



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY RECRUIT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

AGE LIMITS

Candidates must be aged at least 18 years old to be attested as a Constable. There is no upper age limit.

NATIONALITY

You must be a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen, or a member of a European Union or European Economic Area, with no restrictions on your stay in the UK. All candidates must have excellent written and verbal communication skills.

QUALIFICATIONS

No qualifications are required.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Must have a good standard of physical and mental health. In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) all reasonable adjustments will be made to assist candidates where appropriate. All applicants are subject to a full medical examination before being accepted as a Special Constable. Please contact the Occupational Health Unit on 01234 842408 for further information.

EYESIGHT

You can wear glasses but only if the standard of eyesight without them is at least 6/36 in each eye. This is roughly equivalent to being able to read the second line down of an eye chart (without spectacles or contact lenses). If you are colour blind or have had any form of eye surgery, including laser treatment, please contact the Occupational Health Unit on 01234 842408 for further information.

HEIGHT

There is no minimum height requirement.

TATTOOS/PIERCINGS

In accordance with Home Office Guidance consideration has to be given on an individual basis regarding the nature, number, location, prominence and appearance of tattoos. Other factors considered are the impression they may give to members of the public or colleagues and also whether there may be implications for an officer's safety. Candidates for appointment will therefore be required to provide photographs (with their application) of both facial jewelry (other than earrings) and any tattoos (other than those on the buttocks, breasts or the genital area). You should note that photographs cannot be returned to candidates.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

All applicants will be checked to ensure they are of previously good character.

JOB RELATED FITNESS TEST

As a Special Constable (SC) you will be required to handle a variety of situations involving physically challenging tasks. You will need strength and stamina to deal effectively with these situations as well as to defend yourself and others.

To ensure you are fit enough, you will undertake the fitness test. There are two elements to the test and you must pass both before you can be appointed. But don't worry, the test is not impossible. We are purely looking for the minimum standard to demonstrate you will be able to work effectively as a SC. You will be given help to improve your fitness and if you prepare yourself properly, there is no reason to fail.

Even if you don't pass the test at your first attempt you will be allowed to re-take it. However, if you fail the test after three attempts your application will be halted and you will not be eligible to re-apply for six months.

Once you are appointed you will need to maintain your fitness as you will be regularly assessed.

THE TEST

The two elements are dynamic strength and endurance fitness.

You must achieve:

Dynamic Strength (Upper-body strength)	Dyno machine – Push 34kg Pull 35kg
Endurance Fitness (Multi-stage shuttle run)	4 shuttles at level 5 (5/4)

Performance on both of these provides a good indicator of a candidate's capability to perform various tasks. The test elements are run consecutively and minimum standards must be achieved on each.

DYNAMIC STRENGTH

Your dynamic strength will be assessed by the use of a machine called the Dyno machine. The test involves performing five seated chest pushes and five seated back pulls on the machine. The average force of the sum of the five pushes and the average force of the sum of the five pulls will be recorded.

Pushing

- You will sit upright on the Dyno machine with your back firmly against the padding. Your feet must be flat on the floor with your knees at approximately 90 degrees. A firm grip is taken of the push bar with your hands level with the middle of your sternum. (The test administrator will make sure you are in the correct position.)
- You will be asked to perform three warm-ups
- You will then be asked to perform five pushes at maximum effort with three seconds recovery between each. The average force produced during each effort will be displayed on the monitor and the average value of the five efforts will be displayed at the end of the set. You will need an average of 34 kgs to pass.



Pulling

- This time you will sit at the opposite end of the machine with your chest pushed against the



padding. Your feet must be flat on the floor with your knees at approximately 90 degrees. A firm grip is taken on both pull handles with your hands level with the middle of your sternum. (The test administrator will ensure you are in the correct position.)

- You will be asked to perform three warm-ups.
- Then you will be asked to perform five pulls at maximum effort with three seconds of recovery between each. The average force produced during each effort will be displayed on the monitor and the average value of the five efforts will be displayed at the end of the set. You will need an average of 35 kgs to pass.

The best way to improve your upper body strength is to perform resistance exercises using your body weight, free weights or resistance machines. You can use weights and resistance machines at gyms or you can practice with press-ups. To improve your strength with press-ups, your hands should be shoulder width apart and your arms vertical; your head fixed with eyes looking at the floor. Keep a straight body position throughout the action, making sure you go all the way down to touch your chest bone on the floor and then fully extend your arms on recovery. Try to breathe in as you push yourself up and breathe out as you lower yourself.

ENDURANCE FITNESS

In this element you will be asked to run to and fro along a 15 metre track in time with a series of beeps. If you arrive at the end line before the beep sounds you need to wait for the beep before resuming running and adjust your speed. The timing between beeps is slow at first but the beep becomes faster as the test progresses and it becomes more difficult to keep up with the required speed. You will run until you can no longer keep up with the set pace. You will need to reach a minimum of four shuttles at level 5 to pass.

To improve your stamina you should take part in sporting activities which last 30 minutes or more and get you out of breath such as football, netball, squash. You can also make rapid improvements by engaging in activities which create a large aerobic demand such as jogging, cycling, swimming and rowing. Try jogging for 20 minutes or more and as you improve, try to increase the distance covered in that time. Alternatively jog a set distance from home and back again and try to reduce the time taken to cover the distance. You should exercise three times a week for 20 minutes but if you are not used to exercise you should start with gentle sessions lasting no more than 15 minutes.

WARMING UP AND COOLING DOWN

Before any form of exercise it is important to warm the body up to prepare it for the exercise that will follow. This will decrease the risk of injury. The activities performed during warm up should be relatively slow and rhythmical, such as light jogging or cycling.

Along with the physical exercise that you perform, adequate recovery time is important. Cooling down after exercise will help you to recover and prevent muscle soreness. Your cool down should consist of a light exercise which gradually decreases in intensity, combined with some gentle stretches particularly for the muscles that have just been worked.