| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1852  Responded to: 27 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**What drug treatment training do your Police custody staff receive?**

Police staff receive training in the administration of naloxone (nasal spray) and in recognising the symptoms of drugs use, in order to make a referral to a custody-based Health Care Professional (HCP) or the On-Call Forensic Physician (FP). The NHS has overall responsibility for the healthcare of persons in custody.

**What training is require Police Scotland to give its custody staff in the storing and dispensing of controlled drugs a custody suite?**

Either custody-based HCP or hospital NHS is responsible for the provision of medical services to people in custody. Custody staff must refer persons to the custody-based HCP or the On-Call FP.

The management of all medication given to an individual whilst in police custody is the responsibility of the HCP.

Police officers / Criminal Justice Police Community Support Officers (CJ PCSO) may assist in the administration of medication to individuals whilst in police custody, only when the HCP is satisfied that it is appropriate for them to exercise this function.   
Any medications provided by the HCP will be stored in a locked cabinet within the custody suite.

When satisfied that the administration of medication to an individual whilst in police custody can safely be carried out by a police officer / CJ PCSO, the HCP must confirm this in writing within the medical care plan which must be updated accurately onto National Custody System.

Custody staff engaged in dispensing medication must be corroborated by another staff member verifying the identity of the intended recipient and ensure it matches Plus Pack or equivalent medication packaging. CCTV is not sufficient for this purpose as it offers no safeguard regarding accurate identification of the recipient.

On every occasion prior to administering medication, the recipient must be asked to provide their name and date of birth. Refusal or incorrect details should result in consultation with a custody supervisor and, if required, the relevant HCP prior to any medication being dispensed. Staff must supervise the taking of the medication to ensure, as far as is possible, the medication has been swallowed.

**What training are staff given in the European Union Human Rights Act. Especially, I would especially be interested in Article 3,7,8 and 14?**

To clarify, the Police Scotland Custody Induction Course covers our obligation to uphold the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHER) and not the European Union Human Rights Act.

The [Care and Welfare of Persons in Police Custody Standard Operating Procedures](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-c/) and the Custody Officer Induction course covers the following Articles within the ECHR: -

* Article 2 – Right to Life
* Article 3 – Prohibition from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment
* Article 5 – Right to Liberty
* Article 6 - Right to a Fair Trial
* Article 8 – Right to Privacy
* Article 7 – No Punishment Without Law - is covered in our training where it is made clear the custody is not a place for punishment or as punishment for any individual. Article as this applies to the courts and not a custody setting.
* Article 14 – Prohibition of Discrimination – is covered by our Code of Ethics which is included in both staff and custody induction courses.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.