

# STOP & SEARCH POWERS

Stop and search powers are available to the police to protect communities

- ▶ Powers include the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) (Northern Ireland) Order, Misuse of Drugs Act, Firearms Order, Justice and Security Act and the Terrorism Act.
- ▶ These powers and the use of them has prevented terrorist attacks and saved lives.
- ▶ There are processes in place to make sure stop and search powers are used properly and proportionately - Independent review, oversight by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.
- ▶ Authorisation by a senior officer of at least Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) rank of the PSNI is required before a stop and search without reasonable suspicion can be made. The Secretary of State must confirm authorisation if the powers are to last for more than 48 hours.
- ▶ Schedule 7 powers allow an examining police officer to stop and question and, when necessary, detain and search, individuals travelling through ports and the border area, in order to determine whether they appear to have been involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.



From **1st July 2016** to **30th September 2016**, a total of **7,627** people were **stopped and searched/questioned**.



Of those **7,627** people **stopped and searched or stopped and questioned**, **497** were subsequently **arrested**.



Of all **7,627** people **stopped and searched**, **over half**

**(4,189 or 55%)**

were **searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act** (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers).

Of those **7,627** people **stopped and searched or stopped and questioned**, **12% (874 people)** were aged 17 and under (where age is known). Of those **874** people aged 17 and under, **66% stopped and searched** were under the Misuse of Drugs Act (including a combination of Misuse of Drugs Act and other powers).