



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – January 2018

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 **January 2018** 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 **January 2018** 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

ACTION:

Suite in need of cleaning

Force Response: As the custody suite is a resilience suite, cleaning will be undertaken in advance of the suite being opened for use.

Berwick

No detainees in custody

Warm welcome received by staff

Detainee food checked and all in order

Suite clean and tidy



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Bedlington

No detainees in custody

All areas clean and tidy

All detainee food stocks in date

Millbank

A visit was undertaken to the suite when it was closed however there were a number of issues raised with the cleanliness of the whole suite, work tools left in the suite and out of date female sanitary packs.

Force Response: All issues addressed. CI to review by way of a visit on Friday 2nd March.

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 with an update to be provided in March 2018.

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

Food stocks checked and all in date

Staff polite and helpful

Areas for Improvement:

No water flowing from taps/sink at end of corridor 1-10.

Force Response: This issues is being addressed by the Estates Department.

Only one size of female hygiene pack available.

Force Response: This issue is being addressed with force stores by A/Insp Hewitt.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly and helpful

Officers commended for support provided to mental health patient in custody

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement

ICV translation cards missing from the custody suite.

Force Response: Insp Paul Allen has addressed and translation cards are now in the custody suite.