

SPECIAL REPORT



100 YEARS OF



WOMEN IN POLICING



Metropolitan Police Service

THIS year the Metropolitan Police Service celebrates 100 years since women were first allowed to join the force. We joined FYI's junior reporter, Ruby Chapman, to go behind the scenes at New Scotland Yard and meet Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi.

WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

On 22 November 1918, the then Commissioner Sir Cecil Macready announced that the Met would have female police officers – these would be known as the Women Patrols. Several months later, in February 1919, these ladies took to the streets of London for the first time.

The 21 women signed a year's contract on an 'experimental' basis, and were not sworn in or given the power to arrest people. At this stage, the pay was low and no pension rights were given.

Over time, the Women Patrols grew and the officers started to be given more rights and responsibilities. In 1923, they were allowed to arrest and could be called constables rather than patrols. Then in 1937, they were authorised to take fingerprints. Slowly, they started to be promoted to other roles, too, such as detective inspectors and drug dog handlers.

The Police Women's Department was disbanded in 1973, but this wasn't the end for women in policing.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, things changed a lot. More police officer roles were opened up to women, including specialist roles, and everyone got equal pay.

Today, there are nearly 8,000 women officers in the force, doing all sorts of different jobs and working at every rank. In fact, on 10 April 2017, Cressida Dick became the first ever female Commissioner, which means she is now in charge of the whole organisation.

That's girl power!

IS THERE MORE WORK TO DO?

Of course! At the moment, just under 27% of officers are women. The Commissioner and her team want to change that and encourage more women to join the Met. The long-term goal is to make it 50%. They also want to prove that women can do all the same jobs as male police officers. The force has launched a recruitment campaign called Strong, which features 'strong' current and past role models. One of those is Sislin Fay Allen. Did you know Sislin was Britain's first black female police officer? She joined the force back in 1968 at the age of 29.

MEET LUCY D'ORSI

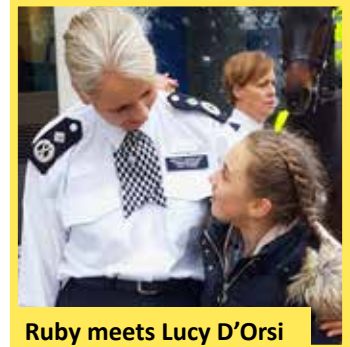
Lucy D'Orsi is the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police and a very strong role model indeed! It's her job to help keep us safe, and she does lots of work with different teams to achieve this.

She told us: "My favourite part of my job is helping people and making a difference to people. The biggest thing I've ever done, and that I was most proud of, was when I was the gold commander in charge of the celebrations for the RAF 100 this year."

Lucy revealed: "I think women bring different qualities to policing. I think at times in my career I've often felt that I've had to prove myself a little bit more. I don't know if that's just me thinking that, or whether or not you really have to do that. I suppose, now, being a senior police woman, there's not that many of us at the top, so I do feel a responsibility as a role model. I want to encourage lots of women that they can do anything, because they can!"



Feeding a police horse



Ruby meets Lucy D'Orsi

ON THE ROAD WITH RUBY

To celebrate the centenary of female officers in the Metropolitan Police Service, FYI's junior reporter Ruby was invited down to New Scotland Yard in London to meet some of the inspiring ladies working there now.

Ruby got to visit the police horse stables, check out a police motorbike, meet a police dog and interview Lucy some more.

Questions on: '100 years of women in policing'



GLOSSARY

Metropolitan Police – the territorial police force responsible for law enforcement in Greater London. It is known informally as the Met.

Police has certain national responsibilities such as leading counter-terrorism and the protection of the royal family.

Commissioner – the head of London's Metropolitan Police Service. The Commissioner is regarded as the highest-ranking police officer in the United Kingdom because the Metropolitan

FYI – a weekly 15-minute news show, produced by Fresh Start Media, which is presented by kids for kids.

■ Questions on '100 years of women in policing'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. What does the Metropolitan Police Service celebrate this year?

A2. What happened in the following years?

1918	
1919	
1923	
1937	
1973	

A3. What is the "Strong" campaign?

A4. Who are the following?

Cressida Dick	
Sislin Fay Allen	
Lucy D'Orsi	
Ruby Chapman	

A5. What has been the proudest moment of Lucy D'Orsi's career so far?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why do you think that the 21 women, who were the Met's first female officers, were only given a year's contract?

B2. How did the role of female police officers change throughout the 1980s and 1990s?

B3. Why is there "more work to do" in terms of the role of women in the Metropolitan Police Service?

B4. What makes Lucy D'Orsi, "a very strong role model indeed"?

B5. Why was Ruby Chapman invited down to New Scotland Yard in London?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the use of the phrase: "That's girl power!"

C2. Explain why most of the sub-headings are written in the form of questions.

Part D: Writing task:

Imagine that you are *FYI's* junior reporter. Write a speech for your school assembly in which you explain what it was like to go behind the scenes at New Scotland Yard and meet Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi.

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news ‘stories’ are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Part A

A1. What does the Metropolitan Police Service celebrate this year?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Expected response

- This year the Metropolitan Police Service celebrates 100 years since women were first allowed to join the force.

A2. What happened in the following years?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point-some relevant information correctly identified

Developed response-detailed, relevant information correctly identified

1918	On 22 November 1918, the then Commissioner Sir Cecil Macready announced that the Met would have female police officers.
1919	In February 1919, the first Women Patrols took to the streets of London.
1923	The Women Patrols grew and started to be given more rights and responsibilities. In 1923, they were allowed to arrest and could be called constables rather than patrols.
1937	Female police officers were authorised to take fingerprints. Slowly, they started to be promoted to other roles, too, such as detective inspectors and drug dog handlers.
1973	The Police Women’s Department was disbanded in 1973, but this wasn’t the end for women in policing.

A3. What is the “Strong” campaign?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- The force has launched a recruitment campaign called “Strong” in order to encourage more women to join.

Development

- It features ‘strong’ current and past role models.

A4. Who are the following?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

Cressida Dick	She became the first ever female Commissioner on 10 April 2017.
Sislin Fay Allen	She was Britain’s first black female police officer. She joined the force back in 1968 at the age of 29.
Lucy D’Orsi	She is the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police.
Ruby Chapman	She is <i>FY</i> ’s junior reporter.

A5. What has been the proudest moment of Lucy D’Orsi’s career so far?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer**Expected response**

- It was when she was the gold commander in charge of the celebrations for the RAF 100.

Part B**B1. Why do you think that the 21 women, who were the Met’s first female officers, were only given a year’s contract?**

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The Met’s first female officers were only given a year’s contract because their employment was seen as an experiment, so they were only hired on an ‘experimental’ basis.

Development

- This meant that they weren’t sworn in or given the power to arrest people. It also meant that they only received low pay and they weren’t given any pension rights.

B2. How did the role of female police officers change throughout the 1980s and 1990s?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- In the 1980s and 1990s things changed a lot and female police officers began to be treated more seriously. More police officer roles were opened up to women, including specialist roles, and everyone got equal pay.

Development

- Today, there are nearly 8,000 women officers in the force, doing a range of jobs and working at every rank. Indeed, the first ever female Commissioner has been appointed.

B3. Why is there “more work to do” in terms of the role of women in the Metropolitan Police Service?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- Although a lot of progress has been made in terms of how women are represented in the police force, there is still more work to do. The majority of police officers are still male. It is just under 27% of officers who are female.

Development

- Therefore, the Commissioner and her team want to encourage more women to join the Met. The long-term goal is to make it 50%. They also want to prove that women can do all the same jobs as male police officers.

- There is also “more work to do” because as a senior police woman, Lucy D’Orsi notes, “there’s not many of us [women] at the top.” This suggests that despite the progress that has been made, there is room for improvement. Although Cressida Dick and Lucy D’Orsi are leading the way, perhaps there still needs to be more acceptance of high ranking police women. Or perhaps women within the police force need to be encouraged to be more confident and ambitious themselves.

B4. What makes Lucy D’Orsi, “a very strong role model indeed”?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• Lucy D’Orsi is “a very strong role model indeed” because of her position as Deputy Assistant Commissioner. This is an important job and she is responsible for working with different teams to help to keep everyone safe. She is proof that women can be successful in the police force, so she is inspirational.

Development

• However, she is also a good role model because she is aware that she is a role model and takes the responsibility very seriously. She wants to encourage lots of women to believe that they can achieve anything, and she is positive that “they can!”

B5. Why was Ruby Chapman invited down to New Scotland Yard in London?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• Ruby Chapman was invited down to New Scotland Yard in London in order to celebrate the centenary of female police officers in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Development

• She was invited as *FYI*’s junior reporter and she got to visit some of the inspiring ladies working there now. Indeed, she got to interview Lucy D’Orsi. She also got to visit the police horse stables, check out a police motorbike and meet a police dog.

• It is likely that Ruby was invited on such an exciting day so that she could speak positively about the role of women in the Met in her report and hopefully inspire young girls, like herself, to take an interest in the police force.

Part C**C1. Comment on the use of the phrase: “That’s girl power!”**

READING SKILL-Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer**Starting point**

• The phrase is used with the information that Cressida Dick is the first ever female Commissioner and that she is in charge of the whole organisation. It is literally an acknowledgement that she is a female with a lot of power.

Development

• The phrase “girl power” is the idea that women and girls should be confident, make decisions and achieve things independently of men. Cressida Dick has certainly done this in becoming the highest-ranking police officer in the UK.

• The phrase has also been used to market several female musical groups and so it is associated with popular culture. Therefore, its use is likely to appeal to ‘First News’ young readership.

C2. Explain why most of the sub-headings are written in the form of questions.

READING SKILL- Explain methods used by the writer with appropriate use of terminology

Possible answer**Starting point**

• Most of the sub-headings are written in the form of questions because the question and answer format draws the reader into the report and adds interest.

Development

• The fact that there are so many questions to ask, shows that there is a lot to know about the role of women in policing, and that much has happened in the 100 years since the Women Patrols took to the streets of London in 1919.

• The use of questions may also help readers feel more comfortable about asking their own questions about 100 years of women in policing.

Part D- writing task

Imagine that you are FYI's junior reporter. Write a speech for your school assembly in which you explain what it was like to go behind the scenes at New Scotland Yard and meet Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi.

Good morning everyone.

I am here to tell you all about the amazing experience that I had when I visited New Scotland Yard and interviewed the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police.

I was very excited on the morning of the trip but I was also a little bit nervous about meeting such an important person in the police force. However, I needn't have worried because Lucy D'Orsi was very friendly. She was also very honest and informative. She told me that her favourite part of her job is being able to help people and make a difference. She also told me that as a woman in the police force, there have been times when she sometimes felt that she had to prove herself a little bit more. I thought that this was really interesting and she certainly has proved herself as she is one of the top policewomen in the UK.

I also really enjoyed visiting the police horse stables. The horses were beautiful and I was allowed to help feed them, which I loved. It would be amazing to be able to work with such wonderful animals as part of your job. I also met a dog while I was at New Scotland Yard. The dog was so well trained, it was unbelievable!

I was introduced to so many inspirational women during my visit that it really made me think about having a career in the police force. Whether you are a boy or a girl, there are so many opportunities that such a job could offer you. You might even get to have a police motorbike and they looked awesome when I saw them! So don't let anything stand in the way of what you want to do.

Thank you for listening.