some time to consider whether the role of Special Constable is right for you before proceeding to the application stage.

## Section 4 – Code of Ethics – Policing Principles

A draft Code of Ethics has been published by the College of Policing. (<http://www.college.police.uk/en/20972.htm>) This code sets out the principles and standards of behaviour we expect to see from police professionals. It applies to every individual who works in policing, whether a warranted officer (including Special Constable), police staff, volunteer or someone contracted to work in a police force.

If you tick any red answers or have any questions or doubts over whether you can comply with the principles and standards set out below then you should not submit an application.

| Question   | Yes | No | Maybe |
|--|-----|----|-------|
| <b>Accountability</b><br>Are you prepared to take ownership and full responsibility for your decisions, actions and omissions?   |     |    |       |
| <b>Fairness and respect</b><br>Can you act with self-control and tolerance, treating members of the public and colleagues with respect (including respect the rights of all individuals) and courtesy?   |     |    |       |
| <b>Honesty and integrity</b><br>Can you act with honesty and integrity at all times?<br>This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being sincere and truthful</li> <li>• Showing courage in doing what you believe to be right</li> <li>• Ensuring your decisions are not influenced by improper considerations of personal gain</li> <li>• Not knowingly making false, misleading or inaccurate oral or written statement in any professional context</li> <li>• Neither soliciting nor accepting the offer of any gift, gratuity or hospitality that could compromise your impartiality</li> <li>• Not using your position to inappropriately coerce any person or to settle personal grievances</li> </ul> |     |    |       |
| <b>Leadership</b><br>Can you take personal responsibility for promoting and reinforcing the principles and standards set out in the College of Policing Code of Ethics?  |     |    |       |
| <b>Objectivity</b><br>Can you use your training and experience to make objective decisions and use your best professional judgement?   |     |    |       |
| <b>Openness</b><br>Can you be open and transparent in all your actions and decisions?  |     |    |       |
| <b>Selflessness</b><br>Can you act in the public interest at all times?  |     |    |       |

If you tick any red answers or have any questions or doubts over whether you can comply with the principles and standards set out above then you should not submit an application.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Recruitment Team on 0845 2666677 (Option 4) or email [RecruitmentSpecialCo@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:RecruitmentSpecialCo@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)