



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – December 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 **December 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 **December 2018** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Berwick

All areas clean and tidy; food in date, ICVs warmly welcomed.

Bedlington

ICVs warmly welcomed

Areas for improvement

Suite needs to be cleaned

No female hygiene packs or medical supplies

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff polite and helpful

Stocks of food all in date

Areas for Improvement:

03/12/18

Cells 13 & 14 – intercom still out of use

Dead bird on the ‘roof’ of the exercise yard

11/12/18

Cell 5 has a broken toilet

Cell 9 requires cleaning and locker open

Cells 13 & 14 – intercom still out of use

Clothes/shoes and mattress on floor in corridor

30/12/18

Cells 13 & 14 intercom out of use

Cell 16 has a persistent buzzing sound, which cannot be disabled

Force Response:

Remedial work all completed.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

17/12/18

All in order

Areas for Improvement:

02/12/18

Cell 12 – toilet flushing over rim onto floor

Cell 22 – plug hole blocked

16/12/18

Showers not offered

One Detention Officer down on shift

29/12/18

Staffing issues, officers having to be brought in to watch CCTV and observe detainees on constant watch

Force Response:

Remedial work all completed.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, helpful and polite

06/12/18

All in order

16/12/18

DO 5484 extremely helpful

Areas for Improvement:

16/12/18

15 minute wait in custody due to the busy nature

29/12/18

Cells 26 & 27 have clothes on the floor

Cell 31 – toilet blocked

Force Response:

Remedial work all completed.