

SOURCE 4

Extract from a letter published in *The Times* newspaper on women and the police, March 1911
(PRO ref: HO 144/1106/200455)

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about how the Suffragettes helped to achieve the vote for women in 1918. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- How does the letter writer try to establish that his evidence is reliable?
- Do you find his letter convincing?
- What evidence is there in this letter of the Suffragettes' organisation?
- What does it suggest about public attitudes towards the Suffragettes?
- What positive factors might Suffragettes take from this letter?

SOURCE 4

THE WOMEN AND THE POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—At the request of some of those who took part in the women's deputation to the House of Commons on November 18 of last year, I have endeavoured to examine the allegations made against the conduct of the police on that occasion. With that object, I have carefully read upwards of one hundred statements made by eye-witnesses, and I have also seen and questioned 10 of the women who were there.

The following facts are either admitted or beyond reasonable dispute:—

1. The women taking part in the deputation collected partly at Caxton Hall and partly at Clement's Inn. They were instructed by their leaders to avoid all violence. They were entirely unarmed, even umbrellas or parasols being forbidden. Among them were women of all ages up to 65 or 70.

2. Some of the women, including Mrs. Pankhurst, were allowed to approach quite close to St. Stephen's entrance. The rest were stopped some distance away. Very few arrests, if any, were made for several hours, and during that time the women suffered every species of indignity and violence.

All this does not depend on the evidence of the sufferers alone. It is confirmed by those who saw the condition of their limbs and bodies immediately afterwards. Some of the women still feel the effect of the treatment they then received.

Apart from the assaults above mentioned, complaints of indignities of a very gross kind have also been made by women, and some of these were repeated in my presence. They do not, however, admit of

In conclusion, may I ask whether anyone thinks that if the deputation had consisted of unarmed men of the same character their demand for an inquiry would have been refused? Who can doubt that the Home Secretary and the other Ministers would have tumbled over one another in their eagerness to grant anything that was asked? Are we, then, to take it as officially admitted that in this country there is one law for male electors and another for voteless women?

Yours obediently,

ROBERT CECIL.