

Bedfordshire Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel



December 2025
Quarterly Bulletin



This Quarters Custody Data

 Luton

 Kempston

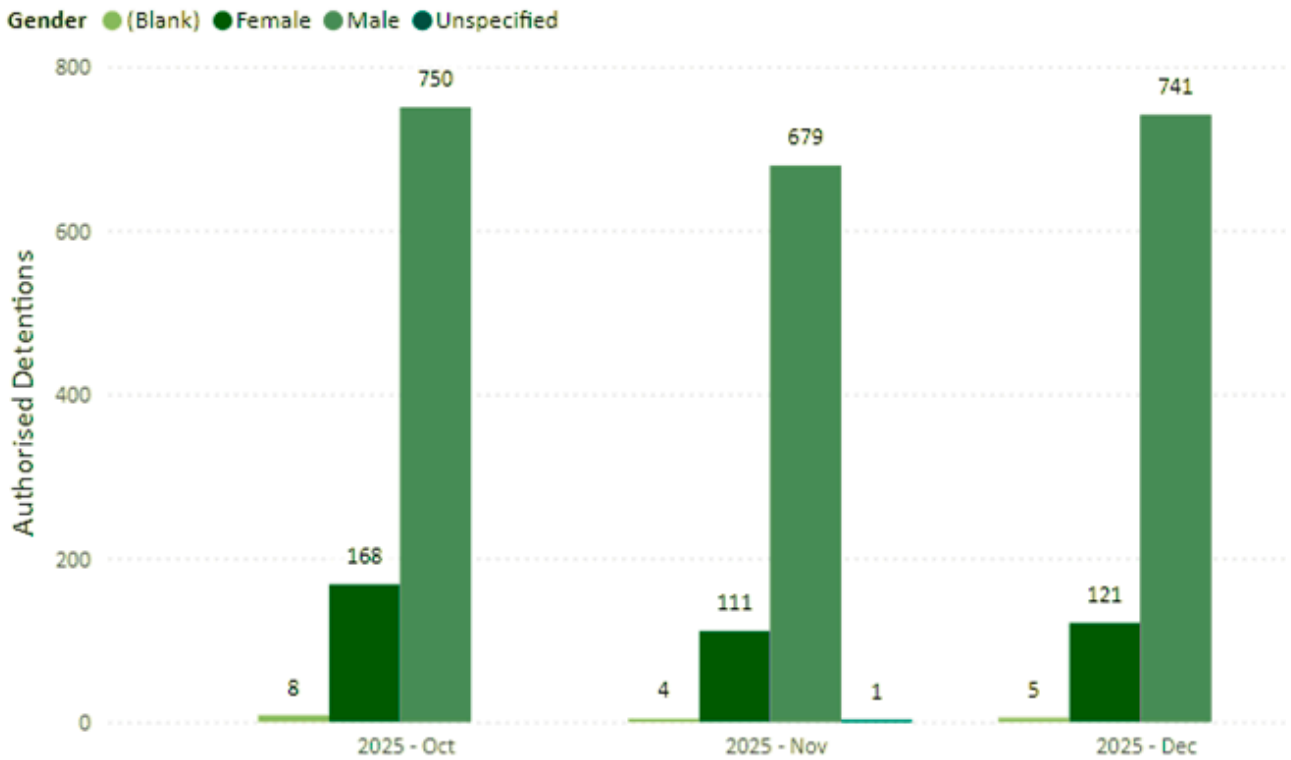


The chart above illustrates the total number of detainees held at Luton and Kempston custody suites during October, November and December 2025. Across this three-month period, Bedfordshire Police Custody recorded 2532 detainees in total. A breakdown by month is provided below.

Month	Luton	Kempston	Total
October	516	407	923
November	424	371	795
December	443	371	814



Custody Data

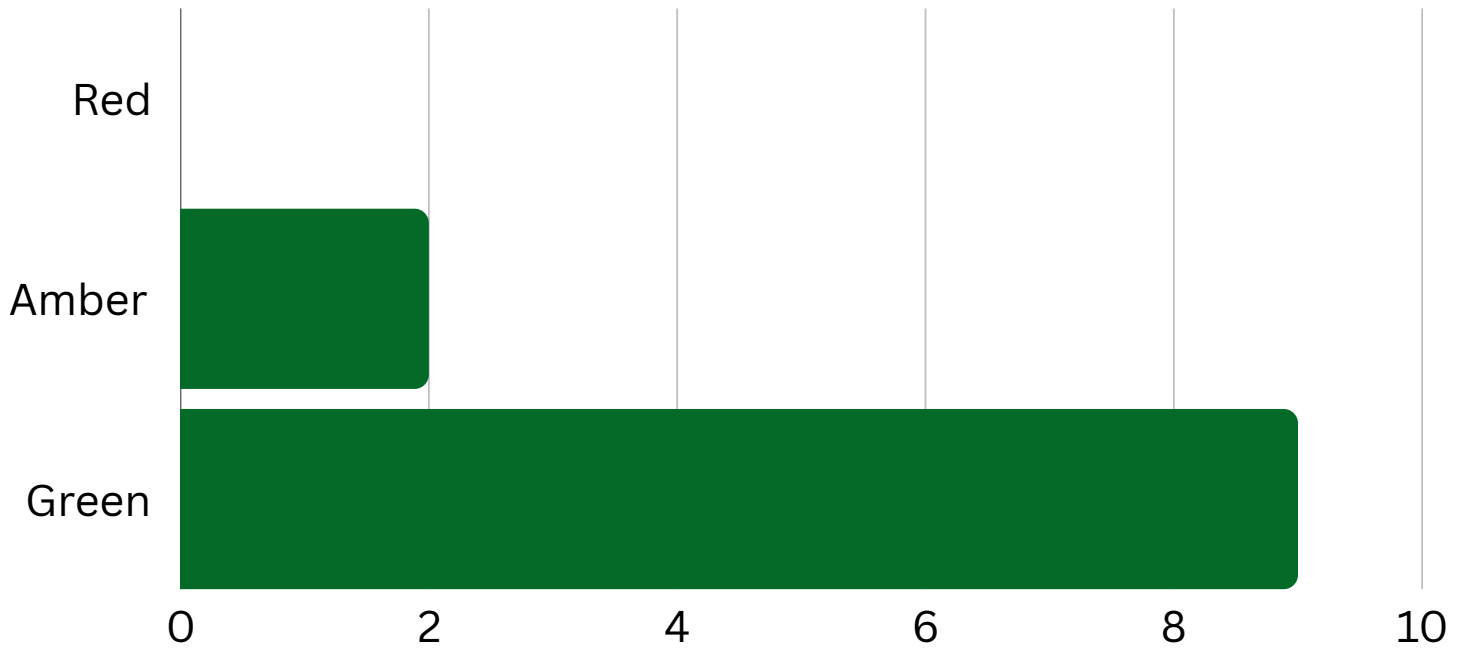


The graph above displays the number of detainees entering custody, broken down by gender, using data from October, November, December. In contrast, the chart across presents the distribution of detainees in Bedfordshire custody by ethnicity, through October, November, December.

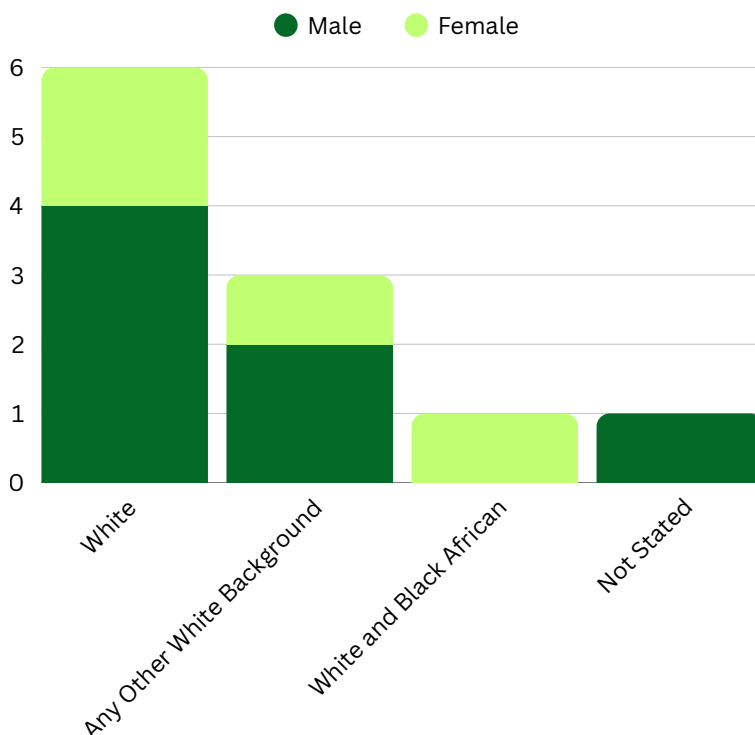
Self Defined Ethnicity	Custody Records	% Total	Unique Detainees	% Total
Asian	574	17.89%	518	18.65%
Black	410	12.78%	358	12.89%
Mixed	149	4.64%	142	5.11%
Not Stated	167	5.21%	163	5.87%
Other	58	1.81%	57	2.05%
White	1850	57.67%	1599	57.56%
Total	3208	100.00%	2778	100.00%

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Custody Records were viewed this quarter



The graph above displays the gradings assigned to custody records reviewed by panel members.



All custody records reviewed involved use of force. The cases varied in terms of gender, ethnicity and originated from both Bedford and Luton custody suites. Some records also included instances where a strip search was deemed necessary.

Feedback on Custody Records

The detainee was provided with replacement clothing as the clothes they were originally wearing were soaking wet. This is good practice and no issues were found in the record.

The detainee was a juvenile, and a care worker was present at the time of arrest and whilst in custody. The appropriate adult time of arrival could not be located on the record.

It was identified that an appropriate adult was required when detainee was booked into custody during the risk assessment however the appropriate adult wasn't contacted until later in the custody record.

Paperwork was clear, and detainee was sent to hospital quickly. One minor issue is that the risk assessment states that the detainee does and does not need medical attention. The detainee did require medical attention and it was agreed that this was a quick typo and the Inspector stated that once something has been inputted on the record, it cannot be amended.

Members agreed that the use of force record referred from the use of force panel contained a comprehensive account, noting that the Healthcare Professional was present during the incident and that best practice was followed. The Inspector has followed up with the officers to provide positive feedback.

Clear record keeping.

Collaborative Working



The Police and Crime Commissioner's office works collaboratively across its volunteer scrutiny panels, specifically with the Stop and Search and Use of Force Panel.

This joined-up approach was demonstrated within the CDSP in January 2026 when the panel reviewed a body-worn video from custody involving a use of force incident. The case was referred to the CDSP from the Use of Force Panel, as they requested for further information on whether the detainee had been seen by the Healthcare Professional (HCP).

It was confirmed that the HCP was present during the incident and that the detainee subsequently received medical attention. The panel praised the high level of detail recorded in the custody record and provided positive feedback, which was shared with the Inspector.

This is an example of good practice across our panels and reflects our commitment to continued collaboration across all panels to support transparency, learning, and improved practice.



ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Inspector, chairs and OPCC to review and update red, amber, green (RAG) grading scale.

Reviewed and will be presented at the March 2026 Panel.

It was identified that the time of arrival of an appropriate adult could not be located on the custody record.

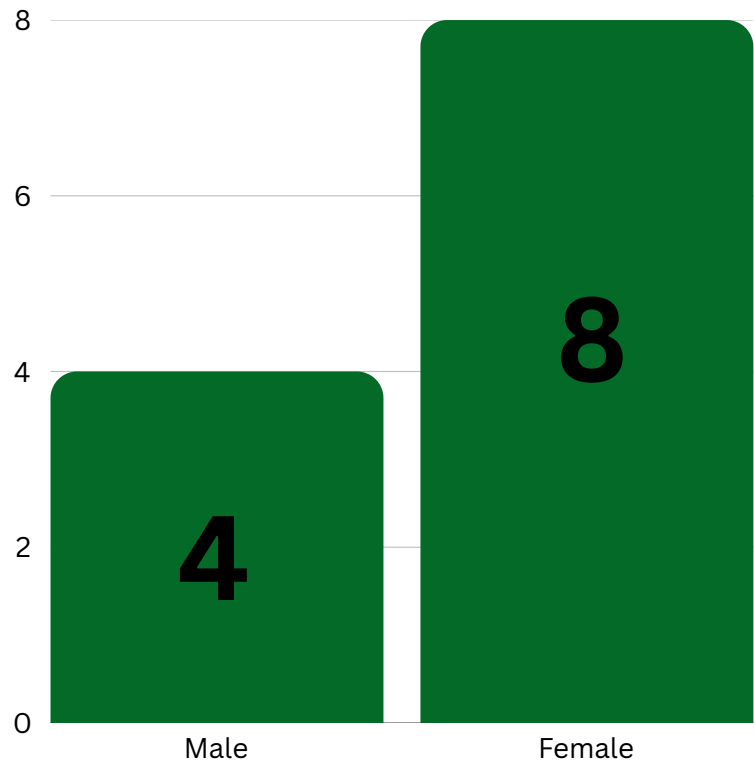
The AA arrived at the same time as detainee, and it was therefore identified that this not logged on the record correctly on the custody record. The Inspector has sent out communications to all custody staff as a reminder.

It was identified that an appropriate adult was required when a detainee was booked into custody, however their arrival was not noted until much later in the record.

The Inspector has fed back concerns on the delay to the Sergeant who completed the booking in, and this was cascaded as a reminder to custody staff.

Recruitment

12
volunteers

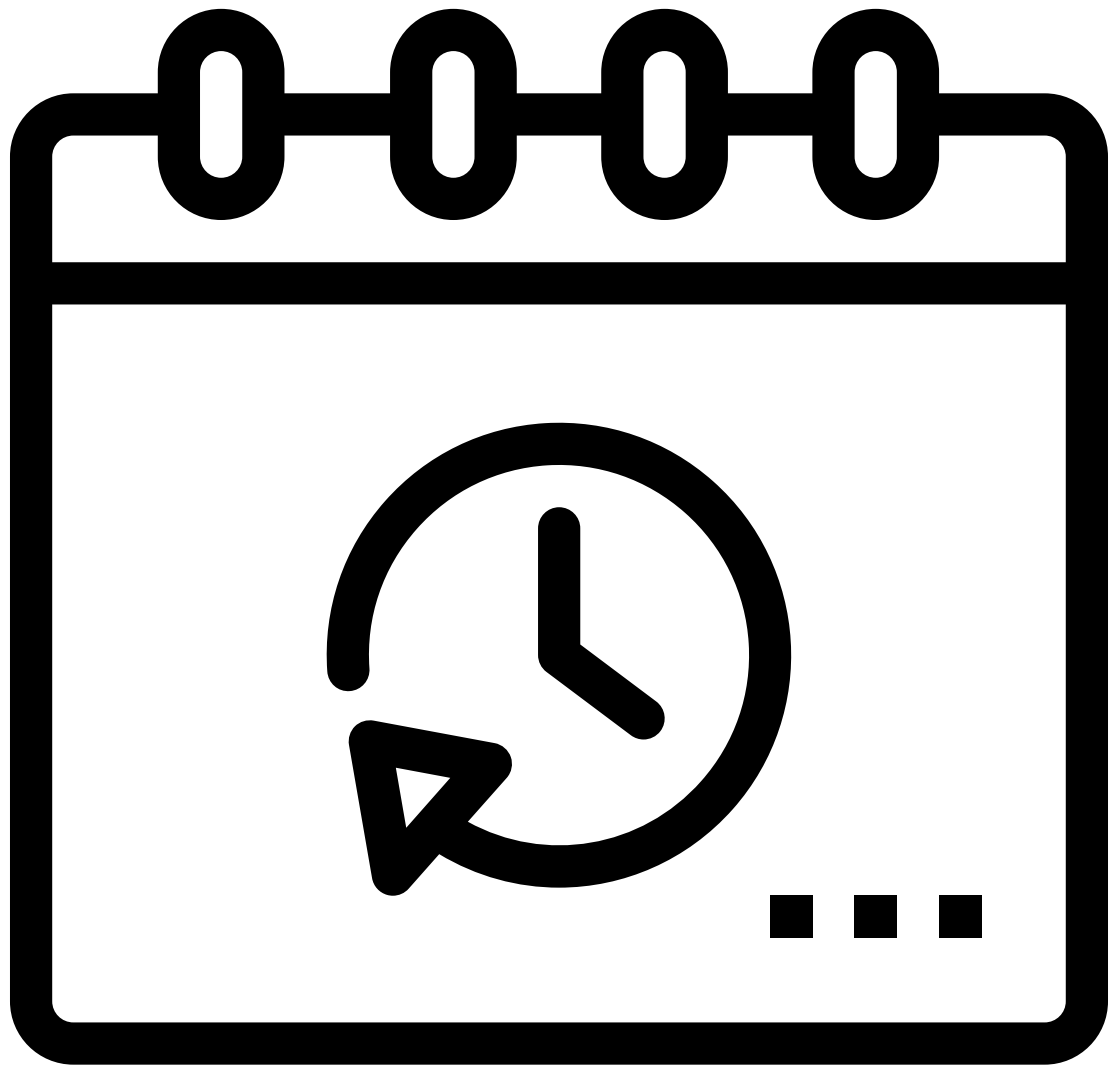


One of our aims for 2026 is to continue to recruit from diverse backgrounds so that we can accurately represent the community of Bedfordshire. We also aim to recruit those with lived experience, as well as subject matter experts for our panel.



Throughout February/March we will be attempting to widen our scope of panel members by contacting key specialist departments involved in custody detention such as Healthcare Professionals, the Appropriate Adult Service.

Date of Next Meeting



ICDSP Meeting - Monday 16th March 2026

SCAN ME



**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
CUSTODY**



MORE INFO

<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/independent-custody-detention-scrutiny-panel/>

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