

# British Transport Police Authority

## STOP & SEARCH POLICY



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# British Transport Police Authority Stop & Search Policy

(Add in acronyms/abbreviations)

## 1. Policy statement

The British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) recognises that it has an important role to play in relation to the British Transport Police's (BTP's) use of Stop & Search. This policy sets out the Authority's specific responsibilities in relation to Stop & Search and how it will go about meeting these responsibilities.

### 1.1 Who can use this policy

This policy is intended to be used by all Authority Members and Secretariat Staff; it is also an important source of information for members of the public.

## 2. Purpose of the policy

This policy is intended to fulfil two main functions; the first is to provide a framework for the Authority to meet its duties in relation to the BTP's use of Stop & Search powers and evaluate the effectiveness of its approach. Second the policy communicates to members of the public what the Authority's duties are and how they intend to meet them.

## 3. Links to other documents

It may be useful to read this policy in conjunction with some or all of the following;

- BTPA Race Equality Scheme (or Single Equality Scheme after summer 2009)
- BTPA Consultation Strategy
- BTP Stop & Search Policy and supporting documents
- APA Know Your Rights campaign materials (available at <http://www.apa.police.uk/APA/Features/Police+Stops/Stop+and+Search/>)
- APA Equalities Guide for Police Authorities 2008
- APA Stop & Search Guidance for Police Authorities (forthcoming)
- ACPO/ Home Office Guidance available via <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/powers/stop-and-search/>

## **4. Responsibilities for Stop & Search**

### **4.1 General and Specific Responsibilities**

The Authority expects that all Members be aware of our responsibilities in relation to Stop & Search and any activities the Authority engages in to discharge these duties.

The main responsibility for oversight of activities relating to Stop & Search has been delegated to the Authority's Stakeholder Relations & Communications Strategy Committee. This Committee reports back to the full Authority on a quarterly basis on its activities and the areas of work it has covered.

The Authority also has Member and Secretariat leads or Champions for Stop & Search; please contact the Secretariat for details of our Stop & Search lead. Our Member and Secretariat leads for Stop & Search attend BTP Stop & Search scrutiny meetings; regularly meet with lead officers at BTP; attend relevant conferences and training events and represent the Authority at APA policy group meetings.

When appropriate, all Authority Members will also receive updates on local activity on Stop and Search/Account from the Area Commander of their allocated Force region<sup>1</sup>.

Day to day responsibility for the creation, monitoring, and revision of the policy will rest with the Secretariat's Research and Policy Manager.

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<sup>1</sup> All BTPA Members work closely with a designated BTP operational Area – similar to BCUs in Home Office forces; please contact the Secretariat for details of your local BTPA Member.

## 5. Background

[Add a short overview of Stop & Search and Stop & Account]

## 6. BTPA's duties

### 6.1 Raising awareness

Recommendation 63 of the McPherson report states that;

*“Police Authorities be given the duty to undertake publicity campaigns to ensure that the public is aware of "stop and search" provisions and the right to receive a record in all circumstances<sup>2</sup>”*

How will we do this (not fully completed)

- Via our website
- Via our Consultation & Communications Strategy
- Via information provided to BTP on operations

### 6.2 Monitoring Force activity

Recommendation 61 of the McPherson report stated that police forces should;

*“...ensure that a record is made by police officers of all "stops<sup>3</sup>" and "stops and searches" made under any legislative provision (not just the Police and Criminal Evidence Act). Non-statutory or so called "voluntary" stops must also be recorded<sup>4</sup>”*

Further, Recommendation 62 of this report also stated that;

*“These records should be monitored and analysed by Police Services and Police Authorities, and reviewed by HMIC on inspections. The information and analysis should be published”*

How we will do this (not fully completed)

- Via information presented to the SR&CS Committee and publishing these papers and minutes on the internet

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<sup>2</sup> McPherson (1999) Report of an inquiry of Sir William McPherson of Cluny, Chapter Forty Seven.

<sup>3</sup> Home Office circular 032 2008 changed the requirement for recording Stops on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, officers are now required to record ethnicity only.

- Via a regular report to be published on the internet on BTPA's activities in this area
- Via attendance at the BTP Stop Account and Search Group meeting

### **6.3 Receiving complaints or queries**

The Police Authority is one of a number of organisations that can receive complaints about how a Stop & Search or Stop & Account has been carried out by BTP. If you would like to make a complaint please contact us by letter, email or telephone. Our contact details are set out in section 9 below.

Alternatively, the following organisations can also receive complaints about Stops & Searches carried out by BTP;

- your local BTP police station or BTP Force Headquarters
- a Citizen's Advice Bureau
- the Independent Police Complaints Commission
- the Commission for Equality and Human Rights
- a solicitor

## **7. Monitoring arrangements**

In addition to the specific arrangements set out in 6.2 above, the Authority will also monitor any Stop & Search related complaints or comments it receives from members of the public or our other stakeholders and will publish the outputs of its monitoring on its website.

[Question: do we want to say anything about monitoring the Force's delivery of Stop & search training?]

## **8. Training**

Members and staff do not receive detailed training on Stop & Search but receive briefing materials as part of their induction. Committee Members and Members and Secretariat leads receive more detailed information via Committee papers and attendance at external events.

## 9. Our contact details

For further information on the Authority's Stop & Search policy or to request a copy in an alternative format please contact us at:

British Transport Police Authority  
5th Floor North  
The Forum  
74-80 Camden Street  
London  
NW1 0EG

Tel: 020 7383 7325

Via our website at: [www.btpa.police.uk](http://www.btpa.police.uk)

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