



“ Making sure you know and understand your rights when being stopped and searched is an important duty for me as Police and Crime Commissioner.

I understand that being stopped and searched by police officers can be inconvenient and embarrassing but it's a valuable policing tool which helps to keep us safe.

The overriding priority of Avon and Somerset Police is to keep people safe by working together with our communities to defeat crime. ”

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS

Police & Crime Commissioner

What is stop and search?

Stop and search is when a police officer stops you to carry out a search if they suspect you are carrying:



Illegal drugs



A weapon



Stolen property



Something that could be used to commit a crime

stop and search?



Can the police stop me or can I walk away?

A police officer who has reasonable grounds for suspicion can stop you in order to conduct a search. There should be a basis for that suspicion based on facts, information, and/or intelligence.

The stop may only last for as long as it is reasonably required to permit a search.

What will I be asked for?

An officer may ask you:

- What you are up to
- Your name
- Your address
- Your date of birth

You **DO NOT** have to give your name and address unless the police officer suspects that you have committed an offence. However, not providing your details may mean you are stopped longer.

Stop and search is not an arrest – you will not get a criminal record and you have the right to make a complaint against the police.

What grounds do the police need to stop and search me?

Police must have reasonable grounds. These may be:

Suspicion

that you may have stolen or banned articles with you

Intelligence

(information) about a crime

They cannot stop you simply based on:

- AGE
- RACE
- NATIONALITY
- YOUR APPEARANCE OR WHAT YOU'RE WEARING
- RELIGION
- CRIMINAL RECORD



STOP AND SEARCH

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

For more information visit
www.stopandsearchthetruth.com

During the search

Police must tell or show you:

- G** grounds for search
- O** object/purpose of search
- W** warrant card (if in plain clothes)
- I** identity of officer
- S** station to which they are attached
- E** entitlement to a copy of search record
- L** legal power used
- Y** you are being detained for the search

When is a search record given?

When a police officer conducts a search, a written record must be made. Search records are not given immediately. A receipt is given to you and you can request a record of the search. You can apply for this up to three months after the search has taken place.

Body-worn video

Police officers wear body-worn video, and if you are stopped and searched it will be recorded.

Monitoring the police

Local independent members of the community monitor the use of powers by the police including stop and search. The role of the group is to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to hold the police to account. Find out more at www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk

Making a complaint

You should always be treated fairly, with respect and without unlawful discrimination. If you feel this has not happened then you can complain. It will help if you keep the receipt that the police officer gave you.

- Visit Avon and Somerset Police website avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/complaints
- Dial 101 to make a complaint over the phone
- Go to any police station.
- Contact your local Citizens Advice, a solicitor or MP.