

STOP AND SEARCH PROCEDURE

1 A POLICE OFFICER HAS POWERS TO STOP AND SEARCH YOU IF THEY HAVE 'REASONABLE GROUNDS' TO SUSPECT YOU'RE CARRYING ILLEGAL DRUGS, A WEAPON, STOLEN GOODS, OR A SUSPICIOUS ITEM THAT COULD BE USED TO COMMIT A CRIME.

2

STOP RIGHT THERE

A POLICE OFFICER MIGHT STOP YOU AND ASK:

- WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
- WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE AREA?
- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

3 BEFORE THEY SEARCH YOU, OFFICERS MUST TELL YOU:

- THEIR NAME
- POLICE STATION
- WHAT THEY EXPECT TO FIND (I.E. DRUGS)
- THE REASON
- WHY THEY ARE LEGALLY ALLOWED TO SEARCH YOU
- THAT YOU CAN HAVE A RECORD OF THE SEARCH AND, IF THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE AT THE TIME, HOW YOU CAN GET A COPY

4 REMOVING CLOTHING DURING A SEARCH

- A POLICE OFFICER CAN ASK YOU TO TAKE OFF YOUR COAT, JACKET OR GLOVES
- IF THE OFFICER WANTS TO REMOVE MORE THAN A JACKET AND GLOVES THEY MUST BE THE SAME SEX AS YOU
- THE POLICE MIGHT ASK YOU TO TAKE OFF OTHER CLOTHES AND ANYTHING YOU'RE WEARING FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS - FOR EXAMPLE A VEIL OR TURBAN. IF THEY DO, THEY MUST TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW

5

MOST OF THE INSTANCES OF STOP AND SEARCH RESULT IN NO DETECTION OF CRIMINALITY

6 IN 2015-2016 THE NUMBER OF STOP AND SEARCH FELL BY 28% (DOWN TO NEARLY 386,500), WITH 16% LEADING TO AN ARREST. THIS INDICATES A MORE FOCUSED WAY OF USING STOP AND SEARCH. HOWEVER, BAME PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE STOPPED THAN THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS DESPITE CONSTITUTING JUST 11.3% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION

28% ↓

16% ↑

11.3%