



16 February 2022

Dear HMICFRS

I acknowledge that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) team published, for consultation 'Expectations for police custody: for consultation' on the 23rd December 2021.

I understand that HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and HM Inspectorate of Prisons are reviewing and updating their Expectations for police custody, as they were last updated in 2018.

I understand you are consulting across the sector to obtain the views of your stakeholders on the refreshed Expectations and to inform any further amendments or changes that might be needed.

I recognise that the proposed Expectations also reflect concerns raised by those with an interest in police custody, or where recommendations have been made to improve standards and the focus is achieving better outcomes for detainees.

The main changes reflect:

- Dame Angiolini's independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody – in particular, recommendations about the care of detainees under the influence of alcohol, drugs and/or substances;
- concerns raised by the Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) about the needs of menstruating women and girls in police custody (which led to changes to the PACE code C); and
- revisions to reflect changes in professional health care requirements and practices.

Custody is a critical area of work where it is vital that legislation, quality of service and dignity (care) matters are fully adhered to and therefore we would support the current expectations and the addition of the new main changes.

Yours Sincerely

Festus Akinbusoye – Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

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