

## What does a Police Officer do?

Police officers keep law and order, investigate crime, and support crime prevention.

## How do you become a Police Officer?

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role
- applying directly

You'll usually need for University Route:

- 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent

You'll usually need for College Route:

- Level 3 in Uniformed Services, Public Services or Policing

You'll usually need for Apprenticeship Route:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship

## Average Salary

From £19,164 to £42,413 (Average £30,378)

**The UK average salary is £28,758**

## Typical Working Week

37 to irregular

You could work: evenings / weekends / bank holidays;

**There are 37.5 hours in the average working week**

## Day-to-Day Tasks

As a Police Officer you might:

- respond to calls for help from the public
- investigate crimes and offences
- interview suspects and make arrests
- give evidence in court
- 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

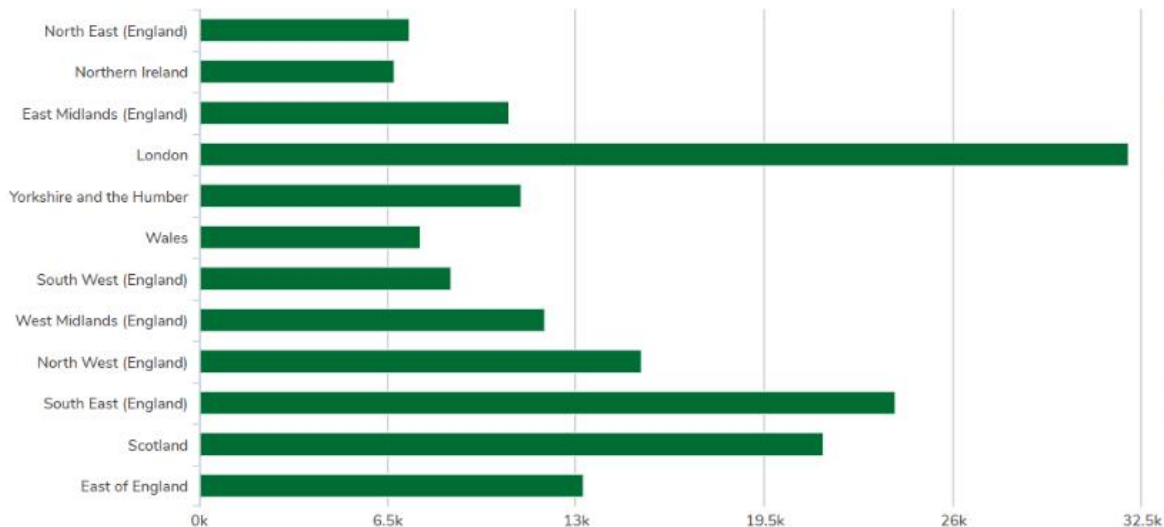
Working environment

- You could work on a patrol or at a police station.
- Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and physically and emotionally demanding.
- You may need to wear a uniform.

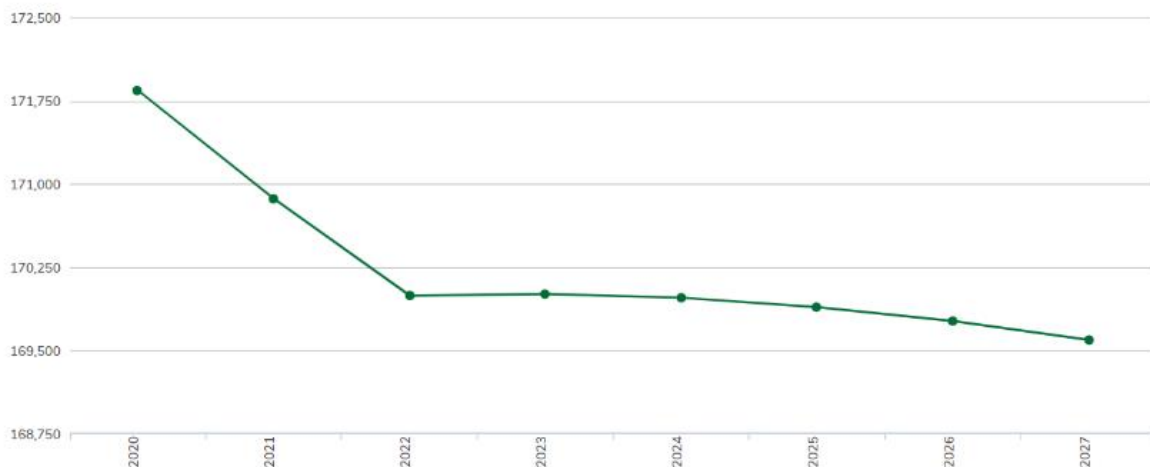
## For more information visit:

- [National Careers Service](#)
- [Prospects](#)
- [Career Pilot](#)
- [Icould](#)
- [Joining the police](#)
- [Unifrog Careers Library](#)

## Employment by region



## Future employment



**% Male and % Female**  
The UK workforce is 53% Male and 47% Female

**Future Employment**  
There will be more 0.2% fewer Police Officer jobs in 2027.

## Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

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

## Restrictions and Requirements

- You will need to pass enhanced background checks