

Contacting Us

Please contact us to book a place before visiting our searchrooms.

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WYAS Calderdale
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WYAS Kirklees
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WYAS Wakefield
West Yorkshire History Centre
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The West Yorkshire Archive Service holds over 54m³ of police records, which equates to over 2700 boxes of material. Within the various police collections there is a vast variety of information mainly about the police officers themselves and how the forces functioned on a day to day basis, but also some information on criminals and crime.

Due to the sensitive nature of the majority of the police records we hold many of the records under 100 years old may be subject to legal restrictions so we strongly suggest you contact our Wakefield office for further details on any records you may wish to view.

Most of the Borough forces and the West Riding Constabulary collections have been fully listed and the catalogues are available to view on our [online catalogue](#). Work is continuing on the later West Yorkshire Forces records to make them available on our online catalogue at a future time.

This guide is designed to be a general introduction to the range of records we hold relating to the police, it is by no means a comprehensive guide and if there are any records relating to the police in West Yorkshire that are not mentioned please do contact our Wakefield office where staff will be able to advise you further.

The police records held in the collections referred to in this guide tend to be records about the forces, how they were set up and operated and of the police who worked for them rather than records about criminals [although there are some criminal records within the collection]. If you are interested in criminal records then court records, petty sessions and quarter sessions records [all held by WYAS] may be of more use to your research. Please use our online catalogue or contact the relevant office to get more information on these types of record.

Background Information about Yorkshire Police Forces

Publications about local police forces include:

Shaw, B. (1970) *The History of the West Riding Constabulary* (Tadcaster: Barry Shaw)

Clay, E.W. (ed.) (1974) *The Leeds City Police 1836-1974* (Leeds: Research and Planning Department, Leeds City Police)

Holberry, S. (no date) *A Pictorial History of the Huddersfield and District Police Force* (unpublished)

Jackson, C. (1983) *Wakefield Constabulary 1848-1968* (Wakefield, Sybil M. Jackson)

Smith, G. (c1973) *Bradford's Police* (Bradford: City of Bradford Police)

Wild, J. (1968) *Halifax Borough Police* (unpublished)

For general historical background information and police memorabilia, why not visit

Yorkshire Law & Order Museums at Ripon

Website: <http://www.riponmuseums.co.uk/>

Telephone: +44 (0)1765 690799

The Courthouse Museum, Minster Road, Ripon

The Prison and Police Museum, St Marygate, Ripon

The Workhouse Museum of Poor Law, Allhallowgate, Ripon

Access to Police Records

Some police records under 100 years old are subject to legal restrictions on access. You will be informed of any restrictions which apply when you contact the relevant West Yorkshire Archive Service office. For further information, please see the West Yorkshire Archive Service Policy on Access to Records, which is available from our website.

	Personnel records	Photographs	Annual reports	Watch Committee Minutes	Crime Records
Batley Borough Watch	N/A	N/A	N/A	1869 – 1950 [held at Kirklees]	N/A
Bradford City Police	1850 – 1973	1890s – 1960s	1873 – 1973	1847 – 1968 [held at Bradford]	1903 – 1973
Dewsbury Borough Police	1885 – 1973	1896 – 1966	1929 – 1967	1862 – 1968 [held at Kirklees]	1928 – 1934
Halifax Borough Police	1853 – 1968	1893 – 1959	1966 – 1967	1943 – 1965 [held at Calderdale]	1888 – 1967
Huddersfield Borough Police	1860 – 1968	c1897 – 1968	1949 – 1967	1820 – 1968 [held at Kirklees]	1859 – 1972] [some held at Kirklees]
Leeds City Police	1833 – 1974	1870s – 1970s	1878 – 1973	1912 – 1956 [held at Leeds]	1896 – 1973
Wakefield City Police	1848 – 1968	1900s – 1970s	1967	1848 – 1968	N/A
West Riding Constabulary	c1848 - 1968	c1850 – 1960s	1928 – 1968	N/A	1857 – 1967
West Yorkshire Constabulary				N/A	
West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police	1978 – 1985			N/A	
West Yorkshire Police				N/A	
West Yorkshire Training School, Bishopgarth	N/A	1953 - 2003	N/A	N/A	N/A

Please note that all records in this table are held at our Wakefield office unless otherwise stated.

We advise you contact the office about any records you wish to see as there are restrictions to access on many of the records under 100 years old [\[wakefield@wyjs.org.uk\]](mailto:wakefield@wyjs.org.uk).

Please also note the dates ranges provided are an indication of the earliest and latest documents we hold on that subject, we do not hold necessarily hold full complete runs of records for all the years listed.

Changes in Police structure in West Yorkshire

