

SUBMISSION

TO	All Party Parliamentary Group for Children
FROM	The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)
REGARDING	Children and the police

Summary

This submission is based on evidence identified during the course of our work, and focuses on the following issues:

- Young people’s confidence in the police and police complaints system;
- Police road traffic incidents;
- Missing persons;
- Safeguarding children;
- Attendance at care homes;
- Stop and search;
- Mental health;
- Use of force;
- Strip search;
- Appropriate adults;
- Criminal and disciplinary process for police officers and police staff;
- Retention of DNA;
- Intimidation;
- Legal obligations and leadership.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

1. The IPCC was established by the Police Reform Act 2002 (PRA) and became operational in April 2004. Its primary statutory function is to secure and maintain public confidence in the police complaints system in England and Wales. It acts as an appeal body for some locally handled complaints and issues statutory guidance on complaints handling to police forces. It undertakes independent investigations into the most serious cases; and has the power to manage or supervise police investigations. It has a statutory obligation to measure, monitor and where necessary, seek to improve the current complaints system. The IPCC

is independent and makes its decisions independently of the police, government and interest groups.

2. The IPCC was created following both public and political concerns about the lack of an independent system to deal with complaints and conduct matters within the police service. Since 2004, the organisation's remit has been extended to include serious complaints and conduct matters relating to staff at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (and soon the National Crime Agency), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency.
3. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 extended the IPCC's remit further. Since January 2012, the IPCC has been responsible for deciding whether any criminal allegations relating to the occupant of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) or his Deputy should be investigated. Since November 2012, the IPCC has had a similar remit over all Police and Crime Commissioners and their deputies.
4. The IPCC is run by a Chair, two Deputy Chairs, eight operational Commissioners and two non-executive Commissioners. Together they make up the Commission. Commissioners (other than the two non-executive Commissioners and the Chair) have an operational role and all Commissioners have responsibility for governance of the organisation. Commissioners are appointed by the Home Secretary and by law they must never have served as a police officer. The Commission is supported by a Chief Executive, a small management team and a staff of about 400. In 2011/12, the IPCC received an annual budget of £34.3m.

The IPCC's role in relation to young people and the police

5. As well as having investigative powers and an appellate function, the IPCC also has a responsibility for oversight of the police complaints system in England and Wales as a whole. Through its work, the IPCC has been able to identify particular areas of interaction between young people and the police and has also identified specific themes which have the potential to impact on confidence in the police amongst young people.
6. The IPCC's learning in this area comes predominantly from its investigations and appeals, but also from particular areas of research which the organisation has carried out. The submission details the IPCC's learning in this area and also provides a number of case studies which it is hoped will be of interest to the APPG.
7. The IPCC recognises the importance of ensuring that young people have confidence in the police; however it is equally important that they have

confidence in the police complaints system so that they feel able to complain where they feel they have been unfairly treated.

8. The IPCC has undertaken work with young people to improve their awareness and understanding of the police complaints system. IPCC Commissioners and staff have worked with schools and colleges, engaged with youth groups, participated in Takeover Day and made contacts with organisations representing young people; however the Commission recognises that more work in this area is required. In recent years the IPCC has also become a member of the National Participation Forum (NPF), a group made up of organisations and individuals committed to the participation of children and young people, to help develop its work in this area.
9. From involvement in a number of cases, the IPCC has concerns about how policy and guidance in place at a local and national level, on issues such as use of force, restraint, and risk assessment, often fails to give specific consideration as to how it should be applied to young people. The Commission believes that it is important to recognise that young people will respond differently to police, and be affected differently by officers' actions as a result of their age, maturity and life experience. As a result more work needs to be done to take account of these differences, and to better prepare officers with the skills and expertise needed to deal effectively with young people.
10. It is important that forces and the College of Policing consult with young people and groups representing their interests when they develop policy at local level, and also nationally on the development of Authorised Professional Practice, to ensure that practice in relation to young people is given adequate consideration. Forces and the College of Policing also need to ensure that this work takes account of any learning coming from the complaints system and other feedback provided by young people.

Young people's confidence in the police and police complaints system

11. In order to measure trends concerning public confidence in the complaints system, the IPCC conducts regular public confidence surveys. Representative samples of the general population are surveyed to find out about previous contact with the police, willingness to complain, barriers to complaining and awareness of the IPCC. The survey asks for age data from respondents. In the last survey results, which were published in June 2011, 579 respondents fell into the 16-24 age category. It is not possible to break these numbers down further in relation to ethnicity, gender or location. Key findings from the latest survey are shown below:

	16-24	Whole population
Total number of respondents	579	3710
Contact with the police		
had contact with the police in the last 12 months	20% (114)	20% (745)
happy with contact	66% (75)	76% (562)
Willingness to complain		
would not complain if they were unhappy about how a police officer behaved towards them or handled a matter in which they were involved	25% (143)	17% (617)
Awareness of the complaints system		
knew how to make a complaint	53% (310)	62% (2285)
did not know how to complain	45% (261)	38% (1399)
Barriers to complaining		
were worried that if they made a complaint it would take up too much time	33% (189)	27% (986)
felt that nothing would be done if they made a complaint	56% (325)	41% (1504)
felt that if they complained they would not be taken seriously	49% (282)	36% (1324)
were worried that they would be harassed by the police or face other consequences if they made a complaint	26% (153)	20% (759)
Ways of making a complaint		
would contact the police force concerned to complain	37% (213)	48% (1790)
would contact a Citizens Advice Bureau or law centre	19% (112)	19% (712)
would contact the IPCC directly	12% (69)	12% (443)
would contact a solicitor	13% (74)	10% (353)
would contact a local council	9% (55)	4% (148)
would talk to friends/family	2% (11)	1% (48)
would talk to a race equality council or local community organisation	1% (6)	1% (26)
would use the internet to find the appropriate place	1% (4)	1% (23)

12. The confidence survey shows that levels of happiness with police contact for the population overall are lower for people from ethnic minorities (especially in the Black community, who are the least content with their contact). Also, just 50% of ethnic minorities were prepared to make a complaint compared to 61% in the white community.

13. The IPCC is responsible for the publication of annual statistics relating to complaints against the police in England and Wales. In 2011/12, a total of 342 people aged 17 and below made complaints against the police, making up approximately 1% of the total number of complainants (30,624) during this period. The age of approximately 26% of complainants was unknown. The IPCC

considers the number of complaints from people aged 17 and below to be very low and unlikely to be reflective of the actual levels of dissatisfaction amongst young people, given that one in five of those surveyed in the public confidence survey had had contact with the police, and of those only two-thirds were happy with that contact . The 2012/13 Complaint Statistics are not yet available. A copy will be sent to the APPG once they are published.

14. To date, the IPCC has not consulted young people specifically about their use of the complaints system; however anecdotal evidence received through general engagement with young people suggests that many find the complaints procedure daunting and inaccessible. Many young people state that they have little or no confidence that their complaints will be heard or treated effectively by the police, and that they fear harassment if they do complain. More work needs to be done to make the complaints process physically and practically accessible to young people including better use of websites, social media and community advocates. This is particularly important for vulnerable young people including those with special needs or mental health issues.

Key themes arising from the IPCC's work

Police road traffic incidents

15. Road traffic fatalities involving police vehicles account for the largest number of deaths of young people during or following police contact. The table below shows the number of fatalities since the IPCC became operational in 2004. These figures include deaths of motorists, cyclists or pedestrians arising from police pursuits, and from police vehicles responding to emergency calls and other police traffic-related activity.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
17 and under	5	6	7	1	7	5	3	3	4	41
18 to 20	9	10	5	7	4	4	7	4	2	52
21 to 24	8	3	9	0	6	1	3	3	4	37
Total 24 and under	22	19	21	8	17	10	13	10	10	130
25 and over	22	29	15	16	23	19	13	9	20	166
Total fatalities	44	48	36	24	40	29	26	19	30	296

16. In 2007 the IPCC published research into cases involving serious and fatal injuries occurring between April 2004 and September 2006, which resulted from police related traffic incidents. Pursuits accounted for the largest proportion of fatal and serious road traffic incidents involving the police, and the majority of pursued drivers were young people, with 52% aged 17-24 years old and 14% under 16 years of age. The pursuits invariably involved young male drivers who were inexperienced and may have been disqualified from driving or driving on a

provisional licence. The report highlighted the importance of officers properly assessing the risk before deciding to carry out a pursuit, and also suggested that further preventative work could be done with young people through education programmes in conjunction with local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

17. The same research referred to above identified shortcomings in police practice in police pursuits more generally. As a result the IPCC worked closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and road safety groups to improve national policy in this area. In May 2011, and after the IPCC had done considerable work to pursue this matter, the Code of Practice on the Management of Police Pursuits was presented to Parliament, requiring pursuits to be conducted to exacting standards set by ACPO, ensuring maximum safety for members of the public and police officers.

Missing persons

18. In recent years the IPCC has dealt with a number of cases where there have been failures in the way that missing persons reports involving young people have been handled. Experience has shown that a failure to properly assess the risk or to properly supervise the investigation are two significant issues where officers may benefit from further training. Sharing information with social services and other agencies is also a significant issue, and a number of forces have developed protocols to help improve the way they work with other agencies in similar cases.

Case study: Staff at a residential care home reported a 15-year-old girl missing and gave information relating to her vulnerability and possible location. She had been reported missing frequently before. When the girl was found several hours later at the location suggested, she was under the influence of alcohol and made an allegation of sexual assault against a man. The IPCC investigation found that the call had been incorrectly downgraded, against force policy, and without the member of police staff considering all the relevant information, or taking sufficient action to deploy officers to safeguard the wellbeing of the girl.

Safeguarding children

19. The IPCC has dealt with a number of high profile cases where police failures have left young people vulnerable to attack or abuse. Some relevant case studies are provided below:

Case study: When a young woman reported to police that she had been repeatedly raped by her mother's partner, important opportunities were missed from the outset to apprehend the offender. These included initial discussion between the police and children's services, to identify all of the young people who were at risk, to take action to safeguard their welfare, and to make disclosures to the parents/guardians or the children themselves. Also throughout the investigation, senior officers failed to proactively supervise the investigation and ensure that all lines of enquiry were followed up, and that outstanding actions were completed. Because of delays in receiving advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) the man was re-bailed on a number of occasions. Before his attendance at court, one of the man's children came forward to allege that she had been sexually abused by the man while he was on bail. The man was then arrested, interviewed, charged, and remanded in custody in connection with this offence. He was later charged with further offences against another one of his children.

You can find out more about this case online at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/case6_bulletin17.pdf

Case study: A registered sex offender moved to a caravan in the grounds of a farmhouse. The police made no visit to his new address until more than two months had passed. During the five years he lived in the caravan he was only visited by officers five times; there were six telephone conversations between him and various members of the police and three risk assessments were conducted - all identified him as medium risk. Other officers dealt with two incidents at the farmhouse and became aware that a child was living at the address. However, sex offender officers were not made aware of these incidents. There was no supervisory involvement with or review of the man during the five year period. After the man had been living in the caravan for five years, the child living in the farmhouse disclosed he had sexually abused her. He was arrested and subsequently convicted.

You can find out more about this case online at:

[http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/\[NPM\]%20LtL%20Bulletin%208%20-%20Case%202.5.pdf](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/[NPM]%20LtL%20Bulletin%208%20-%20Case%202.5.pdf)

20. The IPCC has also dealt with a number of cases involving child sexual exploitation and street grooming, where abuse has been allowed to go unchallenged because of significant failures in multi-agency working. Agencies' abilities to work effectively together is a significant issue across a number of areas of policing, and is an area where further work is required.
21. On a separate matter, a number of domestic violence related cases have come to our attention where young people have witnessed extreme violence in their homes, including some cases where there has been a fatality. These cases have raised important questions about how police engage with the needs of children and young people they encounter when dealing with domestic violence situations. Although the IPCC has not published any recommendations on this, we are interested in working with organisations which support victims and their families, to ensure that police forces develop good practice that recognises the need to safeguard children trapped in domestic violence situations. Similar issues also

apply where there are other adults in the home suspected of serious offences including drug or significant alcohol abuse.

Attendance at care homes

22. The IPCC has dealt with a small number of cases in recent years involving the police response to incidents involving young people living in care homes. A number of stakeholders have also expressed concern that police attendance at care homes can often lead to the criminalisation of young people in care, where perhaps police involvement was neither necessary or appropriate. The IPCC supports the creation of protocols at either national or local level which clearly set out the circumstances in which police should be involved and how they should respond to the needs of these young people to ensure that the police response is proportionate.

Case study: Case study: A persistent young offender of 17 lived in a children's home. Three police officers went to the home to arrest him for stealing a mobile phone and to search his room for further stolen property. They knew he was prone to be verbally (but not physically) aggressive towards police. The officers did not tell managers at the home they intended to arrest the young man, only to search his room. They arrested him in his room and handcuffed him with his hands in front. When officers began to search the room a struggle started. The young man shouted racial abuse and spat blood at the officers; they used CS spray on him and forced him down onto the bed, then radioed for help. The home was located on the boundary of three Operational Command Units (OCUs). The officers' call for help was broadcast over the radio channels of all three police areas, so a number of police vehicles attended. Three other officers took over from the first three officers. The struggle continued but they managed to handcuff the young man with his hands behind him. He was taken to the police station and detained. In all, ten officers went to the children's home. The home managers felt the police response was excessive and might damage the relationship between the home and the immediate neighbourhood.

You can find out more about this case online at:

[http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/\[NPM\]%20LtL%20Bulletin%205%20-%20Case%202.7.pdf](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/[NPM]%20LtL%20Bulletin%205%20-%20Case%202.7.pdf)

Stop and search

23. The IPCC recognises that the police use of stop and search powers can have a significant impact on public confidence in policing. It is also clear that those people who are most unhappy with stop and search encounters - in particular, young people and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds - have the least confidence in the police and the police complaints system. This is therefore an area in which the IPCC has done a considerable amount of work.

24. Anecdotal evidence from a number of young people with whom the IPCC has engaged suggests that many believe that, because of their ethnicity and age, being stopped and searched on a regular basis is an inevitable and unchallengeable part of their day to day life. The IPCC has heard from BME

parents who see it as a natural part of their parental responsibilities to prepare their children for the inevitable day when they will be stopped for the first time. Many of these young people have described their experience as negative particularly in relation to the quality of the interaction.

25. The IPCC believes that it is not enough for the exercise of stop and search powers to simply be within the law - the powers should be used in a way that is demonstrably fair and effective, and in a way that carries public confidence. The IPCC has therefore developed a position regarding stop and search to help the police service improve the way it uses these powers. A full version of the IPCC's stop and search position can be found on the IPCC website at www.ipcc.gov.uk.
26. The number of complaints made about stop and search is relatively low, but, as noted above, the statistics are unlikely to represent the level of dissatisfaction. The people who have bad experiences of stop and search tend to be the people who already have the lowest confidence in both the police and the police complaints system, so do not go on to make a complaint. A recent report by HMIC also identified significant areas for improvement in the way that the police service uses stop and search powers.
27. Measures that can be taken by police forces include making it easier for young people to make a complaint, as well as looking at other ways of collecting feedback from the groups who are most affected. A number of forces engage proactively with young people in their local areas to raise awareness about how stop and search powers are used. Some forces also work with young people's monitoring groups, like the one set up in Hackney, to establish a forum for young people to raise their concerns about how powers are being used. The IPCC would support any measure which increases young people's awareness of powers in this area.

Mental health

28. The IPCC has specific concerns about young people with mental health issues being detained in police stations for prolonged periods of time.
29. A significant number of young people with a mental disorder come into contact with the police each year either as offenders, victims of crime or simply because they require help or medical care. Under section 136 of the Mental Health Act if a police officer finds someone in a public place who appears to be suffering from mental disorder and is in need of immediate care or control they can remove that person to a place of safety.
30. Under this power police custody is viewed as a place of safety, where a person can be held without harm until they are assessed by an approved doctor and an

approved social worker (ASW). However, for a number of reasons police custody is widely viewed as not being a suitable environment for people with mental disorder. Firstly, it has the effect of criminalising people for what is essentially a health need. Secondly, the environment may exacerbate their mental state and, in the most tragic cases, can lead to deaths in custody. Unfortunately in a number of areas the availability of alternative places of safety is limited.

31. The IPCC published research into the use of section 136 in 2008. It found that during 2005/06 420 people aged 17 and under (4% of the total number), and 1685 people aged 18-24 (17%) were taken into police custody when they were detained under section 136. The age of 758 detainees was not known.
32. The IPCC has made recommendations in a number of cases to improve the way that officers deal with people detained under section 136, and to encourage local authorities and the health service to provide alternative places of safety. The IPCC welcomes the Government's commitment to ensuring the availability of places of safety and the recent extension of the pilot where mental health staff accompany police officers to incidents which look likely to result in a detention under the Mental Health Act.

Case study: Police took a 15 year old girl into custody after detaining her under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, after a specialist hospital was unable to admit her. After a risk assessment was conducted the girl was placed on constant CCTV observations, with 30 minute checks. However, due to a lack of available officers, the duty sergeant volunteered to conduct the observations himself. The girl had a history of self harm and had expressed a desire to harm herself while in custody, although had calmed down considerably once in custody. While carrying out observations the duty sergeant continued to use his personal radio to monitor communications on a local channel and to issue instructions to officers. On a number of occasions the duty sergeant left the observation room to observe the girl through the cell window, as he felt that her dark clothing made her difficult to observe. Contrary to force protocol he did not notify custody staff of the difficulties he was experiencing, and also left the CCTV for the girl and another detainee on constant observations unmonitored. Some time later a detention officer working close to another bank of CCTV monitors covering the whole of the custody area observed the girl tying a jumper around her neck. This went unobserved by the duty sergeant. The detention officer then notified a sergeant before going to the cell. The jumper was removed from the girl's neck and she was found to be still conscious, and was placed on close proximity observations.

You can find out more about this case online at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/case8_bulletin16.pdf

Use of force

33. The IPCC has dealt with cases of concern about the level of force used when attempting to detain or restrain young people.

Case study: A 13-year-old girl was arrested for shoplifting and was taken into police custody. Concerns were raised over the girl's mental health and a Forensic Medical Examiner was informed. Officers placed the girl in handcuffs and leg restraints after she was placed in an observation cell, and started to bang her head repeatedly against the cell wall. These were eventually removed when the girl calmed down. Each time that officers attempted to leave the cell the girl jumped up and ran towards the door, and officers used palm strikes to push her away from the doorway. Pain compliance was also used by one of the officers to make the girl release one of the officer's ties which she had ripped off during the struggle. Officers then decided that a full cell exit procedure was required. When the officer let go of the girl's arms she jumped up and grabbed the cell doorframe, and the officer then closed the cell door on her fingers causing a serious injury.

34. The IPCC is also aware of another case, ZH v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, in which the IPCC was not involved, where police were called to deal with a severely autistic, epileptic nineteen year old male who suffered from learning disabilities and could not communicate by speech. He was on a school trip to a swimming pool when he had gone to the edge of the poolside and become fixated by the appearance of the water despite attempts to distract him. When an officer attempted to grab the boy's jacket he jumped into the pool. Officers then used force to remove the boy from the pool before placing him in handcuffs and leg restraints and moving him into a police van, despite protests from his carers. Psychiatrists found that the boy suffered psychological trauma during the incident which had increased the frequency of his epileptic seizures.
35. The IPCC continues to have concerns about the use of force by the police against people of all ages. Consequently the Commission will be undertaking further research in this area in the next financial year.

Strip search

36. The IPCC has been involved in a number of cases where young people have been inappropriately strip searched. Article 37 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that "Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age." Our experience has shown that officers could benefit from improved guidance or training on strip searching young people.

Case study: A 15-year-old boy and his friends were individually strip searched and left completely naked, without the presence of an appropriate adult, when police handcuffed them, and took them into custody after officers smelt cannabis on one of the boys and decided to search them under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Case study: During a routine patrol of an area where young people were known to congregate, often consuming alcohol and committing acts of anti-social behaviour, special constables stopped a group of youths who ran off when they saw the police approaching. One of the youths volunteered that he and his mates had been smoking a spliff, which was why they had run off. Following this admission, officers informed the youth that he was going to be searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. At some point the young man became aggressive, and when he started to resist he was handcuffed. Contrary to force policy, no use of force form was submitted, despite more than one officer being involved in his restraint, and handcuffs also being used. Once the young man was restrained, officers obtained his details, and discovered he was 16 years old. A stop and search form was then completed, and the young man was taken to a police station so that a strip search could be carried out, although he was not under arrest for any offence. Contrary to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) the young man's parent(s) were not informed when he was taken into custody, nor were they or an appropriate adult present when the strip search was carried out, despite officers knowing his age. The young man was taken home following completion of the strip search.

You can find out more about this case online at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/case2_bulletin16.pdf

Case study: Police officers strip searched a number of pupils at a school as part of an operation to prevent drugs being brought into the school. A number of students were strip searched as part of a pre-planned operation, after it was identified that a number of students were concealing drugs in their underwear. A number of other students were also strip searched after being identified by teachers as acting suspiciously on CCTV footage. One student was mistakenly identified in CCTV evidence and was therefore unnecessarily strip searched. The parents of one student complained that they were not given advance notice of this and that their son did not provide his consent for a teacher to act as his appropriate adult and be present during the strip search.

Appropriate adults

37. In other domestic and international law, anyone under the age of 18 is regarded as a child. However, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and related codes, which came into effect before the Children Act, provide that 17 year olds are treated as adults for the purposes of the Act and are therefore not entitled to access to parents, carers or other appropriate adults, to provide them with support when they come into contact with the police.
38. The IPCC welcomes the recent judgment of the High Court in the case involving a 17-year-old young man who was held in a London police station for 12 hours overnight on suspicion of robbery, without being allowed to call his mother, or without being offered the services of an appropriate adult. Although the guidance issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) following the judgment goes some way to ensure that young people up to the age of 18 are offered the opportunity to speak to an appropriate adult (should they wish to do so), the IPCC believes it is important that Code C of PACE is updated to reflect the findings of

the judgment. This would provide a proper statutory basis for the appropriate treatment of those under 18 and ensure that it was the approach taken by all officers who come into contact with young people in custody.

39. In recent years the IPCC also knows of a number of cases where young people below the age of 17 have not been afforded proper access to appropriate adults.

Case study: Officers visited the home of a 16 year old boy who was wanted in connection with a robbery. The young man's mother spoke to officers and informed them that she would make her way to the police station to support her son and to act as an appropriate adult. Officers then travelled to the school and arrested the young man in the presence of the headmaster before taking him into custody. His mother arrived some time later, but was not invited to be present in the custody suite when he was booked in or given his rights and entitlements. During the risk assessment process the young man was asked whether he had any medical or mental health needs, and he volunteered that he had asthma. Despite arriving at the station shortly after he was taken into custody, the young man's mother was not allowed to visit her son until around 6pm, after the investigating officers had come on duty. Because of this delay, an important opportunity was missed for the woman to ensure that her son, who had autism, received the support and care he needed. When she finally saw him she described him as being freezing cold, distressed, confused, emotional and hungry (having declined meals while in custody) and having injured his hand while in his cell. In his mother's presence, the young man was given his rights and entitlements again. Before the interview commenced his mother was told that if she wanted a solicitor the process would take longer, and as she had been told by the officers who initially dealt with her that the offence was not serious, she decided to forego this. Once the interview was complete the young man was taken back to his cell while officers obtained a further authority to search his home address, and he remained in custody while officers awaited advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). An hour later (almost five hours after his interview had concluded) he was charged with robbery. His mother was not in attendance when he signed copies of the charge sheet or bail details. He was eventually released around 11.40pm.

You can find out more about this case online at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/Documents/case4_bulletin16.pdf

Other issues

40. Through its work the IPCC has concerns regarding a number of other areas involving young people and the police.

Young people's engagement in criminal and misconduct hearings

41. The IPCC has concerns about how young people, as complainants, are treated as witnesses, at Crown Court, appeals and misconduct hearings, as cases progress in an attempt to establish the officer's guilt or innocence. The process of being called to give evidence in a formal setting is often intimidating and stressful for adults, but even more so for young people. In cases where there are several officers involved, the young person often ends up being repeatedly cross examined by the individual legal representatives representing each officer.

42. Although the IPCC has taken steps to support young witnesses as best it can, it is keen to work further with the police service to ensure that young people are properly supported through this process and that the requirement for the attendance of young people at multiple hearings can be considered sensitively.

Retention of DNA

43. A number of stakeholders have expressed concern about the way in which the police obtain and use DNA collected from young people, and in particular about the stigmatising effect that such action has on young people, in particular young black men who have their DNA taken most frequently.

44. According to figures obtained by the Howard League for Penal Reform, a total of 4,000 young people under the age of 13 had their DNA taken in 2011, and a total of 53,973 samples were taken from young people aged 10-17 during the same period.

45. DNA is often collected from young people when they are victims of crime, to rule them out from crime scenes, as well as when they are arrested as suspects. A number of stakeholders have also commented that DNA is regularly being collected from young people who are stopped and searched by police or taken into police custody.

Intimidation

46. A number of stakeholders have reported incidents where young people have been stopped or detained by police, transported in a police vehicle, and then dropped off in neighbouring housing estates or different parts of the city where their presence puts them at risk of harm, for example by local gangs.

Legal obligations and leadership

47. Police forces have obligations to young people under the public sector equality duties, and other relevant legislation. As part of this they need to be able to demonstrate, for example, that they are thinking about the needs of young people when they develop policy and deliver services. This could also include:

- closer engagement with young people to understand their policing priorities and how current policing activity affects them;
- taking steps to better support young people who are victims of crime;
- ensuring that young people can make a complaint or provide feedback where they are not happy with how they have been treated;
- capturing information about how young people use services, including the complaints system.

48. Some forces have nominated youth leads, often at a senior level, to take a strategic lead on young people. A number of forces have also supported the launch of advisory groups made up of young people to help guide their work, or have worked closely with monitoring groups set up in the community to help introduce an element of independent scrutiny of their work and build closer relationships with young people. For example, the British Transport Police have an active and well supported National Youth Board and the IPCC is working with them. In addition, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime financially supports the Safer London Foundation which has set up a team of youth ambassadors. Where forces have taken this approach it seems to have been effective in helping to drive forward positive changes which have benefited young people.

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

13 September 2013