



Independent Custody Visitors

August 2022

Below are some of the highlights, issues and other newsworthy information raised during visits or by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner during **August 2022**.

Sunderland - Southwick

Two visits were made to Southwick Custody Suite, the suite was found to be clean and tidy on all occasions. Staff were also friendly and helpful.

All systems were in working order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been offered washing facilities and time in exercise yards.

ICVs positively highlighted that where detainees personal items were removed, this was correctly recorded on the custody record.

Areas for improvement:

24.08.22 (8:40pm)

Cell 18 out of use for storage

No water running out of sink beside Cell 6

31.08.22 (6:10pm)

Low staffing levels

Force Response :

- 1. Cell 18 at Southwick is used as a permanent storage room and has been for some time now due to lack of other storage rooms.**
- 2. Awaiting repair to sink outside of cell 6.**
- 3. Staffing levels have been stretched during summer leave periods. We have a new supply of Custody Sgt's joining the department in October as well as new detention Officers. This will bring our establishment back to a healthy level.**

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

One visit was undertaken to Middle Engine Lane, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was very good and all staff were polite and helpful.

ICVs positively highlighted that where detainees clothing/shoes had been removed this was correctly recorded on the custody record.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided with showers and time in exercise yard.

ICVs positively noted that those detainees requiring AAs had been interviewed with AA present.

Areas for Improvement:

22.08.22 (08:40pm)

- Out of date cereal bars and coffee disposed of.
- Cell 1 out of use due to issue with water
- Cell 4 – out of use due to broken camera
- Low detainee food stocks.

Force Response:

- 1. The out of date stock has been disposed of.**
- 2. Cell 1 now back in use.**
- 3. Cell 4 now back in use.**
- 4. Food stocks were ordered.**

Newcastle – Forth Banks

One visit was undertaken to Forth Banks, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was good, and all staff were polite and helpful.

ICVs noted that cleaning of detainee kitchen had been undertaken and all in good order.

Areas for Improvement:

07.08.22 (11:30am)

- All detainees bar one had not been provided toilet roll within their cells.
- Detainee lockers outside of cells left open.
- Filing of ICV documents and previous ICV reports within the custody suite folder to be looked at.

Force Response:

- 1. I have previously reminded all custody staff of the need to ensure toilet rolls are placed into cell of detainees. The occasions where we refuse toilet roll (When we suspect DP will use it to damage cell or cover camera) needs to be updated onto the ECR. This has featured on several recent ICV reports and I have now escalated this to each shift Inspector to speak to their staff and ensure this area is improved.**
- 2. Locker doors left open – As per point 1. I have included this in the request to the Inspectors.**
- 3. My staff have been tasked with organizing the ICV folder today 25/9.**