

Confidentiality Agreement

Before you spend time with the Police on the Ride-Along Scheme, you will be asked to consent and sign agreement to the below.

The Metropolitan Police Service places great emphasis on confidentiality and data protection. Our success in reducing crime, bringing offenders to justice and developing trust and confidence amongst all sections of the community, is partly dependent on our reputation for confidentiality.

This means that any information regarding individuals and operations MUST remain inside the organisation and not disseminated externally.

In order for your Ride-Along to provide maximum value, it is necessary for you to be as close as possible to the activity you are observing. This can result in you becoming aware of sensitive information. Therefore, as a participant in the MPS Ride-Along Scheme, you must observe strict confidentiality in respect of any information or documentation that you see, hear or read. For the purposes of this agreement, information includes but is not limited to:

- spoken information (including anything you hear on a police radio)
- written and printed information
- photographs
- computer systems, including those in police cars and
- confidential waste

You can talk in general terms about what you saw as part of the ride-along. This could include the general nature of a crime that officers respond to whilst hosting a ride-along (theft, burglary, etc). But you must not talk or write about, or post on social media, any information that could identify any individuals involved in a crime, or any victims of a crime. This may conflict with an individual's right to confidentiality under the Data Protection Act 2018. For example:

- names
- address
- date of birth
- photographs
- recordings

You must not live-stream the ride-along scheme. You must not take photographs or videos of the ride-along scheme without speaking to the host officer first.

You must seek the Metropolitan Police Service advice and agreement if in doubt around the contents of a social media post.

In some cases, where the incident was exceptional and/or has been reported in the media, it may still be possible to identify an individual from your description even without any personal details. In such cases or if in any doubt, speak with the officers you are with or contact your allocated point of contact for further information before publication or upload.

Persons applying for the Ride-Along Scheme will be subject to security checks including against the Police National Computer. Your personal information will be kept for a period of six years as per MPS data retention policies. The reasons for this include:

- to highlight any rejected applications from the same applicant; or
- to highlight terminated ride-alongs from the same applicant, due to their inappropriate or even dangerous behaviour.

This process protects the safety of host officers and members of the public who might be impacted by the actions of participants. In addition, complaints against police and civil injury claims can be made up to a period of 6 years after the event, so the retention period allows for this.

You must follow the [Official Secrets Act 1989](#) and the [Data Protection Act 2018](#). This means that if you reveal any information without permission you could be prosecuted.

Please note that any information you add to this form may be used if any legal proceedings are brought against you.

These restrictions on what you must keep confidential, still apply after you've been on a ride-along. Discussion or further disclosure of such information or retention of any documentation received during the Ride-Along Scheme is a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. Such improper use may also constitute an offence under the Official Secrets Act 1989 and the Computer Misuse Act 1990.