

I am Special Constable 71969 Hann. Melinda to most people and I am 35 years old.

I have been part of K2 Smethwick, West Midlands Police since June 2006.

I am married to Shaun, who works full time over three shifts, and I have two ever-demanding children aged five and 14. My husband and family are really supportive with my choice of being a Special Constable and they are always on hand whenever I'm on duty.

It makes me feel proud to know that I'm working with an ever growing, diverse team of professionals within West Midlands Police which offers support and guidance along with excellent training. This helps me gain the knowledge and understanding I need to perform the tasks I'm faced with when on duty.

Having the option of doing a minimum of 16 hours per month gives me the flexibility of choosing when I want to work. This gives me a good home life / work balance.

I work full time, 39 hours a week as a Quality Engineer at a busy Automotive company called West Bromwich Tool And Engineering, and also have a very hectic home life with two children who enjoy dancing, swimming and Air Cadets.

With the backing and encouragement I get from my employeers, family and West Midlands Police, including my District Officer (DO), I manage to do more than 30 hours a month. In that 30 hours I manage to include 16 hours of neighbourhood duties. I then have the oppurtunity to go out with the Response and Traffic Officers and do various planned operations with a lot of skilled teams and individuals. They all not only make me feel safe and part of the team but part of their 'extended family'.

Every duty is different, from walking the beat to a blue light fast response call which is never the same as the last, so when I'm on duty I'm always tasked with new and exciting challenges.

Being a Special Constable has made me a more organised, focused, confident person with everything I do. It gives me a good feeling to know I am helping people to live in a safer, more friendly community. In doing this, I am not only helping to detect crime but to prevent it and educate people as well.

I am proud to know I am a role model to my children and to every other person who I see and greet when I am out in my uniform, and I am proud to be part of West Midlands Police K2 OCU Smethwick.