

SPECIAL REPORT

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN POLICING



Members of the Metropolitan Police outside its home at New Scotland Yard, London. Cressida Dick is at the front.

Metropolitan Police Service

IT is 100 years since women were first allowed to join the police force!

On 22nd November 1918, the head of the Metropolitan Police (London's police force) announced that the Met would have female police officers for the first time. They would be known as Women Patrols.

At first, 21 women joined the police service and these ladies took to the streets of London a few months later, in February 1919. They weren't allowed to arrest people though and they weren't paid very much!

Over time, the Women Patrols grew, but it took a long time for them to have the same job as male police officers. In 1923 they were allowed to arrest people for the first time. In 1937 they were allowed to take fingerprints! It wasn't until the 1970s (about 40 years ago) that they were considered equal to male officers. Women finally got to do exactly the same work and were paid the same amount of money.

Today, there are nearly 8,000 women officers in London's police force alone. In fact, the Met is now led by a woman! Last year, Cressida Dick became the first ever female Commissioner, which means she's in charge of the whole organisation. How times have changed!

Questions on: '100 years of women in policing'

1) What happened on 22nd November 1918?

2) What is the nickname for London's police service?

The Met

The Metropolitan Police

Coppers

3) How many women joined the police at first?

4) Slowly, women police officers were treated the same as men. Can you put the events in order?

- Paid the same as men
- Allowed to take fingerprints
- Allowed out on patrol
- Allowed to arrest people

5) Who is standing at the front of the photograph? You will need to read the **caption** to find out.

6) How many women police officers are there in London today?

7) Who is in charge of the Metropolitan Police at the moment?

8) Why has the writer said "**How times have changed**" at the end of this news report?