

POLICE CUSTODY

THE DETENTION OF PERSONS IN POLICE
CUSTODY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



6 STRATEGIC
RECOMMENDATIONS.

7 OPERATIONAL
RECOMMENDATIONS.

6 AREAS FOR
IMPROVEMENT.

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Of 100 custody records reviewed:



53% of detainees were recorded as having mental health issues;



19% of detainees were recorded as ever having attempted suicide or self-harm with **12%** who admitted they had thoughts of suicide or self-harm;



45% of detainees were recorded as having consumed alcohol in the last 24 hours and **12%** declared they had an alcohol dependency;



22% of detainees required the services of an appropriate adult; and



19% of detainees were recorded as having consumed drugs in the last 24 hours and **15%** confirmed they had a drug dependency;



5% of detainees required the services of an interpreter.



7% of detainees were recorded as having a disability:
18% of detainees had a difficulty with reading or writing and **25%** of detainees were recorded as having another vulnerability issue;

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Comparisons of children in care vs. children not in care and detention by the PSNI in 2018

(figures as calculated by CJI for the
purposes of this inspection. See Ch2
of report for information source details).

136,714
Children resident in
Northern Ireland
(aged 12-17)

1,326
PSNI detained
of children
(aged 10-17)

1,378^{1%}
Of which are
children in care
(aged 12-17)

179^{13%}
Of which are
children in care
(aged 10-17)

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AVERAGE TIME SPEND IN POLICE CUSTODY

(Based on CJI's
analysis of a
sample of police
custody records.)



Adults
11 hours
32 minutes



Children
7 hours
10 minutes