

CourtWatch London FAQs

Who am I?

- I am a member of the public volunteering with CourtWatch London. I am **not** a journalist or reporter. Members of the public are allowed to observe almost all criminal court hearings, as long as the defendant is 18 or over.

What is CourtWatch London?

- CourtWatch London is a court observation project led by the charity Transform Justice. Volunteers observe magistrates' courts in their local area and write down what they see. The aim of the project is to check whether court proceedings are fair and that defendants receive equal treatment.

Why am I taking notes?

- I am taking notes about what happens in court including what is said and what decisions are made. My notes will be used by CourtWatch London to make recommendations for how to make magistrates' courts fairer. The names of individual defendants, victims, and witnesses will never be used in any project outputs.

Am I allowed to take notes?

- Members of the public do not need permission to take notes in criminal court hearings. I am allowed to take handwritten notes or to write notes on a laptop, tablet or phone.