



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – June 2016

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 June 2016 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Medical room left unlocked

Noted that food was due to run out of date in June

No issues identified.

Bedlington

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Berwick

All well

No issues identified.

Hexham

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Cell complex very warm. Can the temperature be adjusted?

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly.

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

Shoe lockers left open – Force Response - staff reminded to close shoe lockers

Interview Rooms 4 + 10 out of use – Force Response - awaiting for estates to complete repairs

Blue copies of CV3 visit forms not signed by custody Inspector – Force Response - Chief Insp Hogan to ensure CV3 forms are signed

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, professional and co-operative with both detainees and ICV's.

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement

Broken dishwasher in kitchen - Force Response – Dishwasher repaired

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 June 2016 no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted above.