



## SISLIN FAY ALLAN: LONDON'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE POLICE OFFICER

Photo and text from <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/sislin-fay-allen-britains-first-black-policewoman/> (2020)

When joining the Jamaican Police Force, Sislin received a welcome letter from the then Prime Minister, Michale Maney

**“Well my dear, I’ve got news for you” and I showed her the letter.**

**Sislin Fay Allen became the Metropolitan Police’s first black female police officer in 1968.**

Sislin saw an advert for male and female police officer, and wanting a change of direction, the mum-of-two sat down and applied. At the time it was thought that Black people would not be accepted in the Force.

Within a few weeks Sislin had made it to the interview stage, “The hall was filled with the young men. There were ten women and I was the only Black person.” After taking exams and a medical, Sislin was told she had passed and would start work at Croydon’s Fell Road Police Station.

People were curious to see a Black woman in uniform, and Sislin realised that she was a history maker. Describing her first day on duty in Croydon as daunting, Sislin says her patrol was met with a mixture of stares and people coming up to congratulate her.

“My colleagues were very accepting – in Croydon really and truly. I didn’t have any problems there. I just did my work and after about a year I was posted to Scotland Yard [in the missing persons bureau].”

In 1972 Sislin left the Met to join the Jamaican police force and received a welcoming letter from the then Prime Minister, Michael Manley.