

Hampshire Police Youth Charter

'Investigation Outcomes' Sub-Charter



Investigation Outcomes Explained

There are many disposals available to police when deciding the outcome in a case they are investigating; this information explains more about possible outcomes to give you a clearer understanding of them and what they mean.



No Further Action (NFA)

NFA means there is not enough evidence to charge or caution you or it is not in the public's interest to proceed.

NFA means the case will be closed but could be re-opened if circumstances change. Details will stay on police record

What is Police Bail?

Bail is when you are released from the Police Station with a set date and time to return to the Station or attend Court if you are charged.

During this time the Police will continue to gather more evidence to charge, caution or close with no further action..

Post-Charge Bail

This is when you are told you are being charged

You are charged with a crime and released on bail with a date to go to court.

Conditions may be added to your bail stating what you can or can't do while on bail

If you do not turn up at Court a warrant may be issued for your arrest.

Contacting or harassing victims and witnesses is not allowed and will be dealt with as a separate offence. This can be very serious and would lead to you being arrested again.

Police Records

Information of convictions, cautions and warnings for recordable offences is held on the Police National Computer (PNC), known as a police criminal record.

DBS Standard and Enhanced checks provide employers and organisations with information about convictions, cautions and warnings held on PNC

Released Under Investigation (RUI)

You are not given a date to come back to the police station.

You will remain a suspect whilst your case is being investigated. Police will contact you once the investigation is complete to tell you whether or not you will be charged.

Contacting or harassing victims and witnesses is not allowed and will be dealt with as a separate offence. This can be very serious and can lead to being arrested again.

Pre-Charge Bail

This is when you are released from a police station before being told if you are being charged This is authorised by a Senior Police Officer or a Court.

A date and time is set for you to return to the station. This can be changed and extended.

Conditions will normally be added to your bail stating what you can or can't do while on bail

You or your solicitor have the right to make representations (objections) to your bail and any conditions placed on you.

What are Bail Conditions?

Conditions are only put in place if the police think it is necessary (required/last resort) to prevent you from:

Committing another offence
Failing to turn up at court
Intimidating witnesses
Obstructing the course of justice

Conditions can include:

A curfew: a set time you must stay in your home
Not to speak to particular people such as victim or witnesses
Not to go into a certain area, road or building

Going to Court

All cases will go to a Magistrates court first, from there, serious cases will be sent to Crown Court for trial and less serious case will usually be dealt with by the Magistrates.

What is a Magistrate Court?

Magistrates Court will deal with cases known as '**summary offences**' which include:

Motoring offences
Minor criminal damage
Being drunk and disorderly
Theft

It can also deal with some more serious offences, such as:
Burglary; Drugs and Assaults

What is Crown Court?

Crown Courts will always deal with serious crimes, such as:
Murder, Rape and Robbery

Crown Court cases are known as a '**trial**'; when a jury will listen to all the evidence and decide whether the defendant is guilty or innocence.
A Judge decides the sentence.

Out of Court Disposals

Many cases can avoid court, being resolved with an Out of Court Disposal

Community Resolution (CR)

CR is a way of dealing with crime which is a non-serious first offence.

CR can only be used if the offender admits the crime and agrees to it; the victim also has to also agree.

CR can include Restorative Justice Interventions, where the victim meets the offender to tell them the impact the crime has had on them.

CR can prevent people from going on to break the law again.

Caution

Cautions are used to give the offender a formal warning rather than send them to court

They must admit the offence and agree to accept the caution.

The decision to give a caution depends on the offender's criminal history, the offence and the chance of them re-offending.

If the suspect is sent to court within 3 years of having a caution, the court can take it into account when sentencing.

Like bail, a caution can also have conditions set; the offender must agree to the conditions, if they break them, they can be sent to court for the original crime.

'Breach' of Bail

If you break any bail conditions, this is known as '**breach**' of bail.

The police can arrest you for breaching bail; they can also ask the Court to keep you in custody until a date is set to go to court.

For more detailed information about criminal outcomes

Visit the College of Policing prosecution and
case management page [here](#)

