



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

## Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

### Independent Custody Visitors findings – September 2014.

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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 in September from the stations visited.

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#### Alnwick

No issues raised. All areas clean and tidy

#### Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

Limited stock of blankets

Cell M9 out of order due to broken light

Cell F2 closed for repairs

Still awaiting delivery of female hygiene packs

#### **Areas for improvement:**

**Re stock of blankets needed**

**Cell M9 light in need of repair**

#### Berwick

No issues raised.

#### Hexham

All areas relatively clean and tidy.

### **Etal Lane**

Suite clean and tidy

All officers were helpful, professional and polite throughout visits.

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

**Cell F3 closed due to broken light**

**Cell M1 out of order due to new door being fitted**

**Male exercise out of order**

### **Gateshead**

Staff very friendly and welcoming.

Suite clean and tidy

No issues raised

### **Millbank**

No issues.

### **Gillbridge**

No issues

Staff helpful and suite clean and tidy

### **Washington**

Custody suite clean and tidy.

All staff polite, helpful and quickly addressed detainee's needs.

### **North Tyneside**

Staff friendly and helpful

#### **Areas for improvement**

**Cell 30– Door coming away from frame. Request to repair was noted.**

**Cell 37 – Window broken**

**Interview rooms 3 + 7 left unlocked**

**Toilet not flushing in cell 33**

**Cell 12 out of use due to broken CCTV**

**Interview room 3 lock broken**

**Cell areas all in need of a general clean**

## **Assistant Chief Constable Winton Keenen responses to issues raised:**

### **Bedlington**

#### **Areas for improvement:**

Limited stock of blankets - blankets now in stock

Cell M9 out of order due to broken light - fixed

Cell F2 closed for repairs - awaiting specialist repair material which is on order.

Still awaiting delivery of female hygiene packs - now in the suite and being offered and provided.

### **Etal Lane**

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

Cell F3 closed due to broken light - fixed

Cell M1 out of order due to new door being fitted - fixed

Male exercise out of order - fixed

### **North Tyneside**

#### **Areas for improvement**

Cell 30– Door coming away from frame. Request to repair was noted. - going to be fixed in the closure period

Cell 37 – Window broken - - going to be fixed in the closure period

Toilet not flushing in cell 33 - fixed

Cell 12 out of use due to broken CCTV - fixed

Interview room 3 lock broken - fixed