



## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **March 2026**

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 **March 2026**.

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#### **Sunderland – Southwick**

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

Food stocks and kitchen checked.

Wheelchair on site.

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

- Two detainees had to request toilet roll however it was not stated by ICVs if detainees were not offered due to a risk assessment being undertaken.

#### **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 inhalers for detainees were onsite

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

- No issues raised.

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

One visit was 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.

Exercise yard checked and in order.

**Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- **5 pots of instant oat out of date-10/3/26.**
- **Cell 11 damaged light**
- **Cell 34 being used for evidence.**
- **No lids on cups on bench in kitchen.**

**Force Response:**

**Sunderland – Southwick**

With the exception of dry cells toilet roll should be kept in the cell for the detainee unless a risk assessment has determined this is not appropriate. This could be for a number of reasons, including a history of flooding cells.

**Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside**

A reminder has been sent to all Custody colleagues following a similar finding in February regarding food dates. As this was sent early April it is hoped this is not found again.

Daily checks are conducted on all cells and referrals made to get any issues addressed. The light in cell 11 has been reported and is awaiting repair.

A notice has been put in the kitchen reminding colleagues that lids must remain on drinks.