

# POLICE STOPS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Do you know your rights?

Stop and account and stop and search are two ways in which the police reduce crime and disorder, and ensure that we have safer communities. If you are stopped or searched by the police the law gives you rights – and this poster provides a general guide to them



### Stop and account

#### Why?

The police would like to know about your movements in an area to eliminate you from enquiries and help solve crime

#### Who?

A police officer or police community support officer (PCSO) – a PCSO must be in uniform but a police officer does not have to be

#### What?

You will be asked why you are in an area, what you are doing, or where you are going

#### Your rights?

- To be treated with dignity and respect
- To understand why you have been stopped
- Not to answer questions or stay with the officer, although your help could eliminate you from enquiries
- To be given the name and number of the officer
- For your ethnicity to be recorded, so that the police can be monitored to ensure they use their powers fairly
- To be given a receipt of the stop
- To complain if you feel you have not been treated fairly

### Stop and search

#### Why?

The police suspect you are carrying drugs, weapons or stolen property or items which could be used to commit a crime or commit an act of terrorism

#### Who?

A police officer or police community support officer (PCSO) – a PCSO must be in uniform and accompanied by a police officer

#### What?

You or your vehicle will be searched or you will be asked to empty your pockets

#### Your rights?

- To be treated with dignity and respect
- To understand why you have been stopped and searched
- To know what legislation you are to be searched under
- Not to give personal information (name, address, etc) unless you are arrested or reported for an offence
- To be given the name and number of the officer
- To be searched by someone of the same sex as you
- To be searched out of the public eye, if you are taking off more than outer clothing or taking off religious clothing
- For your ethnicity to be recorded, so that the police can be monitored to ensure they use their powers fairly
- To be given a receipt and the right to request the full details of the stop from the police
- To complain if you feel you have not been treated fairly

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The police welcome  
feedback on your experience  
– contact your local police  
authority or take the survey

at [www.apa.police.uk/policestops](http://www.apa.police.uk/policestops)