

The following year, 1841, brought a complete reappraisal of the policing system and a series of improvements and alterations were instituted throughout the force. The day and night sections had not been co-operating for a number of reasons, some of the more obvious being, jealousy between the Superintendents; antagonism towards each other by the men, and the total lack of ability of the members of the night watch (due mainly to age and amateurism) which reflected badly on their daytime counterparts. After completing a series of visits to surrounding towns for the purpose of observing other policing systems, the Watch Committee tabled a number of proposals which were accepted without opposition. Briefly, the separate watches would in future be combined to operate as one unified force under the command of a single Superintendent. The evening and night men were dismissed as new recruits were signed up, and the day men who could satisfy the requirements for the new style force were retained. The area of the town was then divided into 30 sections for patrolling, and the total establishment of 47 men was allocated to them in the proportion of one Inspector and 12 men for the daytime, and four Inspectors and 30 men for the night.

For the first time a handbook was prepared for the guidance of members of the force; entitled 'Instructions to the Police Officers of the Town of Nottingham', the booklet set out the rules, regulations and requirements under which the stalwarts of the local constabulary would be expected to carry out their duties. According to these instructions, the recruit should be able to read and write; not be in excess of 35 years of age; be more than 5 ft. 7 ins. tall; be honest, upright, sober and intelligent; be willing and able to obey any order issued to him by his superiors, and, of supreme importance, be willing to work an unspecified number of hours per week for the princely sum of 17/-, as a constable Class III. After reaching the peak of proficiency by dint of hard work and unflinching diligence, the officer could become a constable Class I, when his weekly stipend would then be raised to match his elevated status and he would receive 19/- per week! Part of his contract stipulated that he wear his uniform at all times, unless specifically exempted by the order of the Chief Constable. The uniform mentioned, consisted of a tunic with metal buttons and badges, and bearing the man's number; white trousers lined with unbleached calico; boots; a pair of white Berlin gloves and a stovepipe hat. A waterproof cape and a greatcoat completed the outfit. Equipment was restricted to a staff, a board, warning rattle and a lantern, and the recruit was required to place a deposit of £3 with the Watch Committee against the loss of any item on the list. Alongside the infant Police Force, the Town Fire Brigade also received its share of the Corporation's attention at this time. One of the most far reaching improvements lavished upon it was the provision of a central fire station and the establishment of a regular staff of firemen, in the shape of one Superintendent and 14 men, all of them regular policemen. The Brigade was the responsibility of the Watch Committee. Although the territorial expansion of the town was taking place only slowly, the population, 28,000 in 1800, had risen to over 50,000 by 1850 and was continuing to increase annually. A relative increase in the establishment of the Police Force therefore became vital and until the close of the century a constant flow of recruits was admitted to the ranks. In 1851 it was considered advisable 'to appoint a Superintendent who shall have no other duties than the management of the Police Force'

This move resulted in the resignation of Mr. William Barnes from his post as part-time commander of the force, he 'preferring to retain the other offices he holds under the Corporation'. These offices included High Constable, Billet Master, Mayor's Sergeant, and Keeper of the Police Office and Exchange Rooms. With Barnes' retirement the office of High Constable was severed from police duties for all time. The salary of the new Superintendent was fixed at £150 per annum, plus house and coals, and his force would consist of two Inspectors, five Sergeants and 52 men, some of the latter to act in the capacity of detectives. Superintendent William Reddish was given the task of guiding the reorganised force along its chosen path, and he carried out his assignment with enthusiasm and a great deal of expertise. The initial success of the detective police was noted with some satisfaction, and in 1854 it was decided to extend the experiment and set up the first local Criminal Investigation Department, to be manned by a Superintendent and four constables. Part of their duties, as outlined by the Watch Committee Minutes of 1854, was the training of new recruits; it was stressed that the utmost importance should be given to the attendance at Magistrates' Courts of all recruits, in order that they should quickly familiarise themselves with the town's known thieves and prostitutes. At the end of 1854 William Reddish resigned his appointment and was replaced by Supt. William Raynor.

Over the years, the Town Council, jealous as ever of its hard won rights and the creation and management of its own departments, fiercely resisted any attempt at interference with either, especially when the interference came from outside. In 1853, an attempted amalgamation with the Notts. County Police Force was successfully opposed, and in 1854 a Government Police Improvement Bill was hotly debated and debunked. The latter Bill sought to make the appointment and dismissal of a Chief Constable a matter for the Home Secretary's approval, it also imposed many more Government controls on what had been regarded as a local organisation. A similar Act of 1856 (The County and Borough Police Bill), which enforced an annual inspection upon the force by a Government Inspector, was also objected to on the grounds that the official would undoubtedly insist upon the recruitment of more men, thus involving the Corporation in more expense! In the event, the inspection (1857) went off without a hitch, the force was declared efficient, and its establishment considered adequate. The Act provided a 25% Exchequer grant towards the expenses accrued in the paying and equipping of forces declared efficient, so with the acquisition of this, the objections from the Town Hall became slightly less vociferous.

With the expansion and consolidation of Police Forces throughout the country it was inevitable that legislation designed to assist them in their duties should accumulate rapidly. Acts, Bills and Bye-laws appeared with bewildering regularity for a number of years, some of them aimed at improving the policeman's lot. 1859 saw a Police Act which enforced the setting up of a superannuation scheme. Contributions were calculated at 21% of the man's wage supplemented by money collected from stoppages for sickness, fines on constables for misconduct, part of fines imposed by magistrates for drunkenness and assaults on constables, and fines and penalties awarded to constables as informers; also money from the sale of worn police clothing. A new scale of pay was recommended. Constables 18/- to 21/- per week; Detectives 24/- to 26/-; Sergeants 24/-; Inspectors 26/- to 31/-, and the Superintendents' salary to be increased by £5 per annum.

The head of the force became known officially as the Chief Constable in 1860, when the Watch Committee recommended 'that for the more efficient management of the Police and Fire Service, and to ensure better supervision, a Chief Superintendent be appointed (for both) who shall keep a horse for the better performance of his duties'. His salary was to be £325 per annum for all purposes, including the upkeep of the horse. The Chief Supt. at the time, William Raynor, was retained as Superintendent of the Detective Police, with a salary of £150 per year. The first official Chief Constable of Nottingham was Joseph Hedington, who came to the town from South Shields, and was granted the extraordinary power to appoint and dismiss constables himself, and to fine them for misdemeanors, a power hitherto restricted to the Watch Committee. Hedington survived five tempestuous years in the post, distinguished only by his indiscretions; for instance, during his term of office, Nottingham's crime rate climbed steadily above that of any other borough of comparable size; he was hauled before the Watch Committee on several occasions and severely reprimanded for using unnecessary harshness when dealing with the town's drunks, for employing his son as a paid constable out of uniform, and for claiming undue expenses. His eventual downfall was brought about during the election riots of 1865, when he advised local magistrates to order the police off the streets to avoid provocation towards the mobs. As a result, the military had to be called in from Sheffield to restore order, and Hedington's waning star flickered out. He resigned and was replaced by John Freeman, former Chief Constable of Plymouth.

The addition of extra personnel and buildings to house them was a marked feature of the '60's. In 1860, six houses were built in Kent Street for policemen doing duty at the new Fire Station, and the following year a Police Station was erected in Leen Side consisting of a Fire Engine Room, a Charge Room, cells, and living accommodation. It was occupied in 1862. Ten constables were recruited in 1862, at the request of the Chief Constable, and in 1866 the Fire Police were put on the same basic wage scale as the ordinary Force and were henceforth paid by the Council in the same way. The Fire department was to remain the responsibility of the Police Force for many years to come, in fact, until it became part of the National Fire Service in 1941.

An experiment was carried out in 1858 using photography as a means of recording criminal descriptions on a permanent basis, in order to build up a more practical reference file. In the records of the Borough Treasurer for that year, appears the item: '£11. 6. 6d. for a photographic apparatus for the police'. Although the experiment proved to be a success, the operators turned out to be somewhat hesitant in the use of their new equipment. The job of photographing the Town's choicest specimens of underworld activity was therefore sub-contracted to one of the local commercial photographers. By August 1860 however, the Council had discovered that an official Police photographer would be a much more economical proposition, so, at the same time as they approved a plan for the enlargement of the Charge Room at the Smithy Row Police Office, and for adding a special room for the use of the Superintendent, they also reported that they considered it advisable to add a further room 'for taking photographic likenesses, as a means of detection now generally used'.

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Nottingham City Police, originally founded as the Borough of Nottingham Police, was a UK police force created under the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 in the style of Robert Peel's Metropolitan Police which initially launched in 1836. This initial force failed and was re-founded successfully in 1841. It had responsibility for law enforcement within the geographic area as defined by the boundaries of the city of Nottingham. Under the Police Act 1964 the force was compulsorily amalgamated with Nottinghamshire County Police to form the Nottinghamshire Combined Constabulary, now re-named Nottinghamshire Police.

Founding and early history [edit]

The force was founded originally in 1836 with a body of 3 police officers working days and 12 police officers working evenings. The previously existing system of night watchmen was retained for the hours of darkness.^[1] The force operated under the existing High Constable William Barnes who had held the traditional position of authority in the borough since 1833. The force failed after 5 years, with internal rivalries between the different shifts and general incompetence on the parts of the watchmen leading to its lack of efficiency.^[2]

Trips by the town's authorities to neighbouring Derby to observe their new police force in action prompted the Nottingham Corporation to disband the force baring the three 'day police' officers. They re-launched a new force in 1841 with 47 officers, including 1 Inspector and 12 Constables for the day and 4 Inspectors and 30 Constables for nights. When this force hit the beat they were far more successful.

The force was further reviewed in 1851 and expanded to now 2 Inspectors, 5 Sergeants and 53 Constables. It would also now have a Superintendent "who shall have no other duties than the management of the Police Force".^[1] Supt. William Reddish was appointed at a salary of £150 plus house and coal. William Barnes retained his position as High Constable but had no more involvement with running the force. The review also introduced a Criminal Investigation Department to the force for the first time.

List of Chief Constables^[3] [edit]

Name	Dates of holding position	Post title
William Barnes	1833 (traditional pre-existing post) 1851 (replaced as Chief Officer but retained High Constable title)	High Constable
William Reddish	1851 1854	Superintendent
William Raynor	1854 1860	Superintendent
Joseph Hedington	1860 1869	Chief Constable
Capt F Parry	1869 1872	Chief Constable
Maj. W H Poyntz	1872 1881	Chief Constable
Samuel Stevens	1881 1892	Chief Constable
Philip S Clay	1892 1912	Chief Constable
Thomas Clarke	1912 1920	Chief Constable
Lt Col. Frank Brook DSO , MC	1920 1929	Chief Constable
Capt Athelstan Popkes CBE , OStJ , KPM	1930 1959	Chief Constable
Thomas Moore	1960 1968	Chief Constable