

Context Sheet to accompany generic role profile



Associated role profile:	Detention Officer
Department:	Criminal Justice and Custody
Additional Information:	Criminal Justice Custody is responsible for the safe detention of persons arrested by police in accordance with legal requirements as well as requirements set out in guidance from the Home Office and Force Policy.

Scope of activity

Detention officers work with Police Custody Sergeants in custody units across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. This is a 24 hour role covering every day of the year. The role involves, but is not limited to the below list. Training and accreditation is given for all aspects of the role.

Booking arrested persons into custody. Using computer and paper systems, Detention Officers complete records of a person's detention. This will involve face to face contact with arrested persons. Detention Officers take details from the arrested person and enter them into a computer system. The booking in process also includes a risk assessment of a detained person's needs. Some detainees are not compliant and some become violent or aggressive. Detention Officers are required to assist in dealing with such individuals which may involve physically restraining a person, taking them to a cell and on occasions searching a detainee and fully replacing their normal clothing with safety clothing.

Taking electronic fingerprints, photographs and DNA samples from detained persons. This is hands on work for Detention Officers; every detainee goes through this process.

Caring for detainees. Persons in custody are required to be visited frequently to ensure they are well and that their needs are being met. Detained persons need feeding and require drinks to be made for them. This work is completed by Detention Officers.

Medical Care. Detained persons requiring medical care will be seen by medical professionals. Detention Officers supervise such medical visits. Medication is sometimes left for detained persons to be given by Detention Officers.

Working environment. Detention Officers maintain the units on a day to day basis. Keeping cells and working environs clean, tidy and safe. This sometimes involves cleaning up bodily fluids for which training is given. Detention Officers maintain stock levels of food, general supplies and equipment within the unit.

Escort duty. Occasionally, Detention Officers are required to convey detained persons from one custody unit to another.

Drug Testing. Detention Officers may be required to complete drugs tests on selected detained persons involving mouth swabs.

VIPER Capture. Detention Officers are required to take video images of some detainees as part of identification processes.

Virtual Court. Detention Officers are required to present some detainees to the Court through a video link.

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Please note that this list is designed to assist the post holder with a greater understanding of what is expected within the role. The post holder may be required to undertake other duties as required which are not necessarily specified above but are commensurate with the grade of the post. It may be amended from time to time within the scope and general level of responsibility attached to the role.

Training Requirements

The post holder will be expected to undertake necessary training, mentoring and accreditation

The role can be physical requiring Detention Officers to become physically involved with detainees. Suitable training is provided to enable Detention Officers to protect themselves and others. This will include the use of hand cuff restraints. First Aid training is also provided.

Detention Officers will attend a comprehensive law and procedure course, IT course and will have to complete a competency based accreditation process once in role.

Any other General Requirements/Scope

Candidates should hold a full driving licence.

Candidates should be aware that they will be required to attend a five week training and induction programme.