



Police and crime in the UK

Reporting a crime

Phone 999

In an emergency you should phone **999**. You should use this service if a crime or incident is happening now or if anyone is in immediate danger.

Phone 101

Dial **101** to contact your local police for incidents not requiring an immediate police response.

If you are going to a police station, take a friend to support you and write down what the police say to you.

If they refuse to record your complaint, you can go to another police station and try again.

If you are reporting sexual assault, domestic violence or a hate crime (e.g. a racist or homophobic attack) it is often easier to find the **Community Safety Unit** and go through them first. Use *Google* to find your nearest unit.

If you are injured as a result of a crime you should visit your doctor or hospital and request a medical report as soon as possible.

Certain categories of crime or incidents committed in the Greater London area can now be reported over the internet:

- <https://online.met.police.uk/>

Police stops

If you are stopped by the police in the street, try to stay calm.

They can stop you and question you but you do not have to answer. However, if you are later charged with a crime and whilst being questioned by the police you did not say something you later want to depend on in court (to defend yourself), this may be considered by the court when deciding whether you are guilty.



The police should only search you if they have good reasons to suspect you of committing a crime. You can only be searched without good reasons if it has been approved by a Senior Police Officer. They have the right to make you remove your jacket and gloves.

You have the right to a document of the arrest (called 'a record'), which should have the ID number of the police officer on it.

Police stop and search guide:

• <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-rights/legal-system/police/police-powers/>

Arrests

If you are arrested, you will be asked to give the police your name, address and date of birth. You do not have to answer any questions without speaking to a solicitor.

You have a right to a free solicitor for the police interview. There will be a duty solicitor who can give you advice at the police station.

You have the right to make a phone call.

You have the right to a translator if you do not speak English.

If the police think you are guilty, they may offer you formal warning (a 'caution'). It means you accept guilt but you will not be taken to court and will not get a fine or a sentence. Caution stays on your criminal record. **Get advice from the solicitor before accepting a caution.**

Going to court

If the police think you are guilty and you are not offered a caution, you will usually be sent to a court for trial.

Costs

For criminal cases, depending on your income, you may get a free solicitor if you are taken to court.

If you earn less than £12,475 (**in 2016**) the solicitor will be free.

If you earn between £12,475 and £22,325 you will have to go through a full means test (a test about how much money you earn, how much you spend, and family circumstances).

If you earn above £22,325 you will have to pay a solicitor yourself. This is for criminal cases only. You can use this calculator to check if you can get legal aid:

• <https://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid>

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Support for Women

Women's Aid domestic violence helpline open 24 hours a day:

☐ 0808 2000 247



Handbook for survivors in many languages including Polish and Spanish:

● <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/>

Southall Black Sisters provide advice for black and Asian women on domestic violence and 18 related issues, including immigration:

● <http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk/>

☐ 0208 571 0800

Rape Crisis London offer confidential help, information and support to women and girls who have experienced sexual violence of any kind:

● www.rapecrisislondon.org

☐ 0808 80 29999

Women's Rights provide free legal advice on several phone advice lines. Find the numbers for specific areas of law on the website:

● <http://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice/>

Migrant domestic workers

Kalayaan provides free, independent and confidential advice on immigration and employment to **migrant domestic workers**. Contact them if you have a problem with your employer, you have left an employer who is keeping your passport, or you simply wish to understand more about your rights:

● www.kalayaan.org.uk

☐ 020 7243 2942

Support for LGBT people

Galop LGBT Domestic Violence helpline:

● <http://www.galop.org.uk/>

☐ 0800 999 5428

☐ 0300 999 5428

Support for Men

Men's Domestic Violence and Abuse helpline:

● www.mensadviceline.org.uk

☐ 0808 801 0327

Survivors UK confidential helpline for men who have experienced sexual violence:

● www.survivorsuk.org

☐ 0845 122 1201

Other information

- The police cannot help with **work and housing matters**.
- **Stalking** (e.g. following a person, watching or spying on them or forcing contact with the victim through any means, including social media) is a crime.
- **Bullying** someone because of the colour of their skin, sexual orientation, religious affiliation or the way they live is a crime (called '**hate crime**').



- If you have been a victim of any crime or have been affected by a crime committed against someone you know, the charity **Victim Support** can help you. Call ☐ 08 08 16 89 111 to speak to them.
- Never take **unlicensed mini-cabs**, especially if you are a single female.
- Try to avoid walking alone at night. Stay on busy, main roads which have good street lighting.

London

- London has an **online crime map**: <http://maps.met.police.uk/>. You can use it when deciding on where to live, or how safe it is to walk alone at night.

Complain about the police

You can make a complaint against the police in the following ways:

- Go to your local police station and ask to see the duty officer.
- Contact the police force involved. You can find the contact details for the individual police force on the **Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)** website:
 - www.ipcc.gov.uk
- If you are unhappy with the way your local police station has dealt with your complaint, contact:
 - In **England**, the interdependent police complaints commission:
 - <https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/complaints>
 - or ☐ 0300 020 0096
 - In **Scotland**, Police Investigations & Review Commissioner:
 - enquiries@pirc.gsi.gov.uk
 - ☐ 0808 178 5577

If you need help with making a complaint, you can contact your local Law Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Youth Offending Team, Racial Equality Council, Probation Service or neighbourhood warden for help. A solicitor or MP (in the UK, each area has a Member of Parliament with whom you can raise issues) could also make a complaint on your behalf.

In London, **Newham Monitoring Group** can help in cases of police misconduct:

- www.nmp.org.uk
- ☐ 0800 169 3111

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