



## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **June 2025**

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 **June 2025**.

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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.

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

- No concerns raised by ICV's

#### **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 detainees had been provided with newspapers/books and some had requested distraction items during the visit.

Detainee wheelchair onsite.

Exercise yard checked which was clean and tidy.

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

- A large number of cell buzzers not cancelled by staff
- Cell 47 lock broken
- Cell 1 toilet broken
- On most occasions female detainees had been offered a hygiene pack however on some occasions this had not been offered.

#### **Force Response:**

- Duly noted and staff have been reminded of this, Custody Inspectors are monitoring daily
- Cell 47, awaiting parts

- Cell 1 is now repaired and in operation
- We have just reminded staff of the new to ensure offered and recorded. We have a new hygiene product introduced to our suites, which should be in place shortly if not already arrived.

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

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

Food and stocks checked and all in good order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees requested distraction items which were available.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was on site.

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

- A large number of cell buzzers not cancelled by staff.

### **Force Response:**

- Duly noted and staff have been reminded of this, Custody Inspectors are monitoring daily

### **Bedlington - Northumberland**

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

Stocks checked and good supplies.

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

- Detainee drinks taken out of sleeves therefore use by dates could not be checked by ICV's.

### **Force Response:**

- Thank you for noting this, will ensure staff are aware of this practice and the risk of not being able to establish a use-by-date