

Detention of 14 year-old 'appalling'

22/06/2001

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors considers that the detention of a 14 year-old youth in Kevin Street Garda Station 'absolutely appalling'.

The youth becomes 15 tomorrow (Saturday 23rd June).

"There are no facilities in Kevin Street - which is one of the oldest stations in the country - for the detention of a young person for as long as this young man," said General Secretary of the Association George Maybury. "He has been in this station now for 48 hours with the exception of his visits to courts and to Oberstown House. This situation is unacceptable to members of An Garda Siochana."

Gardai are not trained in the highly specialised area of looking after young people with special needs, the General Secretary pointed out.

The youth is detained in a room usually used for the detention of all kinds of prisoners while they are being processed. It is a plain, bare room with no overnight arrangements - he has slept on the floor on a mattress provided by the gardai and food has been supplied. He has been examined by a doctor but no social worker had been available to see him during his overnight detention.

The young man's circumstances are the current subject of both District Court and High Court proceedings.