



Independent Custody Visitors

October 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 **October 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:

- **Detainee lockers left open**

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 confirmed where required they had seen Mental Health Support staff.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

- **Shortage of towels**

- Some detainees reported that they had not been offered time in exercise yard or washing, however it must be noted that several other detainees confirmed they had been offered these facilities and these were provided.

Force Response:

Thank you for raising these items. Staff have been reminded of the needs to close lockers due to the risk the accident / impact risk caused by open doors.

I have confirmed that sufficient towels are in place across all our suites. I note re showers that some detainees could not get access and others reported no issues. A reminder has gone to Custody Sgts re the need to allow access to all.

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.

Replacement wheelchair now in suite and in use.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

No issues identified during visits.

Bedlington - Northumberland

One visit was undertaken, however ICVs were unable to gain access to the suite due to issues with phone.