

Serenity Legal Services

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Helping you, no matter what

Home Secretary permanently removes restrictions on Section 60 Stop and Search police powers

16 May 2022

In a letter to police forces on **Monday 16 May**, the Home Secretary announced her intention to **remove restrictions on Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** which speaks specifically to the police's power to **stop and search**.

In 2014, restrictions were placed on these police powers so that they could only use Section 60 if they have reasonable grounds to believe serious violence will occur, and with the authorisation of a 'senior officer'.

Permanently relaxing conditions under which police forces can use Section 60 means:

- Threshold officers need to meet in order to enact a stop and search **lowered** from having reasonable grounds to believe serious violence "will" occur to "**may**" occur.

- Rank of officer able to give an initial **Section 60** authorisation has been **lowered from senior officer to an "officer of or above the rank of an inspector".**

- Maximum period in which a Section 60 authorisation can remain in place (without extension) **increased from 15 to 24 hours.**

- Rank of officer required to extend a Section 60 authorisation changed from **senior officer to superintendent or above,** and the maximum period to which an authorisation can be **extended (beyond an initial 24 hours) extended from 39 to 48 hours.**

- Section 60 authorisations **no longer need to be publicly communicated to communities in advance.**

If you need advice regarding these changes or are concerned about how they could impact you then contact us using the details below.

We are here for you, no matter what.

UK LEGISLATION

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

legislation.gov.uk

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