



## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **September 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 **September 2025**.

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#### **Sunderland – Southwick**

Two 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 new netting had been added to the exercise yard.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was on site.

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

- **Dead bird carcass on netting within exercise yard**
- **Out of date detainee drinks disposed of**

#### **Force Response:**

- **Noted and will ensure checked to see it has been removed**
- **Thank you and staff to be reminded to ensure stock rotation to avoid any waste.**

#### **Forth Banks – Newcastle**

One visit was 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 washing facilities and time in exercise yard.

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

- **Cell 21 light broken**
- **3 cells out of use for camera faults 41, 47 and 49**

**Force Response:**

- Cell 21 back in service
- Three camera faults were rectified and cells back in use.

**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.

Detainee who required additional support had this provided.

**Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- Small amount of out of date detainee drinks disposed of.
- Wheelchair still not replaced after two months.

**Force Response:**

- Thank you and staff to be reminded to ensure stock rotation to avoid any waste.
- Wheelchair has been replaced

**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 all in order.

Wheelchair on site

**Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

**No issues or concerns raised.**