

Stop and Search – Your Guide

What constitutes a Fair and Effective search?

- The decision to stop and/or search a person must be **fair**.
- The search must be **legal** in basis and in application.
- Interaction with the public during the encounter must be **professional**.
- Police use of stop and search powers must be **transparent** and accountable.

Applying the National Decision Model (NDM) will help you decide whether the use of stop and search is appropriate in the circumstances.

National Decision Model

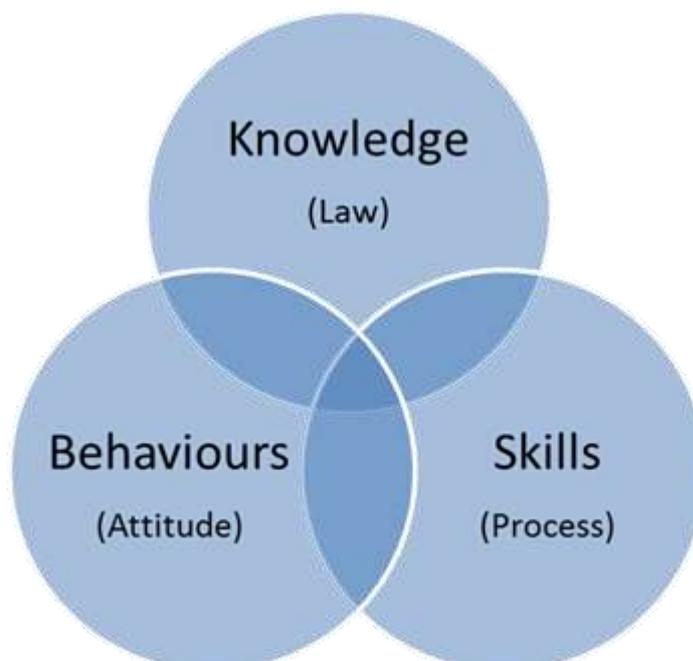


- V** Consider the Statement of Mission and Values.
What would the force and the wider public expect of me?
- I** Gather Information and Intelligence
- A** Assess Threat and Risk and Develop a Working Strategy
- P** Consider Policy and Powers
- O** Identify Options and Contingencies
- A** Take Action
- R** Review what happened



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It is equally important that you are confident and competent in:



The Law

Code A Police & Criminal Evidence Act is the code of practice for statutory powers of stop and search and requirements to record public encounters by police officers and staff. All stop and search encounters must comply with the code. **YOU must ensure that the basis (object & grounds) and application (complies with PACE Code A) for search is LAWFUL.**

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414195/2015_Code_A_web-19-03-15.pdf

Behaviours

It is important that you understand how YOU approach every public encounter and that your interaction will reflect the recipient's view of the police service. To be effective you must be aware that your attitude is a defining factor in the success or otherwise of each encounter irrespective whether the item you are searching for or another item is found.

Stop and search is a coercive power and as such can evoke extreme emotions. A stop and search encounter can quickly escalate into conflict where the recipient believes that they are being treated unfairly or discriminated. Very often effective questioning will negate or confirm any need to conduct a search. Where you believe a search is necessary it is crucial that the reason, object and grounds for every search are clearly explained, accurately recorded and can satisfy objective scrutiny. If you are unable to satisfy these requirements it is unlikely that you have established reasonable grounds. **Remember YOU are accountable for your actions.**

You should also be aware that we all harbour bias. This may be unconscious and we may not be aware that it is influencing our behaviour. Using the National Decision Model will provide you with a framework to base your decisions on information / intelligence and minimise the likelihood of unconscious bias influencing your behaviour.

Skills

Applying the training you have received and use of resources such as PnP and iplod will assist you in the proportionate and appropriate exercise of your powers. They will also enable you to develop your skills in the correct way. The Stop and Search Roundabout provides you with a process to develop your skills and ensure you apply them in a way that is **Proportionate, Lawful, Appropriate, Necessary** and **ECHR** compliant.

ALTERNATIVES ROUNDABOUT

