



HOW TO RETRIEVE PROPERTY FROM THE POLICE

WHEN TO COLLECT YOUR PROPERTY



The police won't return your property until your case has finished, unless it is no longer required for the investigation or court case. If your case is ongoing, you can always check with the police whether they are willing to return a particular item. Make sure to contact your solicitor first though, as admitting ownership of certain property could impact on your case.

FIND OUT WHO THE OIC IS

The **OIC** is the **O**fficer **I**n the **C**ase. They are responsible for returning your property. Your solicitor at Commons can provide you with the OIC's name and (usually) their email address and warrant number. If you'd rather reach them by phone, the easiest way to do this is by calling 101.



CONTACT THE OIC



Once you have their contact details, explain to the OIC who you are, and request the return of your property. It can be helpful to list the items you want back, and to provide some brief details about your case (e.g. the date and location of your detention or trial). We recommend you contact the OIC via email so that you have a record of your communication. If you decide to phone instead, make sure to note down when you called and what was agreed. This can be important later should you need to make a complaint.

GOING TO COLLECT YOUR PROPERTY

Your property may not be stored at the same police station you were detained in, so make sure to confirm with the OIC a time, date and location for the handover. You will need to take with you to the appointment a copy of your ID (if you have any). We also recommend bringing along any correspondence you have had with the OIC. If you know your custody number, that can also be useful to have at hand.



NOT ABLE TO CONTACT?



If the OIC is either not getting back to you, or is taking too long to return your property, there are a number of ways to speed things along. First, try contacting their supervisor. You can ask them for their supervisor's details directly, or you can find this out by calling 101. If that doesn't work, submit a formal complaint. Most police forces have an online complaints form. You can also complain via 101. Finally, you can apply to the Magistrates' Court to order the police to give you back your items. There is no public funding available to be represented by a lawyer at these applications.