

Services to Individuals

Crime and Defence Representation

Advice and Assistance at the Police Station

Following your attendance at the Police Station one of the following outcomes will apply:

1. You may have been released without charge.
2. You may be given a Police caution or in the case of a youth, a reprimand or a warning. This applies to cases where the offence is a minor one, and it is being admitted.
3. You may have been granted bail to return to the Police Station at a specified date and time to enable the police to conduct further enquiries into the allegations against you. You will have been given a bail date to attend at the Police Station and if you fail to do so you will be committing an offence and will be liable to immediate arrest. If you are unable to attend, you must inform the police and/or your Solicitor.
4. If you have been charged with an offence:
 - a) You may be taken immediately before the Magistrates at court who will decide whether or not you should be granted bail. If the Magistrates decide to refuse bail, you have the right to make an application for bail to a Judge in Chambers.

Or

- b) You may be given a first hearing date on which you must attend court. You would be granted bail to attend court on that date at the specified time. If you do not do so you will be committing an offence of failing to surrender to your bail and you will be liable to immediate arrest and imprisonment.

5. You may be reported for summons. If this occurs you will receive a summons by post with a date fixed for you to attend court. You must attend court on that date. When you attend court you will be asked if you wish to plead guilty or not guilty.

If you have been interviewed at the Police Station you will be asked if you wish to have a copy of the tape recorded interview. If you have requested the tape you should pass this to your Solicitor together with your Charge Sheet which you will have been handed upon leaving the Police Station.

The Next Steps in Proceedings

In order to progress the matter further we will ask you to provide us with details of the offences charged, your response to the allegations and your personal details. We will then ask the prosecution to provide us with a summary of the evidence against you together with any relevant witness statements (this is known as Advance Disclosure). This material will be handed to us at the first court hearing.

The Prosecution may also hold other information in connection with the case which is known as Unused Material. This is supplied to us in all cases proceeding to a trial. We may also request a copy of this. Having received the evidence we will contact you further to discuss the same in detail, following which we should be in a position to provide you with clear advice as to how the matter should proceed and in particular, how you should plead.

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