



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: F-2009- 04295

REQUEST DETAILS:

- 1) *What levels of driving permits are offered?*
- 2) *What does each of the driving permits allow the holder to do?*
- 3) *What training is required for each of the driving permits and how are the candidates assessed? How long in length are the courses for each of the respective driving permits?,*
- 4) *Are any of the driving permits offered by your Force, offered in a modular basis, (i.e. are they offered in modules of 1 week at a time until the course is complete etc)*
- 5) *Which of the permits are available to Special Constables?*
- 6) *If any modular courses are offered, are the available to Special Constables?*
- 7) *How many Special Constables in your Force have driving permits which allow them to respond (i.e. use blue lights, sirens and allowed the holder to utilise the relevant exemptions afforded to them in law with respect of speeding, going through red lights etc),*
- 8) *I would appreciate any information that is available, in particular the information that relates to Special Constables.*

RESPONSE:

1. All Police driver and rider training conducted by the Suffolk Constabulary is in full accordance with the ACPO / ACPOS Police Driving Manual and therefore the levels of Police Driver are the nationally agreed categories of **BASIC, STANDARD AND ADVANCED.**
2. **Basic** driving is the first level of police driving. The aim is to ensure the student possesses the skills required to drive vehicles used by the police safely and competently. A successful student will be allowed to drive appropriate police vehicles, for enquiries or other such routine purposes. As 'Basic' drivers are not trained to take advantage of statutory legal exemptions, assessment at this level will be conducted within speed restrictions and traffic laws. In essence



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the use of a Police vehicle is for transportation purposes only. No blue lights and sirens are permitted at all, and they are not permitted to stop other drivers.

Standard level driving is to train police drivers to a recognised higher standard and to respond safely to those incidents, which require that officer to make use of legal exemptions. The principles of the police drivers' handbook 'Roadcraft' are taught, together with those of the 'Highway Code' and other relevant documents, e.g. 'Human Aspects of Police Driving'.

Emphasis is placed on safety, achieved by the driver having an increased awareness; the recognition of real and potential hazards and the adoption of a system of driving that leaves nothing to chance.

The mandatory units contained in the programme satisfy the performance criteria for high speed driving as specified by the Road Safety Act 2006.

Advanced Driving: This training is designed for those officers who will be required to drive high performance vehicles operationally.

3. Basic Driving is a 2-day course, Standard driving 3 Weeks and Advanced driving 4 weeks. All training is designed around competencies. The trainer's role is to teach students to drive to such a standard that they become competent in all areas.

The competency statements are similar to those found in National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). The process is reliant on the trainer being able to fully develop the competence of each student. However for the student to reach competence it is crucial for them to be able to reflect upon and assess their own development.

Students will either achieve the required level of competence or not. If they do not achieve the level they will not have been successful and will not gain a pass.

4. No modular based training. Any additional training modules which may be conducted separately to the main driving courses are specific to particular driving tasks i.e. van/ personnel carrier driving.
5. Basic driving only except where supported for particular operational requirements then standard level driving is trained.
6. No modular based training
7. Three



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8. Generally Special Constables are only trained and authorised at Basic driver level if it is requirement of their role and the training need is organisationally supported.