

OFFICERS MUST HAVE REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT THEY WILL FIND A STOLEN/PROHIBITED ITEM

Police **CANNOT** search
you because:

You **"LOOK SUSPICIOUS"**

You **"SMELL OF WEED"**

You are in a **"HIGH CRIME AREA"**

You are **"WEARING A
HOODIE IN HOT WEATHER"**

In public, police **CANNOT**
remove more than your:

Jacket
Outer clothing or
Gloves

Police **CANNOT** handcuff
or use force to search you
(unless you are physically
resisting or threatening)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.
STAY SAFE.

Police **MUST** explain or
provide the following
when searching you:

GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION
Why they find you suspicious

OBJECT OF THE SEARCH
What they are looking for – drugs, weapons

WARRANT CARD
Their warrant card (if not in uniform)

IDENTITY OF THE OFFICER
Their name and badge number

STATION
The station they are from

ENTITLEMENT TO RECORD
Copy of the search receipt / how to get one

LEGAL POWER USED
s1 PACE, s23 Misuse of Drugs Act, s60

YOU ARE DETAINED
That you are being detained for a search

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO STOP

UNLESS the officer says
"you are being detained
for purpose of a search"

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME OR PERSONAL DETAILS

UNLESS the officer is reporting
you for an offence

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO FILM A SEARCH

BUT tell the officer what
you are doing before reaching
for your phone and **DO NOT**
obstruct the search

STAY CALM
EYE CONTACT
ASK QUESTIONS
RECEIPT & RECORD
CONFIDENCE
HOLD TO ACCOUNT



Were you offered a receipt?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Date and place of the stop

Officer(s) badge number

Officer(s) station

Reason for the stop

Were you treated with respect?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**IF A SEARCH
FEELS UNLAWFUL**

1. Make a complaint
2. Seek legal advice
3. Get support

**SCAN FOR
MORE INFO**



YIAG
WALTHAM FOREST



0208 226 5737 | www.stop-watch.org