# Met defends response after footage shows man entering Canary Wharf flat as crowd demands arrests



The Metropolitan Police has defended its handling of an incident on Marsh Wall in Canary Wharf after video posted on X showed a man entering a woman’s home uninvited and a crowd urging officers to make an arrest. Scotland Yard said officers were called to the address at 18:07 on 13 August 2025 and that its initial inquiries have not identified any criminal offence by the man, who is reported to have entered through an open door after being followed in the street by a group of men. The footage has prompted widespread unease in the area and online. (Scotland Yard said it understood the episode was “distressing for the occupants”.)

Scotland Yard confirmed several arrests were made during the disturbance as officers sought to restore order. A 22‑year‑old woman was arrested on suspicion of common assault, possession of an offensive weapon, affray, possession of a Class B drug and assaulting an emergency worker. Separately a 57‑year‑old woman and a 28‑year‑old man were detained for allegedly breaching a Section 35 dispersal order in place in the area. The force said it was reviewing officers’ body‑worn video and other footage and asked anyone with information or video to contact police or Crimestoppers.

The footage has fuelled accusations of “two‑tier policing” after people online claimed a woman who chased the alleged intruder and others involved in the protest were arrested while the man who entered the property was not detained. Video circulating on social platforms shows officers handcuffing and leading a woman to a police van, and the sequence has been seized on by local campaigners and commentators as evidence of inconsistent policing.

The confrontation took place against a backdrop of sustained unrest around the Britannia International Hotel, which has been earmarked to house asylum seekers and has become a focal point for rival demonstrations. Groups who object to the accommodation plans have faced counter‑demonstrations organised by activists including Stand Up To Racism, and police have been deployed in force to separate opposing crowds. Reports from the scene described flares, attempts to impede deliveries and at least one arrest after a bottle was thrown; officers also used Public Order Act conditions at times to try to prevent escalation.

The local disturbances mirror a wider national picture of tensions over hotel use for asylum accommodation. Police nationally prepared for large‑scale public order operations in recent days, with hundreds of officers drafted in under mutual aid arrangements; one report said some 3,000 riot officers were readied across England and Wales ahead of planned weekend protests. Authorities have repeatedly warned that while lawful protest is permitted, criminality will be dealt with swiftly, and campaigners have warned of the risk of far‑right mobilisation and deliberate disinformation around placements.

Local councils and the Home Office have been drawn into the dispute, amid reports of cancelled guest bookings, staff dismissals and furniture and beds being moved into the Britannia Hotel as plans for asylum accommodation were announced. Analysis in the Financial Times has argued the site has become a flashpoint because of both the sudden nature of some placements and the political and media attention they attract, warning that the situation risks further escalation unless clearer communication, improved safeguarding arrangements and alternative housing solutions are put in place.

Police say the events on Marsh Wall are complex and under active investigation. The use of a Section 35 dispersal order — a power used by officers to direct people to leave an area to prevent or reduce anti‑social behaviour — was cited in relation to two of the arrests, and the force reiterated it would review all body‑worn and other video evidence to understand what happened. The Met has urged anyone with relevant footage or information to come forward as enquiries continue.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2095334/met-police-britannia-hotel-intruder-statement), [[2]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/met-police-hit-back-at-two-tier-policing-claims-over-arrests/29l5n25)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2095334/met-police-britannia-hotel-intruder-statement), [[2]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/met-police-hit-back-at-two-tier-policing-claims-over-arrests/29l5n25)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2095334/met-police-britannia-hotel-intruder-statement)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/arrests-protests-outside-asylum-hotels-uk-5Hjd8Xm_2/), [[5]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/arrest-made-during-protest-outside-canary-wharf-hotel-housing-asylum-seekers-KASXC4IYRNJK7FUYVAZB5TY6ZY/), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-canary-wharf-britannia-hotel-protest-asylum-seekers-epping-b1239549.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/aug/08/three-thousand-riot-officers-readied-for-weekend-of-protests-in-england-and-wales), [[3]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/arrests-protests-outside-asylum-hotels-uk-5Hjd8Xm_2/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/8333dfe1-2b93-4512-a148-0f7c07f1cdc0), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-canary-wharf-britannia-hotel-protest-asylum-seekers-epping-b1239549.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2095334/met-police-britannia-hotel-intruder-statement), [[2]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/met-police-hit-back-at-two-tier-policing-claims-over-arrests/29l5n25), [[5]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/arrest-made-during-protest-outside-canary-wharf-hotel-housing-asylum-seekers-KASXC4IYRNJK7FUYVAZB5TY6ZY/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2095334/met-police-britannia-hotel-intruder-statement> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/met-police-hit-back-at-two-tier-policing-claims-over-arrests/29l5n25> - Upday reports on a Metropolitan Police response after video circulated showing a man entering a woman’s home near the Britannia Hotel in Canary Wharf. Officers were called to Marsh Wall at 18:07 and, after an inquiry, did not arrest him as no offence was identified. Three other people were arrested: a 22‑year‑old woman on suspicion of common assault, possession of an offensive weapon, affray, possession of Class B drugs and assaulting an emergency worker; and a 57‑year‑old woman and a 28‑year‑old man for breaching a Section 35 dispersal order. The Met said it was reviewing body‑worn footage and other evidence.
3. <https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/arrests-protests-outside-asylum-hotels-uk-5Hjd8Xm_2/> - LBC reports arrests during protests outside hotels housing asylum seekers, at the Britannia Hotel in Canary Wharf. It describes rival groups – Stand Up To Racism counter‑protesters and anti‑immigration demonstrators – gathered with a significant police presence separating them. Officers arrested a protester after a bottle was thrown and another for failing to remove a face covering, and imposed Public Order Act conditions to prevent disorder. LBC quotes local voices expressing fear and concern, and notes similar demonstrations occurred across the UK. The article situates the Canary Wharf protests within a wider pattern of unrest around asylum hotel placements.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-canary-wharf-britannia-hotel-protest-asylum-seekers-epping-b1239549.html> - Evening Standard reports police attending a second night of protests outside the Britannia International Hotel on Marsh Wall, Canary Wharf, after plans emerged to use the venue for asylum accommodation. Officers guarded the hotel as rival groups shouted across the road and activists from Stand Up To Racism organised counter‑demonstrations. Tower Hamlets Council confirmed it was liaising with the Home Office over safeguarding arrangements. The article notes beds being moved into the building, cancelled guest bookings and local MPs and residents speaking out. It describes a heightened police presence and situates the incident amid wider national unrest about asylum hotels.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/arrest-made-during-protest-outside-canary-wharf-hotel-housing-asylum-seekers-KASXC4IYRNJK7FUYVAZB5TY6ZY/> - The Irish News, using PA reporting, describes a protest outside the Britannia International Hotel in Canary Wharf where flares were set off and officers intervened. The Met said a group were harassing occupants and staff, attempting to prevent deliveries and trying to breach fencing. A man was arrested on suspicion of assaulting an emergency worker after an officer was pushed, and several people were searched. The article quotes a Met post on X stressing lawful protest was permitted but criminality would be dealt with. It places the incident among wider demonstrations at hotels housing asylum seekers across the UK recently.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/8333dfe1-2b93-4512-a148-0f7c07f1cdc0> - The Financial Times analyses how the Britannia International Hotel in Canary Wharf has become a flashpoint for anti‑migrant protests after it was earmarked to house asylum seekers. The piece reports rival demonstrations, heightened police deployment and accusations of disinformation and political exploitation. It notes local anger at sudden cancellations of guest bookings and staff dismissals, and describes the involvement of national figures and parties stoking tensions. The FT highlights the broader policy failure that left many asylum seekers in hotel accommodation, and warns that the situation risks escalating unless authorities provide clearer communication, safeguarding and alternative housing solutions and support.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/aug/08/three-thousand-riot-officers-readied-for-weekend-of-protests-in-england-and-wales> - The Guardian reports that 3,000 riot officers were readied across England and Wales ahead of a weekend of protests related to hotels housing asylum seekers, including gatherings planned near Canary Wharf. The article explains the scale of the expected policing operation, including officers drafted from other forces under mutual aid, and stresses the sensitivity of events likely to draw both anti‑immigration and counter‑protest groups. It quotes campaigners warning of far‑right mobilisation, notes local authorities’ concerns about safety and safeguarding, and records police appeals for calm while emphasising they will act where criminality or harassment occurs and situates them nationally too.