



## National Uniform & Equipment Survey 2024

# Metropolitan Police Service Force Report

**Results: October 2025**

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## Key Findings

This report provides a summary of responses to key questions from the first National Uniform & Equipment Survey for the Metropolitan Police Service<sup>1</sup>. National results and additional information are available in the main report **here**.

### Respondents and Response Rate

- 1835 responses were recorded from the Metropolitan Police Service, representing a response rate<sup>2</sup> of approximately 4% (based on March 2024 total police force headcount)<sup>3</sup>.
- 95% of respondents are police officers, and 5% are police staff.
- 15% of respondents identified as female, 64% as male, and 21% did not specify their sex.

### Overall Uniform Experience

- 52% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said their experience of wearing uniform is 'negative' or 'extremely negative', slightly lower than the 56% average across the 43 forces in England and Wales.
- 21% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said their experience is 'positive', while 27% stated that they have a 'neutral' experience.
- 47% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said their uniform items interact together 'poorly' or 'very poorly', while only 14% said their uniform items interact 'well'.

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<sup>1</sup>Note that force-specific percentages may differ from those in the main report as the individual force report data are not weighted. See Section 2.3 of the main report for more details.

<sup>2</sup>Response rates are calculated based on the total force population. Therefore, while, for example, a 10% response rate is reported for the force, the effective response rate among uniformed officers and staff—the intended population for this study—may be higher.

<sup>3</sup>Home Office (2025) Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31st March 2025: data tables [Dataset]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-open-data-tables>.

- 45% reported that their uniform items do not interact well together with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), while 16% said their uniform items and PPE interact 'well'.

## Uniform Functionality and Fit

- 56% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service disagreed that their uniform is fit for purpose, higher than the 51% average across England and Wales. Only one in five (20%) respondents from this force agreed.
- 60% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service agreed that their uniform restricts their movement.
- 61% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service disagreed that their uniform is not good quality, while only 12% agreed.
- 58% of respondents from this force said that their uniform does not fit well, compared with 17% who said that their uniform does fit well.
- 53% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service disagreed that their uniform is durable, while only 19% agreed.
- 56% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said their uniform is uncomfortable, while 21% said they are comfortable in their uniform.
- 73% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service disagreed that their uniform keeps them cool in summer, while only 7% agreed.
- 43% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service disagreed that their uniform keeps them warm in winter, while 28% agreed. However, 66% disagreed that their uniform is waterproof.

## Uniform Items

- Three quarters (75%) of respondents who wear a bowler hat and 61% who wear a patrol helmet from the the Metropolitan Police Service said that these items

contribute to a negative uniform experience.

- 64% of respondents who wear general purpose body armour (GPBA) said it contributes to a negative uniform experience, while 69% of those who wear ballistic body armour said the same.
- 57% of those who wear a dress shirt from the Metropolitan Police Service said this item contributes to a negative uniform experience.
- 55% of those who wear a utility belt from the Metropolitan Police Service said this item contributes to a negative uniform experience.
- 53% of those who wear an all-climate shirt from the Metropolitan Police Service said this item contributes negatively to their experience of wearing uniform.

## Uniform Access and Stores

- 34% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said that obtaining new uniform items is 'easy' or 'extremely easy', while 44% said it is 'difficult' or 'extremely difficult'.
- 40% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service reported that they have visited their local uniform store.
- The remaining respondents indicated the following reasons for not visiting a store: 23% said the store was too far to travel to, 15% did not know it was an option, and 16% said it is not an option to visit.
- Among those who had visited a store, 41% reported that items were not available in their size, and 21% said some but not all items were available in their size.
- Most respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service received the items they ordered within weeks (42%), 33% received items within three months, 6% received items within days, and 13% faced long wait times of three to six months.

## Uniform Cost

- 78% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service agreed that cost drives uniform decisions, while only 3% disagreed.

## Perception of Uniform

- 42% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service feel they look professional in their uniform, lower than the average across England and Wales of 51%. However, 31% said they do not feel professional in their uniform.
- 32% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service feel they look smart in their uniform, while 38% feel they do not look smart.
- 38% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service feel proud in their uniform, while 32% said they do not feel proud in their uniform.

## Uniform and Health and Wellbeing

- Half (50%) of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service reported at least one health condition they believe was caused or made worse by their uniform, highlighting clear concerns about the physical impact of uniform wear.
- Among those who provided their sex, 80% of female respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service reported at least one health condition they believe is caused or made worse by their uniform, compared to 59% of male respondents from this force.
- 31% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said that their uniform affects their relationship with their body.
- 15% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service agreed that uniform affects their mental wellbeing, while 14% agreed that their emotional wellbeing has been effected due to their uniform.

## Complaints and Sick Leave

- 29% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said they had made a uniform-related complaint.
- For 65% of these complaints, no action was taken.
- 7% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service have taken time off work due to the negative effects of uniform, slightly higher than the national average of 5%.
- 40% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service said that although they had experienced negative effects due to wearing their uniform, they did not take sick leave.
- Reasons for not taking sick leave at the Metropolitan Police Service included negative attitudes in the force (12%), worries that taking sick leave would negatively affect work opportunities (11%), and a lack of perceived empathy from line managers (5%).

## Uniform Impact on Retention and Role Choices

- 20% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service have made decisions about their current or future roles based on the uniform they must wear. This includes transitioning to a non-uniformed role, choosing a role based on the required uniform, and even leaving the force due to uniform-related issues.

## Thoughts on National Uniform

- 51% of respondents from the Metropolitan Police Service agreed that there should be a national uniform across England and Wales, while 19% disagreed, and 30% feel neutral.

Figure 1: Proportion of respondents who said that their experience of uniform is 'negative' or 'extremely negative'.

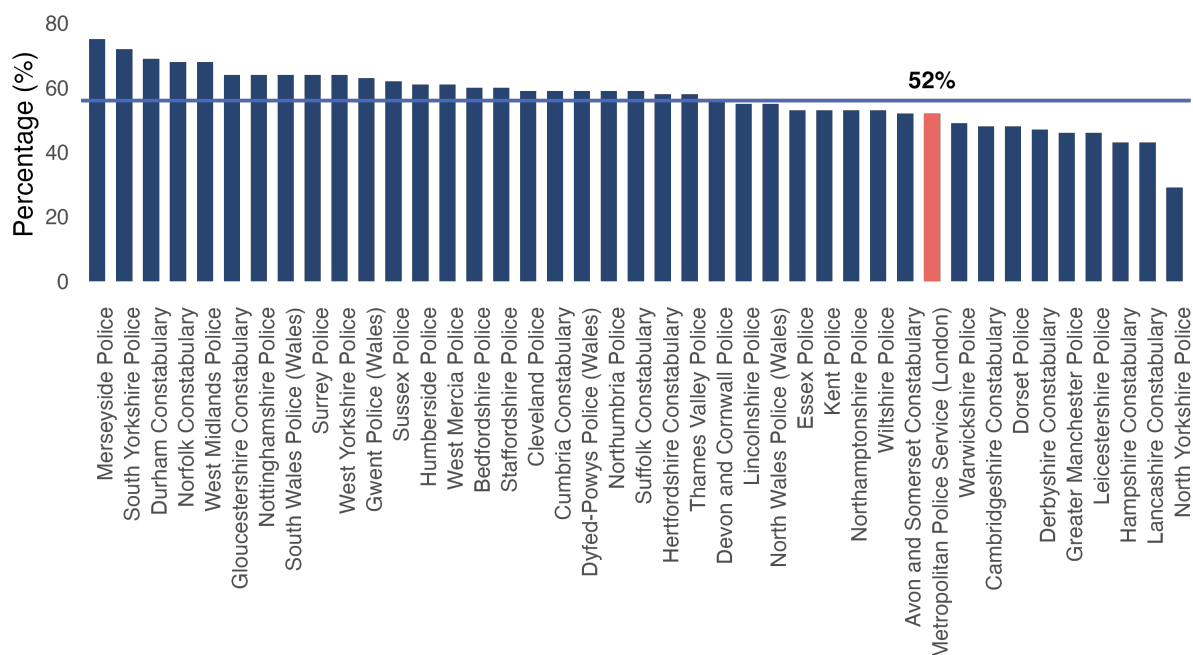


Figure 2: Proportion of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed that their uniform is fit for purpose.

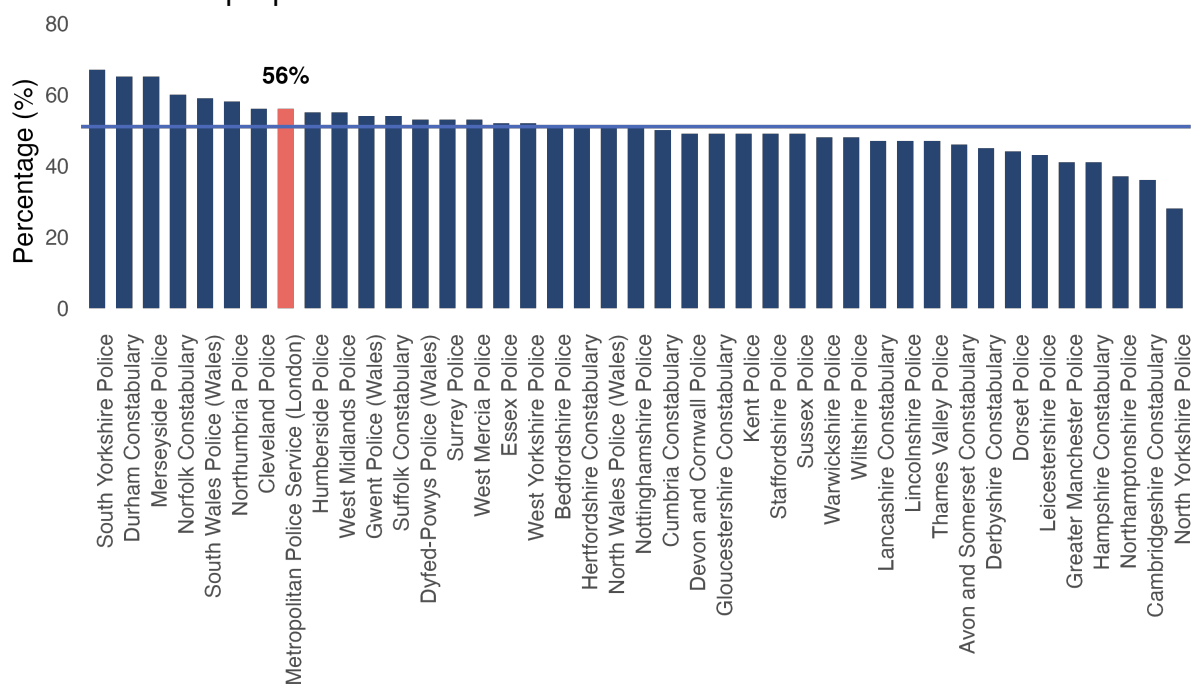


Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who reported one or more physical health conditions they believe to have been caused or made worse by their uniform.

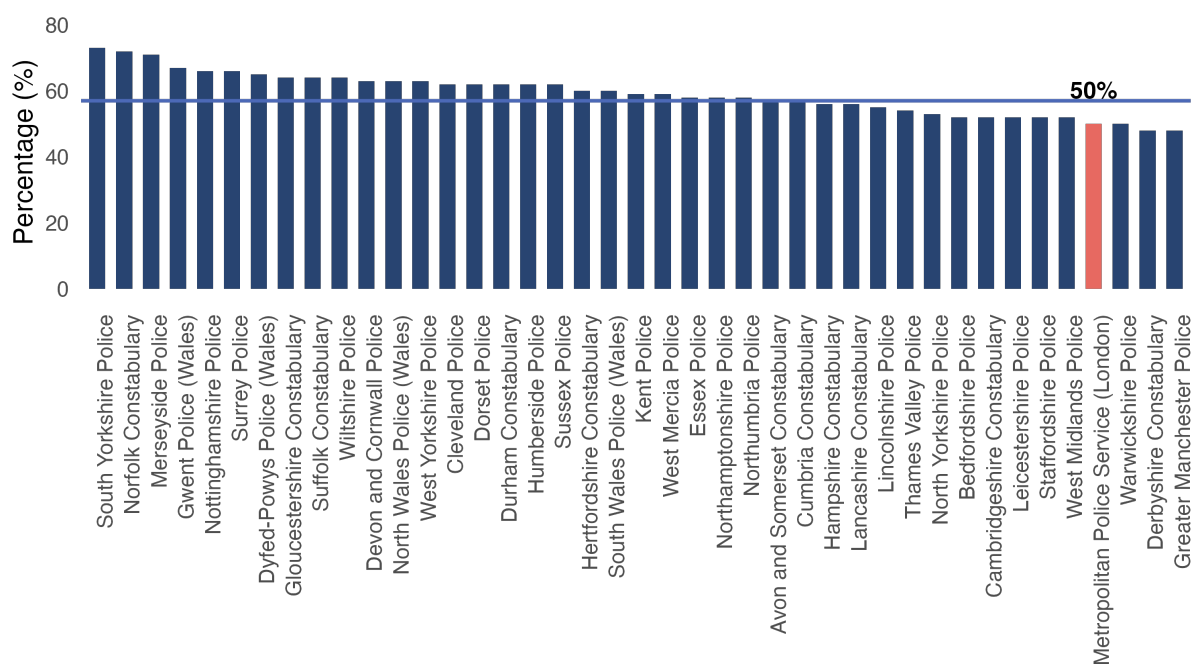


Figure 4: Proportion of uniform-related complaints where no action was taken.

