# Woman jailed for disguising herself to pass Life in the UK tests for 13 people



Josephine Maurice, a 61-year-old woman from Enfield, has been sentenced to four years and six months in prison for her involvement in a sophisticated fraud scheme that exploited the UK citizenship test system. Over the course of more than a year, from June 2022 to August 2023, Maurice undertook the Life in the UK Test on behalf of 13 different individuals, using an array of disguises, including wigs and altered identity documents. Her activities were described as a "wholesale assault" on the immigration system by the presiding judge at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

The Life in the UK Test, a mandatory requirement for individuals seeking indefinite leave to remain or British citizenship, consists of 24 questions designed to assess applicants' understanding of British values, history, and society. Legally required to ensure that individuals possess the necessary knowledge before acquiring citizenship, the rigorous nature of this test underscores the seriousness of Maurice's actions. By circumventing these critical screening processes, she not only undermined the integrity of the immigration system but also potentially jeopardised national security, as pointed out during the court proceedings.

Maurice’s lawyer, Stephen Akinsanya, acknowledged that while his client might not be the mastermind of the broader fraud ring, her actions could have far-reaching consequences. The court was informed that this case was not an isolated incident; Maurice had previously discussed resembling a similar scam involving impersonation in a driving theory test. This background raises concerns about how organised fraud within critical systems, such as immigration and driving tests, can pose risks to public safety and governance.

During her time as a bus driver, it appears Maurice became entwined in a criminal scheme that she may not have fully comprehended. She subsequently pleaded guilty to multiple counts of fraud, as well as conspiracy to commit fraud and possession of identity documents belonging to others. District Judge Anthony Callaway highlighted the variety of locations Maurice utilised for these fraudulent tests, including areas in London and further afield such as Nottingham and Milton Keynes, which illustrated the broad geographic reach of her activities.

The court also heard from prosecutor Nana Owusuh, who indicated that the financial implications of such a well-organised fraud were difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, the case has sparked renewed discussions about the vulnerabilities within the UK’s immigration system. The integrity of the processes designed to uphold national security and societal values has been called into question, raising pertinent issues about how easily the system can be manipulated by those willing to engage in deceitful practices.

Despite her significant legal troubles, Maurice has been described as a "model inmate" at HMP Bronzefield after her arrest, suggesting that her prison experience might facilitate some degree of rehabilitation. This detail adds a layer of complexity to her narrative, implying that while she engaged in serious criminal activities, her conduct post-arrest has been exemplary.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by authorities in managing immigration processes and ensuring that they are not circumvented through fraudulent means. As the UK continues to navigate complex issues surrounding citizenship and immigration, the repercussions of Maurice's actions provide critical insights into the potential for abuse within these systems, highlighting the need for vigilant oversight and reform.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/424d5a6722b3be1bf82f6a5f9c8aced1), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/home-office-london-maurice-life-snaresbrook-crown-court-b2704484.html)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-25/woman-who-used-array-of-wigs-admits-taking-uk-citizenship-tests-for-13-people), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/london-woman-wigs-uk-citizenship-tests-fraud-b1213308.html)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/424d5a6722b3be1bf82f6a5f9c8aced1), [[5]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c89y7gpj0vwo)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/london-woman-wigs-uk-citizenship-tests-fraud-b1213308.html)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/home-office-london-maurice-life-snaresbrook-crown-court-b2704484.html)
7. Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-25/woman-who-used-array-of-wigs-admits-taking-uk-citizenship-tests-for-13-people)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2058005/woman-used-disguises-to-complete-citizenship-test> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/424d5a6722b3be1bf82f6a5f9c8aced1> - Josephine Maurice, a 61-year-old British woman, admitted to fraudulently taking the UK citizenship test for 13 individuals between June 2022 and August 2023. She used wigs and other disguises to impersonate applicants, aiming to help them obtain permanent residency or citizenship. The Life in the UK Test, consisting of 24 questions about British history, values, and society, is mandatory for such applications. Maurice also admitted to conspiring with others for fraud and possessing two provisional driving licenses. She is set to be sentenced on May 20, 2025.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-25/woman-who-used-array-of-wigs-admits-taking-uk-citizenship-tests-for-13-people> - Josephine Maurice, 61, appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court via video link from HMP Bronzefield, admitting to taking the Life in the UK Test on behalf of 13 applicants between June 2022 and August 2023. She used wigs and other disguises to impersonate both male and female applicants, attempting to fraudulently obtain them leave to remain. Maurice also admitted to conspiring to commit fraud and possessing two UK provisional driving licenses without reasonable excuse. She is due to be sentenced on May 20, 2025.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/london-woman-wigs-uk-citizenship-tests-fraud-b1213308.html> - Josephine Maurice, from Enfield, admitted to pretending to be 13 different men and women when she undertook the Life in the UK Test between June 1, 2022, and August 14, 2023. The 61-year-old wore wigs and various other disguises to pass herself off as other applicants to fraudulently obtain them leave to remain in the country. Maurice also admitted to conspiring to commit fraud with others over the scheme and to possessing two people's identity documents, namely two UK provisional driving licenses, without reasonable excuse on January 27, 2025.
5. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c89y7gpj0vwo> - Josephine Maurice, 61, admitted to fraudulently taking the Life in the UK Test for 13 individuals between June 2022 and August 2023. She used wigs and other disguises to impersonate applicants, aiming to help them obtain permanent residency or citizenship. The Life in the UK Test consists of 24 questions about British history, values, and society. Maurice also admitted to conspiring with others for fraud and possessing two provisional driving licenses. She is set to be sentenced on May 20, 2025.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/home-office-london-maurice-life-snaresbrook-crown-court-b2704484.html> - Josephine Maurice, 61, admitted to fraudulently taking the Life in the UK Test for 13 individuals between June 2022 and August 2023. She used wigs and other disguises to impersonate applicants, aiming to help them obtain permanent residency or citizenship. The Life in the UK Test consists of 24 questions about British history, values, and society. Maurice also admitted to conspiring with others for fraud and possessing two provisional driving licenses. She is set to be sentenced on May 20, 2025.
7. <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/uk-citizenship-test-fraud-josephine-maurice/63920685> - Josephine Maurice, 61, admitted to fraudulently taking the Life in the UK Test for 13 individuals between June 2022 and August 2023. She used wigs and other disguises to impersonate applicants, aiming to help them obtain permanent residency or citizenship. The Life in the UK Test consists of 24 questions about British history, values, and society. Maurice also admitted to conspiring with others for fraud and possessing two provisional driving licenses. She is set to be sentenced on May 20, 2025.