

Feb 17, 2021 16:26 GMT

Member of police staff in court charged with eight counts of misconduct in public office

A member of police staff from the Met's Forensic Services has appeared in court, charged with eight counts of misconduct in public office between 2009 and 2018.

Ursula Collins, 41 (07.04.79), was charged on Wednesday, 27 January and appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, 16 February.

The charges relate to an investigation by officers from the Met's Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) into the suspected mishandling of evidence within the force's forensic laboratory.

Collins did not enter a plea. She will next appear at Southwark Crown Court for a pre-trial hearing on Tuesday, 16 March.

The Met referred the case to the Independent Office for Police Conduct in 2018. They directed that a local investigation be carried out by the DPS.

Collins is currently suspended from duty.

Chris Porter, Director of Met Forensic Services, said: "The Met's Forensic Services operate a Quality Management System in accordance with the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct. We have safeguards in place to mitigate instances of mishandling of forensic evidence.

"Alongside the police investigation into the circumstances, both external and internal reviews were conducted and remedial action taken where necessary.

As a result of the review, police are content that all relevant criminal convictions are safe.”