



## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **August 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 **August 2025**.

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#### **Sunderland – Southwick**

Four visits were made to Southwick Custody Suite, the suite and exercise yard was found to be clean and tidy. Staff were also friendly and helpful.

ICVs positively noted that detainees where appropriate had been offered washing facilities and time in exercise yard on the vast majority of occasions.

ICVs noted that detainees had been offered contact with support organisations and had seen custody healthcare staff where required.

ICVs positively noted that distraction items had been provided.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was on site.

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

#### **No issues identified.**

##### **Force Response:**

- **Thank you for your team's support and effort in carrying out these visits.**

#### **Forth Banks – Newcastle**

Three visits were undertaken, the overall cleanliness of the suite 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.

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

- Cell 47 camera fault
- Exercise yard in need of cleaning.

**Force Response:**

- Camera cell 47 – Noted and I believe this is a long-term issue, I will raise it again. The cell is currently off-line to prevent its use given the issue.
- Noted, the yard is inspected regularly and work scheduled by the maintenance team for periodic cleaning.

**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 highlighted that where appropriate female hygiene packs had been offered.

**Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- Detainee lockers open
- Call bells not cancelled
- ICVs noted that a wheelchair was on site during earlier visits this month however this could not be found on the most recent visit.

**Force Response:**

- Noted and staff to be reminded on the importance of securing these lockers.
- Call bells reminder to be sent
- This is being investigated by the unit to try and locate.

**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 supply.

Wheelchair on site

ICVs positively noted that a detainee commented on how well they had been treated by staff whilst in custody.

**Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

**No issues or concerns raised.**

**Force Response:**

- Thank you for your team's support and effort in carrying out these visits.