



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

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

Alnwick

Warmly welcomed by staff

ACTION

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

Force Response

This has been added to the cleaning schedule for immediate attention.

Bedlington – Resilience Suite

Food stocks have been replenished

ACTION - URGENT

Blood on custody desk and suite in need of deep clean. This was raised in the previous report and this has still to be undertaken.

Force Response

This has now been actioned and the custody suite will be added to the cleaning schedule for regular cleans.

Berwick

Suite clean and tidy and in excellent order

Out of date food disposed of

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:

Detainee clothing stored on floor outside cells. Lockers should be used.

Force Response

Above comments noted and this will be re circulated to all staff as a reminder

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

Crack along wall of cell 32 and graffiti in cell 16

Force Response

Estates informed for these areas to receive prioritized action.

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