Special Constable – Mamoona Mughal

[Special Constable: Mamoona Mughal - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M1oJYhBTGM)

So, a quick synopsis of my career at BTP, I am currently a station support officer at Hammersmith station, and I am also a Special working at Hammersmith station too. It's very interesting, it's been really fun; I haven't been a Special for long, but the months that I have been doing have been really exciting.

So as my regular day job is within BTP, I do have the flexibility of having a day shift given to me as part of being a Special, so eight hours for my day shift I do get to do Special Constable hours and then I just need to put eight hours of my own, so the flexibility there is really good.

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

Anyone looking to join BTP as a special, I would say go for it, it's such an amazing opportunity to understand what policing is if you do want a full-time career as a police constable, it's a great stepping stone

**Are there any typical concerns someone would have prior to joining BTP?**

The typical concerns I think a Special would have before joining BTP is, for me was the bleep test, the fitness test. I think it's more of a mental strength than a physical strain but it is doable, I think with a bit of training it can be done.

I’ve been very lucky with my friends and family, they've been very supportive of me becoming a special with BTP, so that's a massive bonus I’ve had.

So, some misconceptions I think some people have with a Special role, is they think that sometimes they might get treated differently from constables and other police ranks, but that is not the case. Everyone is very supportive and always there to help.

I think a lot of women don't apply to BTP because there is a lack of role models out there, especially from the ethnic minority group, and it could also be the fact that you don't get family support as well.

**Is there any benefits of becoming a Special?**

So, there are many benefits of being a Special constable, the main one for me is the free travel on and off duty, so you do get an oyster card which is really good. You also get reimbursed your lunch and it's a great thing to point your cv as well, and a great steppingstone if you want to become a police constable.

I think there is a massive under-representation of females from BAME community, this is probably this is one of the main reasons why I decided to become a special. I wanted to kind of put it out there that you know, anyone from any background can do this role and hopefully that I can be a role model for people aspiring to join the police, whether as a Special or as a constable.