



This week's big news

Cressida Dick



Other UK female firsts

Helen Sharman

In 1991, 27-year-old Sharman became the first British person to go into space.



Margaret Thatcher

Thatcher was the UK's first female Prime Minister, serving from 1979 to 1990.



Diane Abbott

In 1987, Abbott became the UK's first black female Member of Parliament.



Sayeeda Warsi

Baroness Warsi was the first Muslim to serve in a British cabinet (the group of senior politicians in charge of government policy).



Rebecca Stephens

Stephens became the first British woman to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, in 1993.



Nicola Adams

The first woman ever to win an Olympic boxing title, in 2012. Adams was born in Leeds, in West Yorkshire.



Amy Johnson

In 1930, Johnson became the first female pilot to fly solo from Britain to Australia. She set many flying records during the 1930s.



Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

In 1865, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson became the first female qualified doctor. It was recently discovered that James Barry – another 19th century doctor – was actually a woman – Margaret Ann Bulkley.



Meet London's new top cop

On 22 February, London's new chief of police was announced. Her name is Cressida Dick. She is the first woman to take charge of London's main police force, the Metropolitan Police, in its 188-year history.

WOW!
Cressida Dick is related to the women's rights campaigner, Sophia Jex-Blake, who died in 1912. Jex-Blake was Scotland's first practising female doctor.

include working to prevent terror attacks and other crimes. Another big challenge will be policing protests and events, to make sure they don't turn violent. She'll be paid more than £270,000 a year.

Who is Cressida Dick?

Dick studied agriculture at Oxford University and later took a master's degree in criminology (the study of crime and criminal behaviour) at Cambridge University. She gained the highest marks in her class. Dick joined the police in 1983 and gradually worked her way up the ranks. Eventually she was put in charge of keeping the London 2012 Olympics safe from terror attacks, and also oversaw other major police operations. "I am thrilled and humbled," she said about her new job.

What do people think?

The new commissioner is highly respected and popular. She won the support of the London mayor, Sadiq Khan, and the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, to get the top job. Not everyone is happy with the decision, though. Dick was in charge of an operation that resulted in an innocent Brazilian man, Jean Charles de Menezes, being shot dead by police in London in 2005. Police officers mistakenly thought he was a terrorist. It was later decided that Dick should not take personal responsibility for the tragedy.

What's the job?

Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police is one of the most important and difficult jobs in the UK. The new commissioner will oversee a workforce of almost 49,000 people, with a budget of more than £3 billion to spend on keeping London safe. Dick's responsibilities will

International Women's Day

Cressida Dick may be the first woman to lead the Metropolitan Police, but women all over the world still face an uphill battle to achieve equality with men. Even in the UK there are far more male politicians than women (just 196 out of 650 are female), and in lots of jobs, women are still paid less than men. On 8 March it is International Women's Day, which is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and a chance to shine a light on gender inequality.