



Working together for a safer London

A Simple Guide to Police Involvement in Film Shoots in London



Filming in a public location requires special consideration but there is often confusion about when a shoot requires a police presence. There are situations where a police presence is essential but in some cases it is sufficient to inform a local police authority of filming and in many cases police involvement may not be required at all. This information sheet seeks to outline the most common filming situations that would concern the police. They directly relate to public areas or activity that is visible (or in the case of firearms, audible) to the general public

Situations where a Police presence is considered **Essential**

- Any filming with Firearms including de-activated or non-firing weapons. An armourer should also be present.
- Any filming with Smoke, Pyrotechnics, Explosions or Fire
- Any filming with large crowd scenes.

Situation where a Police presence is considered **Desirable**

At the very least the local police force should be informed of the filming

- A re-enactment of a crime.
- Any filming with actors dressed as police or modern military personnel.
- Any filming with pseudo police or modern military vehicles
- Any filming involving moving vehicles over 30mph
- Any filming with nudity or perceived nudity.

Moving Cameras on the street

A specialty of the Met Police Film Unit is the safe control of traffic around a vehicle-mounted or traveling camera (i.e lowloader and tracking work). This can include rolling roadblocks, or temporary traffic stops on the grounds of safety and would usually involve the use of police motorbikes.

Police involvement in traffic control

The Police do not have the power to close roads for filming but are able to assist film crews with traffic control for short periods (2-3 minutes) on the grounds of safety. Examples include camera, crew or actors in the road or moving vehicles. More extensive road control requires local authority or TFL involvement. Under the LLA+TFL Act (2008) road closures for up to 7 days are possible although the presence of a traffic management company is often required for diversions etc.

Police Officers on set

Police Officers are not necessarily experienced in film set environments. They will have been briefed only to report to the location manager or 1st AD. The specific requirements of each individual shoot should be outlined clearly on the day to enable the Officers to be able to support the production in the best possible way.

The Metropolitan Police Film Unit

The MPS Film Unit is there to help co-ordinate and enable filming in London which requires a police presence. If you have any questions about whether the police should be involved, or how they can best be of assistance please contact PC Alan Cousins at filmunit@met.police.uk (or on 020 719 3032).