



The Federation of Student Islamic Societies

Information Leaflet on Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000

What is Schedule 7?

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is a stop-and-detention power used at airports, seaports and international train stations in the UK. Officers can either: (a) briefly question you or (b) they can go further by physically detaining you to conduct a more thorough search and questioning. This is officially known as an 'examination'.

How long can I be detained for?

Officers can detain you for no longer than 9 hours. Examinations do not usually take that long; it depends on how long it takes to question and search you, your belongings and, if relevant, search your vehicle.

If I am stopped, does it mean that officers suspect me of terrorism?

No. The police can stop and 'examine' you without needing any reasonable suspicion to believe that you are a terrorist. Therefore, if you are ever detained under Schedule 7, it does not necessarily mean that you are suspected of taking part in any crime(s).

Can officers search me?

Yes. They can subject you to a thorough search of yourself, your belongings, your vehicle and any areas of the port or means of transport you have entered. Only officers of the same gender as you can search you and they must conduct this in private. Officers can also subject you to a strip-search, regardless of your age, but they must have a very good reason for doing this (i.e. believe that you may be concealing something that can only be obtained by a strip search).

Can they confiscate items from me?

Yes. Officers can retain an item of yours for 'further examination' for no longer than 7 days from first seizing it and then post it to your home address. Alternatively, they can keep it for as long as necessary if they wish to use it against you as evidence in court.

Am I entitled to a solicitor?

If you are taken away for an 'examination' you have the right- at any time- to request the presence of a solicitor. However, officers can still carry on searching and questioning you before your solicitor arrives and you must comply. You are also entitled to have a family member or friend informed of your detention.

Have you ever been detained under Schedule 7 or do you know of someone who has?

If so, please contact us in the strictest of confidence at civil.liberties@fosis.org.uk. We are interested in hearing about your experience for our ongoing research and campaign work on this power. We can also provide you with any information and advice that you may need.

Can they take my DNA and fingerprints?

Yes. But, they cannot detain you solely to obtain your DNA samples or fingerprint information.

Am I under arrest?

No. Even if you are physically detained for up to 9 hours you are not under arrest and this will not result in a criminal record.

What if I refuse to cooperate?

If officers feel that you are obstructing them they can arrest you which can result in you receiving a fine and/or a prison sentence. This includes refusing to answer any questions. If you do not know the answers to certain questions asked of you, you should make this very clear to avoid being perceived to be obstructive.

What happens if I miss my flight, train or ferry?

Depending on the local police force's procedures, officers will usually help you to reschedule your journey by notifying your travel company. We recommend that you also speak to your travel company upon release to check that all of your travel arrangements have been rescheduled and ensure that you are able to carry on to your destination.

How do I make a complaint?

You should complain to the police force responsible for the port in which you were examined. You may also be entitled to 'legal aid' and we can advise you throughout the process. For more information, please contact us in the strictest of confidence at the following address: civil.liberties@fosis.org.uk.