

1) What is the current wait time for new response officers to undertake a standard (blue light response) driving course?

No specific recorded information held; we do not have a specific recorded waiting list. However, our Learning and Development department have advised the below.

We have a process of adding Officers to the Demand. When a request comes through, once confirmed as being eligible, we add to the Demand in Qtr we are adding to. For example, when we were in November, Demand was added into 'Qtr 1 (April – June)', into the month of May. All attempts are made to follow the process, which allows a first come first served basis where possible. However, sometimes things happen which interfere with this, such as urgent priorities or poor uptake on courses, meaning other areas of the Demand are looked at.

2) Currently, how many officers hold a standard driving ticket?

There are 2,310 officers currently trained as Standard Drivers.

3) Additionally, how many of these are students/within their probation?

The force adheres to a strict policy in relation to driver training. We only train those officers who need a driving skill as an essential part of their role and ensure that those trained complete pre-requisite tests in Highway Code, Roadcraft and eyesight tests. Student officers are only Standard Driver trained when they have been signed off for independent patrol and if they are in a post that requires the skill as an essential part of their role, which would be 'Response' if a Student officer.

Unfortunately, although our records show who is trained, it doesn't show which officers are student officers. To identify which officers are student officers would require a manual search of all student officer training records to see if they have attended a driving course or not. To complete this work would exceed the cost threshold under FOI.