

# A Day in the Life

## Valerie Murray

### Station Administrative Assistant at Dalbeattie



#### What made you become a member of police support staff?

When I was younger I wanted to join the police; unfortunately I never reached the required minimum height so it wasn't an option. After having my family I returned to work and worked for a law firm. Then I saw an advert for a civilian (as they were called then) at Dalbeattie police station so I decided to apply for the job and work with the police.

#### What does your current job involve?

My role in the police is varied and every day is different. I deal with the public who come to reception and try to help them with their enquiries and problems. I also manage the lost and found property and CCTV equipment and have a wide range of administrative duties.

A great deal of my time is spent typing reports and statements for the officers and helping them as best as I can.

#### What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy all aspects of my job but most of all I like to think that I have helped someone, whether it is a member of the public or one of the officers. I also think I can honestly say that one of the greatest things with working for the police is the teamwork – everyone helps each other.

#### What is the worst part?

I don't think there is a worst part but maybe filing is the closest thing to it.

#### Do you have any funny stories about the job?

There are loads of funny things that happen in police stations but one of the funniest things I was involved in was when someone brought in a brown box as found property. Inside the box was a ferret which I could hear running around. I thought it was well secured when all of a sudden a head shot up through the sellotape. I was terrified and ran down the corridor and locked it in a cell. I left it there for anyone who dared to try and catch it again.

#### Do you have any advice for anyone joining the police in a support role?

I think that anyone joining the force should be prepared to treat others as you would like to be treated yourself – in a pleasant and respectful manner.