

Your rights

Officers will act with integrity at all times and treat you with fairness and respect.

You will not be stopped and searched because of your age, sex, ethnic background or religion.

Before you are searched, officers will explain the reason for the search.

Being stopped by the police does not mean that you are under arrest but you will need to stay with the officer until they have completed the search.

You will not get a criminal record unless you have committed an offence.

Any personal information collected will be kept and then destroyed after three years.

You will be given a receipt with the officer's details, information about your rights and how you can access a copy of your stop and search information.

Feedback

If you are unhappy about the way you were treated by the police, you can make a complaint using our online complaint form, in person at a police station or by contacting the non-emergency number 101.

For more information on stop and search, visit:

www.scotland.police.uk/stopandsearch



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Information about stop and search

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Police officers regularly stop and talk to people as part of their duties. They may simply want to speak to you about a local matter or to make sure that you are all right.

There are also times when officers need to carry out a search if they believe you have an item which is either illegal or harmful.

The police use stop and search to promote public safety and to help prevent and detect crime. This knife is an example of the type of item officers recover using stop and search.



What does a search involve?

An officer may search:

- You and your clothes
- Anything that you are carrying, such as a bag or wallet
- The vehicle you are travelling in.



Power to search

The Code of Practice on stop and search governs all situations when officers stop and search a person.

This means an officer cannot search you without reason and must use a specific police power to search you.

To use these powers, the officer must have reasonable grounds to suspect you of being in possession of an item that is illegal or harmful.

A copy of the Code, including a version for children and young people, is available on the Police Scotland website.