



HERTFORDSHIRE
POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

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Hertfordshire Specials help to keep the county safe

Hertfordshire is among the safest counties in England and Wales, made even safer by the efforts of an often overlooked arm of the police, the Special Constabulary.

The facts and figures are impressive by anyone's standards, and for the first six months of 2007/08 show excellent increases across the board. There are currently 262 Specials in Hertfordshire. Between them they have racked up over 45,000 hours on duty, an increase of 18%. Of these, over 28,000 hours have been spent on high visibility duties, which is a 16% increase in the amount of time given to reassuring and assisting the public and helping their regular police colleagues. The average number of hours spent by each Special now stands at 32.1 hours a month, up 10%. Arrests by Specials have also increased by 12% and currently stand at 147.

Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, said, "I continue to be amazed by the amount of time given by those members of the public who volunteer their time to join the Specials and contribute to making Hertfordshire a safe and pleasant place to live, work and visit. The majority of the Special Constabulary holds full-time jobs and the dedication and enthusiasm to community safety in their valuable spare time is to be admired and appreciated."

There are few voluntary organisations that can offer the variety of experience and opportunity that can be found in the Special Constabulary. Officers are trained to perform routine patrols, deal with public order situations, carry out observations, enforce traffic regulations and record details at the scene of a crime.

Further information on the Special Constabulary can be found on the recruitment section of the Hertfordshire Constabulary website – www.herts.police.uk