

No comment tactics

An interview is only of benefit to the police. Remember they want to prosecute you for whatever charge they can stick on you. An interview is a no win situation.

For your benefit, the only thing to be said in an interview is **“NO COMMENT”**.

REMEMBER: They can't legally force you to speak. Beware of attempts to interview you in the cop van or cell etc as all interviews are recorded. The cops may try to pretend you confessed before the taped interview. Say “NO COMMENT”.

Why do the police want me to answer questions?

They may not have enough evidence, and hope you'll implicate yourself or other people. And the way to stay in that position is to refuse to be drawn into a conversation and answer “NO COMMENT” to any questions

But what if the evidence looks like they have got something on me? Wouldn't it be best to explain away the circumstances I was arrested in, so they'll let me go?

The only evidence that matters is the evidence presented in court to the Magistrate or jury. The only place to explain everything is in court; if they've decided to keep you in, no amount of explaining will get you out. If the police have enough evidence, anything you say can only add to this evidence against you.

When the cops interview someone, they do all they can to confuse and intimidate you. The questions may not be related to the crime. Their aim is to soften you up and get you chatting. Don't answer a few small talk questions and then clam up when they ask you a question about the crime. It looks worse in court. To prosecute you, the police must present their evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service. A copy of the evidence is sent to your solicitor. The evidence usually rests on very small points: this is why it's important not to give anything away in custody.

They may say your refusal to speak will be used against you in court, but the best place to work out what you want to say is later with your solicitor. If they don't have enough evidence the case will be thrown out or never even get to court. This is why they want you to speak. They need all the evidence they can get. One word could cause you a lot of trouble.