

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Powers Summary

Miscellaneous powers

- Power to enter and search any premises for purposes of saving life and limb or preventing damage to property
- Power to require name and address for relevant offences
- Power to require a person to wait for 30 minutes
PCSOs have the power to require a person to wait for 30 minutes if they have reason to believe that the person has committed a relevant offence AND they have failed to comply with a requirement to give their name and address or who gives an answer which the PCSO reasonably suspects to be false or inaccurate. Both elements must be present.
- Power to require house to house collectors to provide their name, address, signature and certificate of authority
- Power to seize and retain materials and information relevant to the investigation of a crime when lawfully on any premises
- Limited power to enter licensed premises
- Power to enforce cordoned areas (Terrorism Act)
- Power to stop and search in authorised areas (Terrorism Act) under the supervision of a constable.

Powers to issue penalty notices

- Power to issue [local authority] Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)
These powers will only be relevant where the local authority has such a scheme in place and where it is agreed with the local police commander that PCSOs are authorised to issue local authority FPNs.
- Power to issue Penalty Notices for Disorder for:
 - sale of alcohol to a person under 18
 - purchase of alcohol for person under 18
 - delivery of alcohol to person under 18
 - drinking in designated area
 - allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises
 - sell or attempt to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk
 - breach of fireworks curfew
 - possession of a category 4 firework
 - trespassing on a railway and throwing stones on a railway
 - destroying or damaging property
 - causing harassment, alarm or distress.

Powers to require surrender of alcohol, search and seizure

- Power to require persons drinking in a controlled drinking zone to surrender alcohol
- Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- Power to seize cigarettes, tobacco or papers from a person aged under 16 found smoking in a street or public place

- Power to search for alcohol and tobacco

This power applies where a person has failed to comply with a request to surrender alcohol or tobacco. Consent is required, and it is an offence not to consent.

- Power to seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs

This power enables PCSOs to seize illegal drugs if discovered during a search for alcohol or tobacco. It does not empower PCSOs to search for drugs.

Powers to tackle anti-social behaviour

- Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour
- Power to deal with begging
PCSOs can require a person to stop begging and if they fail to do so can require them to wait for up to 30 minutes for a police officer. If they fail to wait, they commit an offence.
- Power to photograph persons away from a police station (in connection with the issue of a relevant fixed penalty offence (i.e. PND and FPN))
- Power to issue a direction to exclude a person from an area, and surrender property (s35 and s37 ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014).

Traffic and cycle related powers

- Power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm
- Power to remove abandoned vehicles
- Power to stop cycles
- Power to stop vehicles for testing (by an authorised vehicle examiner)
- Power to carry out a road check (where authorised by a superintendent)
- Power to require name and address for road traffic offences *This is limited to drivers or pedestrians that do not comply with the directions of a PCSO involved in the direction of traffic.*
- Power to direct traffic and to place traffic signs
- Traffic warden powers including enforcement of specific offences.

Power to issue FPNs for traffic and cycling offences:

- cycling on pavement
- failure to comply with requirements about lighting and reflectors for bicycles
- failure of a rider of a cycle to comply with traffic directions
- contravening a bus lane
- stopping, waiting or parking at or near a school entrance (subject to agreement with local authority area)
- carrying a passenger on a cycle
- failing to stop for a police constable
- driving the wrong way down a one-way street
- sounding a horn when stationary or on a restricted road at night use on the road of a motor vehicle causing unnecessary noise
- not stopping an engine when stationary
- opening a door so as to cause injury/danger.