

*January*

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Scenes of crime  
officer (SOCOs)

# Scenes of crime officer (SOCO)

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Scenes of crime officers (SOCOs) find, record and recover evidence from crime scenes



SOCOs



# What you'll do

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## **Your day-to-day duties could include:**

Your day-to-day duties might include:

- preserving and protecting crime scenes
- finding out what evidence is needed
- recording the scene using photography and video
- developing, recording and capturing fingerprint evidence
- finding, recording and recovering evidence
- keeping written records, producing statements and updating systems with details of evidence

You may also need to give evidence in court or attend post-mortems.

# Skills Required

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You'll need:

- a methodical and patient approach
- excellent attention to detail
- keen observational skills
- the ability to record and report information accurately (spoken and written)
- the ability to remain calm in unpleasant and distressing situations
- the ability to use computers and scientific equipment





# Career Path and Progression

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- With experience, you may be able to progress to senior or principal officer with responsibility for managing a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) team.
- You could complete further training to manage investigations at major incidents.

You may also be interested in:

- Fingerprint officer
- Mortuary technician
- Forensic psychologist
- Neighbourhood warden
- Intelligence officer

# Related university subject profiles

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- Biology
- Biological sciences
  - Chemistry
  - Criminology



# Working hours and environment

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- You'll usually work shifts and be part of an on-call rota.
- The job can be physically demanding and involve working at height, in confined spaces, and being outdoors in all weather conditions.
- You'll spend most of your time out on investigations, but would write up reports, process recovered evidence and prepare statements at a police station.
- You're likely to need a driving licence.

# UK Entry Requirements

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You'll usually need:

- at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) or equivalent, including English, maths, and a science subject
- a degree in forensic science or in a scientific subject like biological sciences or chemistry
- A qualification in photography or video could be helpful, although not essential.
- Many employers expect you to have previous experience in police work or a related field, like intelligence gathering and analysis.
- Experience of dealing with the public and working in sensitive situations would be useful.
- [Skills for Justice](#) has more information about becoming a scenes of crime officer.

# LMI

## Labour Market Information

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### UK Current Jobs

#### Protective service occupations (SOC3)

- UK jobs: 394,084
- **Sheffield jobs: 1,864 (56th of 214 UK LEAs)**
- Top 5 LEAs: Hampshire (14,925), Kent (14,492), Essex (13,358), Northumberland (10,787), Wiltshire (10,202)

### Protective service associate professionals n.e.c. (SOC4)

- UK annual median: £34,702

#### Protective service occupations (SOC3)

- **Yorkshire and the Humber annual median: £38,384**
- Top 3 regions: London (£41,157), West Midlands (£40,834), Wales (£40,748)

# UK Prospects

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## Protective service occupations (SOC2)

- UK growth: -2.8% from 2017 to 2027, losing 10,879 jobs
- Yorkshire and the Humber growth: -3.8% from 2017 to 2027, losing 1,035 jobs



# Also consider

Those that liked this career profile also liked the following:

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Police detective

Forensic  
psychologist