



# 1. Obstruction of a Police Officer

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**The threat to arrest for obstruction is widely used by the police at demonstrations.**

Under the Police Act 1996 s89 it is an offence to resist or wilfully obstruct a constable in the execution of his/her duty.

Willful obstruction of a police officer means doing any act which makes it more difficult for the officer to carry out their lawful duty e.g. stopping them doing something, de-arresting someone, deliberately misleading them, or giving a false name and/or address.

Being limp makes it more difficult for a police officer to move you, and is **not** obstruction.

The maximum sentence for obstruction of a PC is a Level 3 fine, currently £1000. First time offenders would likely receive a much lower fine than this. In all cases, fines are partly based on your weekly disposable income.