



August 2023

'A Snapshot of the working life of PCSO Vicky Henderson'

This month I had have been accompanied by my new Tutee PCSO Briana WHELAN and unaccompanied by PCSO FYNE (She's been on leave for 3 weeks).

Roads and vehicles

PCSO WHELAN'S first day started with being sent out to a tree on the road near Norton Manor camp. She had only been in the job a couple of hours before she was at an incident directing traffic. I have to say she did really well.



There was an RTC (Road Traffic Collision) at Hollywell lake, we assisted our Town centre colleagues by shutting the road just after Hollywell lake to avoid another collision.

TOR's (Traffic Offence Reports – tickets) were given out for parking on a drop kerb and parking within 10 metres of a junction.

Vehicle seizure – We seized a vehicle for having no tax.



When on our way back to Wellington station to finish our shift, we came across a suspicious vehicle. It was parked close to some woods, driver's door was open, keys were on the drivers seat. I contacted our communications department to obtain some information on the registered keeper of the vehicle. As I was requesting more information and possible telephone numbers, a lovely elderly lady walked out of the woods with her little dog. She didn't understand why we were concerned for her and her vehicles safety. She told us she has always done this and

nothing had happened before. If you're reading this please lock your car, take the keys with you and put all items out of sight. You never know whose about.

Section 59

After receiving a report of Anti-Social Behaviour with a motor vehicle and the video footage of the behaviour, we were able to identify the driver and visit them at home with their parent present. They were not very happy to have a visit from police. Due to their behaviour we gave them a Section 59 Warning. This is a wonderful piece of legislation. It stays on Police National Computer for 12 months, this is on the vehicle and on the person. If caught within 12 months the vehicle will be seized.

Searches

40 Minutes to the end of a late shift and heading back to the station to write up the last job, a call comes over the radio from one of our team saying they have a drunken male whose being aggressive. We turned the car round and headed to the incident. On arrival the male was obviously drunk and appeared to be under the influence of drugs. The male was arrested for drunk in charge of a motor vehicle. Due to intelligence stated he was growing cannabis a search was made of his address and grounds. Cannabis and Cannabis plants were found. 2 hours late off, but a successful search and arrest.

We had a report of two males going in and out of a shop all day, the shop assistant spoke to my colleague and told her they had been shop lifting. We located the males and conducted a search, no items were found... however, the search resulted in finding cannabis and a cannabis grinder. They are being dealt with.

Missing people

My colleagues and I were part of the search team looking for Laura Van Marle when she went missing from a secure hospital. Laura Van Marle, 43, has been subject to an indefinite hospital order after admitting manslaughter in 2021. She had originally been charged with the murder of her mother in Cradley, Herefordshire.

Officers were supported by a helicopter and specialist units including a dog and handler to carry out searches in and around Wellington in Somerset, where she escaped.

Police confirmed that Van Marle was found and detained on Saturday August 12, having been missing overnight.

Twice in two days my colleague and I located a person with dementia before they turned into a high risk missing person.

They were walking on a National speed limit road, ill equipped for the weather when we located them. I stopped the car, had a nice chat, and gave them a lift back home.

The person was unable to give me their address, however I had met them before and was able to take them home. I then put in a safeguarding report and contacted social services to give an update. Always good to know your community.

Break in progress

On patrol near Oake my colleague and I heard a call over the radio for a break in progress at the Library in Bishops Lydeard. Two patrol units were making way. I called up to say I would attend also. We were first on scene.

We let comms know we were first and approached the building. I reached for the door handle and pushed the door...it opened. There was a person inside.

It was a member of staff who had put the alarm code in wrong. I searched the building just in case.

We were able to stand down the other units which enabled them to go to other code 1 jobs. On the way out I bumped into the Councillor who had been contacted by the alarm company. He was happy to see the response of the police.

The rest of the month was spent conducting house to house and CCTV enquiries, rave patrols, theft of tools, neighbour disputes, and foot and mobile patrols.

Until next month



Take care.

Vicky

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