



Home Office

**Police Powers Team
Police Integrity and
Powers Unit**
6th Floor SW, Fry Building
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

26 AUGUST 2014

CONSULTATION ON REVISED PACE CODE OF PRACTICE A – STOP AND SEARCH

Attached is a draft of the revised Code of Practice A, issued under section 66 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). The revisions relate to the legal grounds upon which police officers can conduct stop and searches under powers which include section 1 of PACE to find stolen property or weapons and section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to find controlled drugs.

On 30 April the Home Secretary announced a package of measures to reform the use of stop and search powers. One of those measures was to amend PACE Code of Practice A to:

- (a) make clear what constitutes 'reasonable grounds for suspicion' - the basis upon which police officers carry out the vast majority of stops; and
- (b) emphasise, within the Code, that officers who do not use their powers properly will be subject to formal performance or disciplinary proceedings.

The Home Secretary has agreed that this will be an 8 week consultation. Full details, including a copy of the draft revised Code, will also be published on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-pace-code-a>

Each draft has a covering note and detailed table outlining all the changes and their purpose with links to the paragraphs concerned. Sections 2 and 5 contain most of the changes. The section 60 stop and search power under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is not the subject of change as this does not require prior reasonable grounds for suspicion.

Next steps

These drafts are being circulated for consultation in accordance with section 67(4) of PACE. All responses should be sent to pacereview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk to arrive no later than **Monday 20 October 2014**. We hope to be in a position to make the changes by the end of the year.

**Police Powers Team
Police Integrity and powers Unit
Crime & Policing Group, Home Office**