



Freedom of Information request 01/FOI/24/2715
We received your request on the 28/06/2024.

Request

You asked us:

According to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, specifically Code C, detainees in police custody are entitled to access the Codes of Practice that outline their rights and the procedures that must be followed by the police. In light of this provision, I would like to request the following information:

1. Number of Copies of Codes of Practice:

Please confirm the number of copies of the PACE Codes of Practice held within each custody suite for which your police force is responsible.

2. Requests for Codes of Practice:

Please provide the number of times the PACE Codes of Practice have been requested by someone in custody within each custody suite over the past three years.

For clarity, I am referring to the Codes of Practice that detainees are entitled to read and refer to during their time in custody, as mandated by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

1. Every detainee is asked if they wish to read the Code, every detainee is handed a booklet of the Rights and Entitlements and we have translated copies (downloaded from the MoJ site). Custody prints a copy of Code C from the MoJ website which is then given to the Detainee as paper sheets.

15 books were ordered in custody approx. 18 months ago, there are currently 2 hard copies still available as the books are used as desk reference copies.

The books are difficult to keep in stock as they are often destroyed or damaged by detainees.

2.

Please be aware that there are occasions where Code C has been requested later in the detention and has not been noted in the retention and entitlements pages but as a free text addition as a general detention entry. To complete a manual search on each individual free text custody record would take more than 18 hours and therefore would be cost exempt. We have completed a search within the rights and entitlements section of a custody record.

Please see below search method:

- One custody record refers to one detained person.
- Date range of 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 (Three calendar years)
Where the Detention Log Entry Type Description is 'Rights and entitlements'.
- Within the log entry, if this phrase "The detainee has declined a copy of the Codes of Practice at this time" appears, we have classified the custody record as 'Declined'.
- Within the log entry, if the phrase "The detainee has requested a copy of the Codes of Practice, which has been supplied" appears, we have classified the custody record as 'Supplied'.
- If both appear, we have classified the custody record as 'Supplied'.

Only 5 records did not have either phrase however, the alternative wording is similar and has been classified into either Declined or Supplied.

For the date period, the codes of practice were supplied in 906 custody records.