

STOP & SEARCH GUIDANCE

1. The Police can stop and search you and your vehicle:

- **IF:** They have **reasonable grounds** to believe that you have **stolen/prohibited articles** (s.1 Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984)

2. The Police can stop and search you for drugs

- **IF:** They have **reasonable grounds** to suspect that you are in **possession of drugs**. (s.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

3. The Police can stop and search you

- **IF:** There is **specific authority** by an Inspector for that time and place to search people for **dangerous instruments and offensive weapons**. (s.60 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994)

WHAT THE POLICE MUST DO BEFORE THEY SEARCH YOU.

Grounds – explain why they want to search you.

Object – explain what they are looking for.

Warrant card – this must be shown if the Police Officer is not in uniform.

Identification – the Police must give their name/warrant/identification number.

Station – give you the name of the Police station where they are based.

Entitlement – tell you that you are entitled to a copy of the stop and search record.

Lawful – the search has to be lawful.

Year – tell you that you can get a copy of the search record for up to a year.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- **Get the Officer's details – name /warrant / identification no.**
- **Get the name of the Police Station where they are based.**
- **Find out why they are stopping you.**
- **Ask for a record of the stop & search.**