



Wearing of Police Uniform Off Duty (Including Weddings and Civil Partnership (Ceremonies) Policy

Abstract

Police uniform is provided for operational purposes only and uniform should not be worn off duty except when suitably authorised.

Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy relates to requests to wear police uniform whilst off duty for a formal event such as a wedding and civil partnership ceremony. The policy sets out how to apply to wear uniform and the conditions that will need to be met if the application is accepted.

2. Statement

- 2.1 Police uniform is provided for operational purposes only and uniform should not be worn off duty except when suitably authorised.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The force may allow police officers and staff to wear Surrey Police uniform whilst off duty for a formal event, such as a wedding, civil partnership, or parade, subject to approval from the Head of Professional Standards and the adherence to conditions set out below. Arrangements for wearing uniform at police funerals would be covered in the relevant operational order.

Procedure

1. Applications to wear uniform for a formal event should be made in writing to the Head of Professional Standards (**via email to !PSD**) as far in advance of the event as possible and should include details of the event and extent of public access to the function. Each case will be considered on its merits and there is no guarantee that the application will be accepted.

2. The following conditions apply in all cases:

- Travel to/from the venue must not be in uniform.
- If attending a wedding or civil partnership the uniform must only be worn for the ceremony and wedding breakfast. It must be removed for the more general evening celebrations.
- While in uniform, alcohol may be drunk but only in absolute moderation and only within the confines of the event (i.e., not in a public area). Any form of insobriety in uniform would reflect poorly on the police service.
- Although wearing uniform, officers are not on duty, but in the (unlikely) event that an act occurs that requires police intervention, they would be expected to act in the same way as at any other incident.
- The general standard of behaviour of all officers in uniform must be consistent with the expectations of Surrey Police and must not be likely to bring discredit on the Force. Officers must be aware that other members of the public are likely to see them so conduct must be exemplary.
- Any damage to uniform (and any cost for cleaning) must be met by the individual officer, not the Force.

3. If the officer or member of staff does not have full uniform allocated to them, this must either be financed through the relevant Command/Division (with approval of line managers) or by the individual themselves.