



August 2024

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

Missing person

When completing paperwork at Wellington police station I heard a call over the radio for a suicidal person. They had driven off in their vehicle and the person reporting did not know where they were.

Although they were some distance away, I had a direction of travel.

The only description I had at that time was to look for a blue vehicle.

As I was approaching a roundabout I noticed a blue vehicle at the side of the road. I didn't know if this was the person I was looking for or someone who'd pulled over to make a phone call.

I parked up behind and called comms asking for a PNC (Police National Computer) check on the licence plate on the vehicle. I watched as the break lights went off and knew I had to be quick in case he drove off. I went to the driver's window and knew immediately that this was the missing person. He was not in a good way. As I had called up where I was and that this was the missing person, it wasn't long before I was accompanied by other officers. The person was then given the care they need.

Arrests

While at the station, finishing up for the day, there was a call from one of the Town Centre officers, he had stopped a male at the end of the street who we needed to speak to regarding a crime they had committed. We all left the station to assist. When we arrived, the male was being quite disruptive, wouldn't give his name, wouldn't give any details. There was then no option but to arrest. This was necessary to find out who the male was. Back at the station he gave his name and once checks were made to ensure it was correct, as the first name he gave his name it was not, he was de-arrested and dealt with for the crime they had committed.

While on my way to visit a member of the public who had called me the day before. I was aware that a wanted male may be at that address. I called up to let comms (our Communication department) know what address I was going to.

In no time at all I was contacted by officers looking for that male.

On knocking on the door and speaking with the homeowner, I was quite sure the wanted male was inside. I asked the homeowner to go and get the male, which they did. They were then arrested and I stayed to support the homeowner.

Vehicle

While conducting mobile patrols around our beat area, B noticed a vehicle that is uninsured pass us on the opposite side of the road. We knew there was a marked vehicle down the road in the direction that the vehicle was heading. We contacted the officers off the air and made them aware. They spotted the vehicle and drove behind it waiting for a good position to put in a stop.

The vehicle headed down a country lane and was lost to sight.

At this point the officers called up for assistance. Other officers then joined the hunt. We called up and put ourselves in the job to locate this vehicle.

While trying every back road officers spotted it again, by the time the officer turned around, it was too late, and the vehicle was again lost to sight.

While B and I were checking the back roads, we were stopped by a member of the public and asked if we were looking for a vehicle and which direction it had headed in. We put this over the air and officers made to that location, obviously we headed towards there too.

Low and behold our team found the vehicle hidden and abandoned. They arranged to seize the vehicle for no insurance, the driver will also be dealt with, as we know who that is and they were witnessed by an officer driving. As we were aware of the driver, we checked vehicles parked around their address, turns out one of the vehicles was stolen from another force area, so we recovered that as well. We were off shift a couple of hours late but it was well worth it.

I've always loved the term deny the criminal the use of the road.

This is such an unusual job; you never really know what the day will bring. Definitely a job like no other.

Until next month

Take care.

Vicky

Victoria HENDERSON
Police Community Support Officer

Neighbourhood
Avon and Somerset Police
Wellington Police Station, Victoria Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8HR

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