



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – December 2015

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Vera Baird QC, would like to take this opportunity to thank Independent Custody Visitors for the work they have undertaken when visiting custody suites within the Northumbria Force area. The ICVs are valued members of the volunteer team. Below are the points raised during December 2015 from the stations visited?

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Bedlington

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Berwick

All well and clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Hexham

All well and clean and tidy.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Area for Improvement:

Visit made on 12/12/15 where detainee had at some point attached a ligature to his neck. This was not recorded in custody documentation until raised by visitors which was actioned.

C/sgt and detention officer involved to be spoken to By Insp Bola re lack of documentation of incident and advice given re future documentation.

Cell call button in M23 not working correctly.

Call button repaired

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Detainees raised no concerns.

Areas for Improvement:

Some mattresses in need of repair

All stock of mattress to be checked and any replacements ordered.

Water fountain outside cell 35 in need of repair.

Awaiting repair – has been reported

Cell 20 light switch not working

Repaired

Cell 5 + 39 out of use due to broken camera

Cell 5 camera repaired cell 39 awaiting parts.

Previous visit CV3 form not stored in file

Insp Fitzgerald to locate forms and store.

Microwaves and food trolley in need of cleaning

Cleaning supervisor contacted - reminder to be sent to staff.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, professional and co-operative with both detainees and ICV's.

Visitors observed shift hand over.

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Cells 16 out of order due to broken lock

Repaired

Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV Custody Suite Questionnaire

Following the 2014 HMIC Inspection into Northumbria Police Custody, a number of recommendations were made by HMIC to improve the custody process and service offered to detainees.

Northumbria Police have produced an action plan to address the issues raised with added checks by officers that these recommendations are being delivered. The Commissioner requested that ICV's be part of this process to make sure that an independent check that the force are delivering on these recommendations is made.

The OPCC produced a checklist of questions with each question relating to a specific recommendation in the report. During the month of December no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted above.