

I am writing to ask if it would be possible to please provide me the number of probationary officers currently within your force. If this could also be split by neighbourhood force area I would be very grateful.

Based on police officers with less than 2 years' WMP service (and that didn't join from another force), please see below as at 1st Sept 19:

| Department | Total |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Birmingham East NPU | 42 |
| Birmingham West NPU | 56 |
| Coventry NPU | 13 |
| Dudley NPU | 1 |
| Force CID | 85 |
| Force Response | 101 |
| Public Protection | 29 |
| Sandwell NPU | 2 |
| Solihull NPU | 3 |
| Student Officers | 136 |
| Walsall NPU | 5 |
| Wolverhampton NPU | 3 |
| Grand Total | 476 |

Please note: The Student Officers Department is for those individuals who have not yet achieved Independent Patrol status (they may be posted to other areas but not recorded there)

When a probationary officer starts employment with West Midlands Police, they spend first period of time in the classroom and then go out on 'dependent patrol' where they are tutored at all times. This lasts for approximately 9 months in total and those officers are held in the Student Officers department for that period.

When an officer moves to 'Independent Patrol' after that 9 month period, they are then posted to other force departments and roles, moving around different areas to get the broad experience and knowledge needed to complete their training. This is why there are probationers posted to various force departments.