

Stoke-on-Trent City Police used Triumph TRs as patrol cars from 1956 with the TR3 until 1968 with the TR4A, although by this time their use was extremely limited.

Pictured is the TR3 which was registered YVT 332 in April 1956, driven by Kevin's father, Harry Shaw. The photograph shows the car shortly after it was acquired as the only modification appears to be the large aerial on the rear deck for the radio equipment fitted in the cockpit.

Apparently drivers were encouraged to keep the hoods down and sidescreens removed whenever possible to aid visibility, so patrolling in them for hours on end could literally be a pain in the neck!

YVT 332 was kept in service for a number of years during which time it had acquired a spotlight and loud hailer mounted at the front of the car.

The photograph shows the car in the yard of the old Hanley Police Station which was adjacent to the Victoria Hall, with drivers Pete Smith, Percy Dodd and Graham Wilkes. Alongside is its stablemate Triumph TR3A, registered locally as 55 FEH in August 1958.

From their attire it would appear that TR drivers were expected to ensure that their cars were washed and well-presented before being unleashed on to the city streets!



It is assumed that YVT 332, 55 FEH and their sister cars would have been sold off by 1961 as another batch of black TR3As arrived in Hanley to take over duties in the City. In May 1961, 9 SVT was registered and duly fitted with a hardtop and roof mounted blue light on an extended chrome housing.

In the photograph the TR3A's loud hailer is being used to appeal to the crowd at Stoke City's Victoria Ground in September 1962 for information regarding a serious local crime.

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Stoke Police Cars

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By August 1961, 454 TVT and 455 TVT had joined the TR fleet and were similarly equipped with hardtops and prominent roof lights as well as the other essential police paraphernalia.

We have known for many years that 454 TVT was a City Police car but by a stroke of good fortune Chris Mountford has recently managed to acquire the TR3A registered 455 TVT which fortuitously still has all of its original documents.



After serving the City for three years we can assume that all of the remaining TR3As were sold off to make way for the radically restyled TR4s. In 1964 at least two TR4s took their place in the recently built replacement Hanley Police Station.

As before the cars were supplied by the local dealership, Byatts of Fenton. They arrived in black with black interiors and hardtops and were duly transformed into patrol cars by the police mechanics.

In 1965 the last of the Triumph TRs joined the local force in the shape of the TR4A by which time the extended roof mounted light had been replaced with an illuminated POLICE box to enhance their visibility.



Police workshop Manager John Cross working on the TR4 registered 4564 EH.



By 1968 the TRs had been taken out of active service and DVT 435C was relegated to the role of commuter vehicle for police drivers and Chief Supt. Ron Biggs between Hanley and the Stafford Headquarters as by now Stoke-on-Trent City Police had been amalgamated with Staffordshire County Police.

Perhaps understandably the TRs were no longer considered suitable for their policing role, indeed many in the force felt that they were unsuitable

when they were first introduced in 1956! Obviously, we're pleased that their shortcomings were overlooked as they are a fascinating branch of TR history. If anyone does have any more information, anecdotes, photographs or knows of the whereabouts of any of the Stoke Police TRs, Chris or Kevin would be delighted to hear from you!

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