

Eyesight

Police forces follow national Home Office guidelines for entry into the Police Service in respect to eyesight.

You may have seen a chart like the diagram on the right at your optician's. The actual chart is much larger and is read from six metres away. Each line equates to a standard.

As part of your medical assessment you will need to show capability of the following standards:

A	6/60
BC	6/36
DEFG	6/24
HIJKLM	6/18
NOPQRSTU	6/12
VWXYZABCD	6/9
EFGHIJKLMNO PQ	6/6
RSTUVWXYZABCDEF	6/5

Distance vision

- 6/12 or better with either your right or left eye, with or without glasses or contact lenses.
- 6/6 with both eyes together, with or without glasses or contact lenses.
- Corrected low contrast distance visual acuity must be 6/12 or better for a 10% contrast target, binocularly.

Near vision

- Near visual acuity is the ability to see clearly objects and fine detail at 36 inches or less.
- 6/9 with both eyes together, with or without glasses or contact lenses.

Visual field

- A view of at least 120 degrees horizontally by 100 degrees vertically.
- Free or any large defective areas, particularly in the fovea.
- Defects smaller than the physiological blind spot will be acceptable.
- Multiple defects that add to an area smaller than the physiological blind spot, should be acceptable.

Colour vision

- Monochromats are not accepted (complete colour deficiency).
- Mild anomalous trichromats are acceptable in standard policing roles.
- Severe anomalous dichromats and trichromats are likely to be accepted for some policing roles but you will need to be aware of the deficiency and be making appropriate adjustments.
- The use of colour correcting lenses is not acceptable.

Eye surgery

- Radial keratotomy, arcuate keratotomy or corneal grafts are not acceptable.
- Other forms of refractive surgery such as LASIK, LASEK, PRK, ICRS and cataract surgery are all acceptable provided that six weeks have elapsed since surgery, there are no residual side effects other than a reduction in low light level visual performance and the other eyesight standards are met.
- After any eye surgery, you may be asked to provide a report from an optician.