

PACE Code C 11.1.a

An interview is the questioning of a person regarding their involvement or suspected involvement in a criminal offence or offences which, under paragraph 10.1, must be carried out under caution.

Before a person is interviewed, **they and, if they are represented**, their solicitor must be given sufficient information to enable them to understand the nature of any such offence, and **why they are suspected of committing it** (see paragraphs 3.4(a) and 10.3), in order to **allow for the effective exercise of the rights of the defence**. However, whilst the information must always be sufficient for the person to understand the nature of any offence (see Note 11ZA), this does not require the disclosure of details at a time **which might prejudice the criminal investigation**. The decision about what needs to be disclosed for the purpose of this requirement therefore rests with the investigating officer who has sufficient knowledge of the case to make that decision. The officer who discloses the information shall make a record of the information disclosed and when it was disclosed. This record may be made in the interview record, in the officer's pocket book or other form provided for this purpose.

Note - 11ZA

The requirement in paragraph 11.1A for a suspect to be given sufficient information about the offence applies prior to the interview and **whether or not they are legally represented**. What is sufficient will depend on the circumstances of the case, but it should normally include, as a minimum, a description of the facts relating to the suspected offence that are known to the officer, including the time and place in question. This aims to avoid suspects being confused or unclear about what they are supposed to have done and to help an innocent suspect to clear the matter up more quickly.