

January 2024

Dear Chief Constables,

Recommended Guidance – Searching by Trans Employees of the Police Force

I am sure that you are all aware of the increased interest regarding the Searching by Trans Employees of the Police Force guidance in the media and the commentary from the Policing Minister.

A review of the guidance is already underway but whilst this review is ongoing, I have taken the decision to temporarily remove the guidance from the NPCC website. Until the review is completed which includes additional legal advice and further consultation, I recommend that forces revert to using your own policies on this matter.

I have worked with the NPCC Press Office on drafting a response to any reactive media requests which I share with you all now. However this is not to be used in any responses to local enquiries, please refer to the NPCC Press Office and I before issuing any statements.

"All searches are dealt with on a case-by-case basis after consideration by a custody sergeant based on the response of the detainee.

All searches are carried out in line with the officer or staff members training and legal authority, taking into account our responsibilities under both the Equality Act 2010 and Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

A thorough review of the NPCC guidance is taking place. Whilst this is being done, local forces will work from their own policies on this matter".

If you have any questions whilst the new guidance is finalised, please contact my staff officer [redacted] at [redacted]

Regards,



Vanessa Jardine
Chief Constable
Northumbria Police
NPCC LGBTQ+ lead

