

Independent Custody Visitors

September 2020

On the 24th March 2020, following an announcement by the Prime Minister re Covid-19 and government guidelines, all visits to custody suites were suspended until further notice.

To ensure the OPCC maintained an overview of the work of custody, the OPCC liaised with the custody manager and weekly updates were emailed out to ICVs. The updates covered the following –

Any complaints from detainees, availability of PPE equipment, assurances that showers etc were being offered, resources over the Easter Bank Holiday, staffing issues.

The OPCC also implemented a “Custody Record Review” in mid April 2020. Two ICVs will review the custody records of detainees to ensure they have been offered all their rights and to inform the OPCC of any concerns. ICVs have been classed as key workers by the Home Office, so they are permitted to travel to police stations. They will not enter custody suites, they will review the records in an office, adhering to social distancing.
