

Scotland Yard is the name of the headquarters of the police force in London.

The name comes from the place of the original Metropolitan Police headquarters at 4 Whitehall Place.

The Metropolitan Police was introduced in 1829 by Robert Peel (Metropolitan Police Act) who, with the help of Eugène-François Vidocq, selected the original site on Whitehall Place for the new police headquarters.

The building had a rear entrance on a street called Great Scotland Yard, which soon became the public way of access. In 1964 the New York Times wrote that just as Wall Street gave its name to New York's financial district, Scotland Yard did the same for police activity in London.

Nowadays the headquarters are in Victoria but the name New Scotland Yard has been maintained. In 2012 it was announced that the building may be sold and the headquarters may move to a smaller site in Whitehall.

Commonly known as the Met, the Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for law enforcement within Greater London, excluding the square mile of the City of London, which is covered by the City of London Police

By 1887, the Met headquarters had expanded and new headquarters were built on the Victoria Embankment, on the River Thames, south of what is now the Ministry of Defence headquarters. In 1888, during the construction of the new building, workers discovered the mutilated body of a female; the case, known as the 'Whitehall Mystery', has never been solved. In 1890, police headquarters moved to the new location, commonly known as New Scotland Yard. By this time, the Met had grown from its initial 1,000 officers to about 13,000 and needed more administrative staff and a bigger headquarters. Further increases in the size and responsibilities of the force required even more administrators, and in 1907 and 1940, New Scotland Yard was extended further. This complex is now a Grade I listed building and known as the Norman Shaw Buildings.

The original building at 4 Whitehall Place still has a rear entrance on Great Scotland Yard. Stables for some of the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch are still located at 7 Great Scotland Yard, across the street from the first headquarters.

By the 1960s the requirements of modern technology and further increases in the size of the force meant that it had outgrown its Victoria Embankment headquarters. In 1967 New Scotland Yard moved to the present building at 10 Broadway, still within the City of Westminster, which was an existing office block acquired under a long-term lease; the first New Scotland Yard is now called the Norman Shaw (North) building, part of which is used as the headquarters for the Met's Territorial Support Group.

[edit]Current location of the Metropolitan Police

The Met's senior management team, who oversee the service, is based at New Scotland Yard in Victoria, along with the Met's crime database. This uses a national computer system developed for major crime enquiries by all British forces, called Home Office Large Major Enquiry System, more commonly referred to by its

acronym HOLMES, which recognises the great fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. The training programme is called 'Elementary', after Holmes's well-known, yet apocryphal, phrase "elementary, my dear Watson". Administrative functions are based at the Empress State Building, and communication handling at the three Metcall complexes, rather than at Scotland Yard.

A number of security measures were added to the exterior of New Scotland Yard during the 2000s, including concrete barriers in front of ground-level windows as a countermeasure against car bombing, a concrete wall around the entrance to the building, and a covered walkway from the street to the entrance into the building. Armed officers from the Diplomatic Protection Group patrol the exterior of the building along with security staff.

In October 2012, the Met announced that New Scotland Yard in Victoria may be sold to help cut costs in the force. A smaller building in Whitehall could become its new headquarters under the plans.[3]

[edit]In popular culture

Scotland Yard has become internationally famous as a symbol of policing, and detectives from Scotland Yard feature in many works of crime fiction. They were frequent allies, and sometimes antagonists, of Sherlock Holmes in Arthur Conan Doyle's famous stories (for instance, Inspector Lestrade). It is also referred to in *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Many novelists have adopted fictional Scotland Yard detectives as the heroes or heroines of their stories. John Creasey's stories featuring George Gideon are amongst the earliest police procedurals. Commander Adam Dalgliesh, created by P. D. James, and Inspector Richard Jury, created by Martha Grimes are notable recent examples. A somewhat more improbable example is Baroness Orczy's aristocratic female Scotland Yard detective Molly Robertson-Kirk, known as Lady Molly of Scotland Yard. Agatha Christie's numerous mystery novels often referenced Scotland Yard, most notably in her Hercule Poirot series.

During the 1930s, there was a short-lived pulp magazine called variously *Scotland Yard*, *Scotland Yard Detective Stories* or *Scotland Yard International Detective*, which, despite the name, concentrated more on lurid crime stories set in the United States than anything to do with the Metropolitan Police.

Leslie Charteris features Detective Inspector (later Detective Chief Inspector) Claud Eustace Teal of Scotland Yard in several of his Saint novels, a character who reappeared in various dramatic incarnations of the series, notably on television by Ivor Dean. In the books Teal is presented somewhat more sympathetically than in many of the adaptations: in the 1960s television series he is depicted as borderline incompetent, always being bested by Simon Templar.

Scotland Yard was the name of a series of cinema featurettes made between 1953 and 1961. Introduced by Edgar Lustgarten, each episode featured a dramatised reconstruction of a "true crime" story. Filmed at Merton Park Studios, many of the episodes featured Russell Napier as Inspector Duggan. The series was succeeded by *The Scales of Justice*, which dealt with a similar theme. In the comedy series *Batman*,

the caped crusaders in England meet members of "Ireland Yard"; clearly a spoof of Scotland Yard. Scotland Yard is briefly mentioned in the opening of the second act of the Broadway musical *Jekyll & Hyde* in the song entitled "Murder, Murder", about the catching of a murderer.

In the James Bond novels and short stories by Ian Fleming and others, Assistant Commissioner Sir Ronald Vallance is a recurring fictional character who works for Scotland Yard. Gala Brand, who works for Ronnie Vallance at Scotland Yard, is featured in the 1955 novel *Moonraker*. Scotland Yard was also briefly mentioned in the 1965 *The Beatles* movie *Help!*. When Ringo requires protection, he and his fellow Beatles head to Scotland Yard for assistance.

*Fabian of the Yard* was a television series filmed and transmitted by the BBC between 1954 and 1956, based upon the career of the by then retired Detective Inspector Robert Fabian. It focused on the subject of forensic science, which at the time was in its infancy. Fabian usually appeared in a cameo shot towards the end of each episode.

A long running gag to end skits in Monty Python's *Flying Circus* is a policeman in a tan raincoat and a fedora bursting in, and announcing himself as so-and-so "of the Yard".<sup>[4][5][6][7]</sup>

A sketch in the BBC comedy series *Not the Nine O'Clock News* showed Scotland Yard's rotating sign being hand-cranked by the Commissioner.<sup>[8]</sup>

In the 2010 BBC television drama *Sherlock*, many of the characters such as Detective Inspector Lestrade, Detective Inspector Dimmock, Sergeants Donovan and Anderson, work for Scotland Yard