

Stop and Search Policy



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

Owning Department	Corporate Development
Policy Owner	Chief Supt HQ Operations
Chief Officer Sponsor	ACC Specialist Operations
Risk Rating	Low
Equality Impact	Medium
Date of Commencement	January 2015
Date of Next Review	January 2018

1. Background

The use of stop and search powers has been a hugely controversial issue at times for the Police Service nationally, and increasingly for forces and Police and Crime Commissioners politically. The concerns about the use of stop and search often relate to issues of disproportionality and discriminate use of the power by the police.

Whilst there have been very few complaints about the use of stop and search in Lancashire, and consultation with our communities indicates that this is not a significant issue for them, the Constabulary recognises the potential harm that misuse of the powers can have on its relationships communities.

Following the August 2011 disorder, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to carry out the first national review of the use of stop and search powers by the Police Service. In addition, the Home Office undertook consultation around the use of stop and search, to ensure that members of the public, in particular young people and those from minority ethnic communities, could have their say.

In April 2014 the Home Secretary announced a package of measures to respond to the findings of both the HMIC inspection and the consultation, which had identified a number of issues and areas of improvement for the Service. In September 2014, the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme was launched.

2. Aims

The aim of this policy and its supporting procedures is:

- To provide governance for the Constabulary's response to the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.
- To ensure that stop and search powers are used proportionately and legitimately in Lancashire.
- To ensure a consistent, corporate approach to the use of stop and search powers in Lancashire.
- To ensure that officers and staff within the Constabulary receive appropriate training on the use of stop and search.
- To ensure that stop and search powers are used fairly and equitably across all communities in Lancashire.
- To ensure appropriate supervision, monitoring and oversight of the use of stop and search powers in Lancashire.

- To ensure appropriate quality assurance, accountability and governance of the use of stop and search powers in Lancashire.
- To ensure that the public is informed about and engaged in the use of stop and search powers in Lancashire.

3. Principles

- Stop and search in Lancashire will be carried out in compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme and the relevant legislation governing use of the powers.
- Stop and search in Lancashire will be carried out proportionately, with discretion, fairness and respect.
- Officers and staff of the Constabulary will be appropriately trained in the use of stop and search, to ensure that:
 - they understand the powers and how to use them
 - they understand the impact of stop and search on the individual and the community
 - persons subject to stop and search are treated fairly and with respect
 - all stop and search events are accurately recorded, with relevant and legitimate grounds
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities will be identified through supervisory monitoring and from engagement with communities and partners.
- All incidents of stop and search will be recorded, in accordance with the processes and systems laid out in the supporting procedures to this policy.
- Supervisors will routinely monitor the quality of stop and search carried out by their officers, to ensure that it meets the standards expected by the Constabulary and its communities.
- Quantity of stop and search conducted will never be used as a measure of effective performance by the Constabulary, nor will targets be set for its use. The focus will be on 'quality of interactions'.
- The Constabulary will routinely monitor the quality, use and effectiveness of stop and search, to ensure that it remains an effective tool in securing the safety and security of the communities it serves.
- The Constabulary will maintain corporate oversight of stop and search data, to ensure that any proportionality, quality and legitimacy issues are highlighted and addressed.
- The Constabulary will operate a 'community trigger' – processes requiring us to explain to local community scrutiny groups how the powers are being used in the event of a large volume of complaints or complaints of a nature likely to impact on community confidence.
- The Constabulary will routinely provide relevant stop and search data to the OPCC, in order to facilitate the scrutiny function of that office around the effectiveness, legitimacy, proportionality and quality of those interactions with the public.
- The Constabulary will routinely publish relevant stop and search data to provide transparency around the effectiveness, legitimacy, proportionality and quality of those interactions with the public.
- The Constabulary will engage with the public to ensure that it understands the impact that stop and search has on certain sections of the community and to explain how the effective use of the powers can help to ensure the safety and security of communities across Lancashire.

4. Documents

Lancashire Constabulary Stop and Search Procedures
 'GOWISELY' Aide Memoire
 Lancon Stop and Search Action Plan

5. References (if applicable)

PACE Act 1984
HMIC Stop and Search Inspection Report
Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme

The Strategic Management Board approved the policy.