

# SP1316

## Police Search

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**Policy Ownership** ACC Operational Support

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**Updated** N/A

**Reviewed** 17 November 2025

**Classification** **OFFICIAL [PUBLIC]**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to carrying out searches in accordance with legislation, relevant Codes of Practice, Human Rights considerations, and best practice.

## 1. Policy Statement

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The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) recognises that police use of search, and in particular, house searches and the stop and search of persons and vehicles, is a significant intrusion into personal privacy. We are therefore committed to ensuring that all search activity is carried out in a lawful, proportionate, justifiable and accountable manner. All search activity will be recorded.

Compliance with the relevant legislation and applicable Codes will ensure sufficient procedural safeguards are applied so that stop and search activities will be lawful, proportionate, and justifiable.

Search and rescue co-ordination that maximises the capabilities and support of statutory partners and voluntary community search and rescue assets will be conducted, in appropriate cases, to locate missing persons and enhance wider community safety.

## 2. Policy Links

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The Corporate Policy Framework refers.

## 3. Contact

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If you have any comment to make on the content of this Service Policy please contact:

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