

STOP AND SEARCH



Our message to the community 2016

Published March 2017

Contents

Our vision	3
Why do we use stop and search?	4
Our aims	5
Our stop and search activity	6
Engaging with young people	14
Our journey	15
Our future plans	16
Useful contacts and information	18

Our vision

One of our principal aims as the specialist police force for the railways is to help reduce crime and keep the millions of passengers who use it every day safe from harm.

The power to stop and search someone, when used fairly, professionally and effectively, can help police officers find stolen property, discover knives or weapons and any other items that can cause harm. It can also prevent the need to arrest someone if a police officer is satisfied that there are no grounds for concerns they have about someone's behaviour.

However, if we don't get it right, if police officers are discourteous or unethical in their approach, our actions can make people less confident that we are acting in the interests of the public.

Our aim is to treat everyone with fairness and respect. Our police officers will only search you if it's absolutely necessary. They should tell you why you are being searched so that you can understand what the reasons for the search are, and what their 'reasonable grounds' are. We carry out checks to make sure that our police officers have explained the reasonable grounds to you, and ask them to explain why if they haven't.

This report provides more information about why we use stop and search powers and gives a summary of activity carried out in 2016.

We also need your help to make sure we are using stop and search in the best way possible. You can let us know what you think about our approach to stop and search, or ask to go on patrol with our police officers as part of our patrol observation scheme (although we can't guarantee you'll see a stop and search) by emailing stopsearch@btp.pnn.police.uk or writing to us (address on final page of this report).

If you want to become more involved, we'd encourage you to join one of our independent community groups around the country which examine how we use stop and search and work with us to make improvements.

Adrian Hanstock
Deputy Chief Constable

Why do we use stop and search?

The power to stop and search someone is an important tool in our fight against crime. We recognise however that it is an intrusive power that has to be used responsibly and properly or we will lose your confidence in our ability to keep you safe and reduce crime.

Stop and search powers are available to all police officers and are described in detail in the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(PACE\) Code A](#).

Our police officers are expected to understand the law and how it should be applied in practice. The purpose of a stop and search is defined as '*to enable officers to allay or confirm suspicions about individuals without exercising their power of arrest*'. In practice this means that it can be more effective for police officers to carry out an investigation by searching someone for evidence of an offence without having to arrest them and take them to a police station. Depending on whether they find anything, they can then make choices about how to deal with someone who may have committed a crime.

We will ask the person being searched for some details because this helps us to check if we are being fair in our use of stop and search and that we aren't searching the same people regularly, or appear to be concentrating on one community more than others. They don't have to provide any details if they don't want to.

Our stop and search activity must be lawful and transparent. Policing legitimacy is a well-established concept in the UK and is known as 'policing by consent'. This is a crucial concept in a democratic society. The police have been given permission or 'privilege' to hold a number of intrusive powers, for example, by using force or taking people into custody. Therefore, it's important that we use these powers fairly, effectively and legitimately, and that we treat people with respect.

If we are to be effective and efficient, we rely on the cooperation and support of the public. The more you are involved in supporting us, by providing information about crime or becoming involved in scrutinising our activities (such as going on patrol with our police officers or joining one of our community consultation groups) the more we can work together to keep people safe and reduce crime.

Our aims

What do we want to do?

We want to use stop and search fairly, effectively and legitimately and also be seen to be doing this. We believe we are most likely to achieve this and positive outcomes in support of public safety when:

- the stop and search is justified, lawful and stands up to independent scrutiny
- the police officer has a genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion that they will find a prohibited article or item for use in a crime
- the person being searched understands why they have been searched and feels that they have been treated with respect
- the search is necessary and the most proportionate way the police officer could find out if the person being searched had such an item or not.

What don't we want to do?

- Use stop and search without being able to describe our reasonable grounds
- Create mistrust in particular communities or with individual members of the public who may feel that they are being unjustifiably targeted or otherwise treated unfairly
- Overload you with information that's hard to understand, although we do make detailed data available on our website for people who are interested in finding out more about our use of stop and search.

What can you do?

- Challenge us if you don't understand why we stop and search people or if you don't understand why you or someone else was stopped and searched
- Help to hold us to account by taking part in our patrol observation scheme or community groups around the country
- Contribute to the development of policing by adding your views to our surveys.

Our stop and search activity

By law, we have to collect some information about how we use stop and search. We make this available, after removing personal details, so that people can check how we are using stop and search.

How many people do you stop and search?

In 2012, we stopped and searched 9,443 people. In 2016 we stopped and searched 2,995 people.



In 2016, an object was found 31% of the time

Why are you using stop and search less?

In 2015 the Codes of Practice on the use of stop and search were updated and changed the meaning of 'reasonable suspicion' to make it clear to police officers what they must consider before using this significant power, and the potential consequences of any misuse of their authority. The revised Codes state that "*...the officer must have formed a genuine suspicion in their own mind that they will find the object...based on facts, information or intelligence that are relevant to the likelihood that the object in question will be found*".

In signing up to the Government's Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS), we have agreed to examine the effect of stop and search, and ensure that it is intelligent and better focused on crimes that affect the public the most or is being carried out in areas where there is a higher level of crime.

However, all enforcement actions we take still need to be fully justified and in the public interest. This is reinforced in our [animation](#) explaining why we use stop and search.

How many people do you arrest as a result of stop and searches?

In 2012, we arrested 825 people as a result of stop and searches, which equated to 9% of all the people we stopped and searched that year. In 2016, we arrested 467 people as a result of stop and searches, which equated to 16% of all the people we stopped and searched that year. This helps to demonstrate that we are becoming more focused in our use of stop and search and only arresting people where there are serious concerns about the articles they are carrying.

What are you arresting people for?

In 2016, the three most common reasons for arrest following a stop and search were:

- 1) Finding illegal substances or other drugs-related items (39%)
- 2) Other reasons, including being wanted by another police force (24%)
- 3) Finding stolen property (21%).

If you don't arrest people when you stop and search them what happens to them?

A successful stop and search, when we find what we are looking for, doesn't always result in someone being arrested. There are many other options available, depending on the circumstances. We call these 'positive outcomes'. These could include a summons to court, a caution, a khat or cannabis warning, a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) or a community resolution.

Like every other police force, we have only just started collecting information on positive outcomes. However, in 2016, there were 1,425 positive outcomes as a result of stop and searches.



In 2016, we recorded a 48% positive outcome rate.

Who do you stop and search?

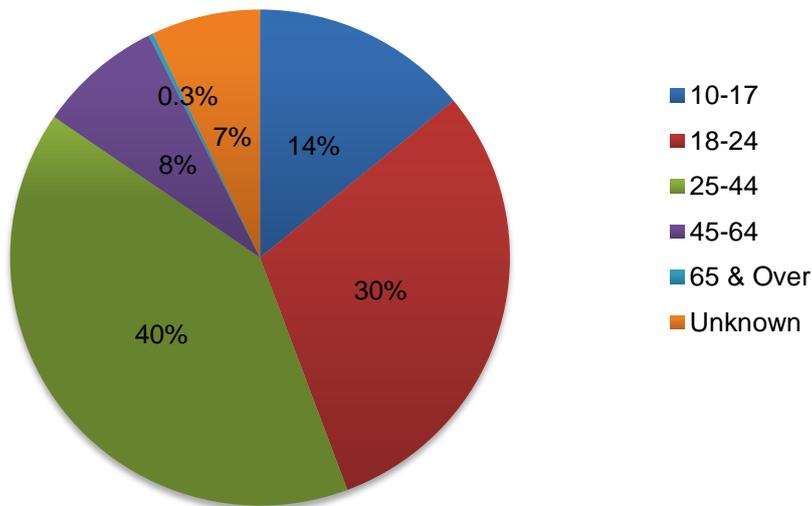
We are different to other police forces because we police the railway and railway stations and keep eight-and-a-half million passengers safe every day. This means we don't have a fixed community of residents who live in the area we are responsible for. However, we do collect information about the ethnicity, gender and age of the people we stop and search.

Of all of the people we stopped and searched in 2016, 14% were aged between 10 and 17, 30% were aged between 18 and 24, and 40% were aged between 25 and 44. 85% of people stopped and searched were men, 9% were women and 7% were recorded as 'unknown'. The table below shows stop and searches conducted in 2016 broken down by race.

	Asian	Black	White	Other	Unknown
Proportion breakdown	7%	19%	73%	2%	0.4%
Positive outcomes	50%	48%	48%	62%	38%

The majority of people we stop are adult men (85%). We rarely stop and search children and young people, but when we do, particularly for those aged between 10 and 18, we ensure that appropriate safeguarding action is taken. This means that even if there is no positive outcome, we take action to safeguard their safety and wellbeing.

Age range of people we stopped and searched in 2016



Number of 10 to 17-year-olds stopped and searched in 2016

Age	Number	Percentage
10	0	0%
11	0	0%
12	2	0.5%
13	16	4%
14	48	11%
15	92	21%
16	136	31%
17	140	32%



We didn't stop and search anyone aged 10 or under

Cannabis warnings

The number of people given cannabis warnings following a stop and search in 2016 (this means they weren't arrested or given a criminal conviction due to the small amount of cannabis found) shows a different picture. 71% were White, 17% were Black, 10% were Asian and 2% were recorded as 'Other'.

	Asian	Black	White	Other
Ethnicity breakdown	10%	17%	71%	2%

People aged between 10 and 18 have to be dealt with in the presence of an appropriate adult. 56% of those given cannabis warnings were aged between 18 and 24, and 36% were aged between 25 and 44.

	10-18	18-24	25 – 44	45 – 64	Not stated
Age Breakdown	1%	56%	36%	4%	2%

89% of people given cannabis warnings were men, 6% were women and 5% were recorded as 'unknown'.

	Men	Women	Unknown
Gender breakdown	89%	6%	5%

Number of stop and searches 2016

Number of stop and searches conducted

- **East – 705** searches conducted = **24%** of total searches
- **South – 768** searches conducted = **26%** of total searches
- **TfL – 480** searches conducted = **16%** of total searches
- B Division total number of searches **1,953**
- **65%** of BTP's total number of stop and searches



- **Midland – 214** searches = **7%** of total searches
- **Pennine – 401** searches = **13%** of total searches
- **Wales – 142** searches = **5%** of total searches
- **Western – 188** searches = **6%** of total searches
- C Division total number of searches **945**
- **32%** of BTP's total number of stop and searches



- **Scotland – 97** searches = **3%** of total searches



Do you find the items you are looking for, like knives, weapons or drugs?

We don't always find what we are looking for but sometimes we do find weapons or items that could be used to commit crime. In 2016, we seized more than 30 weapons. The examples below demonstrate that we are finding weapons and preventing people from injuring others or committing crime.



This knife was found by police officers at Reading after a person's behaviour drew the attention of a Police Community Support Officer (who does not have the power to stop and search apart from specific powers to look for alcohol, tobacco or fireworks). A police officer was called and whilst carrying out a stop and search, the knife was found nearby as the PCSO said that they had seen the person discard it. The person was charged with possessing an offensive weapon and will appear at court.

A person was reported to be threatening a passenger at High Barnet Underground Station with a TASER. Police officers attended and carried out a stop and search. They found a stun gun. The person was arrested and received a community order and alcohol treatment requirement at court.



This hammer was recovered from a man in Birmingham. He was charged and will appear at court.

These bolt croppers were found after three men were stopped and searched at Reading after police officers became suspicious that they were concealing something. The men were charged and will appear at court.

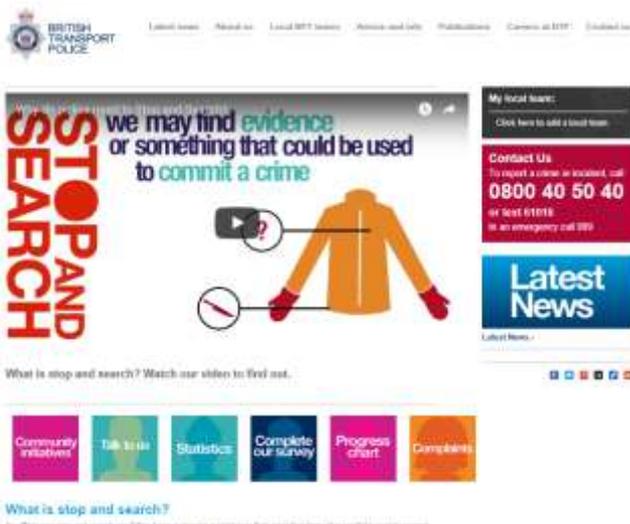


Section 60 searches

We carried out seven Section 60 searches in 2016. All of these were authorised by an Assistant Chief Constable (ACC). Four of them took place in Rotherham in connection with a far-right protest and resulted in four people being arrested.

How do you tell people what their rights are?

Every person we search is given a specific form (or record of search) that the police officer has to fill in at the time. We also give people an information card that explains their rights in a clear and simple way. This is also used by the Metropolitan Police Service and City of London Police and by several other police forces outside of London. It is also available in Welsh.



Stop and search webpage

We have updated [our website](#) to include more information about stop and search, including details about how to complain and how to give us feedback on how we are doing. We also created an [animation](#) to explain why we use stop and search and what people who are stopped and searched can expect.

What can I do if I'm stopped and searched and not satisfied with how I have been treated?

You will find details of how you can make a complaint in the information card given to you by the police officer who has stopped and searched you. You can also find out how to complain on [our website](#).

We received seven complaints about our use of stop and search in 2016 but we know that not everyone who is unhappy with stop and search will let us know. You can also contact the [British Transport Police Authority \(BTPA\)](#), [Independent Police Complaints Commission \(IPCC\)](#) or various stop and search monitoring groups which can also listen to your concerns and receive complaints.

Every complaint we receive activates a ‘trigger’ under the [Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme](#) (BUSSS). This ensures that it is investigated by our Professional Standards Department (PSD) and where there are lessons learnt, that they are briefed to all of our police officers.

Despite the low numbers of complaints we received in 2016, we are not complacent and realise that this may not reflect the true picture of how people are affected by how we use stop and search. For this reason we also check our systems to see if anyone (who has provided their details) has been stopped and searched more than three times in a year. If we identify someone who has, we carry out a review to find out if they are being improperly singled out or targeted unfairly. If we find anything of concern we take appropriate action and let the person know that we have done this.

Do you comply with BUSSS?

We are compliant with all six conditions of the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS). There was a short period of time last year when we had to change our data collection processes and the way we were reporting stop and searches to fully comply. Because we had to advise the Home Secretary that we couldn’t comply with every aspect of BUSSS at that time, we placed information on our website so that we were open and transparent about this.

The scheme introduces a number of measures designed to create greater transparency, accountability and community involvement in the use of stop and search powers. We, continue to explore ways in which we can do this better and improve our approach.

In 2016, more than 30 people went on patrol with our police officers as part of the Police Patrol Observation Scheme. We will ensure that everyone who volunteers for us will also get an opportunity to do this in 2017.

Who scrutinises what you do?

There is a Stop and Search Steering Group, which meets every three months and is chaired by our Deputy Chief Constable. This group holds senior police officers to account by asking them to explain what they are doing to ensure their police officers are carrying out fair, effective and legitimate stop and searches. Examples of good practice are also shared with others at this group’s meetings.

There is also a Community Consultation Group, which also meets every three months and has an independent Chair. This meeting is attended by members of the public. Group members hold us to account for all of our stop and search activity.

There are also local community scrutiny panels held monthly across the country. Individual stop and search records (with personal details removed) are examined and feedback is given to police officers and senior officers.

We have also introduced a new process on our computerised system that ensures supervisors give feedback to the police officers that they manage.

Engaging with young people

We recognise that not everyone reading this is directly affected by stop and search. We, like every police service, can struggle to engage with some parts of our community, including young people, so we go the extra mile to make sure we do this.

We have appointed a senior police officer to coordinate our engagement with young people. We are talking with young people about the dangers of trespass and, at the same time, having discussions about what stop and search is and what they can expect from us.

Some examples of how we engage with young people

Working with Paul Anderson OBE of VOYAGE (Voice of Youth and Genuine Empowerment) – ‘Over-policed and under-protected’

We heard from young people, known as young leaders, who are directly affected by stop and search. The group made 15 recommendations, including ‘Young leaders should be encouraged to apply to all Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs)’. We will invite young people to attend our IAGs and Community Consultation Groups across the country.

Working with Sulaimaan Samuel – ‘Behind the Headlines’ presentation

This asks young people to put themselves in the position of a victim of crime. It then goes through options available and their expectations of the police regarding stop and search. It also takes them through reasonable grounds scenarios. This workshop was delivered to an Academy in Leeds in December 2016.

Working with Arc Theatre – ‘Stop and think’ play

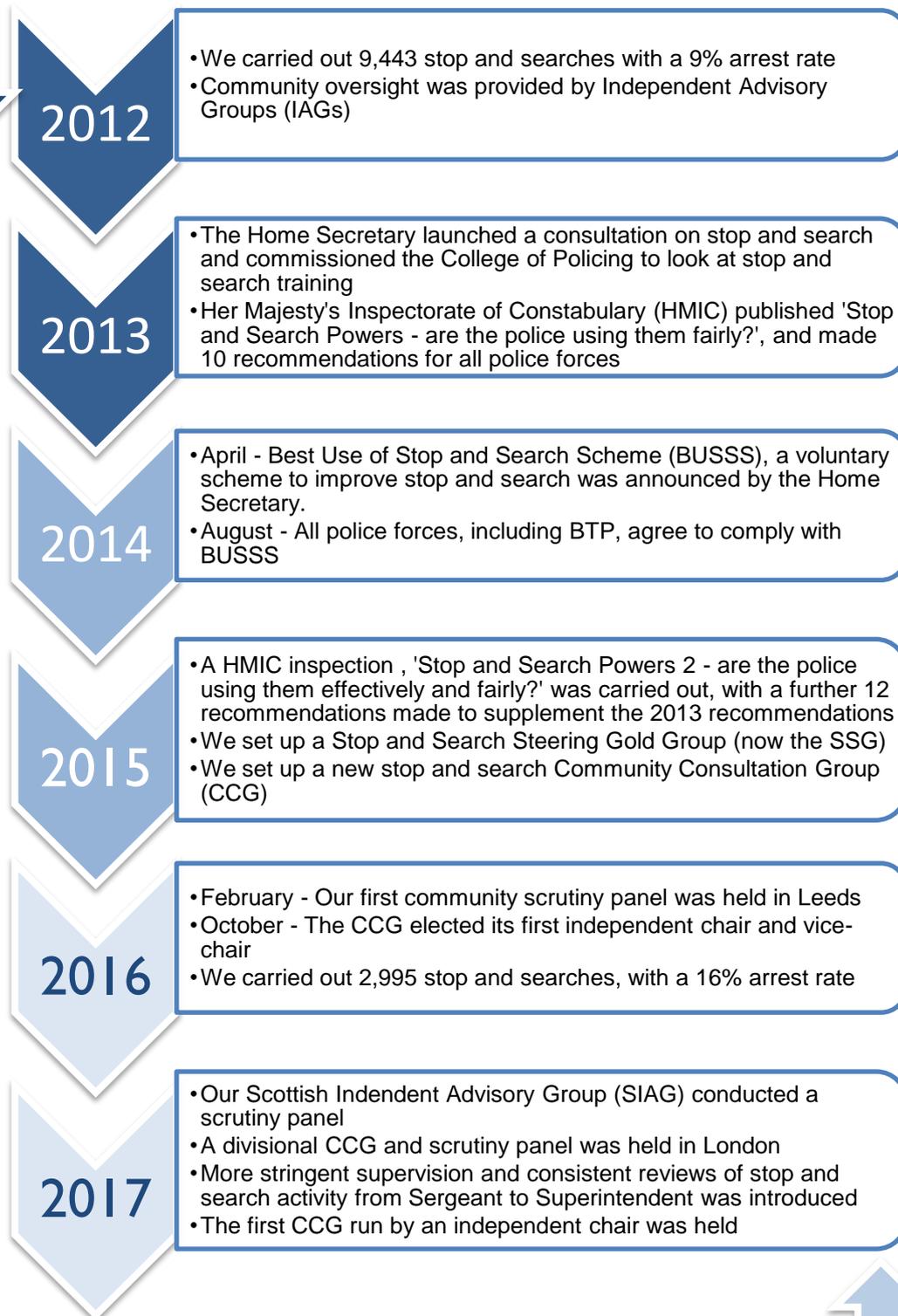
This uses live theatre to raise awareness of stop and search and was delivered to over 300 young people in East London in January 2017.

Police Public Encounters Boards

These meetings were attended by 120 people and, for the first time, included national Government, local government, police forces, community groups and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The involvement of both Paul and Sulaimaan has helped inform the best way for all police forces, including BTP, to engage with young people.

Our journey

The number of searches has decreased from 9,443 in 2012 to 2,995 in 2016



Since 2012, the proportion of stops leading to an arrest has increased from 9% to 16%

Our future plans

All our stop and search activity has to benefit the people we serve.

We recognise that stop and search is a complex and sensitive area of policing that can greatly affect the people we serve if we don't use our powers correctly.

We believe we have made significant progress to improve our understanding and approach to using this power.

We will continue to pay close attention to the way in which our officers use stop and search and aim to give you confidence that we are using this power in a fair, effective and legitimate way.

In 2017 we will concentrate on:

- Proportionality – we want to make sure we're not targeting anyone unfairly
- Improving our data – we have invested in new computerised systems and we need to make sure that we collect the right information and use it wisely
- Improving positive outcomes – we need to reassure you that we will only search someone if we have reasonable grounds and if we have a genuinely objective suspicion that we will find what we are looking for. We will do this by clearly explaining why we have decided to search someone and describing what we have found as a result
- Police officer confidence – we must make sure our police officers understand why this power can be effective in finding weapons, stolen items and illegal drugs, as well as what a fair and effective encounter is and the effect it has if a stop and search is not carried out correctly. We must also make sure that the supervision and scrutiny that takes place is proportionate.

Authorised Professional Practice (APP) training

The College of Policing, in association with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), has been working to improve the training, standards, and professional guidance surrounding stop and search.

This involved a comprehensive consultation process with the public, critical stakeholders, community groups and police officers and was supported by extensive research, analysis and testing of new training. This has resulted in new national standards, learning programmes, and [authorised professional practice for stop and search](#).

In order to train and develop our police officers fully, we will adopt the national APP stop and search training package, which includes a two-day classroom-based practitioners' course for all police constables and sergeants, which is subject to a final examination.

Body-worn video and mobile capabilities

In 2017, we expect to increase our body-worn video capabilities. Our police officers will be expected to use body-worn video to record use of police powers, including all stop and searches.

We will keep recordings for 12 months so they are available for scrutiny or examination following any complaint.

The use of this technology will help ensure that our police officers continue to act in a professional manner, holding them to account and positively impacting on behaviour.

We are also working to make our stop and search recording requirements available to our police officers on mobile devices. This will make it easier for them to record accurate information about why they have stopped someone and what they have found on the spot. Importantly, it will enable the data to be uploaded immediately onto our electronic systems, and instead of being given a hand-written copy, the person who has been searched will be provided with a receipt.

Useful contacts and information

Contact us

If you want to provide feedback or ask us a question, email stopsearch@btp.pnn.police.uk

Our strategic lead is Superintendent Richard Moffatt
richard.moffatt@btp.pnn.police.uk

Our Inspector is T/Inspector Rob Johnson
rob.johnson@btp.pnn.police.uk

You can also write to us at
British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London, NW1 9LN

Find out more online

[BTP website](http://btp.police.uk)
btp.police.uk

[Animation – Why do police need to stop and search?](http://btp.police.uk/stopsearch)
btp.police.uk/stopsearch

[How to make a complaint about stop and search to BTP](http://btp.police.uk/complaints)
btp.police.uk/complaints

[Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(PACE\) Code](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=police+and+criminal+evidence+act)
[Search gov.uk for 'police and criminal evidence act'](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=police+and+criminal+evidence+act)

[Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme \(BUSSS\)](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=best+use+of+stop+and+search)
[Search gov.uk for 'best use of stop and search'](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=best+use+of+stop+and+search)

[College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice for stop and search](http://college.police.uk)
[Search college.police.uk for 'stop and search APP'](http://college.police.uk)