

Custody Call Summary

(last updated 7 April 2022)

I. Introduction

Important reminders:

- **Do NOT give any of your own or any of the arrested rebels' details to the Police** - they may not have them, and may be using the call to gather details.
- **Ensure you note the firm of solicitors the rebel intends to use**
- Link to ArrestWatch report form: <https://arrestwatch.info/>

Before the rebel has a chance to speak, say:

"Just to remind you, this phone call is being recorded - so please don't say anything that could incriminate yourself or others. Have you given any details to the police already?"

If they say they have given their name:

"Do you want to tell me your name and/or nickname?" (if so, add it to the ArrestWatch report form)

II. Completion of ArrestWatch Specifics

Then complete the rest of the ArrestWatch report form: the following points are in the same order as they appear on the form:

1. Name of **police station**
Omit [How many arrests are you reporting?]: always '1' for a custody call
2. **Date and time** of arrest
3. **Location** of arrest (with town/city)
Omit [Is this part of an HS2 action?] unless it's not obvious from the location
Omit [E-mail address]: we can get this from the post-release form
4. Arrestee's **name and nickname** (if not already recorded)
5. **ID** of arresting officer
6. Any **particular concerns** (if so, tick the appropriate box and enter the details in the 'Other observations' field that appears):
 - o Whether **handcuffs** were used during the arrest
 - o **Mental distress**
 - o **Physical distress**
 - o Whether they are a **minor** (under 18)
 - o Concerns about **Police behaviour**
 - o Concerns about **Police prejudice**, and if so, on what grounds
 - o Do they need any **medication**?
7. In the free field at the bottom of the form, please record any of the following information, or any other useful information:
 - o Whether they are a **vulnerable adult** [the arrestee will be entitled to support by an Appropriate Adult (see below)]
 - o **Which solicitor they intend to use** If they don't know which one to call, give them one from the bustcard or recommend HJA for London actions or Kelly's for any other action. The Police will know their phone numbers
 - o The **offence** for which they were arrested

III. Reminders for the arrestee

It's useful to remind arrestees of the following information:

- a. **No comment:** You don't have to answer any police questions and can answer them with 'No Comment', including in an interview.
- b. **No duty solicitor:** We recommend you do not take the Duty Solicitor at the police station. You have the right to FREE legal advice from a lawyer experienced in protest law. All legal advice at the police station is free, though the police may say otherwise.
- c. **No caution:** The Police may advise you to accept a caution. We recommend that you don't accept a caution without speaking to a lawyer with protest law experience.
- d. **What power?** If the police ask you to do something, you can ask 'under what power' and then try to take a note of what they say.
- e. You have the right to a copy of the PACE Codes, a guide about your rights in custody.
- f. You also have the right to a translator, blankets, tea or coffee, food that meets your dietary requirements and a doctor.
- g. You can challenge Police bail conditions that may be attached to your release. Ask to consult a protest lawyer - this may in itself result in conditions being removed.
- h. Remember that Coronavirus is more likely to spread in inside environments without adequate ventilation and that the Police may be unable rigorously to sanitize cells in between prisoners. Ask for hand sanitizer, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing as much as possible.

IV. Contacting Friends and Family

Ask if the arrestee wants you to contact anyone on their behalf, take down their phone numbers, and ensure that you call them or let the BOC know you're unable to make contact. This is particularly important in the case of a minor or a vulnerable adult.

V. Concluding Remarks

1. If you recommended a solicitor's firm, remind them of the name.
2. Ask how they've been treated in custody and/or during their arrest.
3. Remind them that station support should be organised, and that they should look out for it when they are released, especially if the station has more than one exit.
4. If no station supporters are there, they can ring Back Office for support.
5. Thank them for their involvement with the action. Don't ask questions about it: that could result in information being revealed to the Police.