



PECAM Observer Training Programme 2025

Trainee Information Pack

History and revisions

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this pack is to provide you with information and resources prior to the start of the programme so that you can prepare as far as reasonably practicable. This is the point where you decide whether you have the time to commit to the programme and can train associates as a Trainee National Observer. (TNO)

2. Riding Qualifications

To qualify for the programme, you will have passed your IAM test or Membership by Portfolio within the last 2 years or IAM Masters within the last 12 months. If you do not fit in the categories above, then you will be required to take and pass a check ride before the beginning of the course. (Serving Police qualified motorcyclists are exempt.) Riding standards are expected to be above the standard to pass the IAM Roadsmart Advanced Rider test.

3. Observer Contract - the expectations are that you will commit to

- provide a high standard training to associates.
- provide regular updates on associate progress to the Chief Observer
- use any electronic systems required by the PECAM/IAM
- train at least one associate a year to test (8 to 10 sessions).
- **ride all year when safe to do so.**
- becoming a mentor when qualified as National Observer.
- your own continuing personal development.
- supporting other training within PECAM where practicable.
- helping PECAM promote road safety.

4. Training Course Timetable

The initial observer training is two days which will give you the practical skills to become an observer.

Day 1 (09:00 - 16:00) Stanground Fire Station, Peterborough	
What you need to know!	Classroom session - covering aspects that will help you become an observer
Meetings, briefings and debriefs	Classroom session - to demonstrate what is required and to practice with a mentor
Management, mentoring and assessment	Classroom session - setting expectations, mentoring and how sign off as an independent observer will be achieved
Day 2 (10:00 - 15:00) Starting from a location where YOU will observe your associates	
Road ride practical's	<p>Development Ride - Bends route 10 - 12 miles (2hrs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- You will conduct an initial meeting, road ride briefing, mid ride debrief and final debrief- Your mentor will coach you when required so can develop your skills prior to your assessment ride <p>Demonstration Ride (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your mentor will show you how you conduct a demonstration ride- You will then conduct a demonstration ride <p>Assessment Ride - Bends route 10 - 12 miles (90 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- You will conduct an initial meeting, road ride briefing, mid ride debrief and final debrief- Your mentor will assess your performance and will use the NOPS form to provide you with feedback and a development plan

5. What skills do you need?

- Good riding standard required.
- Strong Theory Knowledge.
- Desire to improve.
- **MUST KNOW** - IAM Observers Handbook & Highway Code.
- A good working knowledge of Motorcycle Roadcraft.

6. Observer Qualities?

Be prepared to discuss the following at the start of the programme.

- Reflect on Observers you have met.
- Good points?
- Any surprises?
- What impression was made on you?
- Could anything have been done differently?
- Identify what you think are the Top 5 Observer qualities.
- Strong personal communication & interpersonal skills.
- Flexible approach: e.g., different people; different routes.
- Ambassador for PECAM and IAM. Member of both.
- Widely experienced in motorcycling.
- Pass the NOPS internal assessments.
- Encourage associates to engage with other PECAM activities i.e., social events, ride outs, slow riding etc

7. The IAM Roadsmart Observer Role

- Chief Observer (CO)
- National Observer (NO)
- Trainee National Observer (TNO)
- Slow Riding Coach
- TEC

8. Mentoring

- A mentor will be assigned prior to the programme so that you can watch them conduct an observed ride, if possible, prior to the start of the course.
- Your mentor may not be the observer who trained you for your advanced riding test.
- On day 2 of the course, you will be assessed against the NOPS (National Observer Progress Sheet) during the second ride by your Mentor. This is known as the development NOPS.
- As a trainee observer you will train your associate under the supervision of your Mentor. Your mentor **MUST** be with you when you conduct each observed ride until your final assessment which will be with the Chief Observer.
- At the appropriate time, your mentor will ask the CO to assess you whilst you are training your associate. This will be known as the Final NOPS and you will be signed off as competent in all areas.
- If you are **NOT** ready to be signed off, then further sessions may be conducted with an associate or role player.
- The mentor will submit the completed NOPS forms to the Chief Observer and at this point you will become qualified to observe independently.
- The mentor will then be reassigned and when you are ready to take your National Observer Assessment, with a National Observer Assessor appointed by IAM Roadsmart, a new mentor will be appointed.

9. Advanced Rider Course Logbook (ARC)

The IAM ARC MUST be used in training the associate, ensure that you ask the associate to bring their ARC with them for the first meeting and all subsequent sessions.

10. Observer Handbook

The chapters are the same as the ARC but contain further information for the observer towards the end entitled Hints & Tips. You will be given your own copy of the Observer Handbook, Police Motorcycle Roadcraft, Observer Roadbook and Highway Code.

11. The Associate First Meeting & Ride Briefing

This is the first stage of developing a rapport with the associate. You will be provided with an example aide memoire to help you develop a structure that works for you and your personal style. It is suggested that you start practicing the first meeting and road ride briefings before the programme starts.

12. Associate Assessed Ride

This is your first ride with the new associate to assess their standard of riding and the start of coaching.

13. The Observed Ride

All rides after the first ride are observed rides which require road ride briefing, mid ride debriefs, demonstrations, if necessary, final debrief and run sheet completion.

14. Observing a ride safely

- Must always keep yourself safe.
 - Flexible position, a thinking ride (use The System!)

- HWC safe following distance rule. . .?
- A safe following position
- Try not to block the associates RH mirror view.
- Use common sense to stay in touch with associate.
- Do not blindly follow. e.g., overtakes, junctions. Consider other road users.
- Turning/direction signals must be on early.

15. Bluetooth Communications

This is trained separately and is not part of this programme.

16. Routes

These are the routes where you will operate as an Observer and now is the time to start planning 3 or 4 routes (7 to 8 when reversed) which can be used for different sessions such as cornering, junctions and roundabouts, dual carriageways, and motorways. In considering routes in the first instance consider those close to you as you will have a good knowledge of the roads, starting and finishing venues and debrief stops. The routes in general are 20-30 miles, no longer than 40-45 minutes riding time and are dependent on the aim of that session e.g., first meeting (generally shorter). Consider the following for starting and finishing points.

- Public Place.
- Refreshments.
- Suitable seating.
- Toilets.
- Parking.
- Check opening times (Seasonal Adjustments).
- Check NO events at the venue that will impact on your access.

17. Resources

On your acceptance to the programme access will be given to the Observer Documents page where the following is available :

- Guidance for Mentoring Observers.
- National Observer Progress Sheet (NOPS) - available from your IAM dashboard <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/my-dashboard/observer/imi-national-observer>
- Check Ride Guidance for Associates and Observers.
- Guidance for Run and Competency Sheet completion.

The associate documentation has now been made electronic so there is no requirement to complete their ARC Logbook. A note must be made by the associate in their ARC Logbook that all forms have been completed electronically.

- ARC Group Information Template
- Competency Sheet
- Run Sheet.
- Declaration Form.

You will have access to videos showing how to conduct meetings, debriefs and final debriefs and presentations from the Observer Training Programme.

18. It Is Your Decision

If you decide **NOT** to proceed thank you for taking an interest in the programme.

If you do decide to proceed then please email chiefobs@pecam.org.uk

When you complete your mentoring and pass the final assessment, you will be able to train associates independently. You will be rewarded in seeing your associates develop and pass their test. They may even go on to be observers themselves or take other roles in PECAM.

As you increase in experience, and within one year, the next step is to be independently assessed by the ASDM to become a National Observer.

PECAM Chief Observer

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