



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

## Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

### Independent Custody Visitors findings – February 2015

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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 between February 2015 from the stations visited.

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#### Alnwick

All areas clean and tidy

#### **Area for Improvement:**

**Heating system within custody is broken. Staff stated that part has been ordered to make necessary repair.**

#### Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

#### **Area for Improvement:**

**Camera in F2 not working**

#### Berwick

No issues raised.

Staff friendly and helpful

#### Hexham

All areas clean and tidy

#### **Area for Improvement:**

**No blankets within suite**

### **Millbank**

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Area for Improvement:

M12 light broken

M19 Buzzer broken

### **Southwick**

Suite clean and tidy.

Helpful staff

Areas for improvement:

Four cells out of use and awaiting repair

### **North Tyneside**

Staff friendly and helpful

Areas for improvement

Interview room doors left open.

Interview Room 9 machine not working.

Interview Room 3 + 8 keyboards not working.

### **Forth Banks**

Staff proactive, enthusiastic and demonstrated a genuine care for the individual needs of the detainees.

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 6 CCTV fault.

Cell 8 intercom fault

Cells 35/26 cracks in wall

ICVs had to wait several minutes to be admitted to the suite. Immediate access should be given.

## **Assistant Chief Constable Jo Farrell responses to issues raised:**

### **Alnwick**

#### **Area for improvement:**

Heating system has been repaired.

### **Berwick**

#### **Area for improvement:**

CCTV camera repaired

### **Bedlington**

#### **Area for improvement:**

CCTV camera repaired

### **Hexham**

#### **Area for improvement:**

The old style blankets which could be used to selfharm have been removed .New blankets are being delivered this week.

### **Millbank**

#### **Areas for improvement**

Repairs to M12 and M19 have been carried out

### **Southwick**

#### **Areas for improvement**

Estates aware and carried out a visit on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 4 cells need specialist repair

2 to the toilets and 2 to the hatches, awaiting Company to attend

### **North Tyneside**

#### **Areas for improvement**

Staff reminded to ensure rooms are locked , repairs have been carried out to interview rooms.

### **Forth Banks**

#### **Areas for improvement**

Staff reminded that that ICV's are not to be kept waiting.

Repairs are booked to be carried out by contractor.

## **Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV Questionnaire**

### **Alnwick**

- No reading materials available for detainees  
Reading materials to be identified for detainees, suite very rarely used and persons are only detained for very short periods of time.

### **North Tyneside Area Command**

- Some detainees stated that they had not been offered washing facilities  
Staff reminded if persons detained for a period of time they are to be offered  
Showers, custody record audits used to highlight when this is not  
happening.

### **Forth Banks**

- Some detainees claimed they had not been offered blankets
- Some detainees not offered access to exercise yard

Issue highlighted to staff, stock check carried out to ensure sufficient blankets are stocked .Staff reminded to allow access to exercise yard for detainees detained for a period of time .