

What is the maximum length of a night shift?

Subject to the exigencies of duty a night shift cannot normally be any longer than 8 hours in duration subject to any workforce agreement that may be in place.

In the case of Officers currently working the Common Shift Pattern (VSA99), part 6 of the workplace agreement supporting this variable shift pattern contains the following;

Shift in excess of five days duration

It is agreed, in the event of the frequency of duty periods, in any working pattern, exceeding five such duty periods, without a rest day at the commencement and conclusion of such periods; police officers may work rostered tours of duty of up to 10 hours duration in any 24 hour period during which night work is performed, provided the tour of duty concludes by 0300hrs. The only exception to this shall be on the occasion of movement from Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time when the rostered period of night duty may be up to 11 hours duration.

Shift not exceeding five days duration

It is agreed, in the event of the frequency of duty periods, in any working pattern, not exceeding five such duty periods without a rest day at the commencement and conclusion of such periods; police officers may work rostered tours of duty of up to 11 hours duration in any 24 hour period during which night work is performed.

It is acknowledged that while **forces cannot plan to breach the provisions of the WTR**, in the event of **unforeseen operational demands** precluding adherence to this limit, compensatory rest must be granted as soon as practicable.