

A Day in the Life

Neil Fyfe

Traffic Sergeant

Neil Fyfe was transferred from Stranraer burgh to Stranraer Mobile Support Group in July 2003. Prior to being promoted, he worked with the Mobile Support Group at Lockerbie, Dumfries and Stranraer.



Why did you want to work in the Mobile Support Group?

I first joined the Mobile Support Group in 1991 at which time it was known as the Traffic Department. I had been working in Annan burgh for over four years and although I really enjoyed my work there, I felt it was time for a new challenge, so I applied to join the Traffic Department. In those days, there was not the same choice of departments as there is now – it was basically either the CID or Traffic Department. I really enjoy driving and also remember being impressed by traffic officers helping the victims of a serious road traffic crash my family came across when I was a young lad. As I don't have the gift of the gab, it was the Traffic for me!

What does your job involve?

As well as the administrative duties you would expect with supervising a number of very productive Mobile Support Group constables, I regularly consult and liaise with area inspectors and other agencies to help address local issues; ensure that the Mobile Support Group provides a highly-visible police presence on the roads; and lead with local roads policing initiatives and national campaigns. I also monitor the number and severity of road crashes that occur and ensure that intelligence-based roads policing packages are acted upon.

What is the best part of your job?

It's good being proactive rather than being reactive – arranging initiatives to reduce the number of casualties on our roads or to deter criminality. Working with the ongoing Operation Juggernaut is particularly enjoyable. The part I enjoy the most however is going out on patrol with and supervising colleagues.

What is the worst part of your job?

It is particularly hard dealing with the close relatives or friends of someone who has recently died as the result of a road traffic collision.

The sheer quantity of paperwork that seems to end up on my desk sometimes also seems to be limitless!

Do you have any strange stories to tell?

A few years ago, I dealt with the death of a man from Northern Ireland who had died in a road traffic collision on the A75. Two of his colleagues who were travelling with him had known him for almost all of their lives and the Procurator Fiscal was happy that they could identify him to ourselves. His next of kin did not want to come across to Scotland and after a bit of enquiry, I found out that it was possible for the police to register his death. I duly attended at the local registry office with all the necessary paperwork – the first time I had registered anyone's death. It was very eerie registering the death of someone who had been born on exactly the same date, month and year as I was!