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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Thro seddu  
Dyfed-Powys  
Police and Crime Commissioner



Heddlu Police  
**DYFED  
POWYS**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys**  
**Authored by: Tom Walters**

**Custody Independent  
Scrutiny Panel:  
Women & Girls in  
Custody**

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# Introduction

The origins, purpose and the rationale for the Custody Independent Scrutiny Panel (CISP) can be found on our webpage under the Terms of Reference (ToR) via this link: [Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner](#).

In December 2025, the CISP focussed on Females in Custody (FIC). In preparation of this scrutiny activity, the Panel were reminded of the *Summary of Findings* from last year's report which can be viewed [here](#).

In July 2024, the Dame [Vera Baird Report](#) found that female detainees in custody often experienced poor treatment, insensitivity, and inadequate safeguarding. Here is a breakdown of the findings in relation to the treatment of female detainees in Great Manchester Constabulary custody:

## **Distinct Vulnerabilities of Women and Girls**

Many female detainees were survivors of domestic or sexual abuse, yet their needs were not consistently recognised or supported. The report stressed that women often enter custody with complex trauma, requiring sensitive handling.

## **Poor Standards of Care**

Evidence showed low standards, insensitivity, and lack of care in dealing with female detainees, including dismissive attitudes and inadequate safeguarding.

## **Strip-Search Concerns**

The inquiry found misuse of strip-searches, sometimes carried out for "welfare purposes" rather than clear legal grounds. This disproportionately affected women and raised serious dignity and safeguarding issues.

## **Need for Gender-Specific Scrutiny**

The findings showed that female detainees were not receiving the same level of consideration as men, despite facing unique risks.

The CISPs were reminded of female officer allocation and the importance of this process.

### **Dignity and Privacy**

- Female detainees may need support with sensitive matters such as menstrual care, strip-searches, or personal welfare. Having a female officer present helps protect dignity and reduces embarrassment.

### **Safeguarding and Trauma Awareness**

- Many women in custody have histories of domestic or sexual abuse. Interactions with male officers during intimate procedures can be distressing or retraumatizing. Female officers provide a safer, more empathetic environment.

### **Legal and Policy Compliance**

- The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) Code C requires custody procedures to be carried out fairly, responsibly, and without discrimination. Assigning female officers aligns with the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector duty to eliminate harassment and victimisation.

### **Operational Good Practice**

- Reports such as the Corston Report and ICVA guidance highlight that women have distinct vulnerabilities in custody and require tailored approaches. Allocating female officers is part of ensuring custody care meets these needs.

### **Trust and Confidence**

- Female detainees are more likely to feel safe, respected, and able to communicate openly when supported by female officers. This builds trust in custody processes and reduces complaints.

The CISPs were asked to note:

- 1) Whether a female officer was assigned to the female detainee.
- 2) Whether the assigned female officer had changed due to the length of time the female detainee was in custody.

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The CISPs were also reminded of the changes in procedures relating to children in custody at Dyfed-Powys Police and also the purpose of the Children's Checklist which can be viewed via our previous report [here](#).

The Panel with one additional question to consider during their scrutiny activity which included:

- Is the allocated female officer the same officer throughout the DP's detainment? (factors include handovers, operational response)

To view the set of questions the Panel were asked to consider you can select [here](#) or view via the QR code:



# **Summary of Findings**

Below is a summary of some of the findings by the Panel:

## **Positives:**

### **Sanitary Products:**

- All female DPs were offered menstrual products upon their detainment.

### **Rights and Entitlements**

- All female DPs were recorded receiving their rights and entitlements either at booking in or later.

### **Total Time in Detention**

- The average time a detainee was held in custody was 7 hours and 49 minutes. This is in comparison to last year's report which identified the average time a detainee was held in custody was 16 hours and 49 minutes. It is understood that this would have been influenced by the sample size (9 out of 15 records) that were children; however, this is also positive to see.

### **Use of Force and No Strip Searches Conducted**

- Of the 15 records viewed, the CISPR did not identify any instance of use of force nor strip search conducted on female DPs, which is considered a positive for their dignity; however, there are questions whether use of force was under-recorded.
- The Force subsequently reviewed the cases assessed by the CISPR and ascertained that 7 of the 15 records had use of force recorded. Discussion regarding where to locate this information on the custody record will be beneficial for future panels.

### **Support Services**

- It was pleasing to see that 10 of the 15 records were offered support services. This equates to 66% which is an increase of 20% from last year's report, with the primary services offered were in relation to social services, followed by mental health and substance misuse.

### **Appropriate Adults (AA) being Appropriately Identified**

- All girls that were detained in DPP custodies were identified as requiring an AA.

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## **Children's Checklist**

- All children that were detained received a Children's Checklist.
- All inspector reviews regarding the procedure changes to children were adhered to.

## **RAG**

- The CISPR recorded no instances of red (requirement for the Force to view a specific custody record with concerns raised by the panel) records reviewed. 60% of the records were green and 40% amber. This indicates that the Force is making progress in its adherence to custody procedures and governance.

## **Areas for improvement:**

### **Female Officer Allocation and Female Officer Introducing Themselves to the DP:**

- The CISPR has identified one record with no female officer allocated throughout the DP's detainment.
- There were two records that were identified that female officers had not introduced themselves to the female DP. This is not an improvement from last year's report.
- None of the 7 records reviewed regarding female officer's introducing themselves had any specific detention log entry recording this fact.

### **Missing Provisions in Custody:**

- There were gaps in female DPs custody records whereby they were instructed on the cell call bell, asked regarding their religious affiliation, and toilet pixelation.

### **Voice of the Child**

- Of the 8 records applicable for the Children's Checklist, only 5 were completed.

# Panel Observations

Force comments were produced by an Inspector of Custody Services for Dyfed-Powys Police.

Theme	Observation	Force Response
<b>Female Detainees Assigned Female officer</b>	The CISP could not identify that a female officer had been allocated to a female DP in two records. Can this be verified?	<p><i>Both custody records have been checked:</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 1</b> – No female officer was allocated. Feedback has already been provided to the custody officers involved as this record was included in monthly quality assurance dip sample.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 2</b> – A female officer was allocated for this custody record and was recorded in the dedicated box within the care plan. There was only one care plan completed for this custody record as the detainee was only in custody for just over 1 hour.</p>
<b>Female officers introducing themselves</b>	There were 7 records that the CISP could not identify that a female officer had taken the time to introduce themselves. Can this be checked and advise if there is any learning to be taken if found that they had not?	<p><i>All 7 custody records have been reviewed:</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 1</b> – Allocated female officer was DEO and would have been at custody desk during booking in procedure.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 2</b> – Female officer was not allocated and so would not have introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 3</b> – No endorsement that female officer introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 4</b> – Allocated female officer was DEO and would have been at custody desk during booking in procedure.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 5</b> – No endorsement that female officer introduced themselves. Of note, the detainee was on Level 4 constant observations but the allocated female officer was not the officer carrying out these observations. Instead, a male officer had been allocated</p>

*to monitor the detainee. The detainee was also a juvenile. It would have been more appropriate to have used the allocated female officer to conduct constant observations with the detainee. Feedback has been provided to the custody officer.*

***Custody Record 6*** – Allocated female officer was the same officer conducting level 4 constant observations with the detainee. The allocated female officer remained the same throughout the detainee's detention of 2 hours 31 minutes. Therefore, the allocated female officer would have been present with the detainee and would have introduced herself.

***Custody Record 7*** – The first allocated female officer was the same officer conducting level 4 constant observations with the detainee and so would have been present and introduced themselves. The second allocated female officer, following handover, was the DEO on duty but there is no endorsement that this allocated officer introduced themselves.

*Following review of the above custody records, 5 of the 7 records identified contain information which make it evident that the allocated female officer would have introduced themselves either as they were a member of the custody team or an officer conducting constant observations with the detainee. However, none of the records have any specific detention log entry recording that the allocated female officer had introduced themselves. This is an area that Custody Services is aware requires improvement. Compliance with female officer allocation has improved over the past 12 months and a method of improving compliance with introduction will be looked at in due course.*

<b>Observation Level Not Adhered to</b>	<p>The CISP member recorded the observation level as level 1 but was unable to see any further record of observations made. Can you view the record and advise accordingly?</p>	<p><i>Custody record has been reviewed:</i></p> <p><i>The detainee was placed on level 1 observations, with 30-minute checks applied. I can confirm that a total of 10 checks were conducted by the DEO and PC gaoler during the detainee's detention of 5 hours 17 minutes. All checks were made within the 30 minute period as per the observation levels.</i></p> <p><i>These detention log entries are recorded under the heading "Detainee Welfare" which is also correct.</i></p> <p><i>It is unclear why the panel member has welfare checks and observations being endorsed. This can be covered during the briefing at the next panel to ensure all panel members are sighted on finding observation checks and the heading used.</i></p>
<b>Use of Force</b>	<p>Whilst it is pleasing to see that use of force does not appear to have been used in any of the 15 records viewed by the CISP, can the Force provide assurances that there isn't a risk that custody records are not under-recording this information?</p>	<p><i>Custody Services currently monitors use of force on custody records and obtains 100% data provided by SIU monthly. This covers both types of use of force recorded on custody records which are use of force prior to custody and use of force in custody.</i></p> <p><i>The custody records used within this panel sample have been reviewed and 7 of the 15 records had use of force recorded (6 use of force prior to custody with the use of handcuffs and 1 with use of force prior to and during custody with handcuffs used). Thus, 46% of the panel sample had use of force recorded that was missed by the panel members. Discussion regarding where to locate this information on the custody record may be beneficial for future panels.</i></p>

		<p><i>The data from this panel supports the data obtained over the past three months in the 100% audit. Total use of force data shows that over 50% of detainees are entering custody with no use of force prior to custody (eg. Handcuffs, etc) and no use of force in custody (eg. Cell procedure, etc). This has also been corroborated during custody visits, conducted by Custody Services, and feedback from custody officers across the force. This will continue to be monitored via monthly audits, but the data appears to be following a consistent pattern.</i></p> <p><i>This has been discussed with Specialist Operations and scoping work is underway with other forces, with a similar demographic and custody demand, to ascertain if they are experiencing similar numbers regarding use of force.</i></p> <p><i>Custody Services recently agreed to the submission of an RFC, submitted by another force within our Niche collaboration, which will make the process of recording use of force in custody more streamlined and ensure this is accompanied by a detention log entry and the relevant questions on the risk assessment are amended. There is no evidence at present to indicate that there is any under recording of use of force in custody, but this Niche amendment will improve the recording process in any case.</i></p>
<b>No Detail of DP Seeing a Solicitor</b>	<p>The CISP identified two instances of where DPs seeing a solicitor did not appear to have been recorded. Can you view the records and identify whether you are able to find this detail; and if not, advise if feedback will be provided to custody staff?</p>	<p><i>Both custody records have been reviewed:</i></p> <p><b><i>Custody Record 1</i></b> – There is an entry at 15:32hrs that the DP having consultation with her solicitor (providing solicitor's name), and this is following by entry that the DP has been interviewed with solicitor and appropriate</p>

		<p><i>adult present. However, of note, the transfer of the DP to both solicitor room for consultation, and interview room for interview, were not completed by the custody officer. It is important that these transfers are completed as audit trail of the detainee's movements throughout custody. Feedback will be provided to the custody officer.</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 2</b> – The detainee, who was a juvenile, was only in custody and was not subject to suspect interview during that time. There is an endorsement from the custody officer which highlights that the detainee was released under investigation to be interviewed at a later date and at a more sociable hour of the day. This decision was made following liaison with Social Services who advised that the detainee could be returned to her current care placement. Therefore, there is no endorsement regarding the detainee seeing a solicitor as there was no requirement for a solicitor to attend following the decision to release under investigation.</p>
<b>No Rationale for the Delay of AA</b>	<p>The CISP identified 4 records not receiving a rationale for the delay in female DPs receiving an AA. Can this be verified and advise if there is any appropriate learning identified from this?</p>	<p><i>All four custody records have been reviewed:</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 1</b> – Detainee arrived at custody at 02:01hrs, with enquiries to be completed prior to interview, and so detainee would have required a sufficient rest period before interview. AA was requested at 09:16hrs, just over 7 hours after arrival, and AA arrived at 10:45hrs. There is no learning to be taken from this record as PACE has been complied with, regarding the requirement for a period of rest.</p> <p><b>Custody Record 2</b> – There was no delay in this detainee receiving an AA. The detainee arrived at custody 14:12hrs and detention authorised at 14:41hrs. The request for an AA was made at 14:00hrs, prior to</p>

*the detainee's arrival at custody, and this was likely completed early following discussion between custody officer and arresting officer. The AA arrived at custody at 14:50hrs which is 38 minutes after the detainee's arrival and 9 minutes after detention being authorised. I do not consider 38 minutes a delay in receiving an AA.*

**Custody Record 3** – *There was no delay in this detainee receiving an AA. The detainee arrived at custody at 22:54hrs and the AA arrived at midnight, 1 hour and 6 minutes after arrival. The AA used was the on-call social worker, who attended out of hours, and so the AA arriving just over 1 hour after the detainee's arrival is acceptable.*

**Custody Record 4** – *Detainee arrived at custody at midnight, and custody immediately made efforts to arrange a family member to attend as AA so that she could be released under investigation. The AA arrived at 02:00hrs. The arrival of this family member was not within the control of custody staff and I would not consider this delay excessive.*

*This may require further discussion with panel members given that the delays highlighted here have been 38 minutes, 1 hour, and 2 hours. I would not consider any of the above times to be excessive delays in the arrival of an AA. Appropriate Adults can come from various sources including family members, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams, Support Workers, etc, and given the geography of DPP force area delays caused by travelling time will be encountered following the request for their attendance at custody being made. Further discussion would be useful in ascertaining what period of time panel members would consider a delay in AA arrival?*

<b>Specific Case (highlighted in Amber)</b>	<p>The CISP member identified within their custody record a delay in DP receiving their rights, no evidence of food being offered and no record of female officer being assigned. Can you view the record and reassure the concerns raised?</p>	<p><i>Custody record has been reviewed regarding the concerns raised:</i></p> <p><b><i>Delay in DP receiving their rights:</i></b>  <i>The detainee arrived at custody intoxicated and so rights and entitlements cannot be completed and signed until sobriety returns. This is governed by PACE and to ensure that the detainee fully understands their rights and entitlements, allowing them to make informed decisions on whether they wish to accept legal advice, have someone informed of their arrest, review the codes of practice, and then sign to confirm their choices.</i>  <i>Detainee arrived at custody 08:43hrs, the "Rights &amp; Entitlements" section of the custody record was completed at 08:54hrs. This evidences that the detainee was provided with rights and entitlements but there was a delay in them being signed due to intoxication. A detention log entry at 11:14hrs suggests that sobriety is returning, and rights were then revisited when sober at 13:03hrs and signed by the detainee. There is no learning to be taken from this, as PACE has been adhered to.</i></p> <p><b><i>No evidence of food being offered:</i></b>  <i>The detainee arrived intoxicated at 08:43hrs and was provided with water and a blanket at 09:01hrs. The detainee was then subject to 30 minutes checks and had a period of sleep. Once sobriety had returned, rights and entitlements were given, the detainee declined legal advice and so went into suspect interview immediately. A detention log entry prior to interview shows that the detainee was provided with water prior to interview. Following interview, the detainee was released no further action. Taking into consideration that the detainee was in custody for just over 5 hours, I have no</i></p>
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		<p><i>concerns regarding this observation. It is likely that, given that the detainee was offered water, she would have been offered food at the same time but declined. However, a detention log entry, or additional information on the entries regarding water provided, to state that the detainee had declined food would have been beneficial.</i></p> <p><b>No female officer assigned:</b></p> <p><i>I can confirm that this observation is correct. No female officer was allocated. Feedback has already been provided to the custody officers involved as this record was included in monthly quality assurance dip sample.</i></p>
<b>Children's Checklist</b>	<p>Whilst Children's Checklist was completed, a CISP member raised that the voice of the child and reachable moments were unclear and, in another record, the wrong checklist was used. Can you view the quality of the recording of the checklist and advise whether more work needs to be done in the recording of information provided by custody staff in this area?</p>	<p><i>Both custody records have been reviewed:</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 1</b> – <i>The wrong checklist, was used on this custody record, which does not include a section for Voice of the Child. The Reachable Moment's question has been answered but simply states that the child won't engage with officers.</i></p> <p><b>Custody Record 2</b> – <i>The correct checklist has been attached to this custody record, but the quality/detail of the endorsements is inadequate with the majority of the sections left blank, including Voice of the Child and Reachable Moments.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback has been provided to the custody officer involved in the above custody records and communications have been sent to all DPP custody staff regarding use of the correct children in custody checklist. The checklist was included in these comms but is also available on the Custody page of the force intranet and can be accessed by all DPP officers.</i></p>

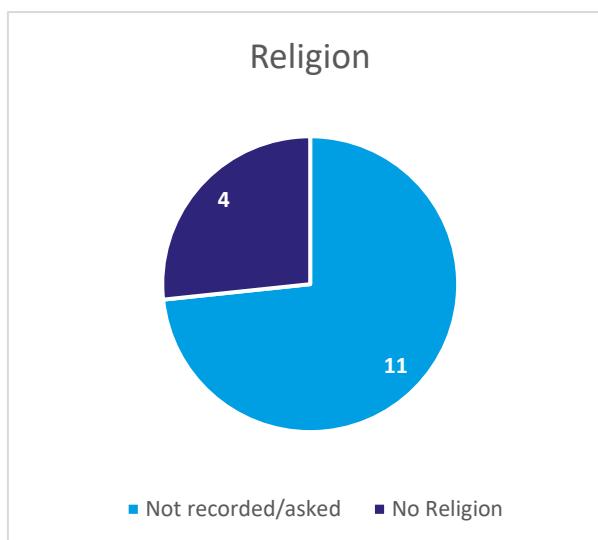
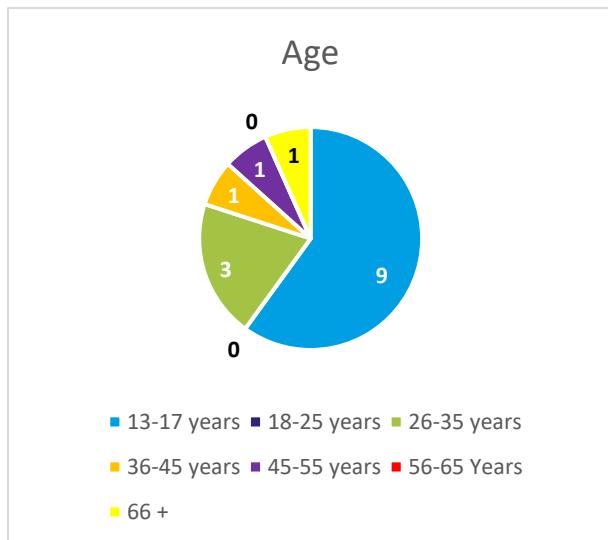
*Custody Services have been aware that improvement was required in this area, and the Reachable Moments Project has been introduced to improve not only force compliance in this area, but also improve the level of meaningful engagement with child detainees, and a more in-depth understanding of their needs. The Reachable Moments Project went live 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and means that all children entering DPP custody will receive the support of a Reachable Moments Worker. The RMW will remain in custody for as long as required, providing support to the child, building rapport, having discussion to understand their current issues/concerns, and this will enable the RMW and DPP to identify any causal factors behind their offending behaviour. This information will be documented by the RMW in a care plan, and outcome star, and this information will be provided to custody staff and placed on the custody record. This will ensure an improvement in the quality of the information obtained from child detainees and allow a more bespoke approach to be taken regarding referrals to support agencies that are specific to the child's needs. This will improve support both during and post custody. RMW's are all qualified and experienced in working with children and young people and are independent of the police. This will remove the barriers to engagement that have been present for some time, with children not wanting to engage with police officers who do not possess the relevant experience or skillset to engage with children at this level. The RMW's will be obtaining a wealth of information from child detainees, essentially completing the Reachable Moments section of the checklist, and compliance should now improve as well as the quality of the endorsements.*



# Annex- Custody Record Review Findings

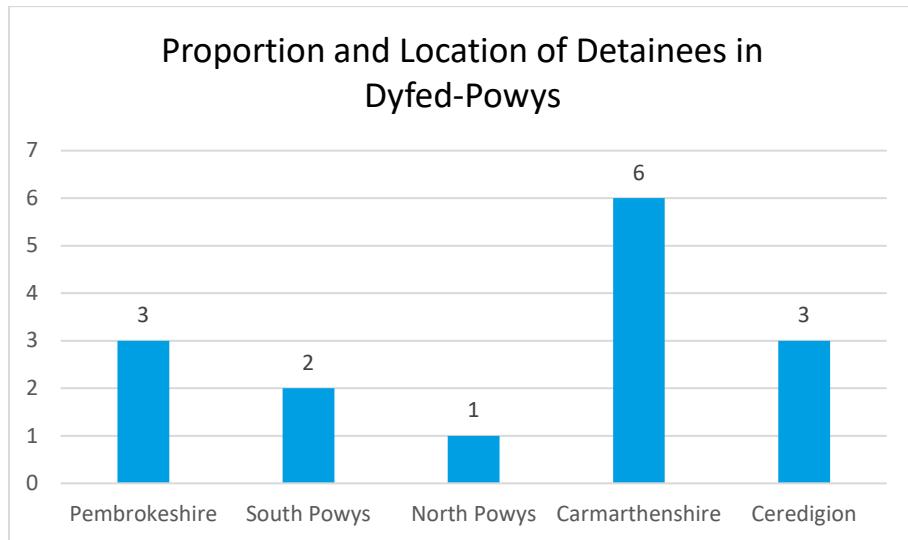
The data below outlines the results of the feedback forms completed by the Panel members which was analysed to identify the positive and areas requiring improvement in each specific area of custody with the focus of FIC (Females in Custody). This section of the report is supplemental to provide context to the Summary of Findings and the Panel Observations sections above.

## Demographics

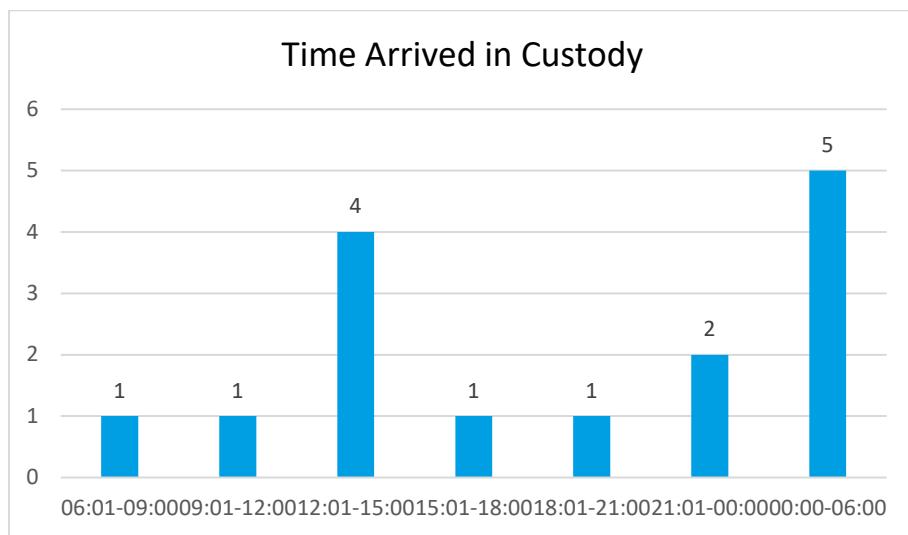


- Ethnicity for all CIC records viewed were recorded as White British for this dip sample.

## Custody Suites

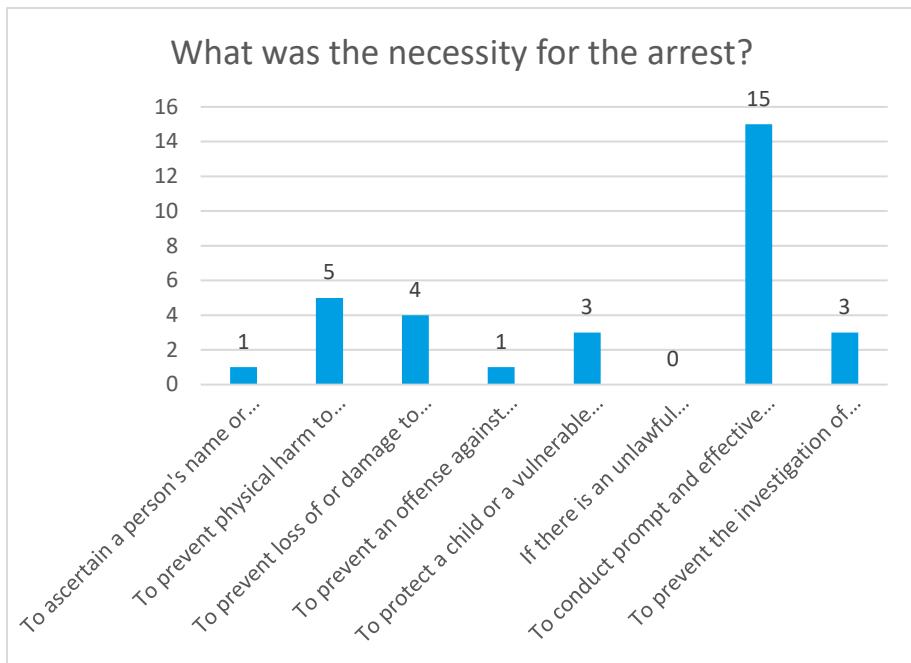
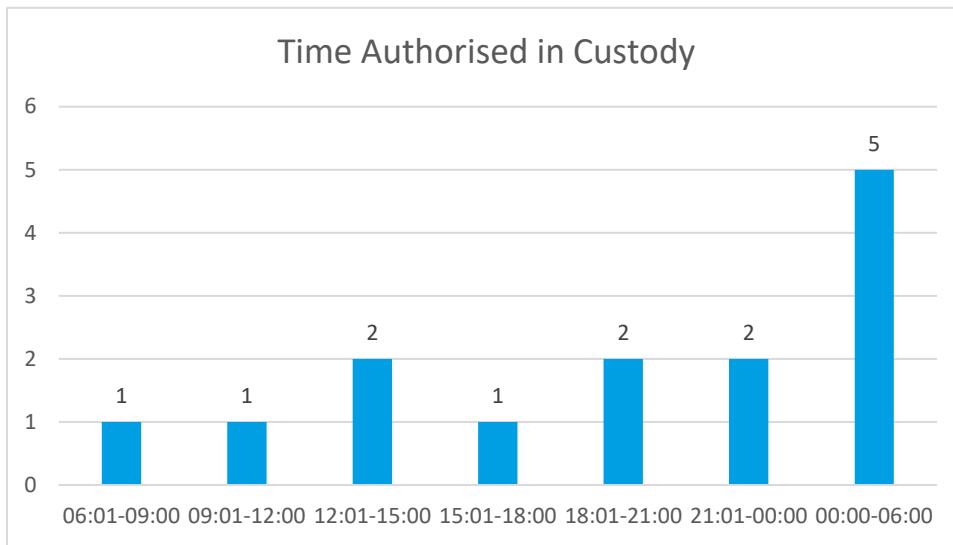


## Time Arrived in Custody



### Time Lapsed From Arrival to Detention Authorised

- The average time lapsed from the point a detainee arrived at custody and was authorised for detention was 35 minutes.
- The highest waiting time was 2 hours and 1 minute with the Panel member unable to determine a rationale for the delay.
- The fastest time for a detained person (DP) to have their detention authorised was within a single minute.



### Total Time in Detention

- There was one instance where a detention was not authorised.
- The average time a detainee was held in custody was 7 hours and 49 minutes.
- The longest time a DP was held in custody was 30 hours.
- In contrast, the shortest time a DP was held in custody was 1 hour and 25 minutes.

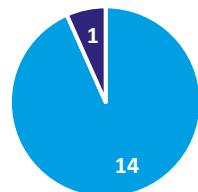
- The Panel were asked to ascertain the necessity for the arrest. The list of necessities under PACE are:
  - To ascertain a person's name or address
  - To prevent physical harm to themselves or other
  - To prevent loss of or damage to property
  - To prevent an offence against public decency
  - To protect a child or a vulnerable person
  - If there is an unlawful obstruction to the highway
  - To conduct prompt and effective investigation of the offence
  - To prevent the investigation of an offence or the prosecution of the suspect being hindered.
- The most prominent arrest necessity identified was *to conduct prompt and effective investigation of the offence* followed by *To prevent harm*.

## Provisions in Custody

Were religious requirements catered for?

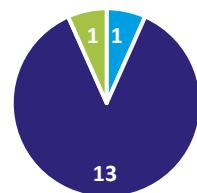


DP was asked about dietary requirements and allergies?

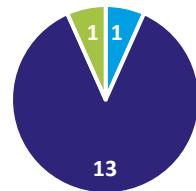


- From the previous CISP report on use of force, the CISP were reminded that religion does not currently form part of the risk assessment question set since the introduction of Niche and this is unlikely to change in the immediate future which sits outside of DPP's remit. It is also not a mandatory field that needs to be completed and so this means that it can be missed on occasion. Religion is now captured in the detainee's name & information section of the custody record; therefore, to rectify this, CISP members are consulting with the Inspector at the meeting, who has access to the full Niche custody record, to validate if it has been captured.

Was the DP instructed in the use of the cell call bell?



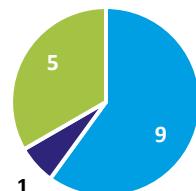
Was the DP instructed that the toilet is pixelated?



■ Yes ■ No details found in record ■ N/A

- The individual who was not offered food and refreshment or dietary requirements was not specified in the custody record due to their detention being just over two hours.
- The CISPs are still finding no record detailing toilet pixelation nor details where DPs are being instructed of the cell call bell in the records they scrutinise.

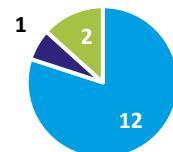
Food and refreshments offered regularly?



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

## Female Detainees

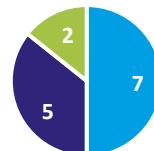
Was a female officer assigned where necessary for a female DP?



■ Yes ■ N/A ■ No detail found in record

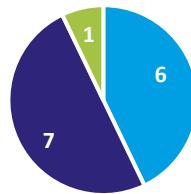
- The custody record that was recorded as not applicable was due to the DP's detention not being authorised by the custody sergeant.
- The other Not applicable instance for same officer throughout the DP's detainment was due to their total time in detention was less than 2 hours.

Is the allocated female officer the same officer throughout the DP's detainment?



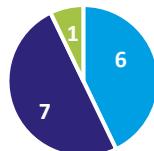
■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

Did a female officer introduce themselves to the DP?



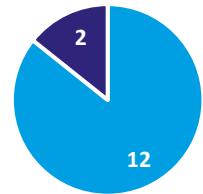
■ Yes ■ No details found in record ■ N/A

Was the DP asked if they would like to speak with someone from the same sex?



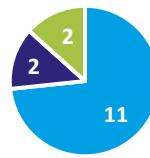
■ Yes ■ No details found in record ■ N/A

Were menstrual products offered?



■ Yes ■ N/A

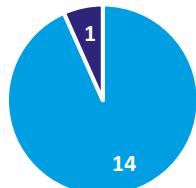
Does the record make any reference to hygiene requests being made/given?



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

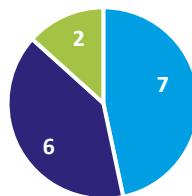
# Rights and Entitlements

Was the DP given rights - either at booking in or later ?



■ Yes ■ N/A

Was there a delay in receiving R+E



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

- As per the above, the not applicable custody record relates to the DP not having their detention authorised.

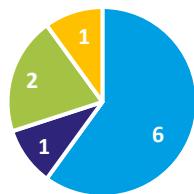
## How long, after detention authorised, did the DP request a solicitor?

- The average time for a detainee took to request a solicitor was 1 hours 39 minutes.
- 5 records of the 15 viewed, saw FIC decline the option of legal representation.
- The longest period for a DP to request a solicitor was 9 hours.
- In contrast, the shortest was immediate into the authorising of their detention.

## The length of time taken for police to contact a solicitor

- The average time taken was 23 minutes for police to contact an on-duty solicitor.
- The longest period of time was 1 hour and 20 minutes.
- The shortest was 1 minute.

Did the DP see or speak to a Solicitor?



■ Yes ■ No ■ No details found in the record ■ N/A

#### **The length of time taken for solicitor to arrive from the point of being contacted**

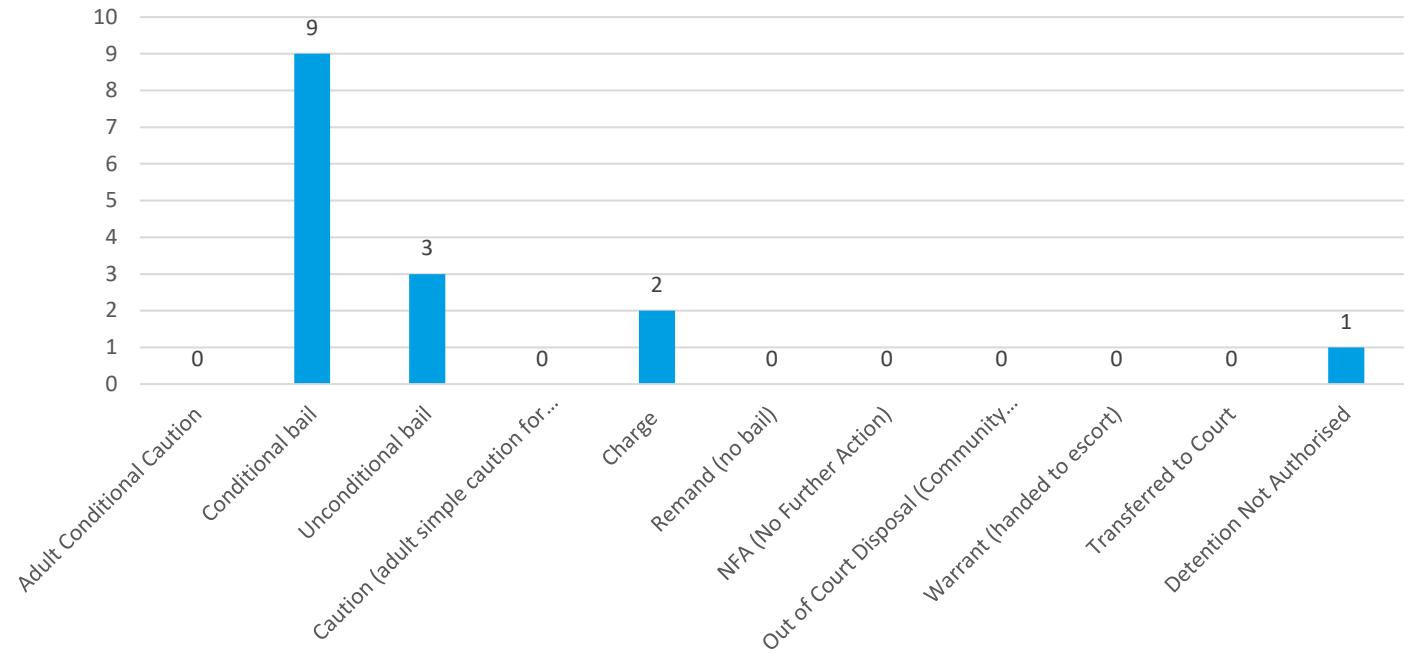
- The average time it took for a solicitor to arrive after being requested was 1 hour and 33 minutes.
- The Panel held no specific comment regarding legal representation other than for those FIC that requested a solicitor, saw one promptly.

If there was a lengthy delay in seeing a solicitor, was there any rationale available?



■ Yes Rationale Given ■ No Rationale Given ■ N/A

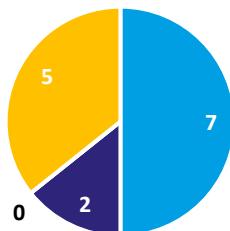
### What was the disposal method?



- The Panel were asked to note the disposal method to assess whether FIC's detainment was proportionate to the necessity of arrest.
- The highest disposal method was for conditional bail which is the process that allows officers to attach conditions to bail which may support victims and/or witnesses, preserve evidence and mitigate further crime.

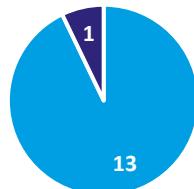
## Observation Level

What level was set?



■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4

Was the observation level adhered to?

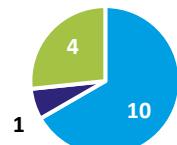


■ Yes ■ No

- All custody records reviewed had their observation level set.
- The risk level is judged on 4 levels.
  - Level 1 General (at least once every hour)
  - Level 2 Intermittent (every 30 minutes)
  - Level 3 Constant (constant observation CCTV and accessible at all times)
  - Level 4 Close Proximity (physically supervised in close proximity).
- Of the single records that was deemed Not Applicable (N/A) this was due to the FIC detainment not being authorised.
- Of the two records on level 2, the CISD deemed that custody complied with ensuring the DP was on rousal.
- The Panel made the following comments in relation to the observational levels:
  - 1) Observation levels were upgraded and downgraded appropriately.
  - 2) Observation level was adhered to but appears that a male officer was present despite a female officer being allocated but the female officer became unavailable as they became operational.

## Support Services

Was the DP given access to/offered/referred to any support services?

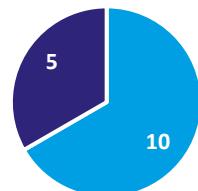


■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

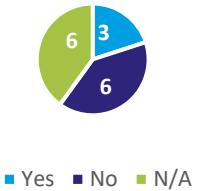
- Panel members specified that within 4 records, FIC had declined the option of support services; however, there were 5 instances where there was no evidence that support services were provided.
- The CISP stressed that the primary service offered to FIC were for Social Services followed by Mental Health and substance misuse support for addiction.

## Healthcare Professional (HCP)

Did the DP see a healthcare professional?



Was there a delay in healthcare professionals attending and DP receiving a health assessment?



- The CISPA validated that all FIC that required to see a HCP saw one.
- The CISPA noted the following observations in relation to HCP provision:

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## Special Risk Clothing (SRC)/Anti-Rip Suites

- There were no instances of FIC wearing a SRC. This is due to DPP taking the decision to eradicate SRC as of May 2025.
- In no instance were the clothing removed by Force.

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## Use of Force

- There were no instances where use of force was applied on the 15 custody records viewed on FIC.

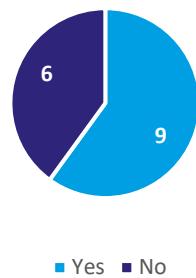
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## Strip Search

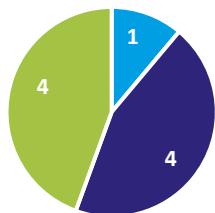
- There were no instances where a FIC was subjected to a strip search applied in the 15 custody records viewed by the CISPs.

## Mental Health (MH), Appropriate Adults (AA) & other Vulnerabilities

Did the Force identify that an AA was necessary?



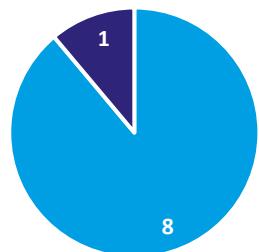
Was there any rationale available for a delay in AA's arrival?



- The average time for first contact to be made by police with the AA recorded was 1 hour and 1 minute.
- The average time for first contact between the DP and the AA was 4 hours and 1 minute.
- The Panel noted the following reasons other than being a child, why the FIC had additional vulnerabilities:
  - Six instances of being neurodivergent.
  - Epilepsy/seizures.
  - Addiction to substances.
  - Two instances of Mental Health including bipolar and depression.
  - Pregnancy
  - Sexual assault victim.
- In all records reviewed, the Force identified that an AA was required and all nominated persons were contacted.
- The average time that it took for police to contact an AA was 2 hours and 35 minutes.
- The average time first contact was made between the CIC and the AA was 4 hours and 16 minutes. In three instances, there was no rationale provided for the delay.

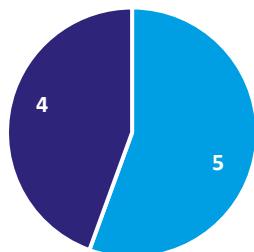
## Children in Custody

Was the Children in Custody Checklist used?



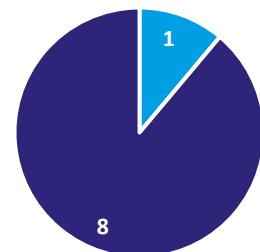
■ Yes ■ N/A

Was the Voice of the Child recorded?



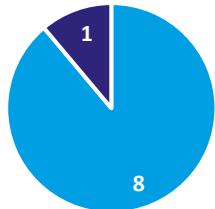
■ Yes ■ No

Has a reachable moments interview occurred?



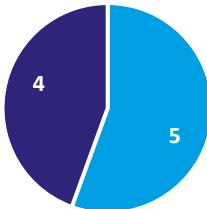
■ Yes ■ N/A

Has there been an Inspector's review within 1-2 hours of the child detained?



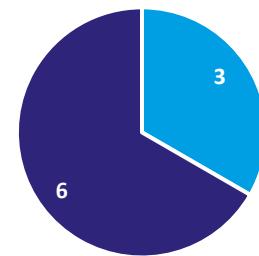
■ Yes ■ N/A

Has the arrest been reviewed by the Sergeant (not Custody Sergeant)?



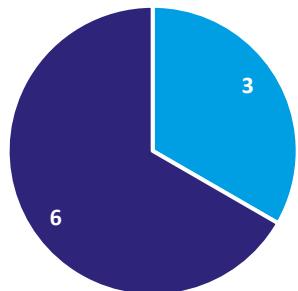
■ Yes ■ No

Has the 6 hour PACE review been completed?

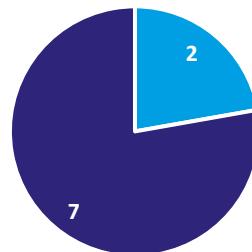


■ Yes ■ N/A (released before 6 hours)

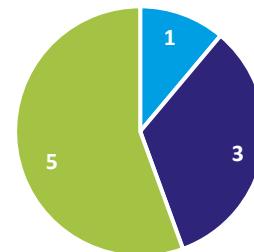
Was the child charged?



Was the young person detained overnight?



Was an alternative care setting sought?

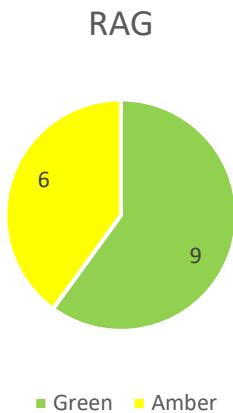


- The one custody record that was deemed not applicable was due to detention not being authorised.
- The CISPs had the following comments in relation to Children's Checklist:
  - "A number of the questions on the check list were stated to be 'waiting completion' on the form."
  - The section regarding contact with Social Services was noted as N/A despite the custody record showing that contact was made to seek alternative placement as current care home refused to have the DP back.
  - The checklist was completed; however, there were two instances where Voice of the Child was not recorded nor the Reachable moments.

## Red Amber Green (RAG)

At the end of each custody record reviewed, the Panel were asked to review the below criteria and assess their overall grading of the custody record using the RAG rating:

Examples of Reason for Rating	Follow Up Action
<b>Full rationale provided for use of force, strip search or and for any delays from external agencies supporting detainees which are both justifiable and proportionate.</b>	No further action required at this point.
<b>All Rights &amp; Entitlements have been provided to the detainee.</b>	
<b>Clear de-escalation, distraction items etc. used to mitigate risk of detainee DSH.</b>	
<b>Little or unclear justification for the use of the Anti-Harm Suit, use of force or strip search.</b>	Advice/further training given to custody staff.
<b>Insufficient information to determine any delays in the detainee receiving their rights for legal representation or an appropriate adult.</b>	
<b>Inconsistent recording of Rights &amp; Entitlements.</b>	
<b>No rationale or justification is not proportionate.</b>	Further exploration required in relation to lack of rationale. Cases to be raised with custody inspector.
<b>Decisions made in the absence of risk information and with no other rationale.</b>	
<b>Significant delays in detainees seeing HCP, legal services or an appropriate adult.</b>	
<b>No apparent consideration for detainee's vulnerabilities.</b>	



The rationale assigned to each colour grading were of individual Panel member's assessment/judgement of the custody record they were assigned to. Below are some of the rationales the Panel provided for their grading:

Green	Amber
"Woman of advanced age was not placed in cell and bailed and released promptly."	"Delay in giving DP rights, no evidence of food being offered. No record of female officer being assigned to DP"
"Procedures followed. Well documented. HCP was requested but DP refused to see the HCP when they went to the cell."	Asthma mentioned but no mention of medication availability in custody suite if required by PIC.
"Good detailed record. Particularly female officers and change of officers in this case clearly recorded".	"Not sure about male officers undertaking Level4 observations with a 14 year old child"
"There was a significant delay in R&E - but this was due to the DP going to hospital prior to Risk assessment being completed. But noted clearly to be done on return and it was."	"unclear of sufficient information provided for further care provided."