



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS **BUST CARD**

EDUCATE // EMPOWER // ORGANISE

STOP & ACCOUNT

A police officer or PCSO has powers to stop you at any time and ask you: i) What you are doing; ii) Where you have been and where you are going; and iii) What you are carrying.

They must explain to you why you're being stopped and held to account for your actions or presence in an area.

- You don't have to answer any questions they ask you.
- You are free to leave at any time.

STOP & SEARCH

When a police officer searches you they should:

- Tell you their **NAME** and police **STATION**.
- Tell you **WHY** they want to search you.
- Tell you exactly **WHAT** items they are searching for.
- Explain what **LAW** (search power) they are using to legally search you.
- Make an electronic or written **RECORD** of the search.
- Provide you with a **RECEIPT** of the search. If that is not possible at the time, they should tell you how you can get a copy.

As hard as it might be, try to stay **CALM** throughout the search to help ensure a quick resolution. Stop & Search is not a voluntary process. If you refuse to be searched, the police may use force and/or arrest you.

STOP & SEARCH: NON REASONABLE SUSPICION

Section 60

In most cases, the police must have 'reasonable grounds to suspect' you have been involved in a crime or are carrying a prohibited item (e.g. weapon, controlled drugs, stolen item etc.)

There are however some exceptions, when police can use 'non reasonable suspicion' powers, section 60 powers.

The Home Office has recently granted Greater Manchester Police (and other forces) enhanced section 60 powers. They can now stop anybody within a designated area if they anticipate serious violence.

ARREST

If you are arrested, you have the right to:

- Remain **SILENT**. You can refuse to answer questions, accept any charges, or sign any paperwork until you have spoken to a legal advisor.
- **PHONE** a family member/friend and a legal advisor of your choice.
- Consult with a **LEGAL ADVISOR** for free.
- Have an **APPROPRIATE ADULT** present, if you are under 18 or are 'mentally vulnerable'.
- See a **DOCTOR** if you feel unwell.
- Read the **PACE CODES**, which outline your rights in detail.

NORTHERN POLICE MONITORING PROJECT is an independent, grassroots collective that aims to educate, empower and organise the people of Greater Manchester in the face of police harassment, intimidation, violence and racism.

WEBSITE

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If you believe an officer has carried out an unlawful search, please keep your search receipt. Get in touch with us and we can help you make a formal complaint.

This card is intended as guidance only. Thank you to Netpol for their support in the production of this information (www.netpol.org)