# Former special constable jailed for impersonating police while drunk in Merseyside



In an alarming incident in Merseyside, Kevin Hyland, a bank manager and former special constable, was arrested for impersonating a police officer after drunkenly pulling over a teenage girl. The encounter, which took place in the early hours of December 22, involved Hyland blocking Charlotte Gallagher's Fiat 500 with his BMW, as he claimed to be 'Officer Hyland' and demanded to see her driving licence.

Gallagher, 19, was dropping off relatives when she noticed Hyland closely following her. Initially thinking he might simply be trying to pass, she became increasingly anxious as he subsequently stopped behind her at an awkward angle in a cul-de-sac. Despite wearing casual clothing and lacking any police insignia, Hyland insisted he was performing a duty related to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, stating, “The driver indicated right but turned left.” This law governs police powers in England and Wales, but Hyland's use of it illustrated his dubious understanding of lawful authority.

Gallagher’s family soon grew suspicious and called the real police. Officers were quick to arrive on the scene, confirming that Hyland was not affiliated with any police force, and subsequently conducted an initial breathalyser test, which found him to be more than double the legal drink-driving limit. Further investigation revealed that he had served as a special constable from 2008 to 2010, raising questions about his apparent disregard for the responsibilities that come with such a role.

In Sefton magistrates’ court, Hyland admitted to impersonating a police officer and was given a 20-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to complete 140 hours of community service and pay compensation to Gallagher. This instance serves not only as a cautionary tale about the dangers of intoxicated behaviour but also underscores the serious implications of impersonating authority figures. As a former special constable, Hyland should have been particularly aware of the legal repercussions of his actions.

This incident echoes other recent cases of impersonation of law enforcement officials. In South Carolina, for example, a man posed as a CMPD officer, using a stolen badge to secure a job at a bar and even conducting background checks on potential employees. Similarly, in Tennessee, a man blocking traffic in a road rage incident was wearing a police-like uniform and claimed to work for a security company, revealing a troubling trend in which individuals exploit the trust associated with law enforcement for personal gain or misguided purposes.

Hyland's lawyer described his actions as a “momentary lapse of judgement,” but this incident has not only jeopardised Hyland's career — potentially costing him his £30,000 a year job — it has also left lasting impacts on the victim and her family. Hyland’s defence underscored that his behaviour stemmed from a misguided intention to intervene in what he thought was dangerous driving, yet this justification falls flat against the backdrop of his decision to impersonate a police officer.

Overall, this case reflects a growing concern about the impersonation of police officers, which can undermine public trust and safety. As authorities continue to address such incidents, it is crucial for individuals to be aware of the signs of genuine law enforcement personnel and to report any suspicious behaviour promptly.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-3, 5-6
2. Paragraphs 4, 8
3. Paragraph 7

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14726825/Drunk-bank-manager-posed-police-officer-pull-woman-19-demand-driving-licence-dad-called-real-cops-arrested-him.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/security-guard-south-charlotte-bar-posed-cmpd-officer-years-owner-says/5E3CJXZ3N5HJFKDXETTSO7YEZU/> - A security guard at a south Charlotte bar posed as a CMPD officer for years, according to the bar's owner. The man, Stephen Burke Bridges, 29, used a stolen badge and uniform to secure a job at Jeff’s Bucket Shop, a popular karaoke bar. He conducted background checks on potential employees and even had a photo holding an award for saving an older gentleman. CMPD arrested him, and he faces charges of impersonating a law enforcement officer, possession of stolen goods, and carrying a concealed weapon.
3. <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/crime/fake-cop-impersonating-officers/275-3eb25b57-f338-4adb-9123-3f86cd0e2063> - A man in Charlotte was arrested for impersonating a law enforcement officer. He directed traffic at a crash scene while wearing a 'Federal Investigator' shirt and using a vehicle equipped with flashing lights and sirens. He claimed to be an FBI agent from the Columbia, South Carolina field office. Investigations revealed he had no affiliation with any law enforcement agency and had a warrant for his arrest in South Carolina for bank fraud and impersonating an officer.
4. <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/nation-world/national/article252445888.html> - In Tennessee, a 34-year-old man, Clifford Polly, was arrested for impersonating a police officer during a road rage incident. He blocked another driver with his Dodge Charger, which had red and white 'wig-wag' lights, and pointed a gun at the driver. Polly was wearing a uniform consistent with police officers and claimed to work for a security company in Nashville. He was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and impersonating a law enforcement officer.
5. <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/nation-world/national/article292979879.html> - A Black man is suing Amerant Bank after being accused of attempting to cash a fraudulent check. The bank manager called the police, describing him as 'six feet tall with dreads and wearing a black hoodie,' and repeatedly mentioned his race. The police arrived, frisked him, and later confirmed the check was legitimate. The man alleges racial discrimination and seeks damages from the bank.
6. <https://www.kait8.com/2024/09/10/police-suspect-impersonates-sheriff-get-victims-debit-card-information/> - In Jonesboro, Arkansas, a suspect impersonated a sheriff to obtain a victim's debit card information. The suspect, claiming to be 'Sheriff Johnson' of Craighead County, convinced the victim to provide debit card details over the phone, alleging a coworker was arrested and needed bond money. The victim later discovered the coworker was not in jail and had not been arrested. The suspect faces charges of criminal impersonation and theft of property.
7. <https://www.wbtv.com/2024/12/18/police-working-identify-scrub-wearing-man-suspected-obtaining-property-by-false-pretenses/> - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police are seeking a man who has been making fraudulent transactions over several months in 2024. The suspect withdrew money from ATMs in Charlotte and Oregon, wearing scrubs and a medical mask during the transactions. Detectives are working to identify the individual and advise the public to monitor their accounts closely and report any suspicious activity.