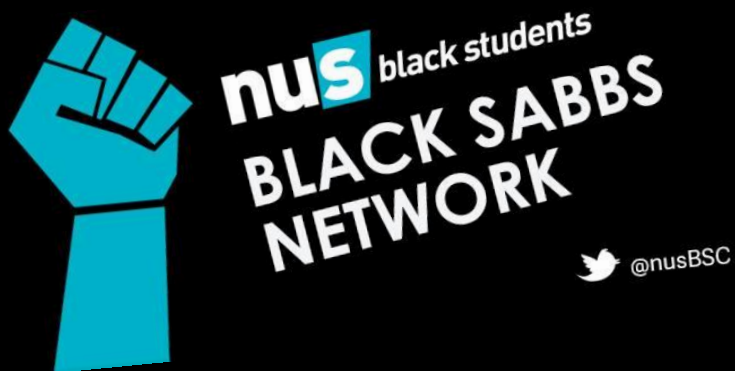


Police monitoring workshop



Police monitoring/Community monitoring projects

Police monitors (also known as 'legal observers' or 'community monitors') are volunteers trained to monitor the use of powers by the police and **ensure community-led accountability of law enforcement**



Police monitoring projects

Police monitoring projects generally focus on use of **police powers at protest** demonstrations, and on the use of **stop and search powers** against members of the public.

Their role involves ensuring that the people do not misuse or abuse their powers, or use them in a discriminatory or disproportionate manner.



Police monitoring projects

Aim to empower individuals of the public, informing them of their legal rights when encountering police, and work with the public to develop an understanding of the nature of police engagement with the community.

For this, it is important that a relationship and trust is built between the monitoring project and the local community, and that it stays rooted within it.



Police monitoring projects

By effectively policing the police, police monitors help redress the lack of accountability of the force, particularly among Black communities, and help empower those communities to defend themselves from excessive, discriminatory and racist abuse at the hands of the police.



SELF-DEFENCE «» THE ONLY WAY!



ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT



WE WILL BREAK THIS PRISON!

DEMONSTRATE

FREE THE BRADFORD 12

12 Asian youths charged with Conspiracy face life imprisonment for fighting Racism.



NO COMPROMISE! NO SELL-OUT!



"You're a man, you see
And a man must be
Whatever he'll be or he
Won't be free.
If he's bound up tight
He'll hold back the night
And there won't be no light
For day.

Well then, believe it my friend
That this silence will end
We'll just have to get guns
And be men."

Elaine Brown,
Black Panther Party



Key function

Police monitoring focuses on:

- Direct control of movement by police (use of detention, containment, stop and search)
- Surveillance and data gathering by police
- Stop and Search/Use of invasive powers
- Use of extrajudicial/excessive punishment



What police monitors are

Role of police monitors:

- **Act as deterrent** to police misbehavior through visible scrutiny
- **Give out information cards** (Know-Your-Rights/bust cards) to members of the public
- **Observe/record** conduct of **police**, especially any that might lead to criminal liability – filming police encounters
- Note community perceptions of the police and their behaviour - racial/gender composition of police officers and targets



What police monitors are **NOT**

- Legally privileged/immune from arrest
 - Mediators/negotiators/lawyers
 - There to monitor the public
- **THERE TO WORK WITH THE POLICE**



Established monitoring projects

- *Newham Monitoring Project*
- *Community Monitoring Project West London*
- *Northern Police Monitoring Project*

newham monitoring project
nmp
established 1980

RESISTING RACISM AND DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS IN EAST LONDON



CMP
KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS



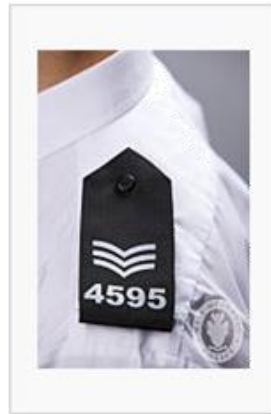
Understanding police powers



Police ranks



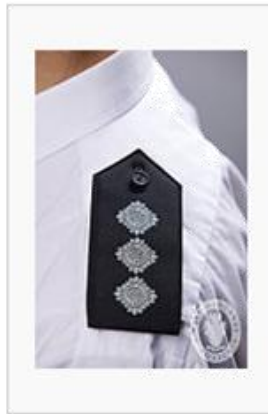
Constable
(PC)



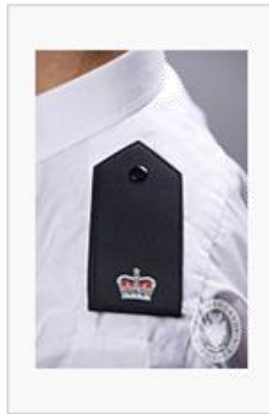
Sergeant



Inspector



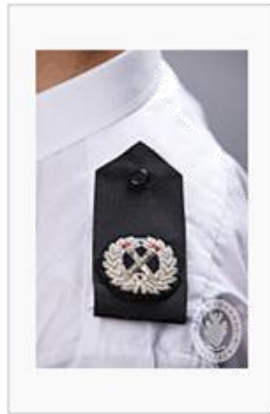
Chief Inspector



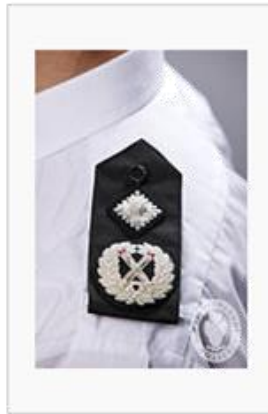
Superintendent



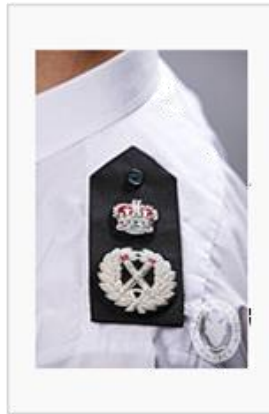
Chief Superintendent



Assistant Chief
Constable



Deputy Chief
Constable



Chief Constable



Police
Community
Support
Officer
(PCSO)



Police ranks – Police Liaison Officers (PLOs)

- Identifiable by **baby blue** bibs
- Introduced to the force (ostensibly) to ‘facilitate protest’
- Present at demonstrations especially, try and start up conversations with attendees
- **Really there to collect info on you for CRIMINT** – Criminal Intelligence Database
- **DO NOT TALK – THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH THE POLICE**



Police ranks – Forward Intelligence Teams (FITs)

- Identifiable by **dark blue** bibs
- Used for overt surveillance – filming and photographing protests
- This material is stored in CRIMINT and used later for identification
- Primary function is to collect evidence and intelligence, and disrupt protest
- *Don't feed the feds*



DON'T
FEED
THE
FEDS



**Police Intelligence Gathering
on Protesters...
and how to deal with it**



Police powers

- The police rely on your ignorance of the law to abuse their power
- Know your rights and don't let them get away with it
- Keep in mind: even if they can't do it, legally, the police may always still try and abuse their powers
- Police monitoring aims to keep this in check



Stop and Search

- Stop and search derives from the laws applying to those suspected of involvement in criminal activity (weapons, drugs, stolen goods etc)
- Black people are up to **29 times more likely to be stopped** than white people under section 60, despite there being little difference in offending rates between all these communities.



Stop and Search

Your experiences of stop and search?



Stop and Search

Who can stop you?

Only a police officer with an identity card, or a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in uniform.

Officers can usually only stop and search you if they have **reasonable suspicion** that you are carrying drug/weapons/stolen items, **unless a 'Section 60' of the Public Order Act or 'Section 47A' of the Terrorism Act authorisation is in place.**

Remember: A stop and search itself does not make you guilty of a crime, nor does it mean you are arrested.

Remember: You have the right to ensure Officers don't abuse their powers to stop and search.



Stop and Search

What is reasonable suspicion?



Stop and Search

- G** - Grounds [for the search]
- O** - Object [what looking for]

- W** - Warrant [If in Plain clothes]
- I** - Identification [of rank, number]
- S** - Station [Which Police Station you are based at]
- E** - Entitlement [To copy of forms]
- L** - Lawfully [Search has to be legal]
- Y** - Year to get copy of search record [They now have 6 months to obtain a copy of search forms]



Stop and Search

**How does this correlate
with your experience?**



Stop and Search

If you see someone getting arrested

- Give them the number of a solicitor (e.g. Green & Black Cross)
- Find out on the spot:

The arrestee's **Name** (if they're willing to give it)

Which station they're being taken to

Identity of the arresting **officers** (ID number/name)

Why they're being arrested

- **Tell them their rights:**

To remain silent, refuse to answer questions, refuse a duty solicitor

- Follow them to their station if possible, or notify someone suitable (friend, family, community monitor, solicitor)



Stop and Search

If you see someone getting arrested

- **Direct your efforts towards the arrestee, not the police**
- **DO NOT GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARREST**
- **Avoid doing anything that could be seen as 'obstructing arrest'**
- **Record the incident and any details**



Stop and Search

A police officer can:

- Talk to you at any time



Stop and Search

You can:

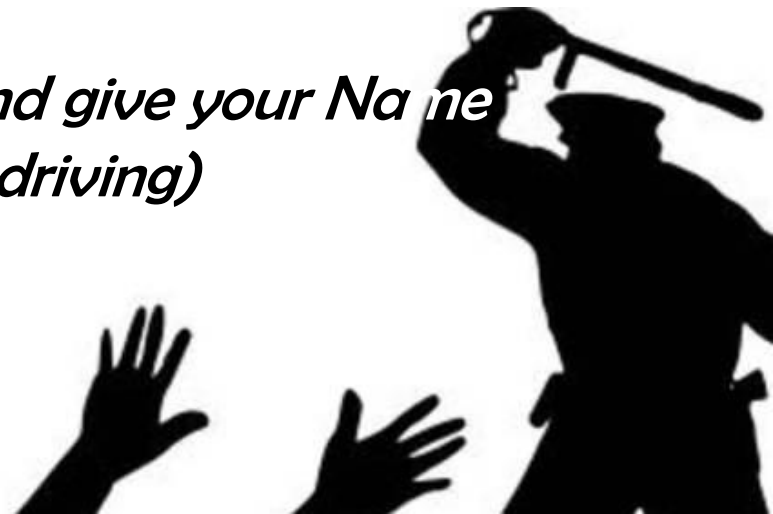
- **Refuse to answer any questions** or provide any information about yourself
- **Walk on if you are not being Detained**

UNLESS:

You are driving a vehicle

You are told you are being Reported or Summoned for a minor offence

- *When you must then Stop and give your Name Address (and/or Date of Birth, if driving)*



Stop and Search

You should:

- Ask if you are being Detained,
or if you are free to go
- Remain silent, unless you are driving or being
reported/summonsed



Stop and Search

A police officer can:

- **Stop and search you in a public place,** if they have reasonable suspicion, **based on intelligence or your behaviour,** that you:
 - Are carrying drugs, weapons, stolen property or items that can be used to commit crimes or terrorism
 - Are, have very recently, or imminently about to be involved in criminal activity

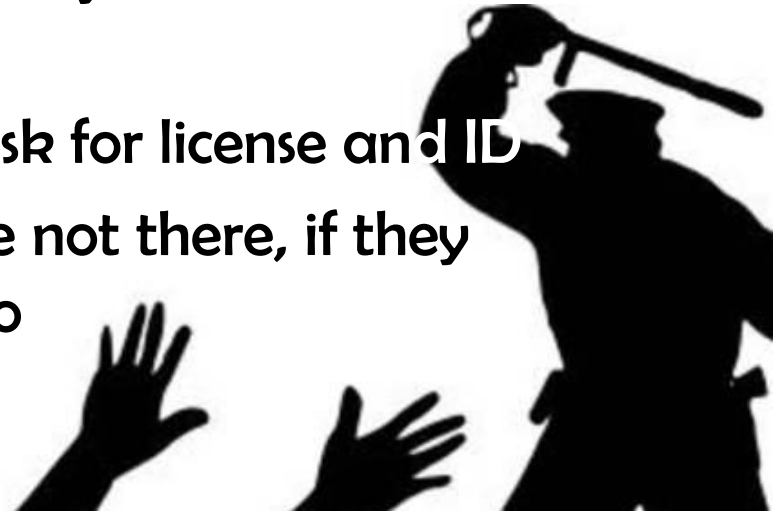
Or without reasonable suspicion if a Section 60 or Terrorism Act Section 47A authorisation is in place



Stop and Search

A police officer can:

- Use reasonable force to detain you, to conduct a search
- Ask you to remove outer clothing (coat, jacket, gloves) in public
- Check your pockets, socks, shoes, collars and hair in public
- Check through your phone – only if this is linked to the reason for searching you
- Stop a car at any time, and ask for license and ID
- Search your car, even if you're not there, if they have reasonable suspicion to do so



Stop and Search

A police officer CANNOT:

- Stop and search you because of your:
age, race, ethnic background, nationality, religion/faith,
the language you speak or because you have
committed a crime in the past
- Ask you to remove other clothing/expose intimate
body parts (i.e. strip search) in public – this must
happen out of sight, and be done by an officer of the
same sex as you



Stop and Search

A police officer CANNOT:

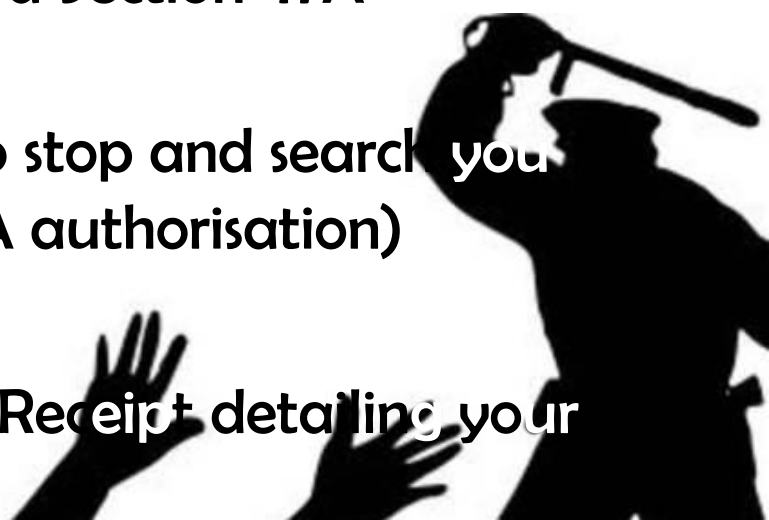
- Detain you for longer than reasonable for the purpose of the stop
- Take you far away for the purpose of a search – it should happen on or near where you were detained
- Conceal their identity
- Confiscate equipment used to record a stop and search (your own or someone else's)



Stop and Search

A police officer must:

- Tell you that you are **being Detained** for a stop and search
- Tell you **Why** you're being searched (except under a Section 47A authorisation)
- Tell you **What** object they are looking for
- **Identify** themselves as Officers, and give you their Name and Station (except under a Section 47A authorisation)
- Have **Reasonable Suspicion** to stop and search you (except under a Section 60 or 47A authorisation)
- Inform you of your **Rights**
- Give or offer you a **Record** or Receipt detailing your Stop and Search

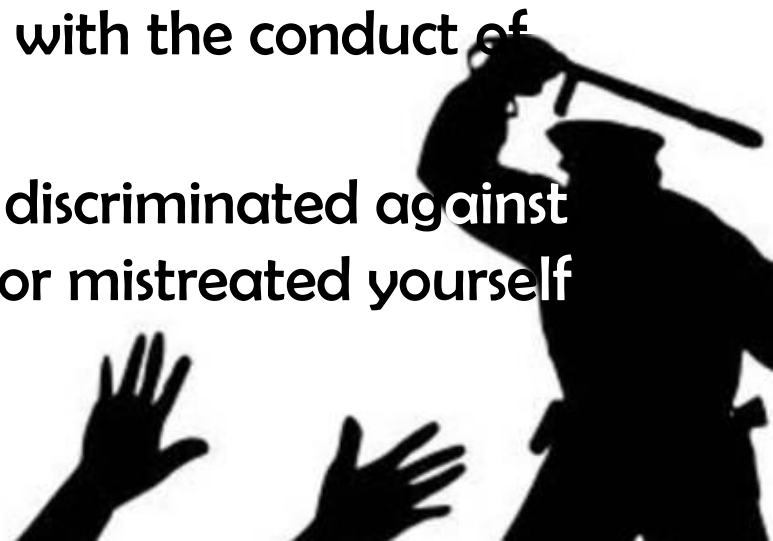


Stop and Search

You should:

- Remain calm and remember your rights
- **Record the stop and search as proof** – this is legally privileged to you
- Ensure the officer is following procedure and not abusing their powers
- Monitor the police and stop and searches
- Complain if you are unhappy with the conduct of an officer;

if you feel you've been victimised or discriminated against or the officer used excessive force or mistreated yourself or someone you know/witnessed





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POL**

The Network for Police Monitoring

netpol.org

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