



Security Practice Guidance

SEARCHING OF THE PERSON (Security Managers, Deputy Governors & Governors)

August 2021



PURPOSE

To support establishments in their recovery journey and help Security Managers, Deputy Governors and Governors prepare for easing of restrictions with regards to Searching of the Person.



LEARNING

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, prisons have experienced significant disruptions to regimes and ways of working, requiring ongoing adaptations to policy and practice.

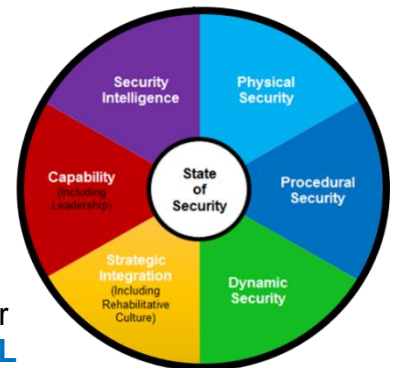
Staff from both operational and other professions have shared concerns about the potential **loss of knowledge and experience in conducting basic, and key, security tasks**. An extended period of change and variation in practices appears to have caused uncertainty around how procedures should be applied and what they will look like as we move through the stages of recovery and return to a 'new normal'.



REFRESHING AND MAINTAINING PRACTICE

Understand and assess your **STATE OF SECURITY**:

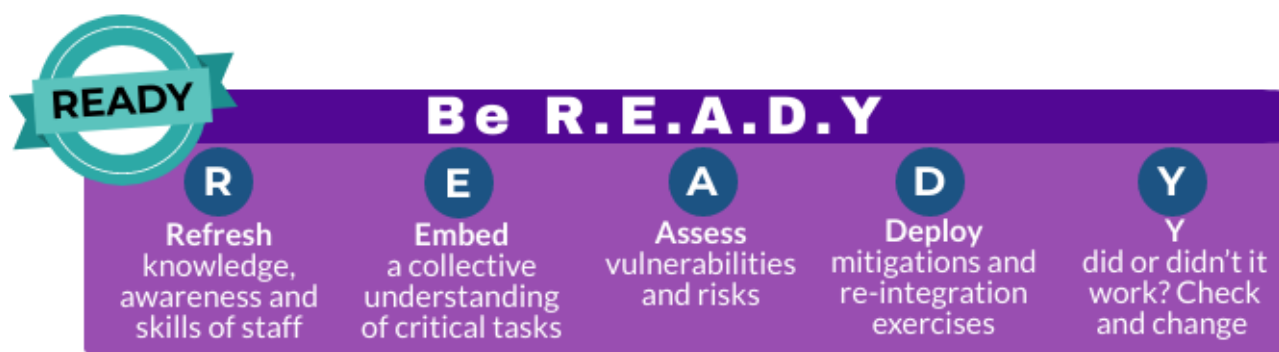
- Consider the impact of your new regime on your Local Security Strategy. **PROCEDURAL**
- Assess the frequency, level and type of searches required under your new regime to maintain safety and security. **PROCEDURAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE**
- Factor in potential increased risks resulting from limited searches during restricted regimes and any increase in people's ability to access or conceal contraband. Consider how best to deploy resources and if areas need to be targeted. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY SECURITY INTELLIGENCE**
- Ensure staff are fully briefed in any changes to local arrangements. **CAPABILITY**
- Ensure staff are aware of and can apply national searching procedures effectively. Consider holding local refresher sessions and training for searches of the person, using the step-by-step guides in the Searching Policy Framework Annexes. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY**
- Consider pairing a more experienced member of staff with one less experienced in AFCs to promote learning and confidence. **CAPABILITY STRATEGIC INTEGRATION**



- Ensure technical search aids are available and in good working order, ready to be deployed as appropriate. Ensure staff know how to use them and consider incorporating brief instructions for use as part of any local training. **PHYSICAL CAPABILITY**
- Ensure staff understand situations where force can be used to ensure compliance with a search. **CAPABILITY**
- Ensure on completion of duties, staff are competent in documenting and recording any finds. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY INTELLIGENCE**
- Ensure any finds/evidence are recorded correctly via the IRS system and secured appropriately. This may be the first search staff have conducted in a while and a refresher in the start to end process may be useful. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY INTELLIGENCE**
- Complete regular assurance checks to ensure staff are competent in their searching duties, are complying with policy and if further guidance is needed. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Searching Policy Framework



Issued by

Risk and Capabilities Unit
Security, Order and Counter-Terrorism Directorate