



# Bedfordshire Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel

March 2026  
Quarterly Bulletin



# This Quarters Custody Data

 Luton

 Kempston

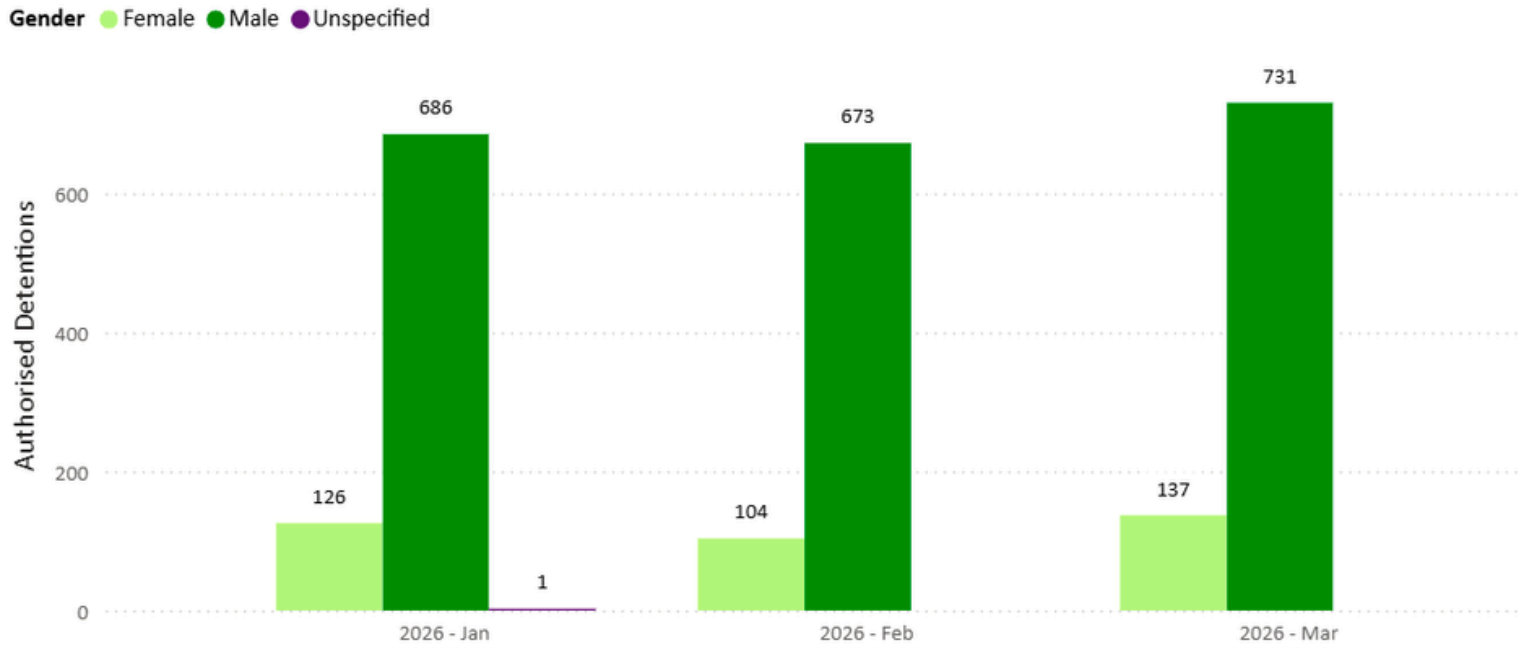


The chart above illustrates the total number of detainees held at Luton and Kempston custody suites during January, February and March 2026. Across this three-month period, Bedfordshire Police Custody recorded 2456 detainees in total. A breakdown by month is provided below.

Month	Luton	Kempston	Total
January	461	352	813
February	425	352	777
March	459	407	866



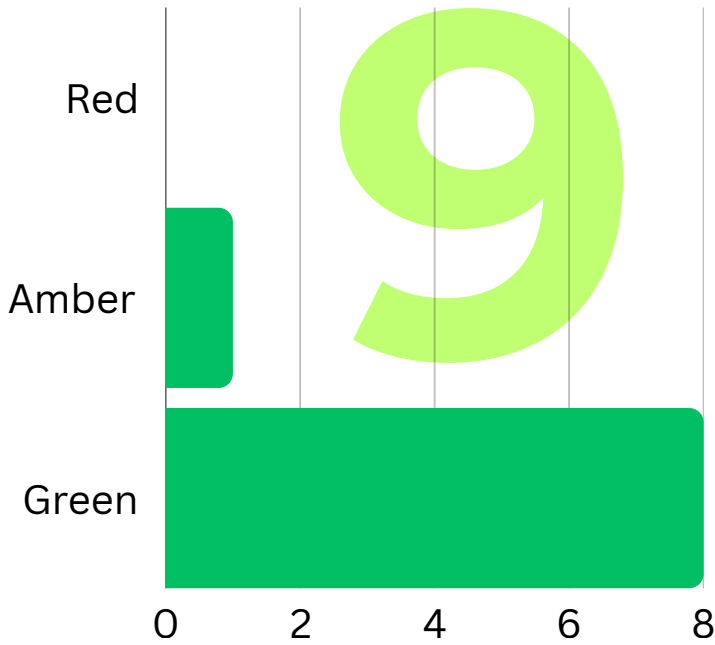
# Custody Data



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

Self Defined Ethnicity	Custody Records	% Total	Unique Detainees	% Total
Asian	607	18.19%	572	19.70%
Black	391	11.72%	349	12.02%
Mixed	142	4.26%	134	4.61%
Not Stated	231	6.92%	220	7.58%
Other	52	1.56%	52	1.79%
White	1914	57.36%	1658	57.09%

# ICDSP Record Review Data

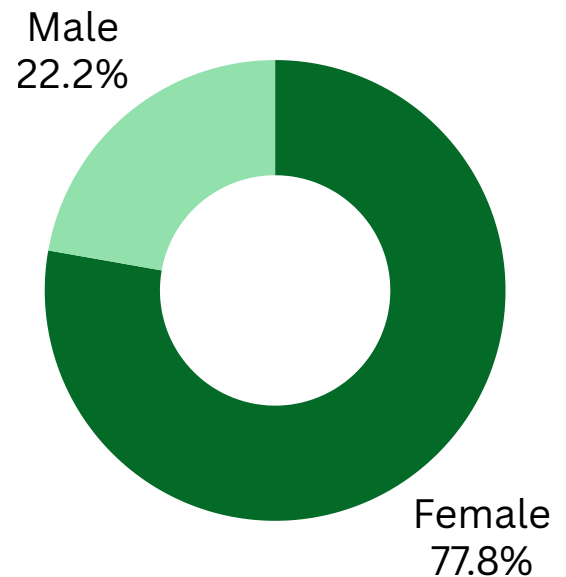
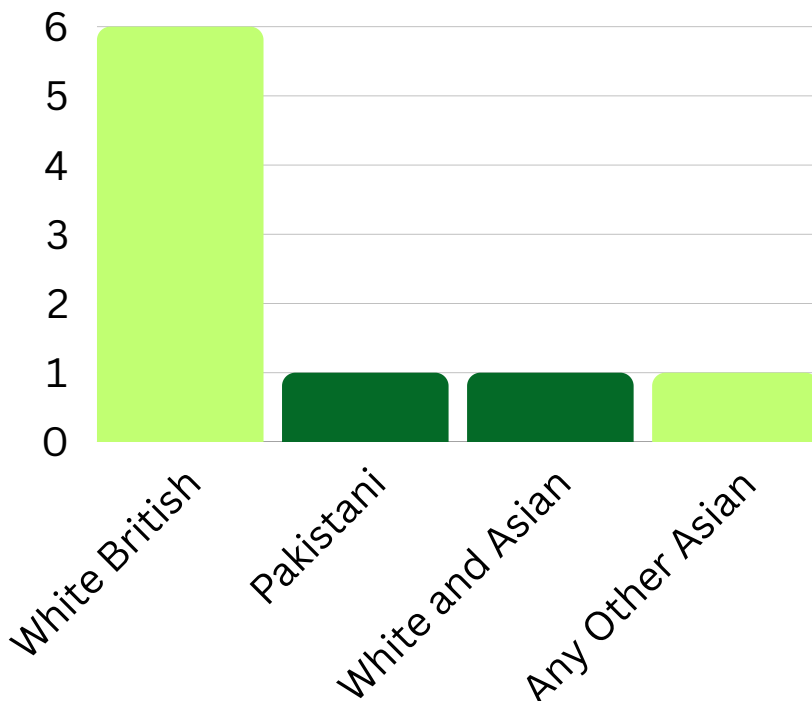


**Custody Records were viewed this quarter**

8 records were graded green, 1 record was graded amber and none were graded red

**The focus for the meeting in March was on juveniles held overnight in custody as well as females on Level 4 observations/cell watch. This included checking if a female officer was observing cell watches for female detainees**

● Male ● Female



# Feedback on Custody Records

The female was very well cared for in custody. Female officer was allocated.

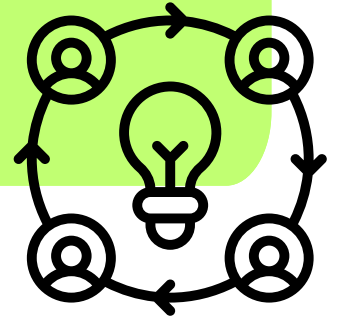
Couldn't tell if officers were female on cell watch from reviewing the custody record of a female detainee. The Inspector advised that reminders were sent out to custody staff recently in relation to ensuring a female officer is allocated to a female cell watch.

Lots of detail and good care coordinating medical needs. LADS and HCP contacted quickly. Record keeping good.

Observation levels were adjusted during the period of detention which is a positive finding. There is no documentation recorded of referrals to external support services, such as LADS, although alcohol use was documented within the record. The time of release was not clearly recorded.

First time in custody. Good level of care given. The date and time of rights could not be found until at the end of the record included within the Inspector review.

# Collaborative Working with Subject Matter Experts



At the March 2026 meeting, the panel invited a number of subject matter experts to provide an overview of their roles within the Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (ICDSP) framework. Representatives from the Liaison and Diversion Service, the Samaritans, and the Healthcare Professional Contract Manager attended to introduce their services and outline how they support individuals in custody.

These stakeholders delivered presentations explaining their respective responsibilities and areas of expertise. This engagement provided panel members with increased insight into available support pathways, particularly for detainees with health, wellbeing, and vulnerability needs.

Following this session, Panel Chairs agreed that relevant custody stakeholders should be invited to future meetings where specific thematic areas are being examined.

As of March 2026, the panel has also welcomed a Samaritans representative as a formal panel member and point of contact. This addition enhances the panel's focus on mental health and emotional wellbeing, supporting a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of detainees requiring additional care and support.

# ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Inspector will see if the risk assessments for custody records can be amended to include asking if detainee would like to speak to Samaritans.

The Inspector cannot amend the risk assessment however has put this out in comms to the Custody Teams.

The Inspector will review and check if offering of menstrual packs can be added to the crib sheet for officers.

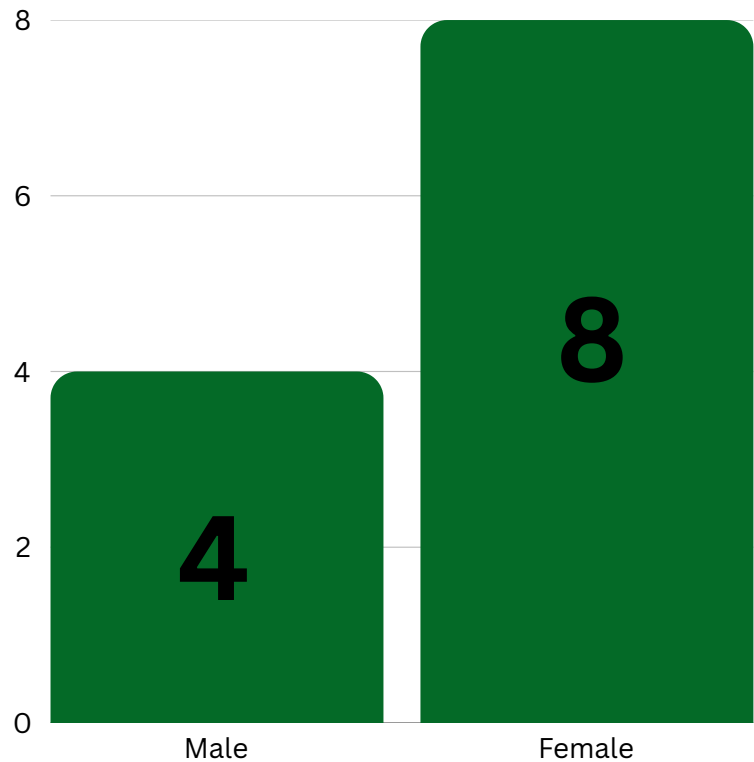
Once the detainee states that they are female, in the self-assessment this opens up another question set specifically for females and this is offered.

The Inspector to review around recording of food and beverage. This has been an ongoing issue for several years.

This has been sent out on weekly messaging, it was only on the walk around and the Inspector reviews that it's been noted, and the Inspector reiterated that if it's not written down it didn't happen.

# Recruitment

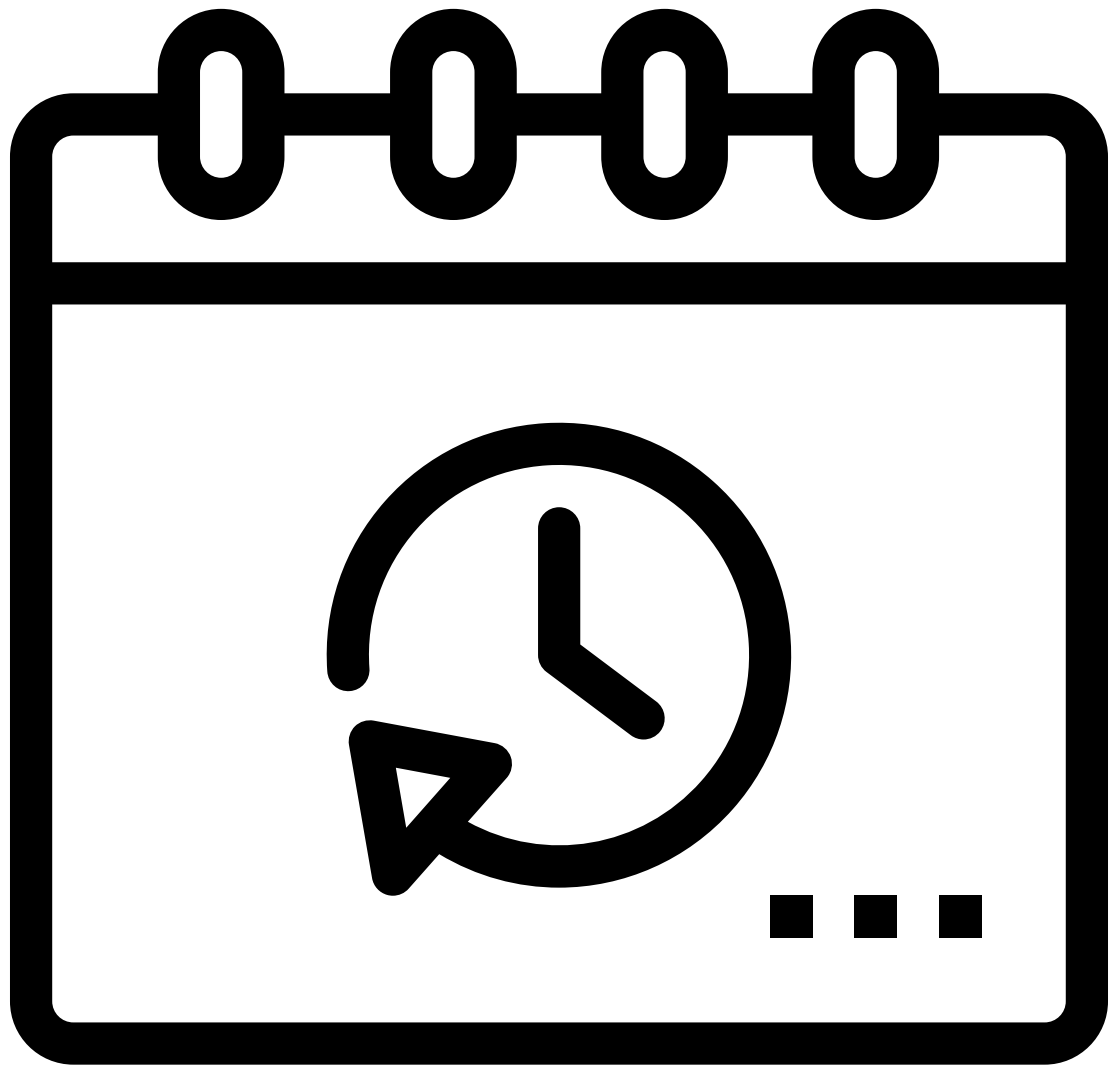
**12**  
volunteers



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.



# Date of Next Meeting



ICDSP Meeting - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026

SCAN ME



**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE  
CUSTODY**



**MORE INFO**

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

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