



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – January 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 January 2016 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.

Hexham

All well and clean and tidy.

Detainee shower out of use.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Detainees raised no concerns.

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 34 out of order due to broken camera

ID's of visitors not checked by front desk staff.

Forth Banks

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

Visitors observed shift hand over.

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Issue with range of WIFI used for the Electronic Custody Record System.

Dishwasher located in detainee kitchen in need of repair.

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