



Independent Custody Visitors

November 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 **November 2025**.

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.

Food stocks and kitchen checked and all in order.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was on site.

Areas for improvement:

- **Some detainee food stocks were low**
- **Cell 7 CCTV broken**

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 washing facilities and time in exercise yard.

Wheelchair available in suite.

Detainees who had additional needs confirmed where required they had received additional support by staff.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

- **Cell 47 broken camera**

- **Cell 36 broken lock**

Force Response:

Thank you for raising these items. Our locks are currently undergoing servicing and maintenance as part of a rolling program. These have been addressed with the locks fixed

The CCTV issues highlighted have also been resolved

Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside

Two 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.

Good clothing stocks.

Exercise yard checked and in order.

Replacement wheelchair now in suite and in use.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

No issues identified during visits.