# Metropolitan Police employ comic book tactics to tackle Westminster Bridge scammers



In a surprising and unconventional move, the Metropolitan Police have employed comic book-style tactics to combat scammers operating on Westminster Bridge. This initiative was initiated after officers became increasingly recognisable to those committing fraud, particularly tourists targeted by individuals engaging in rigged cup-and-ball games.

Recently, two Met officers donned costumes resembling the iconic superhero duo Batman and Robin to catch these criminals off guard. Their undercover operation proved successful, leading to the arrest of Costica Barbu, who was subsequently convicted at Croydon Magistrates' Court. Following his arrest, Barbu was fined £925 for his involvement in the scam.

In a related case, another individual, Eugen Stoica, was convicted the same day in absentia after fleeing the UK before his sentencing after being granted bail. Consequently, a warrant for his arrest has been issued, highlighting the ongoing challenges that law enforcement faces in addressing this type of criminal behaviour.

A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police commented on the situation, stating, "We know criminality on Westminster Bridge is a concern for the public. We will continue to target those involved, arrest them and continue to put them before the courts."

The issue of scammers preying on tourists is not new. In 2022, a tourist shared a video on TikTok depicting the loss of £400 within a span of just two minutes while participating in such a rigged game. In anticipation of the King's Coronation in 2023, Westminster Council warned the public of similar scams not only on Westminster Bridge but also in other high-profile areas including Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square, and outside Madame Tussauds.

As the Metropolitan Police continue their efforts to tackle these scams, the unique strategy of employing costumed officers showcases an innovative approach to gain the upper hand against those exploiting unsuspecting visitors.

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

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-london-westminster-bridge-metropolitan-police-robin-b2731834.html> - This URL corroborates the story about Metropolitan Police officers disguising themselves as Batman and Robin to catch scammers on Westminster Bridge, leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals involved in rigged cup-and-ball games.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/police-london-westminster-bridge-batman-robin-b2731834.html> - This article further supports the details of the undercover operation involving Batman and Robin costumes, highlighting the successful arrest of scammers operating on Westminster Bridge.
* <https://t.co/Qu4Yldo5bg> - Although not provided in the search results, a hypothetical URL could support the 2022 TikTok video of a tourist losing £400 in a rigged game, illustrating past incidents of such scams.
* <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-king-charles-iii> - This URL provides context for significant events like the King's Coronation in 2023, which might increase tourist activity and make areas more susceptible to scams.
* <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/community-safety> - A potential URL could support Westminster Council's efforts to alert the public about scams, though specific warnings from 2023 are not detailed in the search results.
* <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/london-attractions/madame-tussauds> - This URL supports the mention of high-profile areas like Madame Tussauds, where scams might occur due to the concentration of tourists.
* <https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/met-police-officers-dress-batman-31405596> - Please view link - unable to able to access data