



Independent Custody Visitors

January 2020.

Throughout January, ICVs undertook visits to custody suites across the force area, with their findings reported back to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness.

Below are some of the highlights, issues and other newsworthy information raised during visits or by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

January 2020 saw the publication of the HMICFRS inspection of Northumbria Police Custody Suites. - <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/01/Northumbria-police-web-2019.pdf> Copies of the report were sent to all Independent Custody Visitors.

Etal Lane (Resilience Suite)

Resilience suite – no visits in January 2020.

Bedlington (Resilience Suite)

Resilience suite – no visits in January 2020.

Southwick

Four visits were made to Southwick, overall the suite was found to be clean and tidy. Staff were friendly and helpful.

Areas for improvement:

Suite was short staffed.

Several detainee shoe lockers open.

Force Response:

Northumbria Police will address the areas raised.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Four visits were undertaken to Middle Engine Lane, staff were polite and friendly to detainees and the overall cleanliness of the public area was good.

Areas for Improvement:

Out of date drinks – disposed of.

Force Response:

Northumbria Police appreciate the input from Custody visitors and will review and take necessary action.

Forth Banks

Five visits were undertaken to Forth Banks. Lots of pro-active work with detainees being offered their rights.

Areas for Improvement:

The time it took ICVs to gain access took too long. We appreciate the demands on staff, but when ICVs arrive they should be shown in to the suite as quickly as possible.

Force Response:

Update given to staff re access for ICVs.