

# Police thank special constables for their “outstanding contribution” during pandemic

To mark last week’s National Volunteers Week, Police Scotland have thanked special constables for their outstanding contribution’ during the COVID-19 pandemic.

An appeal was issued to all special constables in March and within nine weeks, the volunteers deployed for 25,656 hours between them, working 2990 shifts.

In addition, in the past year, more than 1100 youth and adult Police Scotland youth volunteers (PSYV) have volunteered more than 64,000 hours, assisting at more than 1500 events across the country.



Assistant Chief Constable John Hawkins said: “National Volunteers Week was a chance to say thank you to the millions of volunteers across the UK who make such a valuable contribution to their local communities.

“And none are more deserving than our own special constables who are increasing their hours on the frontline to help communities at this critical time.

“While special constables have always been considered a vital and valued feature of policing in Scotland, it is more important than ever that their role is recognised and I would

like to sincerely thank them all once again for their efforts.

"The dedication they have shown to Police Scotland and to helping our communities is nothing short of exemplary.

"I also want to say a special thank you to our PSYVs who are unfortunately not able to deploy at the moment.

"I know how frustrating it is and how keen they are to get back into volunteering.

"The 'Clap For Carers' videos they have been making to show their appreciation for key workers are fantastic and we have proudly posted them on our social media channels.

"The support and patience being shown is appreciated and we look forward to seeing them all again soon."

National Volunteers Week also aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of becoming a volunteer.

Assistant Chief Constable Hawkins added: "While Police Scotland undoubtedly benefits from the experience our volunteers bring, we also hope the opportunity is unlike any other where you gain confidence, new skills and get the chance to help people in need and support your local community.

"Although there are some basic requirements that need to be satisfied, ultimately we are always looking for people who want to make a real difference.

"Society has collectively stepped forward over the past few months to protect the NHS and save lives.

And never have volunteers been so appreciated for the vital role they are playing right now.

"If you are considering finding a way to give back to your community, joining Police Scotland as a volunteer is a fantastic opportunity to do something great."

For more information on becoming a Police Scotland volunteer, visit [www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/special-constables](http://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/special-constables).