



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Freedom of Information Request Reference No:

I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Who is in charge of custody at Metropolitan Police?
2. Please can you provide documentation related to the rational and business case for Metropolitan Police's designated and non-designated police custody suites?
3. Do you have detention cells in your police station(s) or do you have a purpose built custody suite(s)?
4. If you have a purpose built custody suite(s):
 - a. what is it called?
 - b. how many cells or detention rooms do you currently have in each?
 - c. how was its building financed?
 - d. do the finance arrangements regarding the custody suite mean that it is privately owned or police owned?
 - e. Please provide details of who works in your custody suite(s) e.g. police custody officer, private detention officer, civilian employed by the police.
Please provide the total number of each (full time equivalent please).
5. If you do not have a purpose built custody suite(s), do you have any under construction or are there any future plans to build one and if so how will this be financed?
6. Have you closed any custody suites or police station cells within the last 5 years? If so please can you provide a list of these and any planned closures?

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1 - Who is in charge of custody at Metropolitan Police?

Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden

Question 2 - Please can you provide documentation related to the rational and business case for Metropolitan Police's designated and non-designated police custody suites?

Every police station in the MPS with a custody suite that is equipped and maintained in accordance with MPS police station design specifications for use in detaining arrested

persons is designated. Whilst it is not unlawful for an arrested person to be taken to, and dealt with at a MPS police station that is not designated, such police stations do not have custody suites that meet the minimum standards. The expectation of the MPS is that arrested persons are taken to an operational custody suite.

Question 3 - Do you have detention cells in your police station(s) or do you have a purpose built custody suite(s)?

We have dedicated custody suites (and some super-suites) in police stations, but these were purpose built as custody suites.

Question 4 - If you have a purpose built custody suite(s):

a. What is it called?

The custody suites are named after the location of the police station, for example 'Charing Cross' or 'Wood Green'.

b. How many cells or detention rooms do you currently have in each?

There are 27 24/7 custody suites with a total of 683 cells, the number of cells in each suite varies by demand.

c. How was its building financed?

The Lewisham, Bromley and Sutton Custody suites were delivered under a 25 year PFI contract (2001) based on a design, build, fund and operate model. All other custody suites, regardless of whether they are provided in freehold or leasehold buildings, are funded through MOPAC's own capital programme.

d. Do the finance arrangements regarding the custody suite mean that it is privately owned or police owned?

The PFI buildings are privately owned by the PFI provider, all other custody suites are owned by MOPAC regardless of whether they are provided in freehold or leasehold buildings.

e. Please provide details of who works in your custody suite(s) e.g. police custody officer, private detention officer, civilian employed by the police. Please provide the total number of each (full time equivalent please).

Designated detention officers maintain the welfare of the detainees, custody sergeants who overview the whole suites and designated detention officers, all of whom are supervised by custody managers. The total number varies by suite, there are usually 4 custody managers, 12 sergeants, and 24 designated detention officers.

Question 5 - If you do not have a purpose built custody suite(s), do you have any under construction or are there any future plans to build one, and if so how will this be financed?

There are no future suites currently planned.

Question 6 – Have you closed any custody suites or police station cells within the last 5 years? If so please can you provide a list of these and any planned closures?

Number of suites closed in the past 5 years:

- 2012 - 6
- 2013 - 13
- 2014 - 3
- 2015 - 8
- 2016 - 11
- 2017 - 2

However a number of these closures have been replaced with new build custody centres or extensions to existing refurbished custody suites - Brixton Police Station refurbished and extended to 40 cells replacing existing capacity at Kennington, Brixton and Streatham (29 cells in total); Wood Green Custody Centre (40 cells) replacing Hornsey and Tottenham Police Stations custody suites (20 cells in total); Croydon Borough Custody Centre (40 cells) replacing Croydon Police Station and South Norwood Police Station custody suites (24 cells), and Wandsworth Borough Custody Centre (30 cells) replacing the previous custody suites at Wandsworth and Battersea (21 cells).

1 more (Southall) is planned for closure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Information Rights Unit