



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – December 2017

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 2017** from the stations visited.

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 2017** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Alnwick

No detainees in custody

Warm welcome received by staff

Suite in need of cleaning.

Berwick

No detainees in custody.

Warm welcome received by staff

Suite clean and tidy.

Bedlington

No detainees in custody

All areas clean and tidy

All detainee food stocks in date

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for improvement:

Water tap in detainee kitchen produces warm water however this issue was raised with Chief Inspector Readdie at the quarterly Panel Co-ordinators meeting.

Force Response: Investigation of the Water tap temperature has taken place with confirmation received that the temperature of the water is within set guidelines.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy for a very busy suite

Food stocks checked and all in date

Staff polite and helpful

Areas for Improvement:

Detainee lockers left open.

Force Response - Reminder sent to staff on the need to close locker doors.

Shortage of blankets for detainees.

Force Response – We are restocking as blankets as current stock are being sent back to the manufacturer do to a fault.

Some detainees complained of cold cells.

Force Response – Estates department have been made aware

Forth Banks

Staff friendly and helpful

Clean and tidy suite