



# Confidentiality Agreement

**Before you spend time with the Police on the Ride Along Scheme, you must read this notice carefully.**

- The Police Service is a professional and caring organisation that 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 dependent, partly, on our reputation for confidentiality.
- This means that any information regarding individuals and operations **MUST** remain inside the organisation.
- In order for your Ride Along to provide maximum value, it is necessary for you to be as close as possible to the activity that you are observing. This can result in you becoming aware of sensitive information.
- Therefore, as a participant in the Metropolitan Police Ride Along Scheme, you must observe strict confidentiality in respect of any information or documentation which you see, hear or read. For the purposes of this agreement, information includes but is not limited to: spoken word, including radio communications, written and printed material, computer systems including those within police cars and confidential waste.
- We wholeheartedly encourage you to share your personal experience of the Ride Along with others, particularly via your social media accounts. However, please do not publish or broadcast anything which may conflict with an individual's' right to confidentiality under the Data Protection Act 2018. For example, you may reference the general nature of a crime officers respond on a ride along (theft, domestic abuse etc.) but you must not detail any information which may identify the individuals involved – such as their names, address, or date of birth. You should also not publish or broadcast any notes, photographs, tape recordings or similar material without the prior agreement of the Metropolitan Police Service.
- 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, and in any cases if in doubt, speak with the officers you are with, or contact your allocated point of contact for further information before any publication or upload.

- 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.
- Your personal information will be retained for a period of 12 months as a record of your participation should we need to contact you about it.
- Persons applying for the Ride Along Scheme will be subject to security checks.