# UK police officers quadruple taking second jobs as financial pressures mount



The growing trend of police officers in the UK holding second jobs reflects the increasing financial pressures faced within the force. According to a recent investigation, over one in seven police officers and staff—approximately 33,000 individuals—have taken up additional employment outside their primary roles. The range of secondary jobs is surprisingly diverse, spanning from driving for food delivery services like Deliveroo to more unconventional pursuits such as DJing, beekeeping, and even running a teashop.

This phenomenon has markedly intensified in recent years; data reveals that the number of officers with secondary employment has quadrupled since 2019 in some forces. Figures obtained through Freedom of Information requests from 37 out of the 43 police forces in England and Wales indicate that a significant portion of officers finds it necessary to seek additional income streams to cope with financial burdens. Starting salaries for constables are around £30,000, while sergeants earn approximately £50,000, a sum that many deem insufficient given the demands of their roles.

Former Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye expressed concern that the financial strain could overshadow officers' dedication to serving the public. He noted, “The worry is that if it’s easier to make money through other employment then it might be tempting to turn their back on policing altogether.” Such sentiments are echoed in a survey conducted by the Police Federation, which revealed that nearly 8% of 27,000 respondents are relying on second jobs due to economic pressures. Alarmingly, a third of officers reported struggles to meet their monthly expenses, with many voicing feelings of unfair wage compensation, particularly with 88% suggesting their pay does not adequately reflect the challenges faced in policing.

Financial distress among officers has even led to an alarming rise in requests for food vouchers, further highlighting the strain on well-being and morale within the ranks. According to acting deputy chairman Brian Booth, these insights are indicative of a broader crisis, stating that “officers want to rest on their days off, not feel forced to pick up extra work to pay the rent.” In this context, the integrity of policing is brought into question, with concerns arising regarding potential conflicts of interest for those juggling multiple employment commitments. The National Police Chiefs’ Council maintains that they are actively assessing the appropriateness of second job registrations, though critics argue that the systemic issues contributing to financial strain must be addressed more fundamentally.

The UK police force’s current situation has sparked wider discussions about funding and support structures essential for operational efficiency and officer retention. As many officers pivot towards additional income opportunities, the implications of these decisions for public safety and service delivery merit serious consideration. Ultimately, as the realities of policing become increasingly intertwined with economic survival, the conversation shifts from merely the number of additional jobs towards the potential threat to the core values and responsibilities of an institution entrusted with maintaining public order and safety.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768677/DJs-second-jobs-UK-police-force.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-pay-wage-funding-second-jobs-uk-funding-morale-crime-a8480106.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45094820), [[5]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/record-numbers-of-police-officers-doing-second-jobs-8433417.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/dec/30/one-in-10-police-moonlights), [[6]](https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/metropolitan-police/disclosure-2023/june-2023/officers-business-interests-and-secondary-employment-broken-down-by-rank/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768677/DJs-second-jobs-UK-police-force.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-pay-wage-funding-second-jobs-uk-funding-morale-crime-a8480106.html), [[6]](https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/metropolitan-police/disclosure-2023/june-2023/officers-business-interests-and-secondary-employment-broken-down-by-rank/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-pay-wage-funding-second-jobs-uk-funding-morale-crime-a8480106.html), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45094820)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768677/DJs-second-jobs-UK-police-force.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/dec/30/one-in-10-police-moonlights)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768677/DJs-second-jobs-UK-police-force.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-pay-wage-funding-second-jobs-uk-funding-morale-crime-a8480106.html> - A survey by the Police Federation of England and Wales revealed that nearly 8% of 27,000 officers have taken on second jobs due to financial pressures. The survey also found that 45% of officers worry about finances daily, and 88% feel their pay is unfair considering the job's demands. The starting salary for a constable is around £30,000, while a sergeant earns more than £50,000. The survey highlights concerns over the impact of financial stress on police morale and public service.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45094820> - The Police Federation of England and Wales reported that nearly 8% of officers have taken on second jobs, a record high. The survey also found that 44% of officers worry about finances daily, and some have resorted to food vouchers. The starting salary for a constable is between £19,971 and £23,124, rising to £24,171 after two years, with a chief inspector's salary starting at £54,432. The findings raise concerns about the financial pressures on police officers and the impact on public service.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/dec/30/one-in-10-police-moonlights> - An investigation revealed that more than 23,000 police officers and staff in England and Wales have second jobs, a 20% increase from the previous year. The report raised questions about potential conflicts of interest and the ability of forces to prevent such issues. Officers are allowed to take second jobs if approved by their superiors, provided there is no direct conflict of interest. The findings highlight concerns about the integrity and standards within the police force.
5. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/record-numbers-of-police-officers-doing-second-jobs-8433417.html> - An investigation found that more than 23,000 police officers and staff in England and Wales have second jobs, a 20% increase from the previous year. The report raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest and the ability of forces to prevent such issues. Officers are allowed to take second jobs if approved by their superiors, provided there is no direct conflict of interest. The findings highlight concerns about the integrity and standards within the police force.
6. <https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/metropolitan-police/disclosure-2023/june-2023/officers-business-interests-and-secondary-employment-broken-down-by-rank/> - The Metropolitan Police disclosed data on officers' business interests and secondary employment, broken down by rank. The data includes various categories such as acting/performing arts, administration, arts & crafts, and associated with partners' business. The disclosure provides insight into the types of secondary employment officers engage in and their distribution across different ranks within the force.
7. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/foi-ai/dorset-police/disclosure-logs/2023-disclosures/officers-and-second-jobs/> - Dorset Police released information on officers and their secondary employment, detailing the number of officers with declared secondary employment and the types of second jobs they hold. The data includes categories such as acting/performing arts, administration, arts & crafts, and associated with partners' business. The disclosure offers insight into the prevalence and nature of secondary employment among officers within Dorset Police.