

# Be smart Stay safe



- Co-operate with the police so that you don't get charged with extra offences.
- Write or record what has happened to you.
- Get legal advice if you think you have been treated unfairly. A lawyer can tell you if the police did not act under the rules but it is up to you what you do about it. Make your decision based on the correct legal information.
- If you get an on the spot fine, always get legal advice as soon as you can. You can challenge a fine in court, but it must be within 28 days of getting the fine, or 90 days of paying the fine (if you pay on time)<sup>i</sup>.



- Warn you that not cooperating is an offence
- Tell you why they are exercising their power
- Give their name and the police station that they work from.



- Police can approach you if they have reasonable suspicion that you are about to or have committed an offence or if you can help them with the investigation of a serious offence. In these circumstance police can ask for your name and address.

<sup>i</sup> If you think that police did not apply the rules fairly and you want to elect to go to court instead of paying the fine seek legal advice. An on the spot fine does not result in a criminal record but if found guilty at court a criminal conviction may apply, the amount of the fine can be increased and costs can be added if you are over 18.



- They can't constantly stop you for no reason.
- They can't move you on - unless you are intimidating or harassing people and likely to cause people to be afraid or getting in the way of people or traffic.
- They can't take your phone or tell you to stop recording them in a public place (unless you are obstructing them in their work).
- They can't use abusive or racist language.
- They can't use excessive force.
- They can't search you - unless they have a reasonable suspicion that you are carrying a knife, a dangerous weapon, stolen goods or if you are under 18, drugs or alcohol.
- They can't strip search you in a public place without a serious or urgent reason.
- They can't strip search you if you are under the age of 18 and a parent or adult is not present. And if you are under 10 they can't strip search you.
- They can't do an unreasonable amount of bail checks and at unreasonable times; without reasonable suspicion or an enforcement order.
- They can't use STMP (Suspect Targeting Management Plan) as a reasonable excuse<sup>ii</sup>.

<sup>ii</sup> You may be put on the 'Suspect Targeting Management Plan (STMP)' if it has been decided that you are likely to commit a crime. You may not know that you are subject to the STMP. Get legal advice if you think that you are subject to the STMP or police have used it as a reasonable excuse to approach you.

