

MPS Ride Along scheme

The MPS Ride Along scheme provides opportunities for members of the public to accompany police officers on patrol and enables two-way learning to take place, bringing the police closer to the public.

The Home Office Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme requires police forces to allow lay observation of stop and search, the MPS Ride Along scheme fulfils this requirement. However, stop and search doesn't happen all the time and must be carried out only in specific circumstances, it might not be carried out at all during the observed patrol. Police will not look to stop and search for the benefit of the lay observer, this would likely render the search unlawful and it would be completely against the intention of the stop and search reforms.

An application to accompany Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) officers on patrol should be directed to your local police.

A vetting process will then be conducted. Previous convictions will not automatically prevent you participating in the scheme as each case will be considered individually.

You will be required to complete a confidentiality agreement.

You will need to make your own arrangements for personal insurance cover, the MPS will not provide this.

Police work is stressful and demanding, the police regularly deal with situations that involve conflict, verbal abuse and physical injury. Although the police conducting the patrol will carry out a risk assessment and implement processes and procedures to minimise the risk of physical/mental harm, you should carefully consider whether you wish to be exposed to such situations before applying to observe police.