

Ministry of Defence Police: misconduct hearings

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Find out about misconduct hearings involving Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) officers and how to attend these public hearings.

Misconduct hearings

To increase openness and transparency in the MDP (and the police service in general), misconduct hearings, special case hearings and police appeals tribunals, involving Police Officers, are held in public.

Misconduct hearings deal with allegations of gross misconduct committed by MDP officers on or off duty. Gross misconduct is defined as 'a breach of the police standards of professional behaviour (PSPB)' that is so serious as to justify dismissal'. Misconduct hearings form part of the disciplinary process and are not criminal proceedings.

Accelerated Misconduct Hearings

Accelerated Misconduct Hearings take place when the investigation of allegations of Gross Misconduct, committed by MDP officers on or off duty, identifies that special conditions, such as the following are satisfied:

- that there is sufficient evidence, in the form of written statements or other documents, to establish on the balance of probabilities that the conduct of the officer concerned constitutes Gross Misconduct
- it is in the public interest for the officer concerned to cease to be a member of the MDP without delay

Police Appeals Tribunals

Police Appeals Tribunals deal with appeals submitted by MDP officers, against the findings and/or the outcomes of misconduct hearings (including accelerated misconduct hearings), under the MDP Conduct Regulations, or stage 3 meetings under the Performance Regulations.

The decision to hold misconduct hearings and police appeals tribunals in public was announced by the Home Secretary in 2015. The Ministry of Defence Police followed suit in March 2017 by amendments to the Ministry of Defence Police conduct (2015) and performance (2012) regulations, and by subsequent revision of those Regulations into the new Ministry of Defence Police (Conduct, Performance and Appeals Tribunals) Regulations 2020, which came into effect for all cases assessed as Gross Misconduct after 2 November 2020.

This change of legislation does not affect misconduct meetings, where a breach of PSPB does not amount to gross misconduct. These proceedings will be held in private and the public have no right to observe (except in the case of a complainant or the commission[^], where appropriate).

[^]Director General (IOPC) or Ombudsman (NI) if they conducted or directed the investigation.

What happens at a misconduct hearing

At a misconduct hearing the facts are heard by a panel, often with the help of witnesses, to enable a finding to be made. If an officer is found to have committed misconduct or gross misconduct, depending on the circumstances, the available outcomes are:

- written warning (only if misconduct only found)
- final written warning
- reduction in rank
- dismissal without notice

What happens at an Accelerated Misconduct Hearing

An accelerated hearing is heard by the Chief Constable. Due to the evidence being incontrovertible there is no requirement for any witness attendance. If an officer is found to have committed gross misconduct, the available outcomes are:

- final written warning
- reduction in rank
- dismissal without notice

What happens at a Police Appeals Tribunal

Police appeals tribunals are heard by a panel chaired by a person nominated by the Lord Chancellor who satisfies the judicial appointment criteria. The tribunal determines whether the 'grounds of appeal' on which the appellant relies, have been made out. On the determination of an appeal, a tribunal may make an order dealing with the appellant in any way in which they could have been dealt with at the original hearing.

Attending a misconduct hearing

Any member of the public or press can request to attend a misconduct hearing, provided that they are aged 18 or over.

When the date of a misconduct hearing is confirmed, the details will be published below. Due to the MDP being a national force the location of the misconduct hearing may vary (dependent upon the case).

Please note the following conditions of entry:

- any member of the public or press wishing to attend must register in advance, by the specified closing date, and using the MDP misconduct hearing registration form (PDF, 178 KB, 2 pages) they must also provide valid photo identification (for example passport or driving licence) upon attendance. (To fill out the misconduct hearing form on a mobile device you must make sure that the PDF is opened in the editable mode.)
- any person who is a witness at the proceedings will not be permitted to attend prior to giving their evidence but, may be permitted to take a seat in the public gallery after this time
- priority will be given to interested parties and attendance will then be granted on a 'first come, first served' basis (up to the capacity of the venue)
- any restrictions on reporting will be notified in advance of the hearing
- members of the public and press are to remain silent at all times whilst the hearing is in

session

- no photographs, film or sound recording are permitted; mobile phones and other devices can be retained but must be switched off during the hearing
- any conditions particular to an individual hearing will be published on this page in advance of the hearing
- where a hearing is adjourned for an extended period, attendees may be expected to leave the premises and return at the appointed time; if the hearing is held within an MOD establishment members of the public and press will be escorted from the gate to the venue and back; they will not be permitted to leave the venue except to leave the establishment
- no food or refreshments, with the exclusion of water, will be permitted in the hearing room; however, an area will be set aside for use by members of the public when the panel adjourn for short periods of time
- no refreshments will be provided by the MDP and if held at an MOD establishment, there may be no facilities to purchase food; in this instance, attendees should be self sufficient
- we cannot reimburse any expenses you incur by attending and please note that in some cases a hearing may be cancelled at short notice; in these situations, we will do our best to notify you but, it may not be possible
- members of the public and press, together with any bags, will be subject to a security search as a condition of entry and exit; anything that can be used or adapted to cause injury or damage will not be permitted

If you require disabled access, or have any other reasonable adjustment requirements, please advise us of your requirements on your registration form.

Once all applications to attend have been received and reviewed (after the closing date), your attendance will be confirmed, as applicable, by the means identified on your registration form.

Private hearings

Please note: in exceptional circumstances, the Chair can exclude anyone from all or part of the hearing at his/her discretion and may impose conditions relating to the attendance of any person.

Should the Secretary of State for Defence consider it expedient in the interests of national security, he/she may also give direction that:

- all or part of the hearing must be conducted in private
- a specified person must be excluded from all or part of the hearing
- specific steps are taken to conceal the identity of a witness
- specific information must be excluded from the published notification of misconduct hearings or notification of outcome

If a decision is made to hold a hearing in private the reasons will be published below and, where conditions are placed on any person's attendance, that person will be notified prior to commencement of the hearing.

Upcoming hearings

Subject Officer: PS Hugh Keir

Hearing Date and Time: 14 April 2026, 10am

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

It is alleged that PS Keir sent inappropriate messages and made inappropriate comments to a female police constable between May and July 2024.

Thereby, he failed to adhere to the expected Policing Standards of Behaviour. PS Keir's alleged conduct was in breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Equality and Diversity and Authority, Respect and Courtesy.

How to attend:

Members of the press or public wishing to attend the Misconduct Hearing must register to do so. Anyone who has not pre-registered will not be allowed to access the hearing. Those attending are not allowed to record or film the proceedings.

To register, email MDP-PSD-Group@mod.gov.uk with the following details:

- Your name
- Contact telephone number
- Your email address

All requests to attend must be received on or before 1 April 2026.

Upcoming police appeals tribunals

There are currently no upcoming police tribunals.

Previous hearings and outcomes

Subject Officer: Former PC Sekhon

Hearing Date: 26 November 2025

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

An Accelerated Misconduct Hearing in respect of Former-Police Constable 1273 Navdeep Sekhon was held on 26 November 2025.

Former PC Sekhon answered allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Discreditable Conduct in that he was convicted of outraging public decency by masturbating in a public place on 17 August 2025.

Finding: Gross Misconduct

Outcome: Would have been Dismissal Without Notice if still in post

Read the full outcome report: [FPC Navdeep Sekhon MDP Hearing outcome \(PDF, 78.9 KB, 7 pages\)](#)

Subject Officer: Sgt McAnerney

Hearing Date: 27-28 November 2025

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

A Misconduct Hearing in respect of Sergeant Peter McAnerney was held on 27-28 November 2025.

Sgt Pater McAnereny answered allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Discreditable Conduct and Authority, Respect and Courtesy. On the night of 5/6 August 2022 PS McAnerney became intoxicated and behaved inappropriately.

Finding: Gross Misconduct

Outcome: Final Written Warning – 5 years

Read the full outcome report: PS Peter McAnerney MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 35.8 KB, 8 pages)

Subject Officer: Former Sgt Godfrey

Hearing Date: 1-3 December 2025

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

A Misconduct Hearing in respect of Sergeant Christopher Godfrey on the 1-3 December 2025.

Sergeant Cristopher Godfrey was not in attendance. His conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Authority, Respect and Courtesy; Equality and Diversity; and Discreditable Conduct.

Finding: Gross Misconduct

Outcome: Dismissal Without Notice

Read the full outcome report: FPS Christopher Godfrey MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 125 KB, 22 pages)

Subject Officer: Former PC Love

Hearing Date: 26-27 January 2026

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

Former PC Brian Love answered allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Discreditable Conduct and Authority, Respect and Courtesy. On a number of occasions between August 2023 – March 2024 the Officer used his X (formerly Twitter) account to comment and / or like concerning posts.

Since at least 2021 the Officer developed an alcohol addiction and only sought treatment in March 2024, following the vetting decision relating to Twitter / X activity.

The Officer has therefore been unfit for his duties since 2021, particularly for front-line and armed roles.

Finding: Gross Misconduct

Outcome: Dismissal Without Notice

Read the full outcome report: PC Brian Love MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 245 KB, 12 pages)

Subject Officer: PC Balding

Hearing Date: 24-27 February 2026

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

A Misconduct Hearing in respect of Police Constable Sarah Balding was held on 24 to 27 February.

PC Balding answered allegations that her conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Discreditable Conduct, Authority, Respect and Courtesy, and Honest and Integrity.

It is alleged that on 3 July 2024, PC Balding engaged in a discussion about two members of the MOD. It is alleged that this conversation was sexualised and inappropriate. It is further alleged that on 12 August 2024, PC Balding accessed the BWV of the conversation and changed the category of the footage to "Non-Evidential". It is alleged that she did this to conceal the footage as she knew that "Non-Evidential" footage is deleted sooner.

Finding: Misconduct

Outcome: Written Warning - 18 months

Read the full outcome report: PC Balding MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 98.4 KB, 12 pages)

Subject Officer: PC Stringer

Hearing Date: 10-12 March 2026

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

A Misconduct Hearing in respect of Police Constable James Stringer was held on 10-12 March 2026.

PC Stringer answered allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Honesty and Integrity, and Duties and Responsibilities.

It is alleged that PC Stringer took paid study leave on 23 and 24 September 2023 in circumstances whereby on 23 September 2023 he already intended to withdraw from the examination on 28 September 2023 and that he received the benefit of two paid days on 23 and 24 September 2023 while not working and without a reasonable excuse.

It is alleged that he failed to inform his line manager of (1) his intention to withdraw from the examination on 28 September 2023, and (2) his notification to the Exams Unit on 25 September 2023 that he had withdrawn from the examination on 28 September 2023. It is further alleged that having withdrawn from the examination of 28 September 2023, he failed to report for duty that day. By doing so, he took the benefit of 28 September 2023 as a paid day while not working and without a reasonable excuse.

Finding: Misconduct

Outcome: Final Written Warning - 2 years

Read the full outcome report: PC James Stringer MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 229 KB, 15 pages)

Subject Officer: FPC Ashe

Hearing Date: 30-31 March 2026

Alleged Conduct (& PSPBs breached):

A Misconduct Hearing in respect of now Former Police Constable Benjamin Ashe was held on 30-31 March 2026.

PC Ashe answered allegations that his conduct amounted to a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour of Discreditable Conduct and Integrity. It is alleged that on 5 January 2024 PC Ashe rode his Kawasaki Motorcycle (VRM ND10 ULX) without due care and attention.

Finding: Misconduct

Outcome: Dismissed Without Notice

Read the full outcome report: FPC Benjamin Ashe MDP Hearing outcome (PDF, 210 KB, 13 pages)

Previous police appeals tribunals and outcomes

There are currently no previous appeals tribunals to list.

Related information

We encourage anyone who has concerns about police-perpetrated abuse to contact Crimestoppers - The Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse Reporting Service.

- Ministry of Defence Police homepage
- Ministry of Defence Police: use of force statistics
- Report a crime, incident or suspicion that hasn't been reported yet
- Submit a request for information (FOI) about the MDP or another person

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ministry-of-defence-police-misconduct-hearings>