

Criminal Litigation 2023 / 24



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#### Colour Coding Guide

- ❖ Blue Text Reference to statutes and case law.
- ❖ Green Text Reference to textbook¹ paragraphs, workshop tasks² and other notes in LPC Buddy.
- ❖ Orange Text References to the Criminal Procedure Rules.
- ❖ Red Text Court Forms.
- ❖ Purple Text Reference to Professional Conduct Rules or Principles.

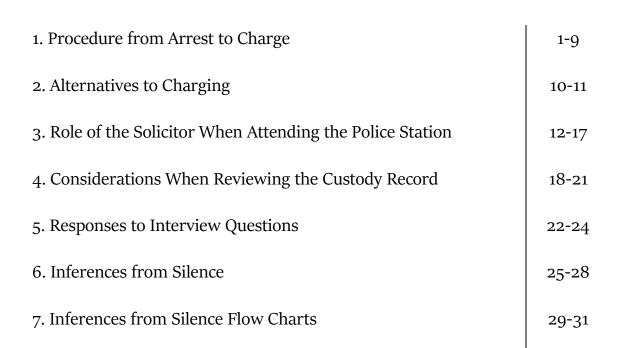
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> References to Workshop tasks are to University of Law workshop tasks (which may be adopted by other LPC institutions). The content and structure of Workshops is subject to change at short notice and so task references should be treated as a general guide only.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Textbook references are to the CLP Legal Practice Guides by CLP Publishing.

# 1. Role of the Solicitor at the Police Station





#### Procedure from Arrest to Charge

Criminal Litigation; Chapter 3

#### Overview

- An individual who has been arrested and detained at a police station is **entitled to free legal advice**, and to be represented by a solicitor (<u>s58</u>, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE 1984)).
- ❖ Where the individual exercises their right to legal advice, the solicitor's role is to protect and advance their legal rights (PACE Code C Guidance Notes, para 6D). In doing so, the solicitor will attend the police station to advise the client and accompany them in an interview.
- ❖ The solicitor must be aware of the **procedure the police** *should* **have gone through** when arresting the suspect and authorising their detention:

#### Suspect is Arrested

# The suspect is taken to the police station.

Criminal
Litigation;
3.2

❖ The suspect should be <u>taken to the police station</u> "<u>as soon as is practicable</u> after the arrest"( $\underline{s}_{30}(\underline{1}\underline{A})^{1}$ ).

❖ They should then be brought before the <u>custody officer</u> "<u>as soon as practicable</u>" on arrival at the police station (<u>Para 2.1A</u>, <u>PACE Code C</u>).

### The Custody Officer

- The custody officer is responsible for:
  - > Authorising the detention of the suspect, and
  - **Supervising the suspect's welfare** whilst in police custody.
- ❖ As part of their role, they must maintain:
  - A custody record: this records key information such as the suspect's personal details; details of the offence and why the suspect was detained; and the date and time of arrest and detention.
  - ➤ <u>A detention log</u>: this is a record of all of the significant events that occur whilst the suspect is in custody.

# The suspect is informed of their rights.

The custody officer must <u>inform the suspect about his ongoing rights</u>, namely:

Right to have someone informed of the arrest.

s56(1)

❖ The suspect is entitled, on request, to have <u>one</u> person told, as soon as practicable, that they have been arrested and are being detained.

- ❖ The right can be <u>delayed up to a maximum of 36 hours</u> by an officer of at least the rank of <u>inspector</u>, if:
  - The suspect has been detained for an <u>indictable</u> <u>offence</u> (i.e., an offence that is tried by jury; so a

Procedure from Arrest to Charge | 1 | v 1.0 2023 | © LPC Buddy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All references are to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 unless otherwise stated.

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	<u>Criminal</u> Litigation,	serious offence) in the Crown Court) ( <u>s56(2)(a)</u> and (b)); and
	3.4.1	<u>and (0)</u> ), and
		There are <u>reasonable grounds</u> to believe that
		telling the named person of the arrest will:
		■ Lead to <u>interference with or harm to</u>
		evidence connected with an indictable
		offence, or interference with or <u>physical</u>
		<u>injury to other persons;</u>
		<ul> <li>Lead to the <u>alerting of other persons</u></li> </ul>
		suspected of an offence but <u>not yet</u>
		<u>arrested;</u> or
		Hinder the recovery of any property
		obtained as a result of such an offence (\$56(5)).
	Right to	<ul> <li>♦ The suspect has a right to receive <u>free and independent</u></li> </ul>
	legal	legal advice on request (\$58(1)).
	<u>advice</u>	
		❖ The right can be <b>delayed up to a maximum of 36 hours.</b>
	<u>s58(1)</u>	
		❖ The circumstances in which the right can be delayed are
		the same as those for delaying the right to inform another
		of their arrest above, save for a delay in exercising a right to legal advice must be <b>authorised by a superintendent</b> or
		above.
	Right to	The suspect has the right to consult the PACE codes of
	consult	practice (which regulate police powers and set out the
	the Codes	suspect's rights).
	<u>of</u>	
	<u>Practice</u>	
	(i.e., PACE)	
	Right to	❖ PACE Code C, Para 11.1A: "Before a person is interviewed,
	be	they and, if they are represented, their solicitor must be
	informed	given sufficient information to enable them to
	about the	<u>understand the nature of any such offence</u> , and why they
	offence,	are suspected of committing it".
	and why	
	they have	
	<u>been</u>	
	arrested and	
	detained.	
The		ody officer will then <b>search the suspect.</b>
suspect		
<u>is</u>	<b>\display</b> They:	
searched.		

- Must make a <u>record of any items of property</u> on the suspect's person (\$54(1) and (2)).
- May <u>seize and retain property</u> (<u>\$54(3)</u>) if the custody officer has reasonable grounds for believing:
  - It may be **evidence**; or
  - That the suspect may use it to:
    - Cause injury;
    - Cause damage to property;
    - Interfere with evidence; or
    - Assist them to escape
    - PACE Code C, para 4.2

### The suspect is charged or detained.

Criminal
Litigation,
3.3

- The custody officer must determine whether there is already "sufficient evidence" to **charge the suspect with the offence** for which they have been arrested (\$37(1)).
- ❖ They will ask the investigating officer for details of:
  - ➤ The **evidence** against the suspect; and
  - ➤ What **steps the officer proposes to take** if further detention is authorised.
  - This will usually be done in the presence of the suspect. The custody officer should not put any **questions to the suspect** (Code C, para 3.4), but should note any comments **the suspect makes** in relation to the investigating officer's account (PACE Code C, para 3.4).
- ❖ If there is sufficient evidence, the custody officer will **charge the suspect**.
- ❖ If there is not sufficient evidence, the custody officer may authorise the suspect's **detention without charge** if the following grounds are made out.

### Detention Without Charge

- ❖ The custody officer may <u>authorise that the suspect be kept in police</u> <u>detention</u> where either:
  - They have reasonable grounds for believing that detention is necessary to **secure or preserve evidence relating to an offence** for which he is under arrest; or
  - $\triangleright$  It is necessary to obtain such evidence by questioning (s37(2)).
- **❖** The suspect must be <u>released immediately</u> if either ground ceases to apply (\$39).

## The suspect's rights when detained.

- ❖ Where the suspect is detained, they have rights to:
  - Certain conditions of detention;
    - (E.g., they are entitled to a <u>cell</u> that is adequately heated, cleaned and ventilated, and adequately lit (<u>Code C</u>, <u>para 8.2</u>).



- See notes on <u>Considerations When</u> <u>Reviewing the Custody</u> <u>Record/Detention Log.</u>
- Not to be kept for longer than is permissible under \$41-43 PACE 1984.
  - In overview, a suspect is entitled to be detained for an <u>initial period</u> of 24 hours.
  - Longer time periods <u>require an</u>
     <u>extension to be authorised</u> by,
     initially, a superintendent or above,
     and subsequently the Magistrates'
     Court.
  - See notes on <u>Considerations When</u> <u>Reviewing the Custody</u> <u>Record/Detention Log.</u>

### The suspect is interviewed.

Criminal
Litigation,
3.5

- Once the custody officer has authorised the suspect's detention, the investigating officer will further the investigation, normally by <u>interviewing the suspect</u>.
- ❖ Interviews conducted at the police station <u>must</u> comply with the requirements of <u>PACE</u> <u>Codes C and E</u>; a failure to comply with the <u>Codes</u> may result, at any subsequent trial, in any admission or confession made by the defendant being *inadmissible*.

### Should the suspect be interviewed?

<u>Criminal</u> <u>Litigation,</u> 3.5.2.2; 3.5.2.5

- ❖ A suspect should **not** generally be interviewed if:
  - ▶ PACE Code C, Para 11.18(b): They appear **unable** to:
    - Appreciate the significance of questions or their answers; or
    - <u>Understand what is happening</u> because of the effects of <u>drink</u>, <u>drugs</u>, <u>or any illness</u>, ailment or condition.
  - > PACE Code C, para 6.6: They have not received legal advice.
    - However, this is subject to **five** exceptions, where:
      - The police <u>delay</u> the suspect receiving legal advice under <u>s58(1)</u> (as outlined above); or
      - An officer of superintendent or above believes
        the delay would lead to <u>issues set out in Code</u>
         <u>C</u>, <u>para 6.6(b)(i)</u>; (such as interference or harm
        to evidence, or other people); or



© LPC Buddy The solicitor has agreed to attend but awaiting their arrival would "cause unreasonable **delay**" to the investigation (Code C, para 6.6(b)(ii); or The solicitor cannot be contacted or has **declined to attend**, and the suspect has declined a duty solicitor (Code C, para 6.6(c)); The suspect asks for legal advice but changes their mind. In such a case, the interview will be subject to certain prerequisites (e.g., the suspect should be reminded of their right to legal advice at the beginning of the interview). Caution ❖ At the start of the interview, the officer will **caution the suspect** by stating "You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your Criminal defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence" Litigation, (PACE Code C, para 10.4). 3.5.2.3 ❖ The caution reflects the fact that the suspect: ➤ Has a right to remain silent, ➤ However, if a defendant remains silent, the court will be, in certain circumstances, permitted to draw a negative conclusion (an "adverse inference") from their silence (see notes on *Inferences from Silence*). ❖ When conducting the interview, the officer must: Conduct of the Interview Not Use ❖ The interviewer may not "try to obtain answers or elicit a statement by the use of oppression" **Oppression** Criminal (PACE Code C, Para 11.5). Litigation, Not Offer ❖ The interviewer may not *"indicate, except to* 3.5.2.4 Inducements answer a direct question, what action will be taken by the police if the person being questioned answers questions, makes a statement or refuses to do either" (PACE Code C, Para 11.5). End the Interview when "All the Questions they Consider Relevant" have been asked Give the



suspect rest periods and

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		<u>suitable</u>		
		breaks.		
The suspect	❖ When the time for the suspect's detention is up, the police must decide to:			
is released,	➤ Rel	ease the suspect <u>wi</u>	thout charge and without bail; or	
or charged <sup>2</sup>				
		1		
<u>Criminal</u>	end	uiries; or		
<u>Litigation;</u>				
<u>3.6</u>		<del>-</del>	thout charge but on bail (or keep the suspect in police	
		ention for the purpo	ose of enabling the <u>CPS to make a decision on charges</u> );	
	or			
	▶ Ch.	ange the suspect (or	offer an alternative to change (see notes on Alternatives	
		<u>arge</u> the suspect (of <i>Charging</i> ).	offer an <u>alternative to charge</u> (see notes on <u>Alternatives</u>	
	10	Charging).		
	Releasing	❖ If the suspect is	s to be released whilst further investigations are	
	the	-	re is a <b>presumption</b> in favour of the suspect being	
	suspect.		<u>il</u> (s45 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022)	
			ng released without bail.	
	<u>Criminal</u>	raciiei tiiaii bei	ing released without ball.	
	Litigation;	❖ The suspect ma	ay be released on bail where:	
	<i>3.6.3</i>	_	ecessary and proportionate" in all the circumstances;	
		and		
		> A custo	dy officer authorises the release, having considered any	
		represe	ntations made by the suspect.	
			*/	
		Who can grant	Bail may be granted by either:	
		bail?	A constable (under <u>s30A(1) PACE 1984</u> );	
			this power will most often be exercised	
			immediately after arrest and before the	
			suspect arrives at the police station, known	
			as "street bail". It is designed to enable	
			front-line officers to remain on patrol and	
			give them flexibility;	
			A <u>custody officer</u> , whilst further	
			investigations are conducted (under <u>s34(5)</u>	
			and <u>s37(2) PACE 1984</u> ).	
			❖ In either circumstance, <u>conditions may be</u>	
			<u>imposed</u> (under either <u>s30A(1)</u> , or <u>s47ZZA</u> ).	
		"Necessary and	❖ In determining whether releasing the person on	
		proportionate".	bail is "necessary and proportionate", the officer	
			must have regard to:	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Workshop 11, Task 2, Question 3



- Any <u>conditions of bail</u> which would be imposed; and
- The factors in <u>s30A(1B) PACE 1984</u>, which are:
  - The need to secure that the person surrenders to custody;
  - The need to <u>prevent offending by</u> the person;
  - The need to <u>safeguard victims of crime and witnesses</u> (taking into account any vulnerabilities of any alleged victim or witness that the officer has identified);
  - The need to <u>safeguard the person</u>, taking into account any <u>vulnerabilities</u> they have that the officer has identified;
  - The need to <u>manage risks to the</u> public.

### Length of Bail and Extensions

- The suspect will be bailed for a <u>maximum of three</u> <u>months.</u>
- **Extensions to this period are available:** 
  - ➤ <u>To up to six months:</u> if authorised by an officer of the rank of inspector or above.
  - ➤ <u>To up to nine months:</u> if authorised by an officer of the rank of superintendent or above.
- ❖ Further extensions must be sought from the magistrates' court.
- For an extension to be granted, on the day of the decision, the following <u>conditions</u> must be met (<u>s47ZC</u>, <u>PACE 1984</u>):
  - ➤ There are reasonable grounds to suspect that the <u>suspect is guilty of the offence</u>;
  - Further investigation is needed or further time for police decision to charge is required;

	Charging the suspect.  Criminal Litigation; 3.6.4 - 3.6.5	➤ The investigation or charging decision is being conducted diligently and expeditiously; and  ➤ Release on bail is necessary and proportionate.  If the police believe that there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspect, they will refer the case to the CPS who will determine whether the suspect should be charged and, if so, with what offence (s37B PACE 1984).  The CPS will apply a two-part test to determine whether or not the suspect should be charged. There must be:  ➤ Sufficient evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of"
	3.0.3	conviction"; and
		conviction , and
		It must be in the <b>public interest to charge the suspect</b> .
	*	Alternatively, the CPS may recommend that the matter should be dealt with <u>other than by way of charge.</u>
	*	If the case has been referred to the CPS for a charging decision, the suspect will <u>normally be released on bail</u> under <u>\$47(3)(b) PACE 1984</u> .
		If the suspect is ultimately charged, the custody officer has two options,
	•	to:
		<ul> <li>Keep the suspect in police custody until they can be brought</li> </ul>
		before a magistrates' court; or
		➤ Release them on bail, which may be with conditions (\$38(1)).
Bail after	❖ A suspect wh	o is charged MUST be released on bail UNLESS one of the conditions set
charge.		a), PACE 1984 is satisfied:
<u>Criminal</u>	Name and	❖ The suspect's <u>name or address cannot be ascertained</u> , or the
Litigation,	address.	custody officer has reasonable grounds for doubting whether a
<u>3.7</u>	D. 1 CC !!	name or address provided is the suspect's real name or address;
	Risk of failure	❖ The custody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the
	to answer bail.  Prevention of	person arrested will <u>fail to appear in court to answer to bail</u> ;  In the case of a person arrested for an <u>imprisonable offence</u> , the
	a further	❖ In the case of a person arrested for an <u>imprisonable offence</u> , the custody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the
	offence.	detention of the person arrested is necessary to <b>prevent him from</b>
		committing an offence;
	Detention is	❖ In a case where a <b>sample may be taken</b> from the person the
	necessary to	custody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the
	obtain a	<u>detention of the person is necessary</u> to enable the sample to be
	sample.	taken from them;
	Prevention of	• In the case of a person arrested for an offence which is not an
	<u>injury or</u>	imprisonable offence, the custody officer has reasonable grounds



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property	for beli	for believing that the detention of the person arrested is <b>necessary</b>		
damage.	to prev	to prevent him from causing physical injury to any other person		
	or from	or from <u>causing loss of or damage to property</u> ;		
<u>Interference</u>	❖ The cus	stody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the		
with the	detenti	on of the person arrested is necessary to prevent them from		
administration	<u>interfe</u>	ring with the administration of justice or with the		
of justice.		gation of offences or of a particular offence; or		
Necessary for	❖ The cus	stody officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the		
the suspect's	detentio	on of the person arrested is <u>necessary for his own</u>		
<u>own</u>	protect	ion.		
protection.				
Conditions	If the susp	pect is released on bail, this may be with conditions attached:		
on Bail				
	When can	❖ Conditions may be imposed <u>only</u> if they are necessary		
<u>Criminal</u>	conditions	for the following reasons:		
Litigation,	<u>be</u>	To prevent the suspect from <u>failing to</u>		
<u>3.7.2</u>	imposed?	<u>surrender</u> to custody;		
		To prevent the suspect from <b>committing an</b>		
		offence whilst on bail;		
		To prevent the suspect from interfering with		
		<u>witnesses</u> or otherwise obstructing the course		
		of justice.		
		For the suspect's own protection.		
	<u>What</u>	The suspect may be required:		
	conditions	To reside at a <u>particular address</u> ;		
	might be	Not to speak to or <b>contact any witnesses</b> ;		
	imposed?	Not to <u>enter a particular area</u> or set of		
		premises; or		
		To <u>observe a curfew</u> at night between		
		specified hours.		



### **Alternatives to Charging**

Criminal Litigation, 3.8

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The police have a number of alternative options available to charging a suspect, even if there is sufficient evidence to bring a charge, as follows:

Informal	The suspect may be given an <b>informal warning</b> about their future conduct.		
Warning	❖ The suspect may be given an <b>informal warning</b> about their future condu		
	❖ This <u>will not appear</u> on the defendant's list of previous convictions.		
<u>Criminal</u>			
Litigation,	❖ It is appropriate for <u>minor public order offences</u> .		
3.8.2			
Penalty	❖ A penalty notice is a notice requiring the offender to pay a <u>fine</u> .		
<u>Notice</u>	• Triangle discount of many of many the		
Criminal	❖ It is used to dispose of <u>minor offences</u> without the need for the offender	to go to court.	
Litigation,	❖ There are two kinds:		
3.8.3	<ul> <li>Fixed Penalty Notices: used for minor offences (e.g., speeding ti</li> </ul>	ckets).	
<u>5.5.5</u>	<ul> <li>Penalty Notices for Disorder: used for anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>		
	These may include an "education option", where the offender has the op	tion to pay for	
	and complete an <u>awareness course</u> instead of paying the fine.		
Simple	❖ A caution is a means of disposing of the offence without formal charge.		
Caution <sup>1</sup>			
	❖ There are two types of caution:		
<u>Criminal</u>	<ul><li>Simple cautions; and</li><li>Conditional cautions.</li></ul>		
Litigation, 3.8.4	Conditional cautions.		
3.0.4	❖ A <u>simple caution</u> <i>does not</i> have any <u>conditions attached</u> (such as, for in	stance, a	
	requirement to engage in a rehabilitation procedure) and, once given, <u>does not require</u>		
	any further action by the recipient.		
	❖ They are available for <u>any offence</u> but are primarily intended <u>for low-level, first-time</u>		
	offending.		
	A. A simular soution commot be used in meletion to an indictable only offen		
	A simple caution cannot be used in relation to an indictable only offen		
	either-way offences specified by the Secretary of State (s17(2)-(3) Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015)).		
	<u>Courts / (ct 2015/).</u>		
	<b>When can</b> ❖ A simple caution can be given where:		
	The offender has admitted the offence;		
	<u>caution be</u> The offender is <u>willing to accept the caution</u> ;		
	<b>given?</b>	prospect of a	
	<u>conviction</u> if the offender were to be prosecuted;		

10



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NB: The simple caution and conditional caution are due to be abolished and replaced with a "diversionary caution", and "community caution" as a result of the <u>Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022</u>. LPC Buddy 2023/24 is written as at 1 August 2023, at which time the relevant provisions of the 2022 Act were not in force.

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		The offence is <u>not</u> one where a <u>prosecution is required in the public interest.</u>
Caution  A conditional caution will have one or more conditions attached that have to comply with (for example, they may have to fix damage to produce drug abuse treatment centre).  Criminal Litigation, 3.8.5  The conditions imposed must have the effect of:  Facilitating the rehabilitation of the offender;  Ensuring that the offender makes reparation for the offence; or  Punishing the offender.		ons imposed must have the effect of: ilitating the <u>rehabilitation</u> of the offender; uring that the offender makes <u>reparation</u> for the offence; or <u>hishing</u> the offender.  Int can be prosecuted for the offence on which the caution is based if they <u>do</u>
	When can a conditional caution be given?	<ul> <li>❖ A condition caution can be given where:         <ul> <li>➤ There is evidence that the offender has committed an offence;</li> <li>➤ A relevant prosecutor has determined that there is sufficient evidence to charge the offender, and that a conditional caution should be given;</li> <li>➤ The offender has admitted that they committed the offence;</li> <li>➤ The effect of the conditional caution has been explained to the offender, and the offender has been warned that any failure to comply may result in them being prosecuted for the offence itself.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	What impact will the conditional caution have?	<ul> <li>The caution is a formal recorded admission of guilt which will form part of an offender's record. This may affect how they are sentenced should they re-offend in future.</li> <li>The client will almost certainly lose the opportunity of receiving a caution on a subsequent occasion.</li> <li>The existence of the caution will be disclosable should the client apply for certain types of employment (particularly entry to a profession, such as law).</li> <li>If the offence is sexual, the client will be placed on the sex offender's register.</li> <li>The police may retain fingerprints and other identification data taken from the client (a record of cautions is usually kept for a minimum of five years).</li> </ul>



#### Role of the Solicitor When Attending the Police Station

Criminal Litigation, Chapter 5

#### Overview

- An individual who has been arrested and detained at a police station is **entitled to free legal advice**, and to be represented by a solicitor (<u>s58</u>, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE 1984)).
- Where a client exercises their right, the solicitor's role is to <u>protect and advance their client's</u> <u>legal rights</u> (<u>PACE Code C Guidance Notes, para 6D</u>). In doing so, the solicitor will attend the police station to <u>advise the client</u> and <u>accompany them in an interview</u>.

#### Steps for the Solicitor

❖ Criminal Litigation, 5.2

	Initial Instruction		
<u>A telephone</u>	❖ The solicitor's first notice of their instruction will be by way of a <b>telephone call from the</b>		
call from the	<u>Defence Solicitor Call Centre</u> (DSCC).		
DSCC.			
	❖ They will inform the solicitor:		
<u>Criminal</u>	That the suspect has <b>been arrested</b> and wants a solicitor to <b>attend the police</b>		
Litigation,	station to represent them.		
<u>5.2</u>	Of <u>minimal details</u> , such as the client's <u>name</u> , and the <u>alleged offence</u> .		
A telephone	❖ After speaking to the DSCC, the solicitor should <b>speak to the client on the phone</b> and:		
call to the	Identify themselves;		
<u>client.</u>	Ask the client to confirm that they want the solicitor to come to the police station;		
	Remind the client that any advice will be free;		
<u>Criminal</u>	Tell the client:		
Litigation,	When they will attend and what they will do when they attend;		
<u>5.2</u>	Not to talk to anyone else about the case;		
	In the solicitor's absence, <u>not</u> to:		
	Agree to be interviewed,		
	• Sign anything,		
	• Give any samples, or;		
	Take part in an identification procedure.		
	❖ The solicitor should <i>not</i> assume that the conversation will be completely confidential.		
	The client should therefore be advised to <b>confine themselves to 'Yes/No' answers</b> .		
	❖ The solicitor will ascertain the detailed version of events <u>when they attend</u> the police		
	station.		
Dronoro to	Preparation to Attend  The solicitor will permelly not be required to attend the police station until the police patifix		
Prepare to	The solicitor will normally not be required to attend the police station until the police <b>notify</b>		
attend the police	the solicitor that they are ready to interview the client.		
station.	In the interim period, the solicitor should prepare by:		
station.	The file interim period, the solicitor should prepare by.		



Criminal
Litigation,
5.2.3

- **Checking the law** on the specific offence(s) the client has been arrested for.
- ➤ <u>Checking old files</u> if the firm has represented the client previously to determine whether the client has any previous relevant convictions, or is vulnerable.

#### Attend the Police Station

### Speak to the custody officer<sup>1</sup>

<u>Criminal</u> Litigation,

5.3.1

- ❖ A suspect who has been arrested must be brought before a "custody officer" on arrival at the police station "as soon as practicable" (para 2.1A, PACE Code C).
- ❖ As set out in our note on <u>Procedure from Arrest to Charge</u>, the custody officer is responsible for:
  - **Authorising the detention** of the suspect, and
  - **Supervising the suspect's welfare** whilst in police custody.
- ❖ As part of their role, the custody officer must maintain:
  - ➤ <u>A custody record</u>: this records key information such as the suspect's personal details; details of the offence and why the suspect was detained; the date and time of arrest and detention.
  - ➤ <u>A detention log</u>: this is a record of all of the significant events that occur whilst the suspect is in custody.
- ❖ The solicitor has a <u>right to view the custody record and detention log</u> (<u>PACE Code C</u>, <u>para 2.4</u>):

# Check the custody record and detention log

- ❖ On arrival at the police station, the solicitor should speak to the custody officer and check the custody record and detention log and determine the following information<sup>2</sup>:
  - > The alleged offence.
  - > The **time** when the custody officer **authorised detention**.
    - This is relevant for assessing whether Detention Reviews have been carried out on time (see <u>Considerations When</u> <u>Reviewing the Custody Record and Detention Log</u>).
  - > The grounds for authorisation of detention:
    - In order to authorise the suspect to be kept in police detention, the custody officer must be satisfied either that:
      - There are reasonable grounds for believing that detaining the suspect without charge is necessary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Specific matters which the solicitor should bear in mind when considering this information are set out in a separate guide on *Considerations When Reviewing the Custody Record and Detention Log.* 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Workshop 13, Preparatory Task, Question (a); Workshop Task 1

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- to secure or preserve evidence relating to an offence for which he is under arrest; or
- It is <u>necessary to obtain such evidence by</u> questioning (\$37(2)).
- Any significant comments made by the client.
- Any samples, fingerprints or impressions of footwear which may already have been taken.
- Any **identification procedure** which may have taken place.
- Any **interview** which may already have taken place.
  - NB: police are entitled, in certain circumstances, to interview suspects without their legal representative present, however, no adverse inferences may be drawn from silence in such an interview if the suspect had not been allowed access to legal advice (s58, Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999).
- Whether the client is under any form of physical or mental disability.
- Whether the client is ill, vulnerable or requires medical treatment.
- Any significant items found as a result of a search of the client's person or property, or of where the client was arrested.
- If the client has already been at the police station for six hours or more, details of any detention reviews.
- Speaking to the custody officer and examining the detention log and custody record is largely about <u>checking on the client's welfare</u> and ensuring that they have been treated appropriately at the police station (see <u>below</u>).

### Speak to the investigating officer<sup>3</sup>

Criminal
Litigation,

5.3.2

- ❖ The investigating officer investigates the offence and is responsible for taking steps in order to preserve or obtain evidence whilst the suspect is in police custody, such as:
  - > Carrying out an **interview**;
  - > Carrying out an **identification procedure**;
  - > Taking **fingerprints**;
  - > Taking **samples** from the suspect; and
  - **Taking photographs** of the suspect.
- **\*** The solicitor should seek to obtain, from the **investigating officer**:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Workshop 13, Prep Task, Question (b)



Details of the	❖ The custody log/detention record alone is likely to show solely <u>the</u>	
<u>facts of the</u> <u>offence</u> .	offence (e.g., fraud), but not the facts behind it.	
Disclosure of the police's evidence.	Disclosure Statements <sup>4</sup>	Disclosure is commonly provided by way of a typed disclosure statement which summarises the evidence that the police have.
		<ul> <li>❖ If this is the case, the solicitor should ask the police what other additional evidence they may have and press them to disclose this, including any:         <ul> <li>➤ Statements from witnesses.</li> <li>➤ Samples or fingerprints.</li> <li>➤ CCTV evidence.</li> <li>➤ Documentary evidence.</li> <li>➤ Real evidence (e.g., a weapon, drugs found on the suspect).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Police's Obligations	<ul> <li>The police are not obliged to provide the solicitor with evidence.</li> <li>However, PACE Code C, Para 11.1A provides that "Before a person is interviewed, they and, if they are represented, their solicitor must be given sufficient information to enable them to understand the nature of any such offence, and why they are suspected of committing it".</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>❖ Therefore, if the police do not provide sufficient disclosure:         <ul> <li>➤ The solicitor is entitled to point out that they cannot properly advise their client as to the nature of the case against them and therefore will only be able to advise the client to give a "no comment" interview.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ The officer's refusal will be noted in the</li> </ul>
		custody record, and the solicitor can make a note in the <b>police station attendance log</b> .
Any significant statements or silences made by the client.	station, the	r needs to find out if, prior to their arrival at the police client made <a href="mailto:any">any "significant statement"</a> (or there has been <a href="mailto:nt silence">nt silence</a> ") that is likely to be put to the client in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Workshop 13, Task 1



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		❖ The terms "significant statement" and "significant silence" are defined in PACE Code C, para 11.4A:
		Significant statement. A statement which appears capable of being used in evidence against the suspect at trial, in particular a direct admission of guilt.
		Significant silence. A failure or refusal to answer a question or to answer satisfactorily when under caution, which might allow the court to draw adverse inferences from that silence at trial.
	Details of the next steps in the investigation.	❖ The next step is likely to be an <u>interview</u> , then possible charge and release on bail pending a hearing at the magistrates' court.
Speak to the client.	❖ After speakir	ng to the custody officer, and the investigating officer, the solicitor should <b>client</b> and address the following matters:
<u>Criminal</u> <u>Litigation,</u> <u>5.3.3; 5.5.1</u>	Explain the solicitor's identity and role:	<ul> <li>The solicitor should explain that:</li> <li>They have no connection to the police.</li> <li>Their role is to provide the client with free independent legal advice, and protect and advance the client's legal rights;</li> <li>Anything they are told will remain confidential.</li> </ul>
	Explain the details of the alleged offence:	<ul> <li>The solicitor will inform the client what they have been told by the investigating officer about the offence and advise as to the substantive law and what the police need to prove.</li> <li>The solicitor will obtain the client's version of events and make a note</li> </ul>
	client's instructions:	recording these.
	Advise as to the next steps:	❖ The solicitor will <u>advise the client what happens next</u> (normally an <u>audibly recorded interview</u> ).
	Prepare for Interview	The most
	Criminal Litigation, 5.5.1	The most appropriate method of answering the police's questions in the interview.  There are four options that a client has to respond to questions put in the interview, each of which has pros and cons. The options are:  Answer all questions; Give a 'no comment interview'; Selective silence, where the client answers some questions but not others (not advisable).  Hand in a written statement and give a 'no comment interview'  See notes on Responses to Interview Questions



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	Interview ❖ The solicitor should explain that the interview will be		
	<b>procedure</b> recorded, and that it can be stopped at any time if the		
	client requires further <u>legal advice</u> .		
	Possible ❖ The client should be warned in advance of <u>tactics</u> the		
	<u>tactics the</u> police may use to get them to answer questions, such		
	police will as:		
	adopt to get  Asking apparently innocuous questions as an		
	attempt to get the client to start talking;		
	answer		
	☐ questions. ➤ Trying to alienate the client from the		
	solicitor;		
	➤ <u>Warning the client that certain consequences</u>		
	<u>may arise</u> unless he answers questions.		
When the investigation has completed.			
When the	❖ If there is insufficient evidence to justify charging the client, the solicitor should:		
police's	Draw this to the attention of the investigating and the custody officer, and make		
investigation	representations to persuade the custody officer to <u>release the client without</u>		
<u>has</u>	<u>charge.</u>		
completed:			
	❖ If the police intend to charge the client, the solicitor should, if appropriate, make		
<u>Criminal</u>	representations that the client should be dealt with in a way other than by way of charge		
Litigation,	i.e., by an:		
<u>5.3.3</u>	Informal warning.		
	Penalty notice.		
	Simple caution.		
	Conditional caution.		

➤ (See notes on *Alternatives to Charging*).

