

# Do people with an intellectual disability understand the Scottish police caution?



My name is Michael Rendall.

I am a psychologist.



A psychologist is someone who studies a person's mind, their feelings and their behaviour.



I did some **research** as part of my university work.

**Research** is the collection and the study of information about a subject.

## What was the research about?



- I wanted to know if people with an intellectual disability understand a spoken **Scottish police caution**.
- I wanted to find out if changing the words in the **Scottish police caution** would help people understand it better.

## What is the Scottish police caution?



The **Scottish police caution** is something the police say to people.

It should let people know their rights, when they are being questioned.



You might hear words like

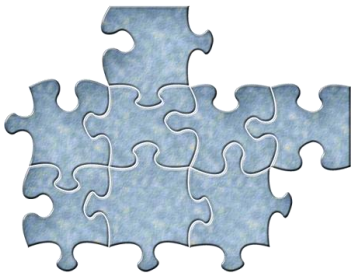
- “You have the right to remain silent”

## Who took part?



30 adults were included in the study.

## What did we do?



I met with each person for an hour.

- I asked about how they felt that day.
  - I said the **Scottish police caution** to half of the people taking part.
  - I said the version of the **Scottish police caution** using different words to the others.
- I tested if they understood what the **Scottish** police caution meant.
- We did some puzzles. These measure people's ability, for example how well they understand language.

## What did the research find?



Everyone who took part in this research said they **did** understand the **Scottish police caution**.

**But...**

No-one could correctly tell me what the **Scottish police caution** means.



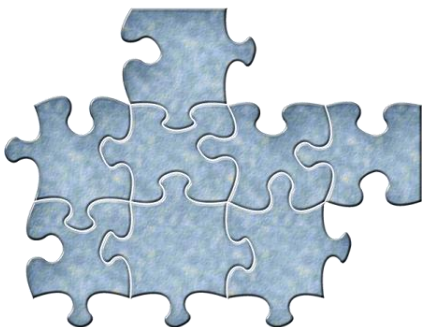
This was for both versions.

## Does being calm make it easier to understand?



In this study people **did not** understand the **Scottish police caution** any better when they said they were feeling calm and relaxed.

## Do people who are good at the puzzles understand the Scottish police caution better?



People with better language skills understood the **Scottish police caution** a little better.

This research did not find any other ability that helps people to understand better.

## Warning...



The research **did not** have as many people take part as we would have liked.

This means we must be **careful** when we think about the results.

## Main points in this research...



- People with an intellectual disability said **yes** when they were asked if they understand the **Scottish police caution**.

But no-one could explain what it all meant in their own words.

- The research tried to use different words to make the **Scottish police caution** easier to understand.

This **did not** work in this study.





## The researchers suggest that...



- All people with an intellectual disability should be taught about what their rights are.
- After saying the **Scottish police caution**, the officer should always ask the person to explain what it means in their own words.
- People working in the criminal justice system should be taught about new research.

They should know who might be at risk.



- More people are needed for the research.
- Research should think about more questions like
  - ✓ Is there better ways to tell people what their right's are?
  - ✓ Are the police good at asking people if they have an intellectual disability?

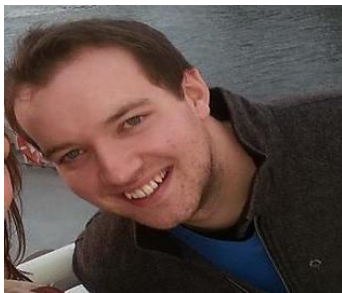
## Thank you and contact information...



Thank you to everyone who took part in this research.



If you would like to know more about this study or would like to read the full thesis please contact me.



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