Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/26/4395
We received your request on the 13/08/2026.

Request

You asked us:

Please provide the current force policy, instruction, or guidance that sets out the standards of appearance and dress for:

Police officers working in plain clothes, and
Police staff working in non-uniformed or plain-clothes roles

This includes (but is not limited to):

Dress code or appearance standards specific to plain-clothes roles
Any section within a Uniform, Dress Code, Appearance, or Professional Standards policy that applies to non-uniformed officers or staff
Any locally approved guidance or annexes relating to plain-clothes attire

If the information is contained within a wider policy document, please provide the relevant section(s) rather than a summary.

Scope clarification (to avoid delay)

To assist, I am not requesting:

Personal data,
Tactical or operational detail relating to covert tactics,
Security-sensitive material (e.g. surveillance methods).

Format

Please provide the information electronically (A Word document is preferred).

If the force does not hold a single standalone policy, please confirm which document(s) contain the relevant standards and supply those.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

The below excerpt is taken from the British Transport Police *Dress, Appearance and Uniform Policy*:

Officers in Plain Clothes

Police officers in plain clothes will wear what is appropriate to the role they are performing.

Office wear (Non-uniformed employees)

All employees, uniformed and non-uniformed, must wear identity cards and lanyards when on BTP premises. Non-uniformed employees can request branded uniform via the Force Uniform Board if their role requires the wearing of such items. You should not wear a BTP branded uniform in any public place unless authorised as part of your role or duty. We embrace the diversity and inclusion of multi-traditional cultures in the workplace. We encourage employees to wear their traditional clothing in the workplace, for example sari, kilt, agbada, qipao, salvars and niqab are welcomed. If you work in an office, it is important to wear attire that makes you feel comfortable and confident so you can bring the best version of yourself to work. No ripped jeans, jogging bottoms, sport leggings or club sport tops should be worn unless suitable for duty or training. There will be occasions when business professional attire is more suitable, such as when meeting the public or stakeholders. You must wear smart attire when attending a court, inquiry, inquest or tribunal.