

COMMISSIONER'S INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Custody & Detention – Children in Custody 23rd April 2026

Scrutiny Panel:	Custody & Detention
Members:	Fred Cox Karen Sulway Jenn Watkins Sue Westwick Also present: Inspector Matt Broughton Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston - SCO
Purpose:	That the correct procedure has been followed regarding the booking process of Children and Young Person (CYP) detainees. To ensure that the process is compliant with the law and best practice. For all reviewed cases, the scrutiny was to answer: - Was the detention justified? - Has the CYP Risk assessment been undertaken? - Has the discrete room been used? - Has an Appropriate Adult been notified at the point of booking in? - Did the Appropriate Adult arrive within a reasonable timeframe? - Was the Appropriate Adult present for rights and entitlements? - Was the Appropriate Adult present for biometrics? - Was the CYP placed in a CYP cell? - Was the CYP provided with distraction materials? - Where required was the CYP referred to a Healthcare Professional and Justice and Health Team? - Were Inspector reviews undertaken in person? - Was the CYP detained overnight? - Was the detention certificate completed? - Has a safeguarding referral been made?
Panel Findings:	The panel were offered a selection of 90 records from the period 1st March – 31st March 2026 for CYP brought into custody. At the pre-meeting on 14th April 2026, the panel chose 8 records to scrutinise. Custody Records were requested from the Force. At the scrutiny meeting Custody Records for each detainee were provided.



Custody Record C26004976 – Northern Area Custody Facility

- The custody record indicates that the detainee is a white female, aged 13.
- Initially arrested on 19/03/2026 at 20:24 and taken to NACF where she was bailed on 20/03/2026 at 05:10.
- She was recalled on bail on 26/03/2026 and detained at 13:39 and released on 26/03/2026 at 15:08. Total detention time of 10 hours 42 mins.
- Appropriate Adult attended but some confusion to what time they arrived on initial arrest. Not clear on custody record.
- CYP Risk assessment completed.
- Other than the above, the panel noted that the processes were completed.

Custody Record C26003878 – Southern Area Custody Facility

- The custody record indicates the detainee is a black male aged 16.
- Arrested on 02/03/2026 at 12:00. Detained at 13:06 and released on 03/03/2026 at 17:13. Total detention time of 1 day 4 hours and 32 minutes.
- It was unclear from the custody record when the AA was called and when they arrived.
- CYP Risk assessment completed.
- All processes followed and documented in the custody record

Custody Record 26004915 – Southern Area Custody Facility

- The custody record indicates the detainee is a white male, Eastern European aged 17.
- Arrested on 18/03/2026 at 15:30. Detained at 18:31 and released on 20/03/2026 at 08:47. Total detention time of 1 day 15 hours and 37 minutes.
- CYP Risk assessment completed
- Delays in custody due to failure of detainee to initially give name, requirement for vehicle search and attendance of interpreter.
- It was unclear from the custody record when the AA was called and when they arrived.
- All processes followed and documented in the custody record.

Recommendations and Observations:

Observations:

- The panel noted that on a couple of occasions the printed custody record did not reflect what was on the 'live' record. It was acknowledged that this presented some difficulties. This was particularly relevant in terms of the requesting and arrival of an Appropriate Adult for a young person. However, having the Force Lead in attendance meant that the live record could be accessed and issues clarified.

Recommendations:

- That the custody record clearly reflects the request and arrival times of the Appropriate Adult.



Force Lead Response:

In terms of the way the records are presented, as long as there is a representative (Insp) present at the meetings who can go through the record on their laptop to answer any queries that aren't clear on the print outs, that should be fine.

In relation to the accurate recording of AA's time of arrival and notification, there can sometimes be many factors involved. I can look into specific examples to give a clear answer / oversight.