

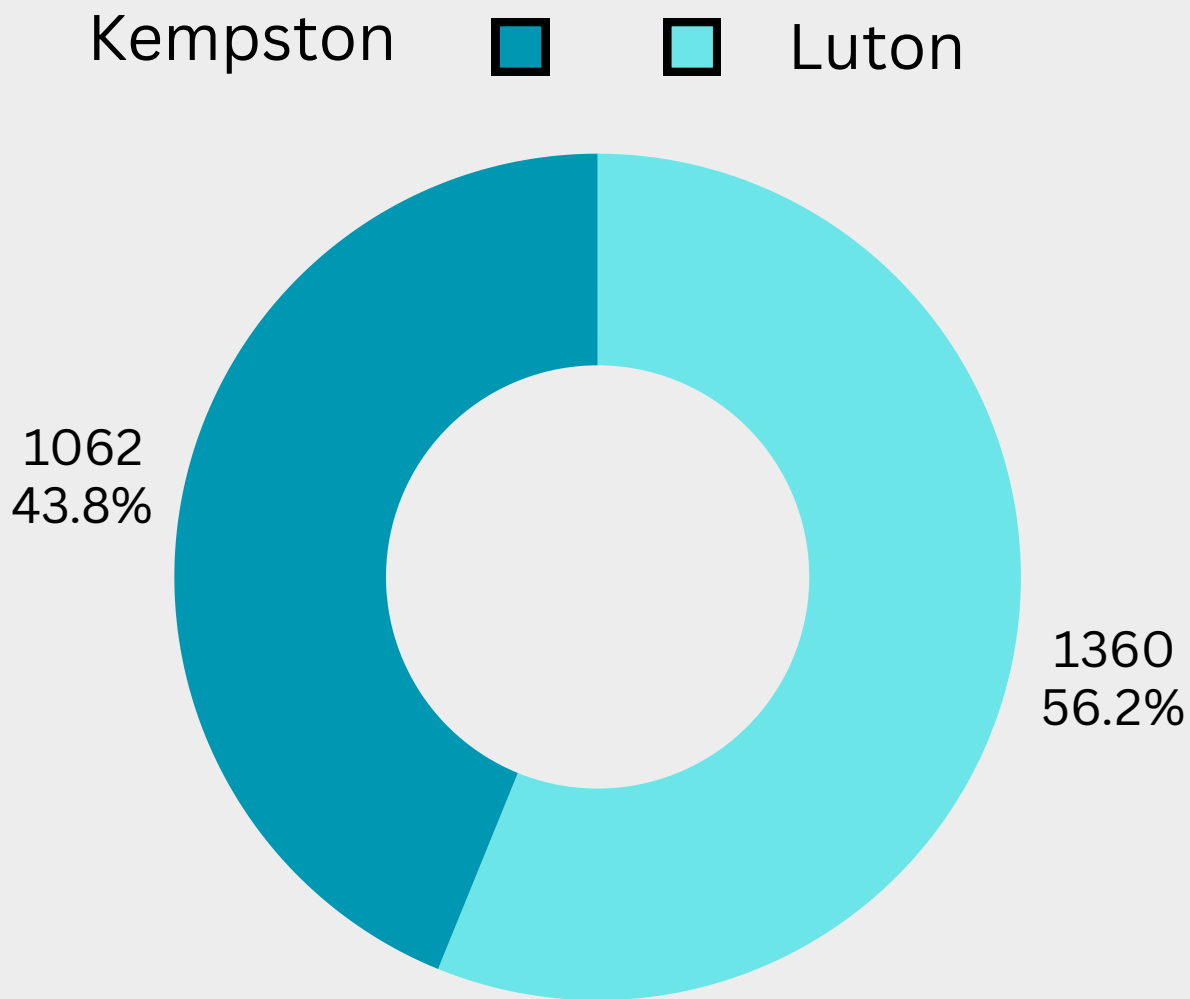


# Bedfordshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

December 2024 Bulletin



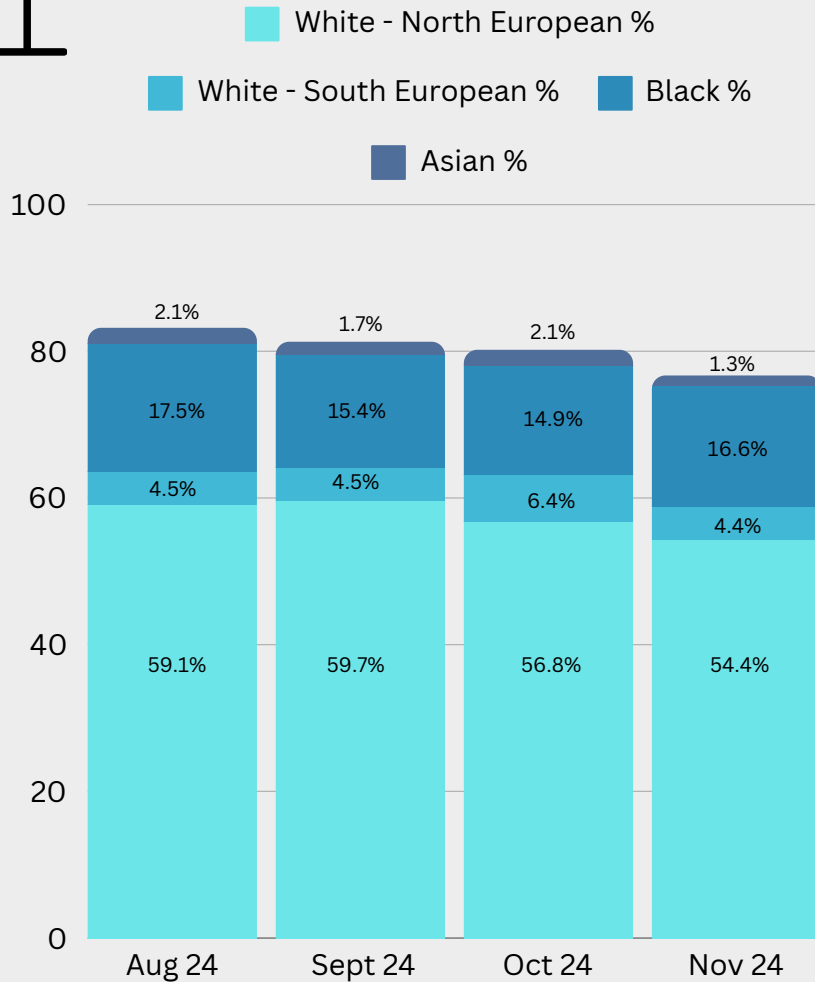
# This Quarters Custody Data



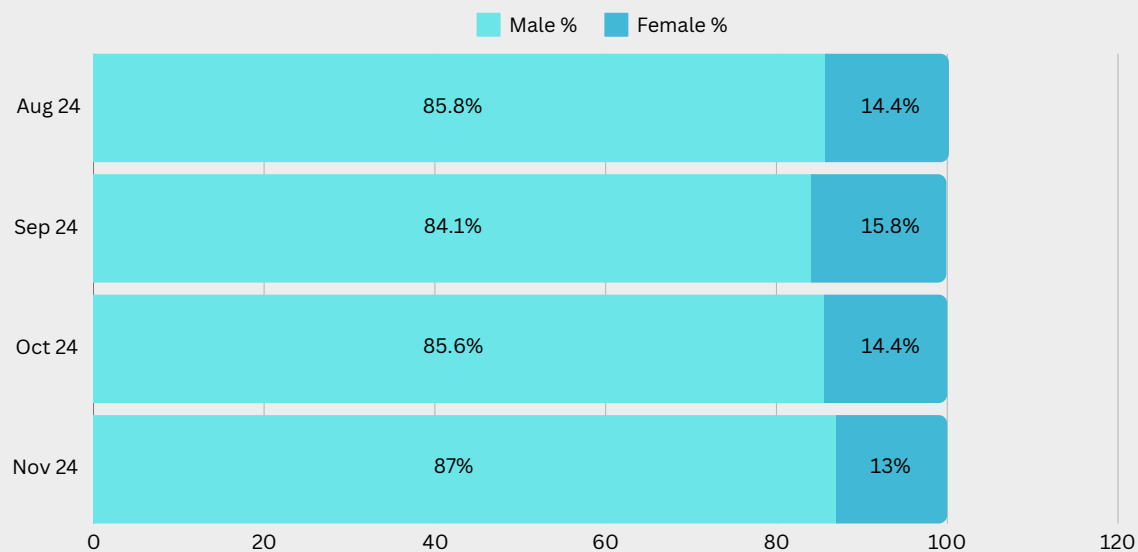
The chart above shows the number of detainees collectively within Luton and Kempston custody suites in October, November and December 2024. There was a total of 2,422 detainees held in Bedfordshire Police custody over this quarter. A total of 817 detainees in both Kempston and Luton within October; with 745 detainees being detained for the first time and 72 detainees' subsequent period of detention. In November the total raised to 767 detainees with 708 first time detainees and 59 subsequent detainees. Lastly, December had increased to 838 detainees, 760 first time detainees and 78 subsequent detainees.



# Custody Data for this Quarter



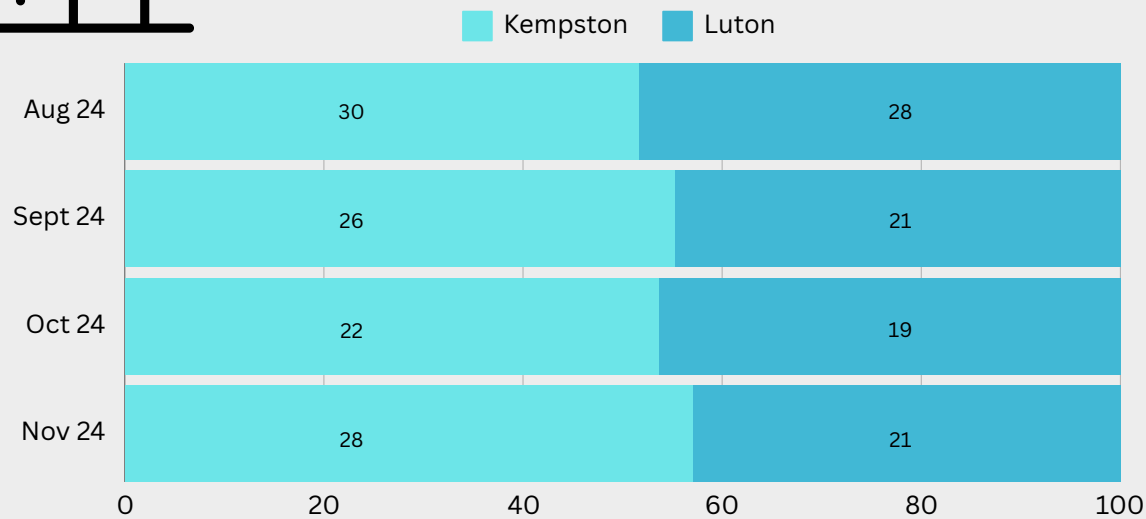
Graph showing custody detentions by officer defined ethnicity



Graph showing detainees according to gender



# Custody Data for this Quarter



This graph shows the number of juveniles detained in custody.

The number of juveniles strip searches:

Strip Searches in August:

- 1 Asian male - 16 years old
- 1 Black male - 16 years old

Strip searches in September:

- 2 Black males - both 16 years old
- 1 unknown male - 16 years old
- 1 White/North European - 17 years old

Strip Searches in October:

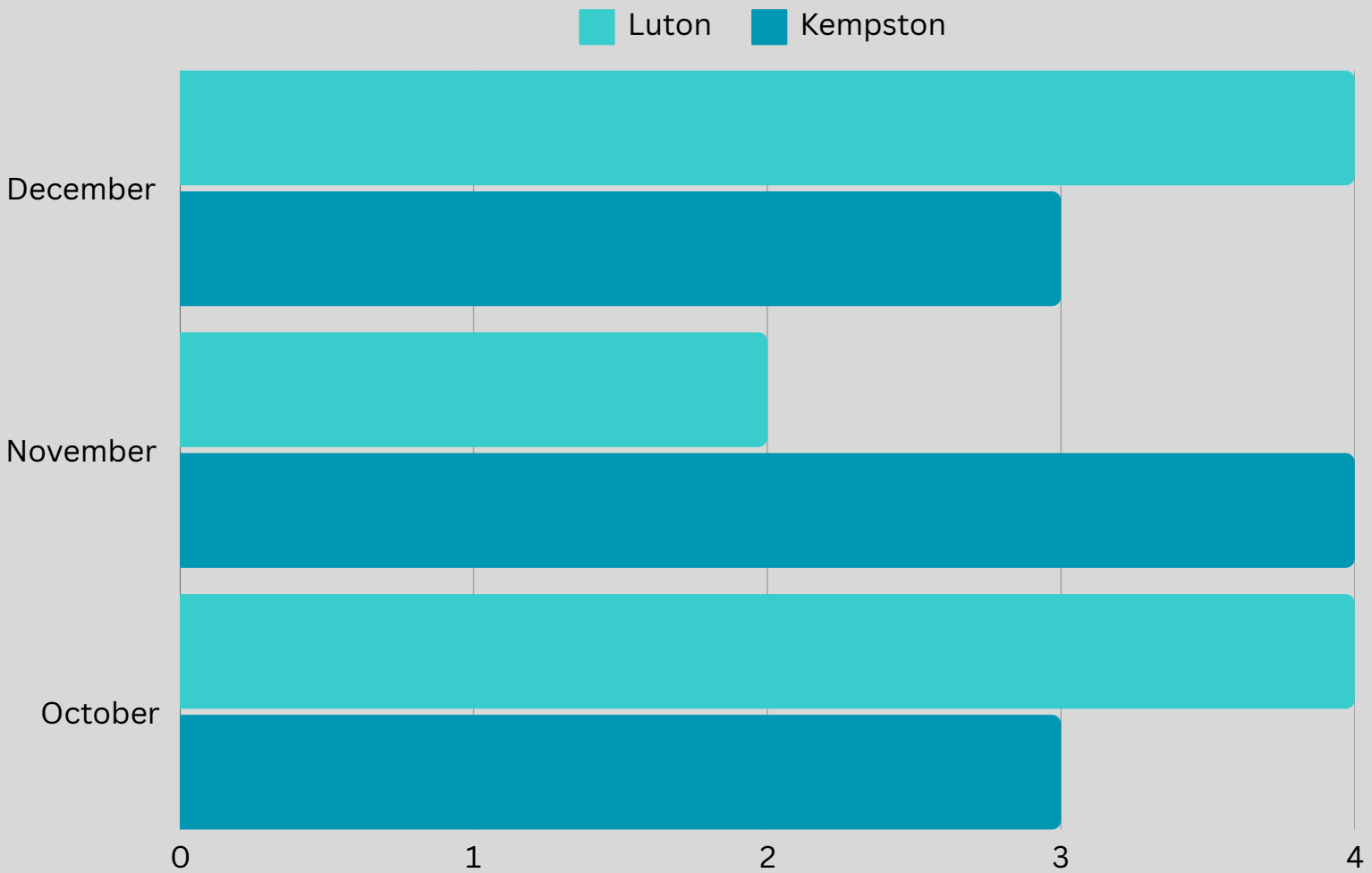
- 1 Asian male - 14 years old
- 1 Black male - 16 years old

Strip Search in November:

- 1 Black male - 15 years old

# 21

## ICV visits to Bedfordshire Police Custody Suites



Detainees  
visited by  
ICVs in  
Bedfordshire

# 140

# Issues Raised from ICVs

The correct custody pre-information forms were not provided.

Within Kempston custody suite, we noticed the CCTV was not working in discreet charge room.

There was out of date cereal packs, these have now been thrown away after making the sergeant aware. We also noticed a low food stock.

ICVs brought to attention the lack of parking in front of the custody suite.

Within the exercise yard, we noticed the paint has been damaged on the wall and remedial work is still awaited.

We noticed the yellow exercise yard door is sticking, we thought estates should be informed.

The religious material was not stored correctly.

All these issues have been discussed with the custody inspectors and have now either been resolved or in the process of resolving.

# Issues and Feedback

The correct custody pre-information forms were not provided.

Comms have been sent round to all DO's to remind them of which form ICVs need. In addition the correct form are now placed alongside the iPads.

The CCTV in the discreet room is now working and has been checked.

Within Kempston custody suite, we noticed the CCTV was not working in discreet charge room.

ICVs found out of date cereal packs, and noticed a low food stock.

After making the sergeant aware, these have been thrown away and new stock has been delivered.

The Inspector and Ch. Inspector are aware, and will be contacting estates to find a resolution.

Within the exercise yard, we noticed the paint has been damaged on the wall and the door is sticking.

# Custody Update



The custody unit at Luton Police Station is currently closed for 14 weeks as part of a major refurbishment, which will include new CCTV, a new cell call system, upgraded panic alarm notification setting and a dedicated search room.

Currently all detainees are taken to our HQ Custody in Kempston where there is a total of 22 cells.

An arrangement has also been put in place with Hatfield Custody, who have allocated 10 cells which will be staffed by Bedfordshire custody staff; one sergeant and two detention officers per shift.

This work is exciting and long overdue.

For the next quarter, ICVs can only conduct visits in the Kempston custody suite. This means ICVs are only able to conduct one visit per week.

# Online Reporting

We have rolled out the use of of electronic reporting via the use of iPads. During September 2024 we introduced the iPads to our ICVs, implemented training sessions and conducted test runs to ensure all was working. The ICVs went live with the iPads in October 2024, and our ICVs have used the iPads for every visit since.

The end of visit report forms are completed via Microsoft Forms on the iPads and submitted directly to the OPCC.

So far we have received mixed feedback from our ICVs.

The use of the iPads have been more practical and more of an efficient process

for ICVs, the OPCC and custody staff. However, we have found difficulty using the iPad whilst going around custody.

Our ICVs have found the best way to overcome this is to complete the form at the end of the visit instead.





# Freshers Fair 2024

The OPCC recently attended the Bedfordshire University Fayre in September 2024. It was a great opportunity for the team to be able to reach out to the younger demographic and those from diverse backgrounds to have discussions around how they can hold the police force to account through joining the panel. As a result, we gathered a lot of interest and awareness and received several applications.

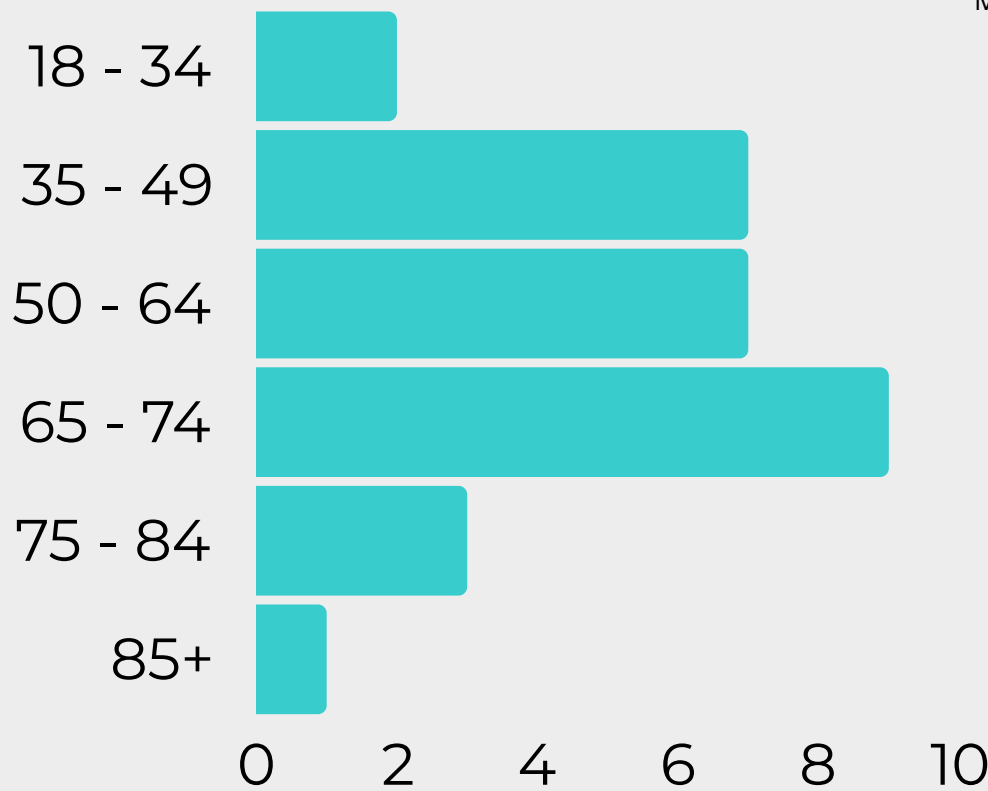
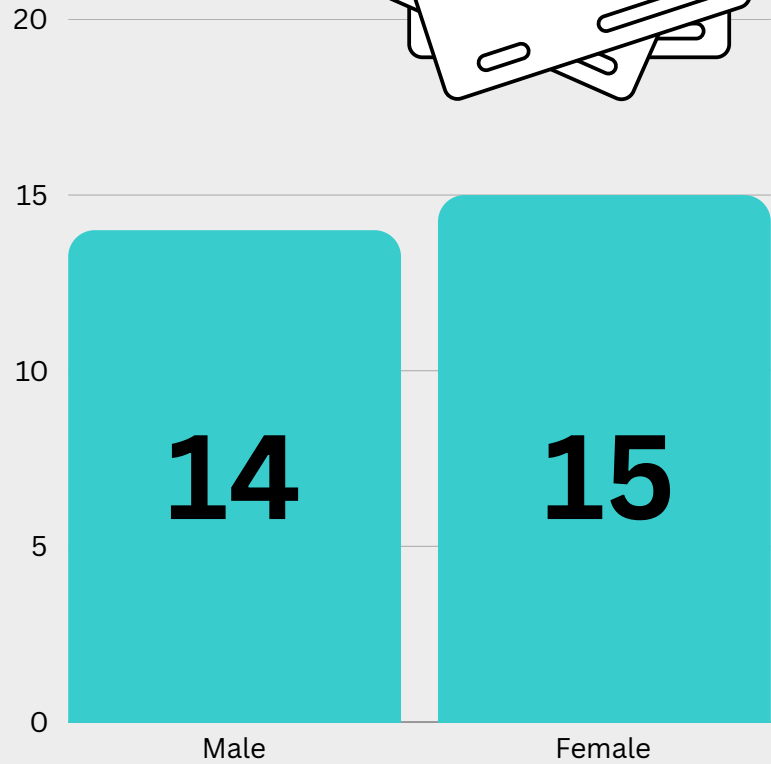
It was lovely to also have members from both our Stop and Search and Independent Custody Visiting Scheme to come down to help promote our panels. This provided young people with a perspective from a volunteer and a chance to ask any questions they have. So, big thank you to Simon Cacioppo, Gosia Poczatek, Stephen O'Connor and Nick Ward.



# Recruitment



**29**  
volunteers



One of our aims is to continue to recruit from diverse backgrounds so that we can accurately represent the community of Bedfordshire.

Over the past year, we have been operating a rolling waiting list due to being at full capacity. We have decided to open up for recruitment again at the beginning of the next quarter.



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

SCAN ME



## Bedfordshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme



Can you spare some time for your local community?

### WHO ARE WE?

- We are members of the local community who visit police custody suites unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed.

### WHO CAN BE A VISITOR?

- Subject to certain exceptions anyone can apply to be an ICV. Visitors must be more than 18 years old, have been a resident in the UK for at least three years prior to the date of application and currently reside, work or study in Bedfordshire.

Interested in joining us or would you like to find out more information?

**Contact us:**  
[PCC@beds.police.uk](mailto:PCC@beds.police.uk)

