



# Firearms Act 1968

## 1968 CHAPTER 27

### PART III

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENCES

#### **47 Powers of constables to stop and search.**

- (1) A constable may require any person whom he has reasonable cause to suspect—
  - (a) of having a firearm, with or without ammunition, with him in a public place; or
  - (b) to be committing or about to commit, elsewhere than in a public place, an offence relevant for the purposes of this section,to hand over the firearm or any ammunition for examination by the constable.
- (2) It is an offence for a person having a firearm or ammunition with him to fail to hand it over when required to do so by a constable under subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) If a constable has reasonable cause to suspect a person of having a firearm with him in a public place, or to be committing or about to commit, elsewhere than in a public place, an offence relevant for the purposes of this section, the constable may search that person and may detain him for the purpose of doing so.
- (4) If a constable has reasonable cause to suspect that there is a firearm in a vehicle in a public place, or that a vehicle is being or is about to be used in connection with the commission of an offence relevant for the purposes of this section elsewhere than in a public place, he may search the vehicle and for that purpose require the person driving or in control of it to stop it.
- (5) For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by this section a constable may enter any place.
- (6) The offences relevant for the purpose of this section are those under sections 18(1) and (2) and 20 of this Act.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

**Changes to legislation:**

Firearms Act 1968, Section 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.