



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – November 2015

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 November 2015 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Bedlington

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Berwick

All well and clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No concerns raised.

Area for Improvement:

Millbank

All areas clean and tidy and staff helpful

Area for Improvement:

First Aid Kit in Kitchen is out of date – Force Response –

New first aid kit ordered

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful.

Detainees raised no concerns.

Areas for Improvement:

Some pillows in need of repair. ICV's informed that order has been placed. -

Order already placed

Rough edges in shower tray in need of repair.-

Suite examinations taking place , shower to be checked and if repair needed will be done.

Cell 35 – water dispenser broken-

Water dispenser fixed cell in use

Holding room 2 in need of cleaning

cleaned

Forth Banks

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

Custody visitors observed risk assessment questions being asked by staff upon detainees being booked into custody.

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Cells 36, 16 and 46 out of order –

Cells 16 and 46 work complete and cells in use, cell 36 awaiting repair to lock and awaiting parts.

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