# Metropolitan Police officers go viral in superhero costumes to tackle illegal gambling



Two officers from the Metropolitan Police have captured public attention and gone viral after appearing in superhero costumes to confront illegal gambling activities in London. Inspector Darren Watson and Police Constable Abdi Osman donned Batman and Robin outfits, respectively, while conducting their operation on Westminster Bridge, a location frequented by tourists.

The Metropolitan Police reported that illegal gambling gangs have been targeting visitors with trick games such as the 'three cups challenge' or 'shell game', which often result in financial losses for unsuspecting participants. Recognising that the perpetrators, who had become familiar with their regular patrols, might evade detection, Inspector Watson devised an unconventional strategy to tackle the operations.

"We know that two repeat offenders have been operating on Westminster Bridge and have come to recognise me and my team from our patrols," Watson explained. "I knew that if we were going to catch them, we would have to think outside the box, and then I remembered that I had Batman and Robin costumes to hand which could come in use."

On February 15, the inspired duo put their plan into action, leading to the arrests of Eugen Stoci and Constica-Gherorghe Barbu for facilitating illegal gambling activities. Barbu was subsequently convicted at Croydon Magistrates' Court, receiving a fine of approximately Rs 1.03 lakh (or £925). Meanwhile, Stoci was convicted in his absence at Westminster Magistrates' Court, and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

This unique approach is not unprecedented within law enforcement. Last month in São Paulo, Brazil, police officers dressed as Power Rangers apprehended a suspected thief during a carnival. The Governor of São Paulo, Tarcisio Gomes de Freitas, highlighted the officers' vigilance through a post on social media, noting, "The Power Rangers of our Civil Police are putting on another show this carnival! Always vigilant, our heroes noticed the suspicious behaviour of a duo within the crowd and, with an approach no ranger could fault, they arrested the criminal and recovered seven cell phones in one go."

Additionally, in Lima, Peru, a police officer conducted a drug raid while dressed in a capybara costume, resulting in the seizure of 1,700 packages of cocaine and marijuana.

The creative methods employed by law enforcement agencies across various countries demonstrate an evolving approach to policing, tailoring their strategies to attract attention and effectively address specific criminal activities in public spaces.

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

## References

* <https://news.met.police.uk/news/batman-and-robin-arrest-two-men-on-westminster-bridge-496277> - This URL supports the claim that Metropolitan Police officers dressed as Batman and Robin conducted an operation to tackle illegal gambling on Westminster Bridge, leading to the arrest of Eugen Stoci and Constica-Gherorghe Barbu.
* <https://www.ndtv.com/feature/cops-dressed-as-batman-and-robin-nab-gambling-suspects-in-uk-video-goes-viral-8152025> - This URL corroborates the story of the officers' unusual tactic and its success in capturing suspects involved in illegal gambling activities.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/met-police-westminster-batman-robin-b2732060> - This article confirms that the operation involved using superhero costumes as a creative strategy to evade recognition by repeat offenders, resulting in convictions for the suspects.
* <https://www.ndtv.com/feature/cops-dressed-as-batman-and-robin-nab-gambling-suspects-in-uk-video-goes-viral-8152025> - Additionally, this URL notes other instances of creative policing tactics globally, such as officers dressed as Power Rangers in Brazil and a capybara costume in Peru.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/met-police-westminster-batman-robin-b2732060> - This report highlights Westminster Bridge as a location known for scams and illegal activities, validating the necessity for innovative policing strategies.