



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – October 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 October 2015 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy, however CAMIC room in need of cleaning.

No issues identified.

Berwick

All well and clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Hexham

Suite clean and tidy.

Area for Improvement:

Inspection cover in need of repair

Force Response - Reported to estates department awaiting repair.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Area for Improvement:

Cell 19 toilet is broken – Force Response - toilet repaired and cell in use

Cell 21 buzzer broken – Force Response - buzzer repaired and cell in use

Millbank

All areas clean and tidy and staff helpful

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy

Some mattresses in need of cleaning

Three interview rooms out of use

Cell 5 and 35 have blocked sinks – noted that these have been logged for repair

Staff friendly and helpful

Interview rooms awaiting repair –

Cell 5 and 35 now repaired and in use.

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

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