

*Here are **10 interesting facts** about the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)*



1. Founded in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel

The Met was established under the Metropolitan Police Act 1829.

- *It was one of the first modern professional police services in the world.*
- *At the time, its officers wore top-hats and blue coats to show they were civil police, not soldiers.*

2. It is the UK's largest police force

According to the Met itself, it has tens of thousands of officers and staff.

- *For example: 33,201 police officers + 11,319 police staff + 1,460 community support officers (as of a recent date).*

3. It serves the capital city: London

The Met polices the Greater London area (except the City of London Police area).

- *London has over 300 languages spoken and about 40% of the population from Black, Asian & minority ethnic communities.*

4. “New Scotland Yard” is its iconic headquarters building

The name often used for its headquarters is “New Scotland Yard”.

- *The building's history reflects the Met's changing needs (e.g., moving HQ, redevelopments).*

5. It has its own Crime Museum

The Met's Crime Museum (formerly “Black Museum”) holds objects and memorabilia related to historic crimes and policing.

- *The museum is not generally open to the public, but holds a rich history.*

6. Policing London means dealing with national & international risks

Because London houses government buildings, embassies, major transport hubs, protests and large events — the Met has to face many kinds of policing challenges.

7. Historic use of new technologies & special units

- *For example, in 1918 the Met's "Flying Squad" (a mobile detective unit) was formed.*
- *Over the years it has adapted and created specialist operations for serious crime, counter-terrorism, forensic technology, etc.*

8. Unique remit and size mean large budget and responsibilities

The Met has a large share of England & Wales' police budget and policing responsibilities.

- *For example: it covers about 25% of the total police budget for England & Wales.*

9. Historic uniform and public image evolution

- *Early officers used a rattle (for alert) before the whistle was introduced in 1884.*
- *The uniform changed over time to look professional, non-military, to gain public trust.*

10. ***Public data and transparency***

The Met publishes statistics, dashboards and open data so that the public can see crime figures, stop & search data, etc.