

06 September 2005

Report of the Chief Executive  
to the Police Authority

## **HOME OFFICE STOP AND SEARCH MANUAL**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In March 2005, the Home Office published its Stop and Search Manual which is designed to offer practical guidance and advice for Police and Police Authorities on the subject of stop and search and stop and talk. The document is available on the Home Office website at:  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimpol/police/system/stop\\_search.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimpol/police/system/stop_search.html).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. Every Police Authority has a duty to:
  - Eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
  - Promote equal opportunities
  - Promote good race relations between the police and different racial groups
3. To discharge these obligations, Humberside Police Authority must be satisfied that the Force is meeting these same duties. To do this, the Authority needs to monitor Police policies and practices such as Stop and Search and take steps to tackle any unjustified discrimination. It is the role of the Police Authority to encourage the Force to involve the public in this work.
4. Research has shown that Stop and Search is most effective when used in a highly focused and intelligence led way. How officers carry out Stop and Search is important. People expect to be treated fairly, with respect and to be given a valid reason for being searched. It is important that the Police Authority should ensure that Humberside Police tackle both these aspects when assessing how officers use their Stop and Search powers.
5. Humberside Police Authority should have effective monitoring arrangements. In particular, the Authority should consider:
  - How and at what level we can most effectively monitor Stop and Search issues including what should be dealt with by the full Authority and what issues can be tackled in more detail in Committee or at working group level
  - The extent to which the Force Stop and Search policies impact on minority ethnic communities
  - How the Authority is to involve local communities in this work
6. It is important therefore that Force policies should be seen, agreed and approved by the Authority.

7. Police Authorities also have an important role in informing local people about Stop and Search and their entitlement to an immediate record. Authorities should also discuss with their communities how the police use their powers and how it affects the communities' relationship with them.
8. Finally, Police Authorities should assess and monitor how Stop and Search affects the trust and confidence that the community has in the Police, particularly amongst minority communities. This could be achieved by survey, for example.

## **THE MANUAL**

9. The manual is intended to be a comprehensive guide to the practice of Stop and Search. Its recommendations cover responsibilities in the areas of policy, operations, supervision and monitoring, community and training. Recommendations are made separately for each of the following groups:
  - Police Authorities
  - Chief Constables
  - Basic Command Unit Commanders
  - Sergeants
  - Constables
  - BCU Intelligence Teams
  - Force Commanders and Control Teams
10. The manual:
  - Explains the powers of stop and search in detail. It focuses particularly on the effects of recent legislation and new codes of practice.
  - Illustrates good practice.
  - Describes how practice can be improved through training supervision and monitoring, highlighting various training methods and packages that forces can use. It explores the roles of supervisors and police authorities in supervising and monitoring stop and search activity.
  - Explains the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) and outlines relevant and future measures relating to stop and search with particular response to ethnicity.
  - Provides information on the complaints process.
  - Sets out the responsibilities of Police Authorities in relation to stop and search as recommended by the APA and explains the value of community consultation and involvement.

## **THE POSITION IN HUMBERSIDE POLICE**

11. In July 2004, Humberside Police established a Recording of Stops Project Board, the work of which fully involved representatives from the Police Authority. The Board completed its work on the 2 April 2005. This Board established within Humberside Police a structure where systems were established for the monitoring, collection and storage of data relating to Stop and Search and Stop and Talk. The Force IAG were also involved in the Risk Assessment work in relation to the Project Board.

12. The Force are now developing a Practice Direction in respect of Stop and Search, a draft of which is attached at Appendix A.
13. The manual contains a checklist of important questions for Police Authorities in respect of their scrutiny role. Many of the questions raised were addressed by the Recording of Stops Project Board. Produced at Appendix B is the checklist together with how the Project Board have addressed some of the questions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. It is recommended that:
  - i. Members discuss the contents of this report
  - ii. The Action Schedule generated as a result of this report be forwarded for consideration by the Performance Scrutiny Committee
  - iii. Further reports are received from this working party to the Consultation and Partnership Committee.

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Background Documents:              Home Office Stop and Search Manual