

# ***Guidelines to Filming in London***

## ***Introduction***

London and its surrounding area are very popular locations for international film-makers, but it can be difficult trying to work out what you can and can't do when it comes to filming - especially if you're used to a completely different set of rules. The Film Unit manages complex commercial filming across London and provides officers where filming is taking place on location and the filming requires police assistance or supervision. The MPS Film Unit is the single point of contact within the MPS for advising, managing and supervising the film industry when filming on the move on the roads covered by the 32 London Boroughs. We will be able to advise which relevant Authority would need to be contacted for permissions on their part of the network (Boroughs, Transport for London (TfL) etc). We are also able to advise productions on the most effective way to film on the move, provide 'MPS no objections' and of course deploy officers to supervise and assist where required.

The MPS Film Unit takes a pro-active approach to assisting international crews filming in London and is always happy to meet productions and provide advice and guidance in advance of filming and there is no charge for this service. Crews arriving to film in London often make similar errors time and time again and to assist in avoiding the same difficulties, please see the do's and don'ts below:

## ***Do's***

- Do appoint a UK Location Manager to be responsible for scouting and correctly booking locations
- Do ensure the correct permissions to film have been granted by the relevant Local Borough or Road Authority
- Do ensure that if stunts are planned, a UK Stunt Co-ordinator is appointed
- Do consider carefully that locations selected have adequate space for spectators, especially if the filming involves 'talent'
- Do be aware of possible communications issues between UK and incoming crews
- Do ensure that 'talent' arrives on set promptly and at the correct call times
- Do appoint a recognised film security company to provide security and stewarding
- Do appoint a recognised film traffic management company to implement a Traffic Management Order (TMO)

- Do be aware that as an international crew, you may be asked to pay in advance for production services
- Do ensure that the crew wear high visibility tops - so that they are identifiable as film crew

### **Don'ts**

- Don't expect to stop the public taking photographs - you have no legal powers to do so
- Don't attempt to move crowds simply because the director or 'talent' requests it
- Don't film static scenes on public roads unless you have a Traffic Order / Notice
- Don't use Assistant Directors (AD's) to implement traffic management
- Don't expand filming locations unless this has been approved by the respective Borough and/or TfL Film Service
- Don't film with fake/replica firearms without discussing in advance with the MPS Film Unit
- Don't film with action and camera vehicles without discussing in advance with the MPS Film Unit

Do ensure that the production follow the MPS Guidelines attached below:

<http://content.met.police.uk/Site/filmunitguidelines>

For additional guidance, please see the following links to Film London:

[http://filmlondon.org.uk/filming\\_in\\_london/international\\_crews](http://filmlondon.org.uk/filming_in_london/international_crews)

[http://core.filmlondon.org.uk/library/documents/CodeOfPractice\\_.pdf](http://core.filmlondon.org.uk/library/documents/CodeOfPractice_.pdf)

For additional information about Red Route filming:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/filming-opportunities/filming-on-the-roads?intcmp=4562>