

13 December 2021

Ref: FOIA-2021-0138

RE: Freedom of Information Act (2000) Request

I write in response to your email dated 17 November 2021. I note from your request that you seek information in relation to the use of appropriate adults by the police and the relevant training materials provided to forces in relation to this topic.

Decision

A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is a request for any information held by a public authority. Your questions were referred to the relevant subject matter expert in the College and where we hold information, that information is to be provided to you. Additionally, we have also provided additional context where this might assist.

How does a police officer specifically assess if an appropriate adult is an appropriate one?

Please see the link below which contains relevant information on this topic and also references the accompanying Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice, specifically, Code C.

[Children and young persons \(college.police.uk\)](https://college.police.uk/children-and-young-persons)

Of note, you will see that this section states: 'The choice of adult is a decision for the custody officer, taking all the circumstances into account, which includes the child or young person's views'.

How does a police officer specifically identify that a person needs an appropriate adult?

See Code C 1.4 onwards, as highlighted in the above guidance.

By way of additional information, a Custody officer may also seek the views of a Health Care Practitioner or Liaison and Diversion services to assist their decision-making but ultimately the final decision/assessment is made by the Custody Officer for a detainee as per Code C 1.4.

Is there a set of materials given to every custody sergeant in relation to this?

The College does not hold information which would confirm what materials are given to every custody sergeant in relation to this topic. Officers have access to the College of Policing's College Learn Platform which contains the Detention and Custody National Policing Curriculum Version number 1.2 May 2021.

This sets the curriculum/content which Police forces should utilise to train their custody staff. The curriculum includes multiple references to detainee vulnerability throughout its content. This includes references to the use of Appropriate Adults.

Ultimately training is delivered locally by police forces so the determination of what materials are provided will be specific to each force. If you have a specific force in mind, you may wish to liaise with them to confirm what training materials they use.

Are there training materials given to every custody sergeant for example?

As above.

We trust that this letter answers your query however your right to seek further review is outlined at the end of this letter in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Street | Legal Services

College of Policing

Email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.college.police.uk

Appendix A

Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have handled your request, you can ask us to review our decision..

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days and sent by email to:

FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

We will aim to respond to your request for internal review within 20 working days.

The Information Commissioner

If you are dissatisfied with our response you can make a referral to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Alternatively, you can contact them by telephone on 0303 123 1113