



Independent Custody Visitors

May 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 **May 2026**.

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.

Hygiene packs checked and all in order.

Areas for improvement:

- Cell 23 broken lock
- Debris on roof of exercise yard

Force Response:

Daily checks are conducted on all facilities and stock within the Custody Suite. Where repairs can be completed by internal Maintenance Operatives, these are actioned in a timely manner. Some works need to be completed by external contractors. Both of the issues have now been resolved.

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 detainee religious items had been stored correctly and with care.

Menopause packs checked and located in suite.

Two wheelchairs onsite.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

- Cell 7 broken sink
- Cell 47 camera out of order

Force Response:

Daily checks are conducted on all facilities and stock within the Custody Suite. Where repairs can be completed by internal Maintenance Operatives, these are actioned in a timely manner. Some works need to be completed by external contractors. Both of the issues have now been resolved.

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.

Exercise yards checked and in order.

Wheelchair on site.

Areas for Improvement or points raised:

- Cell 11 damaged hatch
- Cell 19 chipped glass in door
- No medium or extra-large detainee jumpers in stock
- No menopause packs in the suite.

Force Response:

Daily checks are conducted on all facilities and stock within the Custody Suite. Where repairs can be completed by internal Maintenance Operatives, these are actioned in a timely manner. Some works need to be completed by external contractors. Both of the maintenance issues for cells 11 and 19 have now been resolved.

The jumpers in both sizes and the menopause packs have been ordered.