



Durham  
Constabulary  
*Altogether Better Policing*

# Special Constabulary Annual Report 2014



Durham Special Constabulary,  
Police Headquarters,  
Aykley Heads, Durham.

## Executive Summary

Durham Special Constabulary Officers are an integral part of the Durham Constabulary team, delivering frontline policing in support of regular officers. Volunteering a minimum of 16 hours a month in a variety of roles the officers, drawn from the community, deliver real value to the communities of County Durham and Darlington.



In the last 12 months the 86 officers, the majority of whom have full time jobs outside of their policing role and include (amongst many others) Managers,

Teachers, Students, Service Engineer, Training Managers, Call Handlers, Shop Assistants, Social Workers, Nurses and Police Staff, have contributed over 22,000 duty hours in 4590 individual duty periods; an increase of over 3,000 on 2013 and based on National Value for Money (VfM) figures represents a return to our communities valued at over £350,000.

During calendar year 2014 the volunteers officers made 255 arrests of suspected offenders, attended 101 community events including Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings, attended over 400 domestic incidents providing support to victims and taking positive action against offenders, dealt with the search for and location of 83 missing persons, attended 709 Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and had direct contact with 513 victims of crime. Officers, including the Roads Policing Special Constables of the Cleveland & Durham Specialist Operations Unit Roads Policing Unit, attended 130 road traffic collisions ranging from minor “damage only” incidents to serious and fatal collisions, and seized 19 uninsured vehicles.

Officers have supported Farmwatch operations across the county, a Medieval Festival, International Cricket matches at Chester Le Street, the Tour De France, Barnard Castle Meet, Teesdale & Weardale Country Shows, HM Revenue & Customs joint operations, Remembrance Parades across the county and Lumiere amongst many other events, providing their services to the public for free. Whilst maintaining a focus on community based issues and events the Special Constables of Durham Constabulary have, over the last 12 months, widened their sphere of influence with officers diversifying into wider policing roles such as response, roads policing and tackling retail crime. Future growth opportunities include Safeguarding and Fraud Investigation. In order to continue development of skills within the Special Constabulary 242 training courses were delivered, providing officers with additional skills such as Serious and Complex Suspect Interviewing, Authorised Vehicle Examiner, PSU Level 2, Body Worn Video and Method of Entry.

In March Durham Constabulary hosted the National Special Constabulary Conference 2014 at the Radisson Blu hotel in Durham City. The conference was planned and delivered by the wider Durham Constabulary team, including Special Constabulary officers, and operational policing provided entirely by Special Constables. The conference saw high ranking police officers join Special Constabulary leaders from forces across the United Kingdom to showcase volunteering in policing and provide focus and support for the future. This was the first time Durham hosted the event and feedback from attendees rated the conference as one of the best to have been held.

With recruitment undertaken this year and further recruitment planned during 2015, Durham Special Constabulary look forward to contributing even more this coming year by widening delivery of support to policing priorities whilst maintaining focus on community policing which is at the heart of Durham Constabulary's priorities.

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## Deputy Chief Constable's Foreword

The Special Constabulary has a long and proud tradition as an integral part of policing since 1831.

Its relevance and importance to policing has never been so great as it is at the present time. As fully appointed officers, our 'Specials' are highly trained, continuously professionally developed and deployed in a growing number of operational roles.

The quality of our recruits and the breadth and depth of their knowledge and subsequent skill levels makes our Specials an invaluable asset to Durham Constabulary. As uniformed citizens in policing Specials also provide a valuable link with the communities they police....their communities.

As you will see from the pages that follow in this report, our Special Constabulary has made a great contribution to policing County Durham and Darlington. Our Specials, as individuals and as part of Team Durham should be justifiably proud of their achievements. We now need to build on this success, as a platform not a peak, to strengthen our Special Constabulary team, both in numbers and in experience to maximise the contribution they make to policing and to give them ongoing job satisfaction in this unique voluntary role.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment.



**Michael Banks**  
**Deputy Chief Constable**  
**National Lead for Citizens in Policing**



## Police & Crime Commissioners Introduction



I have endless admiration for those individuals who are our Special Constables as many of them already have full time employment and busy family lives as well as offering this voluntary commitment to keeping our communities safe.

The unique, specialist skills and knowledge which our Specials bring to the role, makes them vital assets to the Constabulary. They help the Constabulary to work effectively at all levels in our local communities, enabling services to be tailored to match local needs and find long term solutions to local issues.

This report sets out the wide range of achievements by the Special Constabulary whose contribution to local policing is vital and most welcome.

I was delighted that the recent recruitment campaign received a positive response allowing the Constabulary to grow the number of Specials and I welcome the new recruits and wish them well as they embark on their journey to become 'Special Constables'.

I wish the Special Constabulary well for the year ahead and I am encouraged by the positivity, enthusiasm and commitment to build on their success and strengthen their team. Finally I thank you for all your ongoing contribution to the successful policing of the force.

**Ronald Hogg**  
**Durham Police & Crime Commissioner**

## Chief Officer's Report

I am pleased to deliver this Durham Special Constabulary Annual Report for 2014, my first since being appointed Temporary Chief Officer in December following the retirement of Michael Cleasby.

2014 has been a year of challenge, change, opportunity and success across a broad arena of policing. The delivery of over 22,000 duty hours by the 86 members of Durham Special Constabulary represents a truly fantastic effort and a sound base on which to build in 2015.

Through 2014 we have welcomed 28 new members of the Special Constabulary and my sincere gratitude is extended to the Strategic Resourcing and Learning & Development teams for their efforts in delivering recruitment, training and support to the new officers as they embark on a challenging journey to earn the title "Special Constable".

In compiling this report I have been reminded of the significant effort expended by members of the Special Constabulary to support policing priorities across the force area throughout the year. With increasing constraints on policing budgets, changes in the demands placed on policing resources and a fast paced and dynamic operational tapestry it is obvious the importance of the Special Constabulary will continue to grow in the coming years. Whilst the Special Constabulary are not intended to replace paid police officers, nor should they, it is incumbent on Special Constables to support across departmental boundaries and geographical borders. 2014 has seen Durham Special Constabulary widen deployment options to target areas of policing not traditionally supported by the Special Constabulary such as Roads Policing and Crime Team whilst increasing force resilience through policing Special Events and providing additional resources during period of peak demand.

Whilst neighbourhood and community policing remain our core role and focus we must ensure that we are able to respond to the needs of the public by providing well trained, supported and developed officers who are ready, willing and able to deliver policing effect.

Throughout 2015 we will continue to build upon the successes already achieved to ensure we are well placed to meet the challenges of today, tomorrow and beyond. **Performance**, **Collaboration** and **Growth** are my strategic guidewords for 2015 and I look forward, along with our hardworking and dedicated Special Constabulary management team, to delivering continued success within Durham Special Constabulary.

**Dale A Checksfield**  
Temporary Chief Officer





## 2014 Facts and Figures

<b>Current Establishment:</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Recruited in 2014:</b>	<b>28 (15 male, 13 female)</b>
<b>Left<sup>1</sup> in 2014:</b>	<b>19 (15 male, 4 female)</b>

### Current Establishment by Rank:

<b>Temporary Chief Officer:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Special Chief Inspector:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Special Inspector:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Special Sergeant:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Special Constable:</b>	<b>69 (Including 37 Student Officers)</b>

### Duties and Hours:

<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>22,656</b>
<b>Training, Management &amp; Support Hours:</b>	<b>8,290</b>
<b>Duties completed:</b>	<b>4590</b>
<b>Average Duty Period:</b>	<b>4.94 hours</b>
<b>Average Hours per officer per year:</b>	<b>263 hours</b>
<b>Value for Money Contribution to Policing<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>£351,168</b>

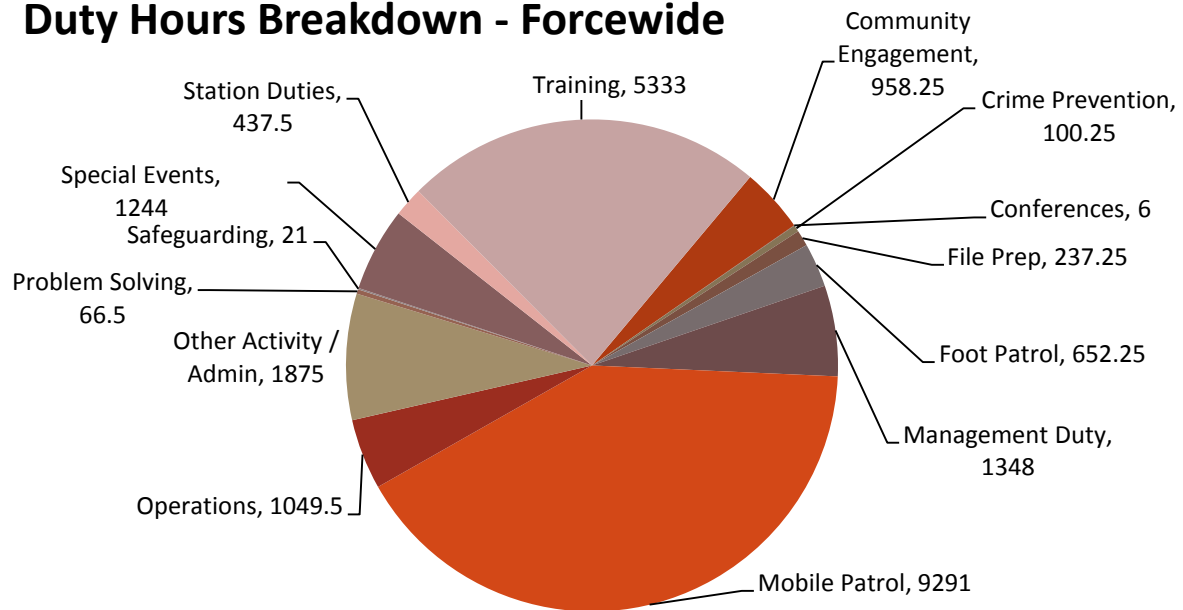


<sup>1</sup> Resigned, Transferred, Dismissed, Recruited to Regular / Staff Posts

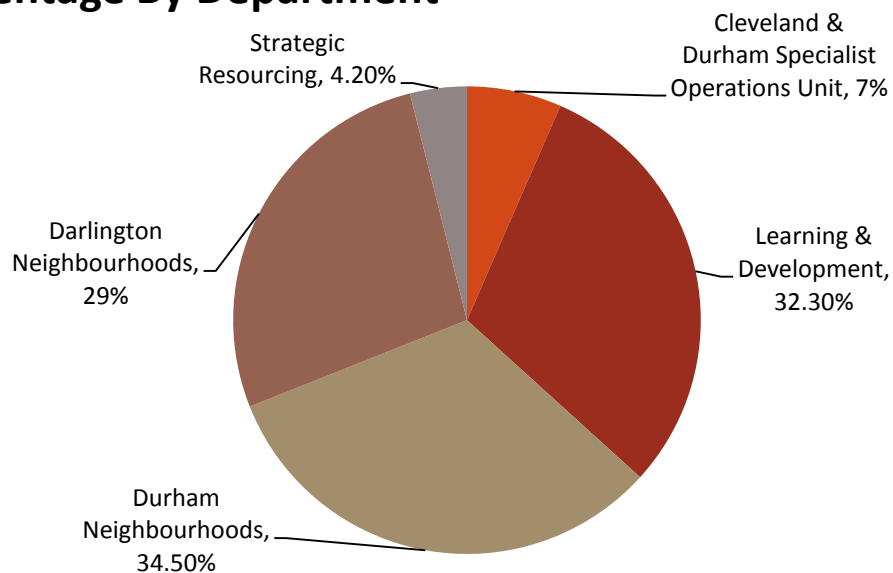
<sup>2</sup> Based on National Special Constabulary Vfm figure of £15.50 per hour

## 2014 Facts and Figures - Graphs

### Duty Hours Breakdown - Forcewide



### Percentage By Department





## Area Report – CDSOU SC Roads Policing Unit



perform a range of roads policing duties.

The 6 officers of the Special Constabulary Roads Policing Team, led by Special Sergeant Redmayne and supervised by Special Inspector Usher, have worked alongside their regular colleagues throughout 2014 to reduce the numbers of killed and seriously injured on the roads of County Durham and Darlington and deny criminals the use of our roads. Working alongside regular officers as well as single crewed the officers

Contributing over 1500 hours of roads focussed policing the team have dealt with Speed related and nuisance vehicle complaints raised through Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings offering education, advice and where necessary enforcement.

Working with regular colleagues from Cleveland and Durham Roads Policing Units to improve their skills, members of the SC Roads Policing team have undertaken training as Vehicle Examiners, Evidential Breath Analysis (CAMIC) operators, qualified in the use of Laser speed detection devices and 2 officers completed their Initial Phase Pursuit qualification building on their standard response authority to enable them to conduct the initial pursuit of a vehicle which fails to stop.



In 2015 the team plans to build on its previous success, increasing numbers and skills with officers continuing to complete their Roads Policing portfolios and undertaking further training to ensure they continue to support casualty reduction and enable them to target criminals using the roads to travel or commit crime.



## Area Report – Durham Neighbourhoods

2014 has been a positive year for the Special Constabulary in the area. Officers have seen significant changes in the supervision structure, a cohort of well trained and motivated new officers delivered from the training department and support provided to major events in the North of the Constabulary.

Special Constables in the Durham neighbourhoods have, on top of the “Special Events” we normally perform, supported over 60 ‘official’ requests for additional resources and provide backfill for abstractions to the NATO conference through August and September. In addition to the pre-planned and resourced events managed through use of ESIBS (Emergency Services Internet Booking System – provided by Avon & Somerset Constabulary) a significant amount of work has been done through local arrangement as a result of the close working relationships Durham Special Constabulary has with the Neighbourhood and Response Teams across the force area.

We started the year with the Farm Watch Operations in Durham City, Consett and Stanley working with neighbourhood teams and Farmwatch partners to increase rural confidence. The National Conference saw hundreds of hours expended in planning and delivering the event.

April saw Officers volunteer at a Stay Safe operation in Peterlee aimed at removing young people from positions of harm, the annual Walk of Witness Parade in Chester le Street and a provide Special Constable Assistance Unit, a targeted patrol unit of officers which deploy to meet surge demand, based in Durham City.



Officers supported the annual “Dog Wise” event, held in May and run by Durham Police Dog Sections charity “Paws Up” at Houghall College along with further Farm Watch Operations.



The summer months were busy for the Durham teams and saw Officers supporting the Durham Miners Gala, Bike Wise, Stay Safe Operation in Consett. A successful Emergency Services day in Seaham and Stanley Music Festival were followed by covering the NATO Conference abstractions. Acting Special Inspector Claire Patterson (Durham City) spent many hours liaising with Regular Inspectors and Resource Unit to make the best use of the special constables

available throughout the abstractions; she ensured they were in the right place at the right time and gave maximum coverage to the people of County Durham. She was highly praised for her organisational skills.

Officers supported the 2014 recruitment campaign by assisting Personnel Team and Partnerships staff at recruitment events in in Durham City and Consett, sharing their experiences and knowledge with prospective volunteers. A large number of attendees subsequently applied and we look forward to seeing them join the Durham Specials team later in 2015.

Autumn saw officers support further Farm Watch events with officers deploying in Durham City, Consett and Stanley. Extra patrols were provided in Durham City for the University Fresher's Week and officers assisted regular colleagues from Contingency Planning with the annual Durham Constabulary Fireworks Display held at Beamish Museum. For four new Special Constables this was their first shift out of training; an opportunity to experience the role they had spent a significant amount of time training for and the event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

In November we remembered those who lost their lives in the World Wars, including two Special Constables Robert Reay (61) and Samuel Edgell (63) killed on 1 May 1942 by a delayed action bomb released during an enemy air raid in the beamish area. A memorial to these officers is placed in Beamish Village. A salute from our Chief Officer and a wreath was laid in their memory.





## Area Report – Darlington Neighbourhoods



Officers in the south of the County have also experienced a busy and rewarding year throughout 2014. Working alongside dedicated colleagues, the Specials have built on the already strong relationships with neighbourhood and response teams to support our communities.

March saw Domestic Abuse in Focus week held across the County. Darlington Special Constables supported the Domestic Abuse

Investigation Team (DAIT) and Safeguarding Team at a number of road shows highlighting the impact of Domestic Abuse to the general public. Durham Constabulary has a zero tolerance approach to Domestic Abuse, working alongside Durham and Darlington Community Safety Partnership. Special Constables, at times working alongside regular officers, attended 377 Domestic related incidents throughout 2014.

Building on the Special Constabulary's relationship with Safeguarding Teams, Darlington was chosen as the host station for a National "Missing From Home" Pilot and increased provision of Special Constables to Safeguarding Teams. The scheme aims to protect vulnerable missing persons by supporting police response with additional, specially trained, Special Constables and Police Service Volunteers. The team, led by A/Sgt Brawn, and supported by Supt Goundry, Durham Constabulary Safeguarding Lead, are currently undertaking the relevant training required for the roles, looking forward to their full deployment in 2015.

Throughout the year Darlington Special Constables have provided support to response policing, providing additional deployable resources to support our response stations. On "Black Eye Friday" an additional 16 officers supported what is, historically, the busiest night for police in County Durham & Darlington. As a busy night progressed response trained special constables responded to numerous 999 calls supporting our regular colleagues.

Throughout the year Darlington officers have provided excellent support to a breadth of policing activity and several officers have been recognized for their efforts, including Acting Sergeants Nick Tompkins and Peter Hetherington who received recognition for their part in locating a high risk missing person and providing life saving first aid – one example of the great work our Specials do!



## 2014 Awards and Achievements



Durham Constabulary is proud to be part of the WOW Awards scheme which recognises excellent customer service across the whole force, including Special Constables. WOW works in harmony with other reward and recognition mechanisms in the force such as Annual Awards and Commendations. At the 2014 Durham Constabulary WOW awards a number of officers were recognised for their contributions to policing and excellent customer service.

**Acting Special Chief Inspector Hayley Gibson** received the Most Inspirational Leader Award, amongst stiff competition from Police Staff, Regular Officers and Special Constables, in recognition for the way in which she deals with incidents and leads and develops her team. Hayley has been a member of Durham Special Constabulary for 8 years serving the Derwentside area. Hayley is currently the Acting Chief Inspector with responsibility for the Special Constabulary in the Northern section of the County.

**Special Inspector Adam Usher** and **Special Constable Callum Blanchard** were highly commended after attending a domestic related incident in Darlington. At the scene the officers were confronted by a violent male and a female who was injured, extremely vulnerable and clearly not wishing to engage with the officers. Due to their exceptional skills and personal qualities they broke down barriers and gained the trust and confidence of the victim who had suffered domestic related violence (in silence) for over 18 years. Having gained such trust and confidence the officers secured relevant evidence using their Body Cameras, obtained a statement of complaint and arrested the violent male. Following the incident the victim has contacted the Police to express her sincere appreciation to the officers commenting specifically in relation to their empathy, attentiveness, care and support provided and the positive manner in which her partner was dealt with despite being violent. There is no doubt that the officers empowered the victim to make a positive choice which will hopefully secure her future health and safety. Excellent customer service!

**Special Constable Ross Moralee**, a Roads Policing Special Constable with Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit, received a Chief Superintendents commendation from the Head of Response Command, C/Supt Paul Beddow. SC Moralee was single crewed in the rural area of Teesdale when he overheard observations for a motor vehicle containing persons wanted on suspicion of causing arson with intent to endanger life following an incident in the North of the county. Utilising his extensive local knowledge of the road network in the Teesdale area SC Moralee located the vehicle. With no back up immediately available he maintained a protracted and discrete follow reporting the suspect vehicles progress. As the vehicle crossed the force border with support from additional RPU resources a tactical stop was made on the vehicle and 4 suspects detained.



## Specific Events

### Special Constabulary Conference 2014

In March 2014 Durham Constabulary played host to SC2014 held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham City. The 7<sup>th</sup> biennial Special Constabulary Conference, it welcomed over 225 delegates, from 42 forces around the country as well as International delegates from as far as the USA and Bermuda, all sharing knowledge, ideas and good practice over the 3 days ahead.

Themed **'The Special Constabulary: A Force for Good'**, the Conference showcased identified 'good practice' from forces, engaged with delegates through interactive workshops, discussion of current and key issues within policing, supported throughout the weekend by keynote speaker presentations.



A full and diverse weekend, the Conference was formally opened on the Friday evening by Sir Peter Fahy, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Vice President of ACPO and the National Lead for the Special Constabulary, followed by Deputy Chief Constable Michael Banks the ACPO Lead for the Special Constabulary National Strategy. Delegates were given an overview and update on various Special Constabulary pieces of work and the current progress being made. Keynote presentations followed from customer service organisation WOW, with CEO Derek Williams and Dr

Andy Fisher speaking about the work of WOW and their drive to recognise great customer service. The Conference's opening evening closed with a presentation from Prof James Albrecht from the US Reserve Police Officer Association who told delegates about the Volunteer Police Reserve and how it operates in America.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, the main Conference day, saw delegates attending a carousel of workshops in the morning delivered by Special Constables from different North East forces, each sharing good practice in the areas of : Retail Crime- by South Yorkshire Police, Retention through Opportunity- by Humberside Police, Working within Black and Minority Ethnic Communities- by Durham Constabulary and Mental Health- by Cleveland Police.





Followed by presentations from the National Crime Agency and a Case Study on organised crime, delegates attended a second carousel in the afternoon to discuss and interact in relation to topical policing subjects ranging from Problem Solving- by Chief Constable Mike Barton, Durham Constabulary, Cybercrime- by with Prof David Wall, Durham University, Hate Crime - by Mrs Sylvia Lancaster, Sophie Lancaster Foundation and the Code of Ethics - led by Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer, Cleveland Police.

The final session of the main Conference day concluded with keynote presentations from Deputy Chief Constable Rob Beckley, Chief Operating Officer of the College of Policing and North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner -Julia Mulligan- currently the Special Constabulary Champion within the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Durham Constabulary hosted a Conference Gala Dinner in the 11<sup>th</sup> century Great Hall of Durham Castle, fundraising £1745.65 during the evening for the Education Centre for Children with Downs Syndrome, a locally based charity in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. The dinner was supported by guest speaker the Rt. Hon. Judge Peter Armstrong and entertainment for the evening was provided by North East swing trio The 3 Tones.



The final day of the Conference, Sunday 30th March, hosted a keynote presentation and interactive workshop from International Motivational Speaker- Michael Finnigan, CEO of i2i ([www.i2i-121.com](http://www.i2i-121.com)) before delegates left for home, both locally and internationally.

Following the event, Durham Constabulary received over 140 letters, e-mails and cards of thanks and appreciation from Delegates, Speakers, Sponsors and Guests congratulating and thanking the force for an enjoyable, highly topical and informative Conference. All were highly praising of the great hospitality and welcome they had received from Durham Special Constabulary throughout the weekend.





## Operation Lynx, Lynx 2 & Operation Vault

A series of cross-border collaborative operation led by Durham Special Constables working in partnership with Cumbria and Cleveland Constabularies were held over the course of 2014.

The operations were specifically designed to disrupt the activity of crime groups, rural crime groups and travelling criminals working across our borders whilst promoting collaborative working between the three Special Constabularies and partner agencies such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Road Fuel Testing and Enforcement Unit and VOSA.

Operation Lynx and Lynx 2 were cross border, roads policing focused operations held in the rural western areas of County Durham and main arterial routes between Cumbria and Durham saw



more than 65 drivers caught speeding, two individuals found to be using red diesel and three drivers receiving fixed-penalty notices for not wearing a seatbelt, among other offences recorded during the event. 54 drivers were offered the chance to attend

speed awareness courses as a result of the operation, ten people received fixed-penalty tickets and three individuals faced prosecution. Operation Vault was conducted in collaboration with Cleveland around the A66 corridor to the East of the County.

The success of the operation is evident in the results achieved and highlights the ongoing work by all three forces to make the communities in our local area even safer.



## Media

Throughout 2014 Durham Special Constabulary has maintained an active media presence through traditional media such as local and regional press and the proactive use of social media.

In the summer months of the year officers from across the County were joined on patrol by BBC Radio Newcastle reporter Anthony Day. Mr Day, himself a former Special Constable with Cleveland Constabulary, shadowed officers undertaking response, neighbourhood and roads policing including the joint force Operation Vault to record a mini series on the work of Durham Special Constabulary. The series was aired to over 277,000 listeners<sup>3</sup> on BBC Radio Newcastle during the prime time slot following the news as a feature item.



Durham Specials also featured in the Darlington based STAR FM in the run up to our 2014 recruitment campaign with a series of sound bites provided by serving Special Constables to advertise the breadth of work the Special Constabulary undertake in County Durham and Darlington.

### Force leads the way by giving body cameras to all officers



EYE OF THE LAW: Special Constable Nick Tompkins, of Durham Police, with a new body-mounted video camera. Picture: TOM BANKS (6874049)



The Constabulary featured in the Northern Echo in June with an article about the issue of Body Worn Video devices to all operational officers, including Special Constables. Featuring the image of Special Constable Nick Tompkins, based at Darlington, the article focussed on the “one team” approach adopted by Durham Constabulary, an approach which sits at the heart of our force.

<sup>3</sup> RAJAR September 2014 listener figures

## Social Media

Each area the Special Constabulary serves, and senior SC leadership, have their own, force approved, Twitter accounts which collectively interact with **5,799 regular followers** in County Durham, across the United Kingdom and as far abroad as Australia, Russia and the United States of America.

**9,633 "Tweets"** have been posted across the 8 accounts currently in use sharing the activities undertaken by the Special Constabulary as they perform duties across County Durham and Darlington.

[@DurhamPoliceSC](#)  
[@DurhamRPUSC](#)  
[@WearTeesSC](#)  
[@DurhamCoastSC](#)  
[@DurhamCitySC](#)  
[@DerwentsideSC](#)  
[@DarloPoliceSC](#)  
[@DurhamSCChief](#)



The Durham Special Constabulary Facebook page, linked with the main Durham Constabulary page, reached **63,863** people during 2014 and achieved 1,121 page likes, a significant increase to follow the year on year improvement since the Constabulary launched its page in 2012. Social media remains an important part of our media strategy and continued growth is scheduled in 2015, improving interaction with diverse areas of our communities.

Durham Special Constabulary shared a link.  
Posted by Dale Checksfield [?] · 21 October 2014

All this week officers from Durham Special Constabulary will be featuring on BBC Radio Newcastle's breakfast show with Alfie and Charlie talking about the important work Special Constables undertake to support our communities and deter crime... See More



21/10/2014, Alfie and Charlie at Breakfast - BBC Newcastle  
www.bbc.co.uk

Gilly Hopper sits in alongside Alfie Joey with the bright way to start your day.



Find us on  
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## 2014 Photo Gallery

