

A Day in the Life

Amy Ritchie

Probationary Police Officer



What made you become a police officer?

I didn't always want to be a police officer, in fact when I left school I was intent on becoming an environmental scientist. However by the time I completed my university degree I had decided that I didn't want to be an environmental scientist or anything related to it. I wanted a job with more variety on a day to day basis, and one in which involved working with the public. My interests had completely changed and it was then that I decided to try and join Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and become a police officer.

After nearly serving my probation I can safely say I have chosen the right career for me. It is a very exciting, challenging and rewarding job that offers excellent opportunities.

How did you find the application process?

I found the application process tough and challenging, but understandably so considering the job I was applying for. I found some of the stages nerve racking, but I put a lot of time and effort into preparing for them which got me through. As I progressed I definitely gained many new skills and increased in confidence.

What does your current job involve?

I am currently based at Lockerbie police station as an operational police constable. The role is the 'traditional' officer the public may recognise so I deal with a great variety of things on a day to day basis. My colleagues and I carry out patrols in our beat area, deal with any complaints that are reported by members of the public and assist people with any problems or issues they may have.

I also carry out enquiries into any crimes committed and report the circumstances of these to the Procurator Fiscal. This may ultimately lead to me attending court to give evidence.

What is the best part?

Not knowing what's going to happen next and working as part of a team. I also enjoy working with and getting to know the local community. It is very rewarding when I can offer a solution to any problems or issues they may have.

What is the worst part?

Obviously the worst part of my job is dealing with horrible situations like sudden deaths and fatal road traffic collisions, and the subsequent passing of bad news. It is impossible not to be affected by some of the tragic incidents we sometimes come across.

Do you have any funny stories about the job?

In Stranraer the police always attend London Road playing fields when the air ambulance is landing/taking off. As a joke, the new probationer was often sent out with two table tennis bats to guide the helicopter in.

Do you have any advice for anyone joining the police?

It is a good career that provides many different opportunities and experiences. The best part is not knowing what you will be doing next; the only routine is there is no routine.