

THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

STOP & SEARCH
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



USEFUL NUMBERS

- Being stopped & searched doesn't mean you have done anything wrong or that you are under arrest
- If you have been stopped by the police you are required to stay for the duration of the search and you will be prevented from leaving
- Police must use stop search fairly and without discrimination

- They must make sure stop and search time is kept to minimum
- The search must take place near where you are stopped except on occasions where moving would protect your privacy

If you believe that you have been wrongly stopped & searched by the police or a PCSO, report it to your nearest

police station. You also need to take down the police officers or the PCSO number which is found on their uniform at the shoulder. You should also be given a slip stating why you have been stopped & searched.

Do not fret when the police approach you.

Don't feel intimidated they are people just doing their job.

Numbers or other useful info?



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STOP & SEARCH
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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STOP & SEARCH

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The reasons you can get stopped are:

- As part of anti-terrorism efforts
- If there has been serious violence or disorder in your area
- If you match or are similar to a suspect's description
- If there are reasonable grounds to believe you are carrying weapons, handling illegal substances or stolen property.

You can only be stopped by:

- A police officer
- A police community support officer (PCSO)
- A PCSO can only carry out a stop and account

You should not be stopped for your:

- Age
- Race
- Ethnic background
- Nationality
- Religion
- Criminal past

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF STOP AND SEARCH



1. STOP AND ACCOUNT

A police officer or PCSO can stop and ask you

- What are you doing?
- Where have you been?
- Where are you going?
- What are you carrying?

They must record this as a stop and account, ask your ethnicity and give you a form.

2. STOP AND SEARCH

This is when a police officer stops and then searches:

- You
- Your clothes
- Anything you're carrying like a bag or a wallet

You should be given a form that outlines why you are being searched.

3. VEHICLE SEARCH

A police officer in uniform may stop and ask for the driver's documents. This is not a stop and search, it only becomes a stop & search when;

- Passengers in the car are asked why they are there or where they are going
- There is a search of the vehicle, you and or your passengers.