

Meet one of our **Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel Volunteers**



Name: **Mohammad Islam-Ruman**

Why did you want to join the Panel?

I am currently studying Criminal Law, Government and Politics at Hertfordshire University as well as volunteering for Citizens Advice. My studies and voluntary work have helped me develop a real passion for working on behalf of communities and being the voice of those who may not feel able to express themselves.

As a law student I was looking for a practical opportunity through which I could understand more about how policing works so, when I saw an opportunity to become a member of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel on the University website I was really keen to find out more.

What process did you have to go through to become a Stop and Search Scrutiny Volunteer?

Following the submission of my initial application I was invited to interview. The interview involved a number of questions which enabled me to demonstrate my knowledge, but also my motivations for wanting to get involved with the Panel.

After a successful interview I was asked to complete some vetting forms which I successfully passed. I attended an afternoon training session which gave an overview of stop and search legislation and the Panel's role whilst also providing the opportunity for me to meet other new volunteers.

What do you get out of it?

I have gained a clear understanding of how stop and search is used by officers, as well as an in-depth knowledge of the legislation governing the use of stop and search.

The role has also provided me with a valuable opportunity to work with a diverse range of panel members as well as staff from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

How do you think the Panel's role assists the Constabulary?

The Panel assists the Constabulary by ensuring the powers of stop and search are used more efficiently and diligently, providing reassurance that all searches are carried out lawfully.

More information about the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel is available on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website:

www.hertscommissioner.org/stopsearch



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