



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – October 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 October 2016 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Warmly welcomed by staff

ACTION

The custody suite and cell toilets are in need of cleaning.

Force Response – suite cleaned

Berwick

All well

No issues raised

Bedlington – Resilience Suite

Emergency alarm not functioning

ACTION

General Cleaning of suite needed

Emergency alarm in need of repair

Force Response – suite cleaned and alarm works marked for repair.

Hexham

Suite clean and tidy

No issues identified

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

No issues raised

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

Shoe lockers still left open (D Rota)

Force Response – all staff made aware of need to keep shoe lockers closed.

Forth Banks

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

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Phone booth out of order since 01/08/16

Force Response – Phone booth repaired and working.

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