



NORTHUMBRIA  
**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

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## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **December 2024**

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 **December 2024**.

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### **Sunderland – Southwick**

One visit was made to Southwick Custody Suite, the suite was found to be clean and tidy. Staff were also friendly and helpful.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was available in the suite.

Detainee food checked and all in order.

Exercise yard checked and all in order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided access to exercise yard during the visit.

ICVs noted that detainees had been offered showers.

### **Areas for improvement:**

- **Cell 7 being used for storage**

### **Force Response:**

- **Thank you for the observation, a large amount of stock had arrived and with the cell currently closed at that time for repair, the stock was placed in there till it could be sorted into the various storage room. Since been moved and the cell repaired and back in service.**

### **Forth Banks - Newcastle**

Two visits were undertaken, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was good, and all staff were polite and helpful.

All detainee food checked and in good order.

ICVs positively noted that officers responded quickly to any detainee requests.

Detainee stores including clothing and toiletries check and all in good supply.

ICVs positively noted that reading materials had been provided to some detainees.

Detainee wheelchair onsite.

#### **Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- Out of date drinks removed and disposed of.

#### **Force Response:**

- Thank you for raising and removing the items, Staff to ensure rotation of food and drinks to ensure all products are used prior to expire dates, to reduce wastage.

### **Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside**

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

ICVs positively noted that there was a wheelchair on site.

#### **Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- Out of date drinks disposed of.
- ICVs stated that cell call buzzers were not being cancelled by staff even in empty cells.

#### **Force Response:**

- Thank you for raising and removing the items, Staff to ensure rotation of food and drinks to ensure all products are used prior to expire dates, to reduce wastage.
- Staff to be reminded to reset cell buzzers, recent PACE duties conducted all cells were reset, will continue to monitor.