



# Metropolitan Police Act 1829

1829 CHAPTER 44 10 Geo 4

An Act for improving the Police in and near the Metropolis.

[19th June 1829]

Whereas offences against property have of late increased in and near the metropolis; and the local establishments of nightly watch and nightly police have been found inadequate to the prevention and detection of crime, by reason of the frequent unfitness of the individuals employed, the insufficiency of their number, the limited sphere of their authority, and their want of connection and co-operation with each other: And whereas it is expedient to substitute a new and more efficient system of police in lieu of such establishments of nightly watch and nightly police, within the limits herein-after mentioned, and to constitute an office of police, which, acting under the immediate authority of one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, shall direct and control the whole of such new system of police within those limits:

## Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Short title given by [Short Titles Act 1896 \(c. 14\)](#)
- C2 Act explained by [London Government Act 1963 \(c. 33\), s. 76](#)
- C3 References to the "said justices" to be construed as references to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis: [Administration of Justice Act 1973 \(c. 15\), Sch. 1 para. 10\(2\)](#)

**[1.] His Majesty may establish a new police office for the metropolis and the surrounding district, and may appoint two persons as justices, to conduct the business of the office, under the directions of a secretary of state.**

It shall be lawful for his Majesty to cause a new police office to be established in the city of Westminster, [<sup>F1</sup>and from time to time by warrant under his sign manual to appoint during His Majesty's pleasure a Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to execute the duties of chief officer of the police force hereby established], . . . <sup>F2</sup>, together with such other duties as shall be herein-after specified, or as shall be from time to time directed by one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, for the more efficient administration of the police within the limits herein-after mentioned; . . . <sup>F3</sup>

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

*Changes to legislation: Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

**Textual Amendments**

- F1 Words substituted by [Administration of Justice Act 1973 \(c. 15\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 10\(1\)](#)
- F2 Words repealed by [Justices of the Peace Act 1968 \(c. 69\)](#), [Sch. 5 Pt. I](#)
- F3 Words repealed by [Administration of Justice Act 1973 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 20(6), [Sch. 5 Pt. II](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C4 Unreliable marginal note
- C5 [S. 1](#) amended by [Administration of Justice Act 1973 \(c. 15\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 10\(1\)](#)

2 ..... F4

**Textual Amendments**

- F4 [S. 2](#) repealed by [Administration of Justice Act 1973 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 20(6), [Sch. 5 Pt. II](#)

3 ..... F5

**Textual Amendments**

- F5 [S. 3](#) repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

**4 Westminster, and parts of Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent, to be formed into one district, to be called “the metropolitan police district.” A police force for the whole district to be appointed.**

...<sup>F6</sup> a sufficient number of fit and able men shall from time to time, by the directions of one of his Majesty’s principal secretaries of state, be appointed as a police force for the whole of such district, who ...<sup>F7</sup> shall obey all such lawful commands as they may from time to time receive from any of the said justices for conducting themselves in the execution of their office.

**Textual Amendments**

- F6 Words repealed by [Police Act 1946 \(c. 46\)](#), [Sch. 5 Pt. II](#)
- F7 Words repealed by [Police Act 1964 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 10 Pt. I](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C6 Unreliable marginal note

**5 The justices, subject to the approbation of a secretary of state, may make regulations for the management of the police force.**

The said justices may from time to time, subject to the approbation of one of his Majesty’s principal secretaries of state, frame such orders and regulations as they shall deem expedient, relative to the general government of the men to be

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

*Changes to legislation: Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

appointed members of the police force under this Act; the places of their residence; the classification, rank, and particular service of the several members; their distribution and inspection; the description of arms, accoutrements, and other necessaries to be furnished to them; and which of them shall be provided with horses for the performance of their duty; and all such other orders and regulations, relative to the said police force, as the said justices shall from time to time deem expedient for preventing neglect or abuse, and for rendering such force efficient in the discharge of all its duties; . . . <sup>F8</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F8** Words repealed by [Police Act 1964 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 10 Pt. I](#)

**6, 7.** . . . . . <sup>F9</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F9** [Ss. 6, 7](#) repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971(c. 52), Sch. Pt. IX

**8** . . . . . <sup>F10</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F10** [S. 8](#) repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

**9** . . . . . <sup>F11</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F11** [S. 9](#) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1952(c.55), Sch. 6

**10 His Majesty may appoint a person to be the receiver of all monies applicable to the purposes of this Act, who shall give security. The money to be placed in the Bank of England, and drawn out by the receiver.**

It shall be lawful for his Majesty to appoint a proper person to receive all sums of money applicable to the purposes of this Act, who shall be called “The Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District;” and his Majesty may remove any such receiver if he shall see occasion so to do, and may, upon any vacancy in that office, by death, removal, or otherwise, appoint another person to be such receiver; . . . <sup>F12</sup> and the receiver for the time being shall receive all sums of money applicable to the purposes of this Act, and shall keep an exact and particular account thereof, and shall [<sup>F13</sup>subject as hereinafter provided] pay all monies, bills, and notes by him received under this Act into the hands of the governor and company of the Bank of England; and the same shall be placed to an account in the books of the said governor and company, which shall be entitled “The Account of the Public Monies of the Receiver for the

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

*Changes to legislation: Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

Metropolitan Police District,” . . . <sup>F14</sup><sup>F13</sup> and all moneys standing to the credit of the said account shall be available to meet such expenses as may be authorized by or under any exactment or by the Secretary of State to be paid out of the Metropolitan Police Fund, and the said account shall be drawn upon by such persons and in such manner as the Secretary of State may direct.]]<sup>F13</sup> Provided that such moneys received by or on behalf of the receiver as the Secretary of State may direct shall, in lieu of being paid into the account aforesaid, be paid into such other accounts at such banks as may be approved by him, and payments into and out of any such accounts shall be regulated in such manner as the Secretary of State may direct.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F12** Words repealed by [Police Act 1890 \(c. 45\), Sch. 4](#)
- F13** Words substituted by [Metropolitan Police \(Staff Superannuation and Police Fund\) Act 1931 \(c. 12\), s. 4](#)
- F14** Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1873 \(c. 91\)](#)

### 11 Receiver’s accounts to be audited.

The receiver shall account for the due application of all monies so to be drawn by him out of the Bank of England, and shall, once in every six months, and oftener if required by one of his Majesty’s principal secretaries of state, make out and sign a full and particular account of all monies which shall have been received by him under this Act, and how much thereof hath been paid by him, and for what purposes together with proper vouchers for the receipts and payments; and such account shall be delivered, for the purpose of being examined and audited, either to the commissioners for auditing the public accounts of this kingdom, or to any other person or persons whom such principal secretary of state may from time to time direct; and the receiver, if directed to account before the said commissioners, shall be subject to the same regulations and penalties in that respect as any public accountant.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** Functions of commissioners for auditing the public accounts now exercisable by Comptroller and Auditor General: [Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866 \(c. 39\), s. 5](#)

### 12 Salaries and wages of policemen to be regulated by the secretary of state. Rewards for activity, and superannuation allowances.

. . . <sup>F15</sup> the receiver, out of the same monies, shall from time to time pay to the persons belonging to the police force appointed under this Act such salaries, wages, and allowances, and at such periods, as one of his Majesty’s principal secretaries of state shall direct, and also any extraordinary expences which they shall appear to have necessarily incurred in apprehending offenders and executing the orders of either of the justices appointed under this Act, such expences being first examined and approved of by one of the said justices; . . . <sup>F16</sup>; and he shall also pay all other charges and expences which such principal secretary of state shall direct to be paid for carrying this Act into execution.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

*Changes to legislation: Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

**Textual Amendments**

- F15 Words repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873 (c. 91)
- F16 Words repealed by Police Pensions Act 1948 (c. 24), Sch. 1 Pt. I and Police Act 1964 (c. 48), Sch. 10 Pt. I

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C8 The “same monies” means the monies received by the receiver under s. 10

13 ..... F17

**Textual Amendments**

- F17 S. 13 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

14, 15, ..... F18  
16.

**Textual Amendments**

- F18 Ss.14,15,16 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986 (c. 12), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. I

17 ..... F19

**Textual Amendments**

- F19 S. 17 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1966(c. 5), Sch.

18 ..... F20

**Textual Amendments**

- F20 S. 18 repealed by House of Commons Disqualification Act 1957(c. 20), Sch. 4 Pt. I

19–21 ..... F21

**Textual Amendments**

- F21 Ss. 19–21 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

*Changes to legislation: Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

**22 Power to set up watchboxes.**

The justices appointed under this Act, subject to the approbation of one of his Majesty’s principal secretaries of state, may order such a number of watchboxes as they shall from time to time think fit to be placed or fixed in such parts of the highways in any of the parishes, townships, precincts, and places, within the metropolitan police district as the said justices shall deem most convenient.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C9** Reference to parish to be construed as reference to a rating area: [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 29 Pt. I para. 6\(6\)\(b\)](#)

**23–33** ..... **F22**

**Textual Amendments**

**F22** [Ss. 23–33](#) repealed by [Local Government Act 1948\(c. 26\), Sch. 2 Pt. IV](#)

**34** ..... **F23**

**Textual Amendments**

**F23** [S. 34](#) repealed by [Police Act 1946 \(c. 46\), Sch. 5 Pt. II](#)

**35** ..... **F24**

**Textual Amendments**

**F24** [S. 35](#) repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1971\(c. 52\), Sch. Pt. IX](#)

**36** ..... **F25**

**Textual Amendments**

**F25** [S. 36](#) repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1873\(c. 91\)](#)

**37** ..... **F26**

**Textual Amendments**

**F26** [S. 37](#) repealed by [Justice of Peace Act 1949\(c. 101\), Sch. 7 Pt. III](#)

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

**Changes to legislation:** Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

**38, 39.** ..... F27

**Textual Amendments**

F27 Ss. 38,39 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

**40** ..... F28

**Textual Amendments**

F28 S. 40 repealed by Statute Law Revision (No.2) Act 1888(c. 57)

**41–43** ..... F29

**Textual Amendments**

F29 Ss. 41–43 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1873(c. 91)

**44** ..... F30

**Textual Amendments**

F30 S. 44 repealed by Statute Law Revision (No.2) Act 1888(c. 57)

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.*

**Changes to legislation:** Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

---

F31F31 SCHEDULE

.....  
**Textual Amendments**

**F31** Sch. repealed by Police Act 1946 (c. 46), Sch. 5 Pt. II

.....  
**F31**



**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

**Changes to legislation:**

Metropolitan Police Act 1829 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 January 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.