

**Devon and Cornwall Full Police Authority Meeting
3 June 2005**

Open for the purposes of FOI
Joint Report of DCC Nigel Arnold and the Chief Constable

Stop and Search Policy

Recommendation:

That the Stop and Search Policy be approved subject to the outcome of the Impact Assessment process.

Introduction / Summary

1. The Police Authority has a statutory duty to provide an efficient and effective police service. They need to monitor police policies and in the case of Stop and Search, approve the policy and ensure recording arrangements are in place.

Background Information

2. Sections 1-3 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 outline the powers predominantly used for Stop and Search. PACE Code 'A' sets out the statutory requirements for Officers, Forces and Police Authorities in relation to Stop and Search. The new code of practice came into force on 1 August 2004, whilst full implementation and compliance with the new Code 'A' needed to be met by 1 April 2005.

Consultation

3. Previous Home Office research has highlighted the importance of community consultation and involvement for public trust and confidence in stop and search.
4. Consultation has been conducted by the Strategic Development Department with members of the public who have been subject to 'stop/search' procedures, where a questionnaire was tabled at the Plymouth Respect Festival in October 2004.
5. As part of the Impact Assessment Process further consultations are planned at a community consultation day in May 2005, a workshop session in Cornwall in July being co-ordinated by the Anti Racism Project. Future consultations should also take place with other groups such as gypsy traveller communities.

Impact Assessment Process

6. Policies assessed as having relevance to the general duty to promote race equality under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act [RR(A)A] must be impact assessed. This involves analysing available data and carrying out focused consultation. The Stop and Search Policy is highly relevant under the RR(A)A and is currently undergoing the impact assessment process. This will be completed towards the end of August, after which time the issue will be brought back to the Full Authority for an update and further approval should it be necessary.

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