

Stop and Search

Stop and search remains a hugely important police power for protecting the public, tackling crime and keeping our streets safe.

Stop and search must be used in a fair and effective way that supports public confidence and is independently scrutinised.

It is not underestimated the impact stop and search has on communities and individuals. Police know that to maintain public confidence in its use, the power must be used in a fair and effective manner.

Why use stop and search

The main reason for using stop and search is to allow officers to investigate their suspicions about an individual without having to arrest them.

How effective stop and search is, is as much about avoiding unnecessary arrests as it is about a crime being detected.

Recording stop and searches

The use of body worn video cameras help to reassure the public that their interactions with the police are recorded. The technology offers greater transparency for those in front of the camera as well as those behind it.

The cameras will allow officers to demonstrate the professionalism of officers, gather evidence and demonstrate their professionalism in the face of many challenges.

Effective stop and searches

The Police believe a stop and search is most likely to be fair and effective when:

- the search is justified, lawful and stands up to public scrutiny
- the officer has genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion they will find a prohibited article or item for use in crime
- the person understands why they have been searched and feels they have been treated with respect



- the search was necessary and was the most proportionate method the police officer could use to establish whether the person has such an item

Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS)

BUSSS is a government scheme, which we comply with, to address issues of fairness and legitimacy.

For information about the scheme, [go to the BUSSS page](#)