



Response Date:03/03/2025

2025/196 - Police Protection

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1) From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 - How many instances have there been of a child being taken into Police Protection in your force?**
- 2) For each instance, please provide the length of time in hours that the child remained in Police Protection.**
- 3) We are also keen to understand if any children have been subject to multiple instances of Police Protection over the stated period. As such, from the 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 how many individual children have been subject to Police Protection? For each child, please tell us the number of times they were subject to police protection in the given period**

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

- 4) What are the current arrangements, within your force, to appropriately accommodate a child under Police Protection? For example, where do children sleep or eat when at the Police station awaiting suitable accommodation.**

We do not have any provision to accommodate a child at police stations. The legislation is clear that a police station is not an appropriate place of safety. Of course in practical terms when police use their PP powers there is an inevitable wait in order to call social services and await their attendance. Officers are compassionate, and will improvise to find food, refreshments and a comfortable place for the child to sit, away from the main working patrol rooms where officers work (examples are our break out rooms or canteens)

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 27/02/2025