

I am writing to you for some clarification please in regards to Police Officer's holding the office of constable.

I have read "The office of Constable; The bedrock of modern day policing, by John Apter" on the police federations website and it has raised some questions.

<https://www.polfed.org/media/14239/the-office-of-constable-with-links-2018.pdf>

Please can you tell me if every Police Officer within your police force holds the Office of Constable? That is, has every police officer, sworn the following oath?

"I do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly service the Queen in the office of constable, with fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality, upholding fundamental human rights and according equal respect to all people; and that I will, to the best of my power, cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against people and property; and that while I continue to hold the said office I will to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law"

Yes, under the Police Reform Act, 2002, every police officer and every special constable is required, on appointment, to be attested by making a declaration in a prescribed form before a justice of the peace in the force area concerned:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/notes/division/4/1/18/2?view=plain>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/section/83>

If there is a variation of this oath, for say officers who do not hold the office of constable, and may be employees of a company carrying out police officer duties, what is that oath?

The information you requested is not held by West Midlands Police. There is no variation for police officers (it is the same oath for Special Constables as well). Please see the above links for further information.

If there is a difference between police officers having sworn said oath, can you tell me the name and badge number of every office holding the office of constable within your force and what the ratio to those who haven't please? - **N/A**

Do police forces, in any instance, use "hired help" such as security firms or employees of limited liability companies, and allow them dress in police uniforms and enforce the law? What safeguards and protocols are in place to protect the public if so?

No – Every police officer goes through a national standard of recruitment and is sworn in.

However the police do enlist the assistance of private security firms, for example G4S, please see:

<https://www.g4s.com/en-gb/what-we-do/care-and-justice-services/policing>
<https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20002589%2014.pdf>
<https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/metropolitan-police/disclosure-2018/august/civilian-investigators-currently-used-mps/>

Please note: these individuals carry no police powers of arrest and do not wear police uniform In respect of safeguards and protocols this information is not held by West Midlands Police.

What does it mean, to be policed by consent, I quote from the above referenced document: "The office of constable is fundamental to our system of politically independent policing by consent".

This is a question of opinion and not a fact WMP can answer through FOI, however under S21 of the FOI Act please see the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policing-by-consent/definition-of-policing-by-consent>

In addition, can police officers holding the office of constable, and/or any other police officer/employee potentially impersonating a police constable, enforce legislation, acts and statutes?

No recorded information held by West Midlands Police.

Please note: Police Officers act under laws made by the government.

Police Staff with 'designated powers' also act under law made by government.

Anyone impersonating a police officer would not be acting within the law and potentially commits a criminal offence.