
Independent Custody Visitors

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Quarterly visit report
Qtr2 (July-Sep) 2018/19



Independent **C**ustody **V**isitors



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**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
Gloucestershire

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of visits carried out by the Independent Custody Visitors to Gloucestershire Constabulary Custody Suite (Compass House) in the period April to June 2018/19.

Background – how the scheme works

Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Schemes exist to provide assurance to local communities that they can have confidence in the way in which the police treat people who are held in their custody.

Ensuring effective management and oversight of the ICV Scheme is a statutory responsibility of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The ICV visiting process and procedure is governed by a Code of Practice which is issued by the Home Office.

The OPCC recruits volunteer ICVs to undertake the role and provides them with support and on-going training to ensure that they can discharge their role effectively.

The scheme plays an important part in maintaining police accountability to the local community and the aim of this annual report is to ensure that this information is available in the public domain.

ICVs are volunteers who visit our custody, in pairs, and speak to detainees who are being held in police custody. Visits are random and unannounced so that the police do not know when they will take place.

ICVs arrive at the custody suite and are given immediate access to the suite on production of their ID card.

They enter police cells and speak to individuals being held with their permission. Conversations with detainees focus on welfare needs and the provision of rights and entitlements under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE).

ICVs also review a detainee's custody record with their permission to ensure that the detainee has been treated appropriately.

ICVs are not concerned with the identity of the detainee or with the reason for their detention. Any issues raised are discussed as appropriate with custody staff. ICVs also inspect and comment on the general condition and facilities of the custody suite including the kitchen, medical room and showers.

ICVs look, listen, observe and report back to the OPCC on their findings. If the OPCC thinks there are issues that need attention – these will be raised with the Constabulary using the formal channels.

ICVs come from a variety of backgrounds and sections of the community. They must be over the age of 18 and live, study or work within Gloucestershire's policing borders.

Custody overview

Total number of detainees through custody	Number of ICV visits	Total number of detainees in custody at time of ICV visits	Total number of detainees unavailable	Number of detainees observed	Total number of detainees visited
1714	7	74	10	17	31

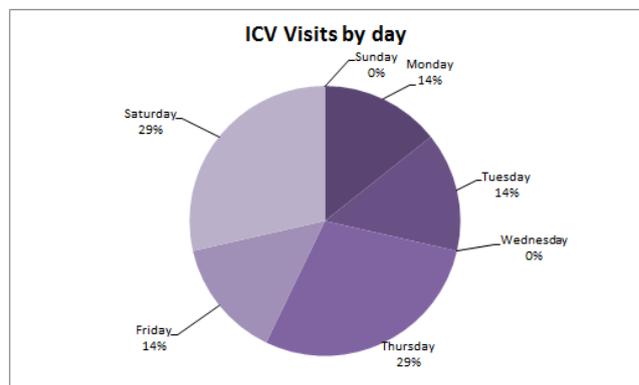
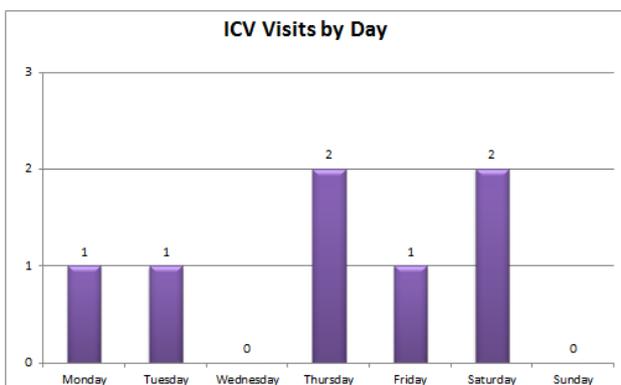
A recruitment drive is underway and we have recently interviewed four new ICVs with another application due imminently. We have been actively publicising the scheme at community events (Constabulary Open Day and training / awareness event at local community facility for local Mosques). Engagement and promotion activity has also taken place at a local Magistrate's meeting and at Gloucestershire University.

Our website has been refreshed and now includes recent films:

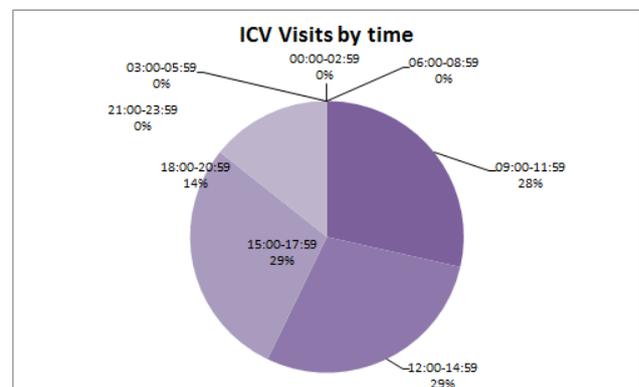
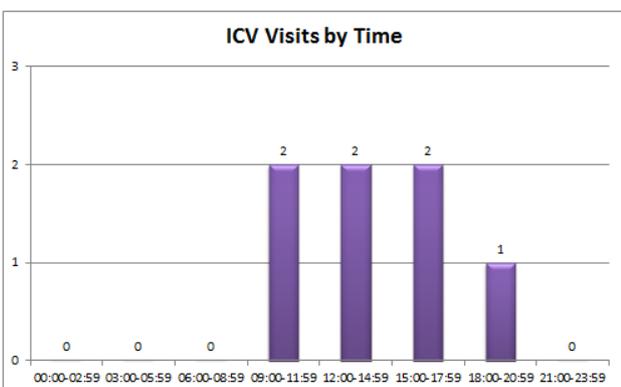
<https://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/how-to-get-involved/independent-custody-visiting-icv-scheme/gloucestershires-icv-scheme/?a=searchbar>

Visit statistics

Days of the week



Times of the day



Length of visit

Date of visit	Length of visit (hour : minute)
19/07/18	0:40
24/17/18	0:20
09/08/18	0:40
18/08/18	0:45
30/08/18	1:25
01/09/18	No finish time recorded
28/09/18	0:35
Average for quarter	0:44

Regularity of visits

Average of 1 visit every 13.14 days

Comments

The table below details the comments recorded at each ICV visit:

Date of visit	Comment
19/07/18	Helpful as always. Cell 39 unusable due to uneven floor.
24/17/18	No comments
09/08/18	Found the custody suite to be clean and welcoming. Entry was very efficient. All questions were answered by escorting officer. Interaction between escorting officer was very positive.
18/08/18	Require more mattresses and pillows. Helpful as always, very professional and helpful custody staff.
30/08/18	Given how busy custody is today, Sargent was extremely helpful. Gained access to custody very quickly. Everything appears very calm and organised. However, there is a total of 4 detainees who currently need access to healthcare and a further detainee who is pregnant (officers not yet aware). Checked that all females in custody have access to feminine hygiene products and the ability to ask for them if needed.
01/09/18	Advised that detainee in Cell 24 was in hospital. Also that it was inappropriate to visit Detainee in Cell 33 due to inappropriate behaviour towards females. CO very helpful and courteous. Rest of building clean.
28/09/18	Kitchen was well stocked with lots of variety. Custody suite was generally clean and tidy. Staff were helpful and pleasant and was interesting to meet a CDO and hear what their job remit involves.

The table below details comments made about detainees during visits:

Date of visit	Comment
19/07/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No problems • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • Content but a little confused. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • This gentleman was content but not aware of his surroundings, recovering from hangover. Anti-depressants in wallet. • No problems, concerned about inform his place of work about his absence. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. • Observed breathing whilst asleep. Under constant watch due to possibility of self-harm.
24/17/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment • Had been in for the past 24 hrs, rights had been read, said on loads of medication, seen by the nurse, had food and drink and was treated well. • As we arrived he had a seizure so medical emergency kicked in and we didn't visit as he was being treated. • Was being interviewed. • On medication had been seen by the doctor. Requested coffee. Said he was being looked after well. • At the beginning he was a bit not cooperative, but as we asked questions it was clear that he was looked after well which he admitted and tried to tell us what he was in for and we declined to listen as we reiterated that we were totally independent from the police. Requested coffee. • Had been looked after on medication, custody staff aware of this he told us. • No comments
09/08/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone calls withheld due to searches needing to be undertaken Spilled drink on floor. Cuts on knuckles- not requiring immediate attention. • No comments - refused visit • All fine • Sergeant James 1049- spoke to him about phoning his father • Attempted suicide. Cuts to right hand knuckles and large plaster to left wrist. Requires medication for mental health issues- takes in the evening- spoke to sergeant James about getting hold of medication for the appropriate time- this will be addressed in his mental health review. • No comments • Vulnerable female with past history of suicide attempts, currently cleared by mental health team and accompanied by SW Had food and drink wrappers in cell

Date of visit	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments • No comments • Refused food and drink <p>Wanted information about why he had been detained for so long, officer explained this to him.</p>
18/08/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanting anxiety tablets and waiting phone call (operational reason for not given it). Awaiting her solicitor. • With solicitor. • Refused • Refused • With medics • Asked to her custody records after claiming a few issues with her detention. After checking and consultation with custody Sgt no issues or inappropriate behaviour apparent. Point of Note when we arrived initially in custody area detainee was kicking off. Causing a disruption. • Violent detainee, Custody Sgt recommended no visit, he was viewed through window was asleep, breathing and quiet.
30/08/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time in custody, wants fresh air, we must advise staff that she is pregnant as she has not yet told them. • Is aware of reason for arrest, does not want anyone informed of arrest but is aware that he is able to let someone know, would like medication for various health problems. • Does not want anyone informed of arrest, would like to see a healthcare professional. • Checked welfare via hatch, seemed fine. • First time in custody, seemed quite distressed, would like to see a Doctor regarding medical history. • Has been in custody before, says he has not been given the option to have anyone informed of his arrest, and would like to have someone informed. Needs access to mental health medication urgently. • No issues to address seemed comfortable in cell. • Seemed very confused, did not know if she had been offered legal contact, read her rights. Doesn't need sanitary products but has been offered. Isn't aware of reason for arrest and would like someone to come to explain what is happening next. • Been in custody before, is aware of the next steps. Seems comfortable in cell. • This is her first time in custody, but seems very relaxed. Visited in the secure outside area off one of the wings. She has not yet notified anyone of her arrest, although she has been offered this. She would like to notify family of her arrest if she is to stay in overnight.
01/09/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment • No comment • Refused • Did not want to call anyone. Refused food when offered. Cell clean. • Did not want anything to eat. Cell comfortable and clean. • No comment • Mental Health professional arrived as we left. Custody officer mentioned possibility that appropriate adult may be required. Seemed

Date of visit	Comment
28/09/18	<p data-bbox="421 192 1437 226">distressed. And said she felt 'shaky'. Had drinks. Now requested food.</p> <ul data-bbox="373 232 1437 900" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="373 232 1437 338">• Chinese Male, Mandarin Speaker, interpreter requested. Could not speak to the individual however we observed that he had eaten and had something to drink. <li data-bbox="373 344 1437 636">• Appeared to be a vulnerable gentleman that had been visited by the mental health team. He takes anti-depressant medication that he does not have with him in custody, he may need this if he is here for any length of time. He asked us for toilet paper, soap to wash his hands and a towel to dry them. He stated that when he had asked the custody staff for this he was told "this isn't no premier inn". However during our conversation with him a CDO arrived with toilet roll and soap. The sergeant asked him to fetch a towel for him too. <li data-bbox="373 642 608 676">• No comment <li data-bbox="373 683 1437 788">• Custody staff explained that she was volatile and likely to lash out and was therefore on constant supervision. We decided it was best to give her space and privacy. <li data-bbox="373 795 1437 864">• Also advised that this was an 'unpleasant drunk' who had urinated in the cell. Cell looked as if it had been cleared up. <li data-bbox="373 871 608 900">• No comment

As the tables above show, there have been no real areas of concern reported to the OPCC requiring the attention of the Chief Officer's Group within the Constabulary. No issues of concern have been reported in relation to the standard of the environment in custody or with individual detainees.