



Stop and Search Policy

This document is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable personnel and the functions provided by the Deputy Mayor for the Policing, Fire and Crime Team of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority are required to adhere.

Linkages

Strategy: NPCC Stop and Search Plan on a Page

Subsidiary Linked Procedures:

Stop and search | College of Policing

Public-Protection-Notification-Procedure

Other Documents:

Use of Powers - Stop and Search & Use of Force

NYP - Supervisor Guide for Stop and Search

1 Policy Statement

1.1 This policy statement is open to public viewing from the NYP Website

1.2 This policy outlines the procedures and standards for conducting stop and search encounters by officers of North Yorkshire Police. It ensures compliance with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) and promotes transparency, accountability, and safeguarding.

1.3 This policy is aligned with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on stop and search. Officers must familiarise themselves with the APP guidance and apply it in all relevant encounters.

2 Equality Impact Assessment

2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted to ensure that this policy does not disproportionately affect any group. The policy promotes fair and lawful use of stop and search powers, with safeguards to protect children and vulnerable individuals.

3 Safeguarding and PPN Submission

Stop & Search Policy

3.1 Officers must submit a Public Protection Notice (PPN) for every stop and search involving a person under the age of 18. This mandatory requirement ensures that safeguarding considerations are consistently applied and recorded.

4 Use of Body Worn Video (BWV)

4.1 All stop and search encounters must be recorded using Body Worn Video (BWV). For encounters involving an Exposure of Intimate Parts (EIP), the camera must be turned away to protect the identity of the individual while still capturing audio and officer conduct.

5 Supervisory Oversight and Quality Assurance

5.1 Supervisors must quality assure all stop and search records. This includes reviewing grounds, adherence to GOWISELY, safeguarding actions, and BWV usage. Feedback must be provided to officers to support learning and continuous improvement.

6 Recording of Ethnicity

6.1 During every stop and search encounter, officers must ask the individual to self-define their ethnicity. This information must be recorded accurately to support monitoring and equality analysis. Officers need to also record Officer Defined Ethnicity (ODE).

7 GOWISELY Protocol and Trust

7.1 Officers must follow the GOWISELY protocol during every stop and search, this should be done at the beginning of the search:

G – Grounds for the search
O – Object of the search
W – Warrant card (if not in uniform)
I – Identity of the officer
S – Station to which the officer is attached
E – Entitlement to a copy of the search record
L – Legal power used
Y – You are being detained for the purpose of a search

7.2 Consideration should be given to whether there are any smells that may give rise to suspicion? Drugs, petrol, chemicals etc. A smell of Cannabis alone will not be reasonable grounds to search a person for drugs, officers will need to have further supporting facts, intelligence or information or the behaviour / actions of the person i.e. throwing something away when you approach them. Where there is a group of people where there is a smell of cannabis, each will need to have their own grounds formed or further information or intelligence will be required to search the whole group.

7.3 Fairness and impartiality, decisions to stop and search must be based on objective facts and not on discriminatory factors like, age, sex, ethnicity or religion. Officers should treat individuals with courtesy and respect, avoiding disrespectful or derogatory language or behaviour. The Search should

be conducted in a way that minimises any negative impact on the individual, causing as little embarrassment as possible.

7.4 Use of Force, if force is used as part of the search, this should be explained to the individual, why force is being used and should only be applied for as long is necessary. Any force used should be proportionate and justified.

8 Complaints Procedure

8.1 Individuals who are dissatisfied with the conduct of a stop and search encounter may make a complaint through the North Yorkshire Police complaints process. Information on how to complain must be provided during the encounter and is available on the force website.

8.2 Searching Transgender Individuals

In accordance with NPCC interim guidance following the UK Supreme Court ruling, intimate searches (including strip searches) must be conducted by officers of the same biological sex as the individual being searched, unless the individual explicitly requests otherwise. In such cases, the search may proceed only if:

- The individual provides written consent;
- The searching officer agrees to conduct the search; and
- A supervising officer authorises the arrangement.

8.3 Officers must not default to the sex assigned at birth when conducting non-intimate searches, and must respectfully ask the individual how they identify and who they would prefer to conduct the search.

8.4 All searches must be conducted in a manner that respects the individual's dignity, privacy, and human rights. Any deviation from this guidance must be documented and justified, and supervisory advice should be sought in complex or sensitive cases.