



College of
Policing



Definition of a fair and effective stop and search encounter

A stop and search is most likely to be fair and effective when:

- *the search is justified, lawful and stands up to public scrutiny;*
- *the officer has genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion they will find a prohibited article or item for use in crime;*
- *the person understands why they have been searched and feels that they have been treated with respect;*
- *the search was necessary and was the most proportionate method the police officer could use to establish whether the person has such an item.*

Detailed guidance to support this definition, in the form of Authorised Professional Practice will be published by the College of Policing in June 2016.

Further resources relating to the police use of Stop Search are available on the College of Policing website [here](#).