



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE
PROUD TO SERVE

Stop and Search – Lay Observation and Data Scrutiny

Type of Document:	POLICY
Version:	V4.0
Registered Owner:	DCC Barber
Author:	Supt. Burrows
Effective Date:	November 2018
Review Date:	November 2020
Replaces document (if applicable)	Version 3.0
Linked Documents:	PS 156 Stop and Search Policy

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Table of Contents

SECTION 1	VERSION CONTROL	2
SECTION 2	AIMS / OBJECTIVES.....	3
SECTION 4	DETAILS.....	5
4.1	Stop and Search Scrutiny Board.....	5
4.2	Stop and Search Public Meetings.....	4
4.3	Stop and Search Lay Observers.....	4
SECTION 5	LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Appendix A – Procedural Guide for the deployment of Lay Observers

8

SECTION 1 VERSION CONTROL

Version No.	Date	Author	Post	Reason for Issue
1.0	July 2014	Supt Burrows	Stop and Search Operational lead	Draft policy for consultation
2.0	Sept 2014	Supt Burrows	Stop and Search Operational lead	Policy re-write following community consultation
3.0	August 2017	Supt Burrows	Stop and Search Operational lead	Written to comply with BUSSS 2.0
4.0	November 2018	Supt Burrows	Stop and Search Operational lead	Policy Review

SECTION 2 BACKGROUND

The aim of this policy is to:

- 1 Facilitate members of the public accompanying police officers and staff, whilst they are engaged in their general work duties, to view the use of stop and search powers.
- 2 Support the Force's strategies and tactics in engaging with its citizens and communities.
- 3 Ensure the appropriate health and safety standards are adhered to and the Force's duty of care is met.
- 4 Reflect the Force's commitment to Fairness and Equality.
- 5 Ensure the principles of confidentiality and Data Protection are adhered to.

Nottinghamshire Police believes that the powers of Stop and Search should be used with the support and understanding of all communities and that all members of the public should be treated with dignity and respect at all times, particularly when being searched.

Nottinghamshire Police aims to understand the proportionality of the searches conducted in its Force area, so it can increase the effectiveness of the use of Stop and Search powers. Searches will be targeted, more effectively, using current intelligence that is actively communicated to officers through daily briefings. The organisation will also make itself both more publically accountable for the way and manner in which the powers are used and understand how effective Stop and Search encounters are used to make communities safer.

Nottinghamshire Police recognises the use of Stop and Search powers has a significant impact upon the trust, confidence and satisfaction of the people of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – particularly those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. As such Nottinghamshire Police will work to maximise the confidence of these communities in the service provided. This Policy contributes to this by enabling members of the public, as both Data and Delivery Scrutinisers and Lay Observers, to review Stop and Search activity and view Stop and Search activity being delivered.

The 'Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme' (BUSSS) was launched by the then Home Secretary, Theresa May; the BUSSS provides the expectation that all forces will comply with the requirements of the scheme as laid out, most notably that Forces will:

1. Develop an approach to the recording of stop and search encounters, that fully incorporates the Code of Ethics in that every stop and search must be 'justified and justifiable', the recording of grounds must be undertaken with this in mind. There must be transparency within any process identified and the necessity and proportionality tests must be fully considered and met.
2. It is also a requirement that officers understand the following:
 - The powers that they are using and can use, to address an issue on the street;
 - The legality of their action and the need to achieve sufficiency of grounds;
 - The need, purpose and process of supervisory oversight of the use of these powers.
3. Stop and search is, excluding s.60 of the criminal Justice and Public Order Act, a suspicion-based power. It is critical that the public are informed by forces adopting the BUSSS of this fact and what the difference is between 'suspicion' and 'belief'.
4. Ensure the running of a 'Stop and Search Scrutiny Board' to review activity, data, outcomes, proportionality, complaints and any other 'metric' as required by the BUSSS.

- 5 Members of the public will be able to comment on and influence the future delivery of stop and search use.
- 6 Lay Observers, who will be members of the local community, will be provided with the opportunity to accompany police officers on patrol to observe stop and search powers being used.
- 7 That in all instances members of the public undertaking the role of Lay Observer will be able to comment upon and influence the future delivery of stop and search activity within Nottinghamshire Police based upon what they have seen and read.
- 8 Notwithstanding the Stop and Search Scrutiny Board and Lay Observers Nottinghamshire Police will hold itself open to scrutiny by any members of the public and listen to their views, not least through the complaints process. It is for this reason that a significant amount of information has been published on <http://www.police.uk> and the Force web-site: <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/stopsearch>.
9. BUSSS places some specific data publication requirements upon the Force, including the publication of data at the Stop and Search Scrutiny Board identifying:
 - Whether item searched for is found – published on the Force website and made available to <http://www.police.uk>;
 - The use of stop and search powers by:
 - age - self-defined and not given;
 - gender - self-defined and not given, male / female / transgender;
 - The use of the powers on individuals from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities (volume, outcomes, item found rate, connection between outcome and object, and reason);
 - The use of the powers on young people (volume, outcomes, item found rate, connection between outcome and object, reason);
 - The effectiveness of the powers used e.g. number of prohibited items taken off the street, impact on local crime rates, such as knife crime;
 - Use of the power by individual officers e.g. stop to find rates;
 - The reasonableness of recorded grounds, and what action is taken where grounds are found not to be sufficient;
 - The feedback provided, including complaints, and what has been done in response to these complaints, and what the outcome was;

SECTION 3 AIMS / OBJECTIVES

This Lay Observer policy supports the appropriate and proportionate use of Stop and Search powers, to target and reduce criminality and terrorism. The quality of every Stop and Search encounter can influence public confidence in the use of police powers and the Force; as well as providing a positive contribution to reducing the fear of crime. By using mobile technology to record Stop and Searches we will improve the use of police resources; as such this policy supports our strategic priorities.

We will only use our powers when it is necessary, proportionate and lawful to do so in the pursuit of the following legitimate aims:

- In the interests of public safety
- To prevent crime and disorder
- In the interests of national security
- To protect the rights and freedom of others

In the utilisation of our powers we will, both as individuals and collectively, adhere to our **PROUD** values. We will:

- Be **Professional**
- Have **Respect** for all
- Work as **One** team
- Work with the **Utmost** integrity, trust and honesty
- Strive to do things **Differently**

SECTION 4 DETAIL

4.1 Stop and Search Scrutiny Board (Data Scrutinisers)

All Stop and Searches are required to be recorded by law. Nottinghamshire Police will make best use of technology to ensure every use of a power to Stop and Search is recorded accurately and efficiently.

Nottinghamshire Police will be open and transparent in our use of Stop and Search powers and welcomes scrutiny by independent organisations and our communities in how these powers are used. We will seek and act upon the community feedback by producing Stop and Search data at a neighbourhood level. Using existing and new community engagement opportunities, this data will be shared with our communities.

Nottinghamshire Police recognises that the inappropriate use of these powers and any poor treatment of a person being searched damages the trust and confidence of our communities in the service we provide. Confidence can, however, be built when officers are seen to be tackling those crimes that matter to communities and when the powers of Stop and Search are used ethically, treating people with dignity and respect.

We will ensure that the powers of Stop and Search are used fairly, impartially and without discrimination.

Nottinghamshire Police will support its officers in the use of Stop and Search by:

- Ensuring officers have up to date knowledge of the relevant legislation
- Focusing on effective leadership and supervision to ensure officers are using powers lawfully and proportionately
- Providing the most effective tools possible to record every use of a Stop and Search power

4.1.1 The purpose of a Stop and Search Scrutiny Board

The Board is required to, not exclusively:

- Set its terms of reference for the Force to respond to, to hold the Force to account;
- Review the Force's data on the use of all stop and search powers;
- Review officer activity to establish any history of stereotypical use of these powers;
- Review the grounds being recorded for sufficiency;
- Ensure stop and search activity is being effectively supervised;
- Review the proportionality of searching and the grounds being used;
- Review and comment upon complaints data;
- Ensure the requirements of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), 1984 Code A, are being complied with;
- Scrutinise recordings of Stop and Search encounters captured on officer's Body Worn Video and make comment to the Force on what they view;
- Ensure the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS) is complied with and that any breaches are being reported to the Home Office.

Membership and recruitment to the Board and the rotation of individuals within the Board will be a matter for the Board to determine independently of the police.

The Force will provide training and briefing for board members so they are able to undertake their role, most particularly a briefing note on the requirements of PACE Code A, recording of the grounds of a stop and search encounter and the BUSSS.

Nottinghamshire Police will ensure that it attends the Stop and Search Scrutiny Board. In the absence of an independent Chair for this Board being identified, the Force will ensure that this scrutiny requirement is undertaken by organising the meeting, providing the 'Chair', and inviting members of the public to attend; however this is not the preferred course of action. In this eventuality the Force will actively work with the community to identify an independent Chair.

In the anticipated case of this Board being administered independently it is a matter for the convening group to determine membership. Nottinghamshire Police will require that the Board is seen by the public to be representative of all those communities who are disproportionately likely to be stopped and searched as well as ensuring representation of both genders. Further to this, BUSSS requires that the representativeness of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Board reflects the demographic of the local Force area, including race, ethnicity, gender and age.

4.2 Stop and Search public meetings

Nottinghamshire Police appreciates that some individuals who want to be involved do not have the time to regularly attend 'Scrutiny Board' meetings. This Board by its very nature needs to be small to remain functional. Accepting this, the Force will undertake to attend all public meetings to which it is invited, where stop and search powers are going to be discussed. The Force will also actively seek invitations to present the work being undertaken. Where appropriate, these meetings will be publicised via the Force website and through the existing network of individuals known to the organisation.

4.3 Stop and Search Lay Observers

The role of 'Lay Observer' is not new to Nottinghamshire Police – independent custody visitors have viewed activity in the custody suites for a number of years, talking with those detained to ensure their welfare is being looked after.

It is anticipated that Lay Observers will be individuals from the local community who are willing to give their time to help advise and develop the organisation. We see this role as providing an extremely positive contribution on behalf of the public, not just by observing and offering scrutiny to Nottinghamshire Police regarding the use of stop and search powers, but also through offering guidance, support and feedback so help the organisation can improve the service provided and/or the use of powers. They will be asked to de-brief their involvement so that the organisation can obtain their experience and opinion for learning and development.

Unlike the role of Lay Visitors, Lay Observers will not be appointed and managed through a central body; they will be individuals who come to view policing activity in an ad-hoc manner. To maximise the safety of the Lay Observers while deployed on the streets, the 'observations' will be conducted via an appointment. Similarly, to ensure the training course dynamic does not change by Lay Observers outnumbering officers, an upper limit for attendance will be set. Ideally Lay Observers should attend in pairs. No more than one pair at any one time should observe a specific event.

The role of an independent Lay Observer is designed to enable members of the public without specific training, to view stop and search activity while it is being delivered. This may be by attending officer training or going on patrol or viewing targeted operations - to witness stop and searches taking place.

Nottinghamshire Police will ensure a risk assessment is in place to mitigate any risks during the course of these activities and that Lay Observers are fully briefed prior to any deployment. Appendix B presents the hard-copy version of this briefing.

Lay Observers will be asked to sign a 'Confidentiality Agreement' to ensure any information obtained during the course of this activity is treated appropriately. A willingness to sign this Agreement will be a condition of attendance.

No formal training will be provided to undertake this role as the aim is to enable ordinary members of the public to attend events to see what officers are both doing and being trained to do. A briefing note will be provided to outline how stop and search activity should be conducted and to ensure observers know what they should be looking for as best practice.

The Lay Observers will be expected to observe, comment and report on:

- The activity observed;
- Whether any rules, legal requirements or best practice are being breached;
- Their views on the effectiveness of what they have observed.

Nottinghamshire Police will collate and use the feedback provided by the observers for both organisational learning and to improve practice. The feedback will be made available to the Stop and Search Scrutiny Board.

Appendix C presents the de-brief sheet for Lay Observer feedback.

Lay Observers must appreciate that they may observe interactions where the member of the public being searched does not wish to be seen by an individual not directly involved. As such the Lay Observers must respect the wishes of that person.

The names of Lay Observers may be made available to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) during a stop and search inspection so that the Observers can be interviewed, subject to their agreement, at the request of the HMICFRS.

BUSSS places specific requirements upon Nottinghamshire Police to:

- Provide opportunities for the public to accompany the police on patrols or operations where there is a possibility that stop and search encounters might take place;
- Ensure that they pro-actively engage with diverse communities to promote observation opportunities particularly those communities affected most by stop and search activity;
- Ensure that the ability of the public to accompany the police through lay observation is not unduly restricted by strict vetting requirements. Eligibility should be judged on a case-by-case basis to encourage the widest engagement;
- To explain stop and search powers to members of the public, including examples of what constitutes 'reasonable grounds for suspicion';
- Explain to Lay Observers the ways in which the use of stop and search powers can contribute to tackling crime and improving public safety;
- Enable the Lay Observers to provide feedback to the police based on their observations, and for the police to collate and use the feedback provided by observers for organisational learning and to improve practice;
- Should a stop and search encounter not be witnessed during the Observation enable the Lay Observer to attend a viewing of Body Worn Video recording as part of the scrutiny process.

SECTION 5 LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

This document is written to comply with the general and specific duties in the Equality Act 2010; Data Protection Act; Freedom of Information Act; European Convention on Human Rights; Employment Act 2002; Employment Relations Act 1999, and other legislation relevant to policing. It has also been written to comply with the requirements of the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme and GDPR.

Procedural Guide for the deployment of Lay Observers

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Lay Observer role is open to all, subject to the caveats below; its purpose is to provide an opportunity for individuals to gain a practical insight into the nature of police work focussing upon the use of stop and search powers.

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 Lay Observation is open to all regardless of sex, marital or family status, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, religion or belief, politics, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, social position or social disadvantage.
- 2.2 A Lay Observer who goes out on patrol to view Stop and Search activity in action must: normally be aged 18 years or above. However, Local Area Commanders and their operational teams have the discretion to allow those aged 16 years or above to attend as a Lay Observer if they have a specific reason – e.g. a school project or participation by a young person on any initiative that would be advantageous to both the observer and to the organisation.
- 2.3 Lay Observers will not require vetting. The rationale for this is that:
- They are not riding in police vehicles on the chance of witnessing a stop and search encounter while on patrol with a police officer. If, however, they were to accompany officers on vehicular patrol this would elevate the risk to the Observer and the officer and as such vetting would be required.
 - As there is no planned or intended sharing of operational information, as such there is no requirement for vetting.
 - While there is the potential to hear details of the person subject of the search, through ambient listening, they are not being given the information directly; again in this instance there is no requirement for vetting.
- 2.4 The signing of a confidentiality agreement will cover the data protection requirements of the Force and a risk assessment properly conducted will mitigate foreseeable risks.
- 2.5 To realise the aim of extending the Lay Observer scheme to as many people as possible, and given the Force's finite resources, participants will normally be restricted to one observation in any one calendar year.
- 2.6 Participants of the Lay Observer scheme must be residents of Nottingham or Nottinghamshire or have strong community or volunteering ties to these areas.
- 2.7 Lay Observers can have their expenses paid for reasonable costs incurred for attending these operations.

3. Safety

- 3.1 The Force has a duty of care towards the observer, and members of the public with whom they may come into contact and its staff.

- 3.2 Health and Safety, GDPR and Data Protection legislation will be balanced with the need for the Force to develop trust and confidence amongst all sections of the community through this scheme.
- 3.3 Specifically the protection of life, the prevention of injury and the need to maintain individuals' privacy in certain sensitive cases will take precedence over the Lay Observer scheme.
- 3.4 While every effort will be made to get the observer as close to the work of front line officers as is possible, there may be occasions, where for reasons of safety or privacy, the observer is asked to withdraw to a safe distance.
- 3.5 A generic risk assessment has been developed and will be complied with at all times.
- 3.6 It must be made clear to observers that they must follow any instructions given by accompanying staff members at all times during the Observation.
- 3.7 The Force will NOT equip the observer with a Hi-Vis jacket. The rationale for this is that providing there is no need to go on to roads or travel in vehicles, then the best way to mitigate risk to the observers is to enable them to step away from the operation and any confrontational situation and consequently blend in with the surroundings. The wearing of high visibility clothing may expose them to the attention of the aggressor or others who may be involved. To ensure officers can identify observers we will issue the Observers with a visitors badge and lanyard from the front counter so they are readily identifiable. Lay Observers will be required to wear a visitors ID badge while in police stations but can, should they prefer, remove these while on the streets to enable them to better blend in with the general public.
- 3.8 The Force reserves the right to refuse participation in this scheme and to terminate the observation, if it is necessary for the officer or member of staff to carry out their work effectively, efficiently and safely.

4. Health

- 4.1 To participate as a Lay Observer the Observer must have no medical conditions or injuries that will expose the observer to any additional risk of harm. The presumption is that in asking to attend this it is confirmation that this is the case.
- 4.2 Organisers of the observations will ensure that the Observer has disclosed any relevant medical conditions that could affect the placement through the completion of the observer's briefing prior to the Observation.
- 4.3 Where a condition that could affect the placement is disclosed, the SPOC will request the advice of the Force Medical Advisor prior to the placement regarding suitability and any additional measures required to counter any specific risks beyond those set out in the Generic Risk Assessment.

5. Process

- 5.1 There are two principal routes to accessing the Lay Observer Scheme:
 - 1. Word-of-mouth from police officers, staff and community contacts who are already aware of the scheme.
 - 2. The Internet via the Lay Observer scheme page.

- 5.2 The Lay Observer process will be coordinated by the 'operational lead' for Stop and Search with assistance for publicity from the Corporate Communication Department.
- 5.3 All documentation comprising the application pack and a tracking mechanism will be held by the Stop and Search operational lead. The pack consists of:
- contact details for the SPOC
 - a confidentiality agreement
 - observer briefing sheet
 - a risk assessment form
 - a feed-back sheet
- 5.4 The tracking mechanism is a rudimentary spreadsheet that facilitates the recording of observer contact details and the dates they will / have attended.

6. Tactics

- 6.1 The Lay Observer scheme is an initiative that can realise a number of Force aims. It can:
- Provide insight for potential recruits who want to join the police;
 - Focus on citizens on the Key Individual Network list, Neighbourhood Watchers administrators and others from under-represented groups to demonstrate our commitment to listening to all communities thereby increasing trust, confidence and legitimacy;
 - Build positive viewpoints and help counter any negative views of the police service;
 - Be used to focus on opinion formers and opinion leaders;
 - Provide the Force with actionable feedback on how it can improve its service provision.



What to expect when observing Stop and Search

This briefing is written for Lay Observers to explain how and why Stop and Search should be conducted and the rights of the individual being searched. This information will enable you to observe our officers knowing what is expected of them, and will help you give feedback that will help us improve the service we provide.

Introduction to Stop and Search

Nottinghamshire Police uses stop and search powers to help keep Nottinghamshire safe. Using these powers can help deter, disrupt and detect criminal activity by taking weapons and drugs off our streets. They also help us prevent crime by stopping people carrying articles they can use for burglary, theft and damage offences. Many members of the public accept that we have to use stop and search powers to prevent crime, but we recognise that these powers must always be used lawfully and proportionately, while treating those being searched with dignity and respect.

A police officer can only stop and search a person if they suspect they're in possession of:

- Drugs
- Weapons
- Stolen property
- Items that could be used to commit crime or cause damage
- Certain types of fireworks
- Evidence of game and wildlife offences
- Alcohol at or en route to a designated sporting event
- Articles connected with terrorism

A stop and search should not be confused with a stop and account. A stop and account occurs when an officer stops and talks to an individual to request their name, or to account for their actions or intentions. In this scenario no record is made nor is the officer required to explain why they are speaking to that individual. A stop and search encounter occurs when an officer physically searches an individual by looking into their pockets, bags or vehicle. In this scenario an officer must offer an explanation as to why the individual is being searched and make a record of this.

The rights of the individual

During a stop and search procedure the individual should expect to be treated lawfully, fairly and with respect. They should not feel they have been stopped on the basis of their age, race, ethnic background, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, the language they speak or because they have committed offences previously. A search can take time, but it should be handled quickly and professionally, with courtesy and consideration.

The individual's cooperation is vital to the success of the stop and search encounter. The officer does have the power to conduct the stop and search procedure without the individual's consent, and can use reasonable force and detention to achieve this. This however can cause frustration or friction for all involved and can be avoided through good communication.

The officer must explain 'Reasonable Grounds' to search a person

1. The officer must have **reasonable suspicion** that they **WILL** find an object which the legal power you are using empowers you to search for
2. This suspicion **MUST** be reasonable with an objective basis based upon fact, information or intelligence
3. It **DOES NOT** depend on the person being suspected of having committed the offence.
4. The officer can't search without a lawful authority even with consent, **UNLESS** it is as a condition of entry to a sports ground or similar
5. The question is: would a reasonable person conclude that the search was **JUSTIFIED**?

What is suspicious? People are not suspicious – their behaviour is

Officers should record both their suspicions and belief when writing the grounds for their. If they can't do this, then they **do not** have the authority to search the individual. In formulating these grounds the officers are required to consider:

- **Evasive to questions?** – What questions did they ask? E.g. evasive to questioning about where they had just come from or why they were there?
- **Appeared nervous?** – Expand to include specific actions or behaviour e.g. avoids police, sweating, muscles tensed, pacing, refuses to co-operate, repeats question before answering etc.
- **Fitted description of a suspect for a recent crime?** – Include a summary of the description and where the description has come from e.g. white man, 18 years, blue hoody. How did the individual match this description? What crime had been committed in the area and at what time?
- **Acting suspiciously?** – What exactly was the person doing that caused the officer to believe they were committing or about to commit an offence? E.g. up and down driveways, trying car door handles?
- **Smell of drugs?** The officer **MUST** be able to link the smell of drugs to the person, what caused the officer to believe they have drugs on them?

If the officer doesn't have the ground straight away but remains suspicious, they can ask questions to confirm this suspicion but the officer must be prepared to accept they may not have sufficient grounds to search at this time. *Remember the officer MUST have an honestly-held belief that they WILL find evidence of a specific offence.*

If you are observing a dedicated operation at a specific time, to combat a specific offence then the presence of someone about whom there is recent intelligence indicating they commit this type of offence, will make out the grounds for a Stop and Search. However the officer will still need to believe that they will recover an article being looked for. If they aren't certain, then they can use 'stop and account' to ensure it is the person's behaviour rather than the person themselves causing their suspicion and belief.

What the officer should NOT write

- **Known criminal** – this must **NOT** be used alone as a ground for search. PACE Code A doesn't allow the fact that someone has previous convictions as reason to search.
- **Known drug user** – this must **NOT** be used as ground for search as it is non-specific and if correct, could relate to a criminal conviction and therefore falls under '**Known criminal**'.
- **Smell of drugs** – alone this is insufficient; the circumstances should be included: the conversation with the individual, their appearance, actions/behaviour etc. The officer must link the person to the smell – i.e. SMELT OF.

- **High crime area** – alone this is insufficient - there should be reference to a specific briefing or tasking location or better still recent intelligence.
- **Crime or drugs hotspot** – alone this is insufficient - there should be reference to a specific briefing or tasking location.

What you should observe

While you are observing it is important to fully understand what the officer conducting the search is required to do, the following list is the minimum requirement we expect from our officers during a stop and search encounter:

- **WHY?** Tell you why they want to search you
- **WHAT?** Tell you what they will be searching for
- **ID CARD** Show you their ID card *if they are not in uniform*
- **NAME** Tell you their name and collar number
- **STATION** Tell you which police station they are from
- **RECORD** Tell you how you can get a copy of the search record
- **LAW** Tell you which legal power they are using to search you
- **DETAINED** Tell you that you are detained for the purpose of a search
- **RECEIPT** Give you a numbered receipt unless called to an emergency
- **VALUES** Ensure the values of Nottinghamshire Police are upheld by treating all individuals with dignity and respect.

If you do not feel these requirements have been met, it is important to include this information within your feedback on the debrief document at the end of your observations.

Where will the search take place?

The individual will be searched in a public place normally by an officer of the same gender. Should officers require that individual to remove anything more than their outer layers, or an item worn for religious reasons, the individual will be taken to an area out of public view. This is done to preserve the individual's dignity and should not be mistaken for being placed under arrest. If a search involving the removal of further clothing is required, the individual will be taken to a police station if intimate body parts will be exposed or it could be a police vehicle for a less intimate search in which case the officer will be the same sex.

Exceptions using the Section 60 power?

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is a temporary power which authorises officers to stop and search, it is only used in a specific area once information is received that there could be an increase in serious violence or that weapons are being carried. It is authorised by a senior officer and set for a limited time allowing officers to stop and search people *without reasonable grounds* in order to reduce the opportunity for violence in the area and therefore act as a deterrent.

Further information

www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/stopsearch

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

www.ipcc.gov.uk

www.stop-watch.org



Appendix C

Observer Debrief

Appendix C

Thank you for participating today, if you could please take some time to consider the following questions and provide us with your feedback, this will assist us in improving the service we provide to the public.

Q1. Do you feel stop and search powers are an effective tool in the prevention and detection of crime?

Q2. Do you feel the officers followed the correct legal procedures during each stop and search observed?

Q3. Do you feel the officers upheld the values of Nottinghamshire Police, treating each individual with dignity and respect? Could you provide an example from today?

Q4. Could you provide us with any positive experiences you will be taking away with you after your observations today?

Q5. Could you provide us with any negative experiences you will be taking away with you after your observations today?

Q6. What were your opinions on Stop and Search prior to attending today?

Q7. Have your opinions changed following your observations?

Q8. Do you feel your understanding of the service Nottinghamshire Police provide to the public has improved or remained the same following this evening?

Any further comments or feedback?

Thank you for your attendance and taking the time to let us know what you think

Confidentiality Agreement

Ride Along Scheme - Confidentiality Agreement Form

Explain to the visitor that during their 'accompanying' an officer on patrol they may come across sensitive information. This should be treated in the strictest confidence. Ask them to read and sign below:-

- The Police Service is a professional organisation that places great emphasis on confidentiality and data protection. Our success in reducing crime, bringing offenders to justice and developing trust and confidence amongst all sections of the community is dependent on our reputation for confidentiality.
- This means that any information regarding individuals and operations MUST remain inside the organisation.
- In order for your ride along to provide maximum value, it is necessary for you to be as close as possible to the activity that you are observing. This can result in you becoming aware of sensitive information.
- Therefore, as a participant in the Nottinghamshire Police Ride Along Scheme, you must observe strict confidentiality in respect of any information or documentation which you see, hear or read. For the purposes of this agreement, information includes but is not limited to: spoken word, including radio communications, written and printed material, computer systems including those within police cars and confidential waste.
- Discussion or further disclosure of such information or retention of any documentation received during the Ride Along Scheme is a breach of confidentiality. Such improper use may also constitute an offence under the Data Protection Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Computer Misuse Act.

Divulging of official information

I, hereby acknowledge that I clearly understand, that the communication, either verbally in writing, or any other form, to any person other than a police officer, or a member of police staff, of information acquired as a result of my 'accompanying' an officer on patrol, may be an offence against the Official Secrets Act, and the Data Protection Act, punishable by imprisonment.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of witness: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

I further understand that I may not disclose to any person any personal information about another individual, which may come to my knowledge as a result of 'accompanying' a police officer on patrol, without the express written agreement of the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police. I also understand that I may not make use of any personal information, either for my own use or another person's use or for any purpose, whatsoever, without the express written agreement of the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police. I acknowledge that to do so would be a criminal offence against the Data Protection Act 1998 and that I would be liable to prosecution.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of witness: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____