

A career pathway in roads policing

Often referred to as 'traffic', roads policing is the term used to describe the job family that are responsible for policing the road network.

What roles are performed?

Each police force will often work slightly differently, but generally roads policing teams are made up of **constables** who are supervised by a **roads policing sergeant**. Usually, an **inspector** oversees roads policing as part of a wider set of responsibilities, although in some larger cities this may be a higher-ranking officer.

Sergeants and inspectors will likely follow an in-force promotions process that will see them posted into various roles across policing. Following this process, these leaders could move into the role of a roads policing sergeant or inspector.

Entering roads policing

Roads policing constable is a role often filled by experienced constables from other uniformed roles, such as response or neighbourhood policing. Often, these officers have demonstrated an ability to police the local road network and have developed skills and knowledge surrounding the road traffic act and other key legislation. Normally, constables will have had some driver training through a standard driving course and possibly an initial phase pursuit course.

Once appointed, constables are likely to develop their driving skills through an advanced driving course and tactical pursuit and containment (TPAC). Constables will also experience on-the-job training in road traffic legislation and formal training in vehicle construction and use for many types of vehicles. Roads policing constables will also develop key investigation skills through responding to and investigating some road traffic collisions. Intelligence gathering skills are also developed, especially around the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology.

Progression opportunities

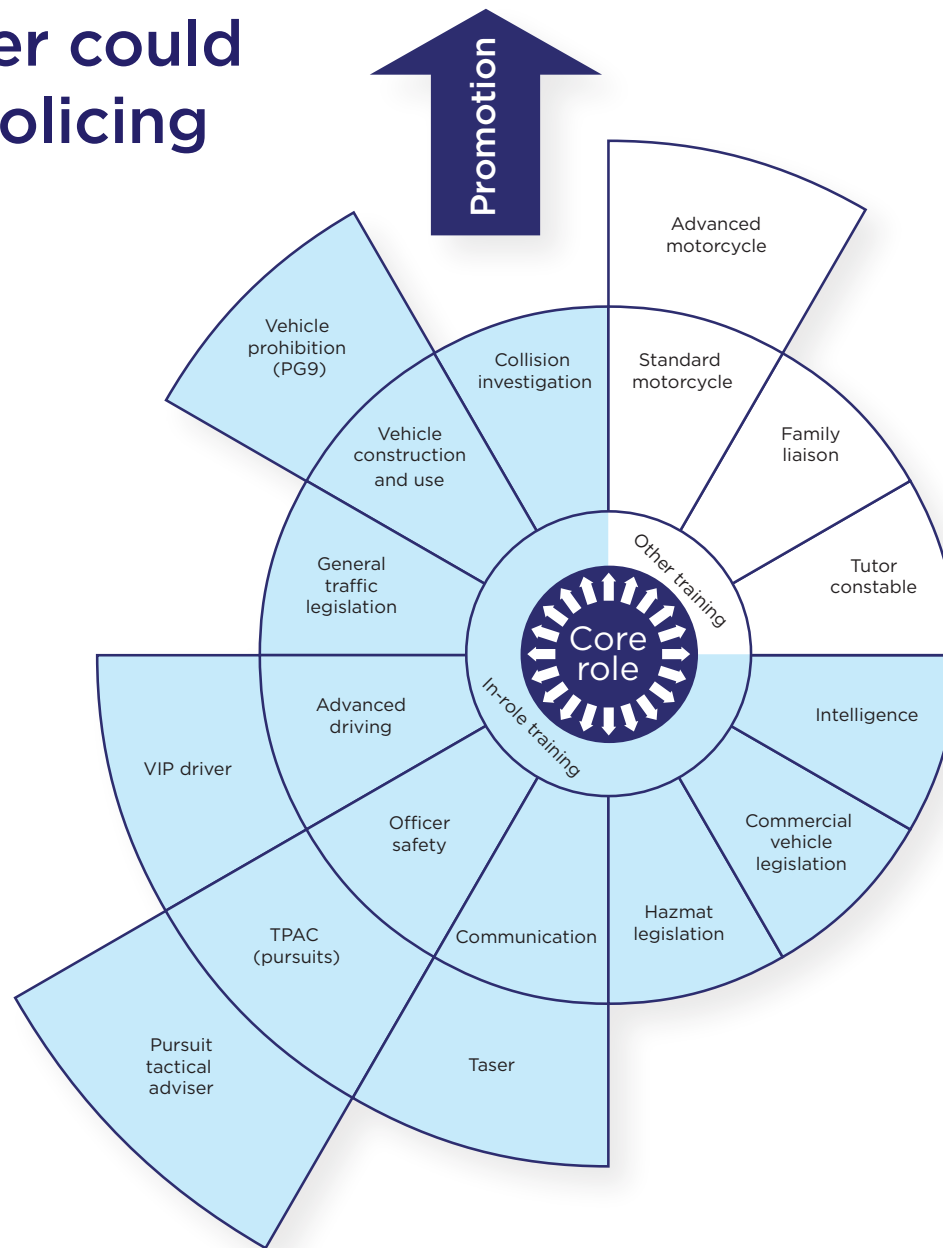
Roads policing is multifaceted and there are opportunities to progress within rank. Many forces will have specialisms within the roads policing area, such as a road crime team who specialise in recovering stolen vehicles and the associated targeting offenders. Some forces will also have dedicated road safety and/or motorway teams that again will have a specialist skillset for the role they are performing. In larger forces, there may be specific roles for **family liaison officers**, yet in most this will be another 'bolt on' to the role of a roads policing officer.

Exploring roads policing further

The diagram on the next page shows how you may develop in roads policing as a constable. As you can see, it is likely that constables will have some experience from other job families before starting. The opportunities to develop and 'bolt on' skills and qualifications are also shown. If you are looking at progressing through the ranks, you should look at the **National Police Promotions Framework (NPPF)** information. It may not be possible to progress through the ranks within a particular job family, as forces may assign newly promoted individuals or those in acting posts, in line with organisational need.



How your career could look in roads policing



Roads policing constable



Learning and development

Specialist support

Response policing

Collision investigation

Neighbourhood policing

Special escort driver

Special escort motorcyclist

Road crime team officer

Specialist roles