# Metropolitan Police don Batman and Robin costumes in undercover operation against scams



In a unique approach to tackle criminal activity, Metropolitan Police officers donned costumes as Batman and Robin during an undercover operation on Westminster Bridge. The officers' intention was to identify and apprehend individuals engaging in scams, which have been a growing concern in the area known for attracting tourists.

The operation unfolded as officers navigated through crowds of people on the iconic bridge, an area recognised for its scams, particularly involving unsuspecting visitors. The local neighbourhood team opted for this unconventional method after they noted that some criminals had begun to recognise them, prompting suspects to flee before any actions could be taken.

The Lambeth division of the Metropolitan Police shared video footage of the operation on social media, confirming that both suspects apprehended during this sting have since been convicted. The police highlighted that the activity on Westminster Bridge is a significant concern for the public and affirmed their commitment to addressing criminality in the area. "We will continue to target those involved, arrest them and continue to put them before the courts," the force stated.

Among those arrested was Costica Barbu, who faced swift judicial proceedings and was convicted the day after the sting operation, resulting in a fine of £925. Another suspect, identified as Eugen Stoica, was also convicted at Croydon Magistrates Court but failed to attend the hearing. It was reported that Stoica had been granted bail but subsequently left the country, prompting the issuance of a warrant for his arrest.

Westminster Bridge is frequently highlighted as a site of illicit activity, notably involving the 'cup and ball' gambling game, which is often operated by unlicensed gangs targeting tourists. Concerns regarding these scams have been raised within the London Assembly, and the Metropolitan Police have acknowledged the problems associated with such criminal schemes.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/news/london-news-batman-robin-arrest-scammers-westminster-bridge> - Corroborates the undercover operation by Metropolitan Police officers disguised as Batman and Robin to catch scammers on Westminster Bridge. It mentions the arrest of two suspects and their subsequent convictions.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/metropolitan-police-westminster-bridge-police-london-batman-b2731834.html> - Supports the details of the sting operation, including the disguises as Batman and Robin, and explains why such a method was chosen to evade recognition by suspects.
* <https://news.met.police.uk/news/batman-and-robin-arrest-two-men-on-westminster-bridge-496277> - Provides official confirmation from the Metropolitan Police Service about the operation and emphasizes their commitment to tackling criminal activity on Westminster Bridge.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/news/london-news-batman-robin-arrest-scammers-westminster-bridge#> - Documents the specific legal outcomes for Costica Barbu and Eugen Stoica, detailing their convictions and the subsequent actions taken in light of Stoica's absence.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/metropolitan-police-westminster-bridge-police-london-batman-b2731834.html> - Further details the public concern over illicit activities on Westminster Bridge, particularly the 'cup and ball' game scam that targets tourists.