Special Constable – Georgina Barry

[Special Constable: Georgina Barry - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6uePSVXnb4)

Good afternoon, I’m Special police constable: Georgina Barry at British Transport Police attached at

London Bridge. I started as a Special constable on end of September and I have done a few shifts, which has been good. I've learned a lot of new things, I’ve met some incredible people, it's been a really good experience so far.

**What is it like being a Special Constable at BTP?**

Being a Special at British Transport Police, is going on to a shift and having no idea what's going to happen, being prepared for the unknown, which is interesting. You need to adapt, there are a lot of different situations and a lot that you will never imagine that you'll be facing.

**What is your favourite moment being a Special?**

My favourite moment at British Transport Police for the moment, is a shift I did end of October, where I assisted with an officer, a young person who was detained under section 136 of the mental health act, for her own safety

she was detained and took to a place of safety where she needed to be assessed by doctors. It was a very long shift, very intense, with a lot of up and downs, but it was probably the most interesting one I’ve done so far, it was the most interesting one.

Working 16 hours as a Special is easily done, some companies are in partnership with BTP, so they release you to do these duties, so your 16 hours are done for your work, and on a personal level, 16 hours is basically two days for the month which is easily done as well.

**Any advice for someone thinking of becoming a Special?**

I would say to someone who was thinking about it to just go with it, crack on do it, the only limits for you to not do it is yourself. Whatever happens it'll be a great experience and you'll meet some great people, so my advice is you want to do it don't think twice, go ahead.

Being a female in the British Transport Police is not an issue, you're exactly the same as your male colleagues you get the same training, the same kit, so there is no difference between a male and a female officer.

The myths around Specials, I think a lot of people believe that Specials are not real officers, but that is wrong. As a Special constable you are sworn in. You get exactly the same training, the same kit, the same support, the same advice. There's no difference between being a Special police constable and an officer; the only difference is the amount of hours that you do as you have another job aside.