| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1980  Responded to: 24th July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to know how meanings behind the letters used in the callsigns for example

## "KCC01"

## What does the second letter stand for?

## What does the third letter stand for?

All call signs consist of five characters and are stand-alone. Police officers and, if relevant, any vehicle will need to be added to the call sign using the officer’s shoulder number and the vehicle’s fleet number. There will therefore be no permanent personal issue call signs, as the call sign relates to the *role* rather than the person.

To elaborate, the call sign structure is based on the role responsibility of the asset, incorporating the Divisional Policing Community/ Response resource model. In divisions where there is nodelineation between Community and Response, all resources will be allocated Response call signs as they will be the initial responder to all grades of incident. The structure will also make provision for other divisional resources – this includes the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and event details.

Response Call Signs:

Response call signs will commence with the divisional letter. The second character will be the role identifier: ‘I’ – Inspector, ‘S’ – Sergeant, or ‘R’ – Response Unit. The following three numerals will identify the group/ team, patrol base/ response hub and resource number/ letter respectively.

For Inspectors or Sergeants, an example response call sign could be **AS131** – A Division, Sergeant, attached to group/ team one, operating from response hub/ patrol base three, and is the first Sergeant.

For Response Units, an example response call sign could be **CR21A** – C Division, Response Unit, attached to group/ team one, operating from patrol base/ response hub two, and is Unit A. If a second vehicle was requested, it would use resource identifier B etc.

Community Call Signs:

Community call signs will commence with the two-character sub-divisional identifier. The third character will be the role identifier: ‘I’ – Inspector, ‘S’ – Sergeant, or ‘C’ – Community Mobile Unit (car or van), and ‘P’ – Pedal Cycle. In the national structure, the fourth character will identify the group/ team the resource is attached to, and the final character will identify the resource number.

An example community call sign could be **KCC01** – KC Sub-Division, Community Mobile Unit, attached to group/ team zero, and is the first Unit.

As seen by the example you provided, the group/ team number ‘0’ should be used when a member of staff does not routinely follow a specific team’s shift pattern. Alternatively, the group/ team number ‘6’ should be used either when there is an oversubscription for the call signs available to any team/ group, or when response officers are on duty to attend court. Whereas the group/ team number ‘9’ should be used when officers are on Local Day of Action duties.

However, it is important to note that there will be no ‘letter’ resource type identifier when community officers are deployed on foot. In this case, the third character will be the group/ team number that they are attached to, and the last two digits will be allocated sequentially by area.

An example community call sign for officers on foot could be **DE112** – Community foot patrol in DE Sub-Division, attached to group/ team one, and is the twelfth resource.

Other Divisional Call Signs:

Other divisional call signs will consist of five characters – two letters followed by three numbers. The first letter will be the divisional identifier.

For the Command Team, the second letter in the five-character call sign will be ‘H’ (the agreed identifier for Heads of Divisions). Divisional Commanders, Superintendents and Chief Inspectors will all be allocated ‘Command’ call signs. An example command call sign could be **EH001** – E Division Commander.

For the Divisional CID, the second letter will be ‘W’ (the agreed identifier for CID). Moreover, the first numeral will identify the specialism: 1 – Reactive, 2 – Violence Reduction Unit (Investigative), with number ranges being allocated for use. An example divisional CID call sign could be **CW101** – C Division Reactive CID resource.

For ‘other’ divisional resources, the second letter will be ‘M’. An example ‘other’ divisional resource call sign could be **VM103** – V Division vehicle.

However, the five-character call sign for events does not follow this established structure. Although these call signs will also consist of two letters followed by three numbers, they commence with the letter ‘O’, followed by the divisional identifier, and the number ranges will be allocated as required. An example event call sign could be **OG004** – G Division event.

For further explanation, representative examples of *all* the new national structures are provided at the bottom of the document.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible.   
If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.

