



# 2025/2026 Annual Statistics

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

## Purpose

It is the responsibility of the Staffordshire Commissioners Office (SCO), in accordance with section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to operate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme which provides an independent check on the way the Force carry out their duties with regard to DP's. These arrangements allow the SCO to secure greater understanding and confidence in the operation of the custody environment and the treatment of Detained Persons (DPs).

The SCO produce quarterly statistical data and annual statistical data from the information provided by Independent Custody Visitors on their ICV1 report forms collected as part of visits made to the Custody Suites in Staffordshire. The production of statistical data assists in the management of the scheme and provides insight at a regional and national level of visits conducted to DP's. Statistical data is contained in pages 3 & 4.

## Background

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are volunteers appointed from the local community. Their role is to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained in Police custody. Their visits provide an independent check on the way Police Officers carry out their duties in relation to the statutory and other rules governing the welfare of DP's.

In Staffordshire there are two ICV Panels. The Northern Area Panel has 10 members and is responsible for visits to the Northern Area Custody Facility (NACF) at Etruria. The Southern Area Panel comprises of 12 members and visits the Watling Custody Facility (SACF) at Gailey.

ICVs are required to conduct their visits in pairs and following each visit they complete an ICV1 Form recording the arrival, start and end time for each visit, the gender of the DP and whether an adult or young person. It records the number of DPs present, the number accepting a visit and the reasons why a visit was not accepted or able to be conducted. The form also has space for the ICVs and Custody Sergeants to make and respond to comments and also for the ICVs to record matters raised by the DP's they visit.

## Summary

- During this reporting period there have been eleven requests by the ICVs for formal issue resolution by Staffordshire Police, all of which have been responded to with an acceptable level of resolution and there are no outstanding matters. Matters included environmental issues including temperature of cells; cells out of use; chairs for custody staff and out of date items in First Aid boxes.
- The ICV waiting time for admittance to the Custody Facilities shows seventy-seven out of ninety-nine admittances being immediate and twenty being between 1 and 5 minutes. Two exceeded 5 minutes due to extreme levels of demand in the facility. The short wait time for admittance in most visits demonstrating openness to visits by Staffordshire Police.
- Work is ongoing to enhance the number of visits during the night hours. This is to be balanced with the detainees right to a sleep period. There were zero visits between the hours of 22:00 and 06:00. ICVs will be asked to have at least one visit during the hours of 22:00 – 06:00 to ensure consistency in care during these hours. It is recognised that a considerable number of detainees will be asleep and therefore detainees visited numbers will be low. However, ICVs are encouraged to observe any booking in processes that do occur during this period.
- In 2025 Staffordshire Custody were subject to a PEEL inspection of Custody. As part of the preparation, ICVs were invited to undertake an Independent Audit by the Head of Custody. In addition, the ICV Scheme Manager was interviewed as a Stakeholder. The HMICFRS report is due in May/ June 2026.
- 2026 saw the ICV Scheme undertake the bi-annual Quality Assurance Framework Assessment (QAF). The QAF consists of four distinct levels. The

levels are Code Complaint, Silver, Gold and Platinum - each level having different cumulative criteria. 2026 saw the Staffordshire scheme retain its Gold Level standard.

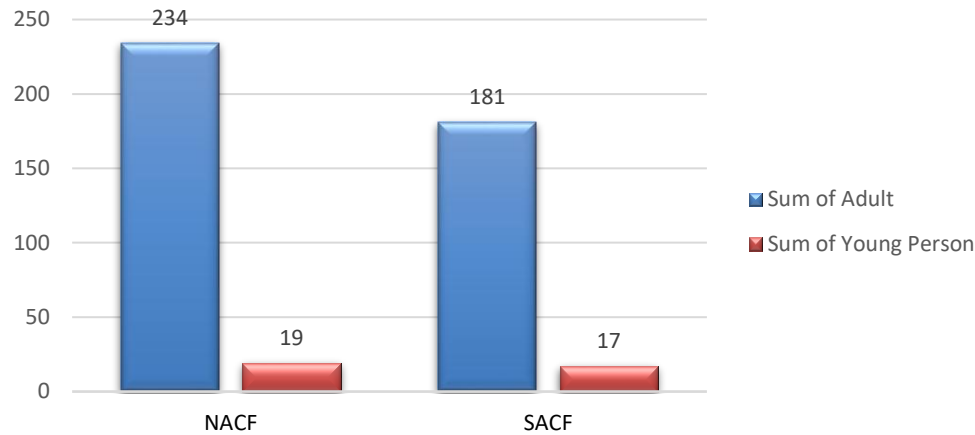
- The SCO thanks the Custody Teams in Staffordshire Police and the Independent Custody Visitors for their commitment to ensuring that the welfare of detainees has been maintained in Staffordshire Custody Facilities.

Louise Clayton: Chief Executive  
Staffordshire Commissioners Office

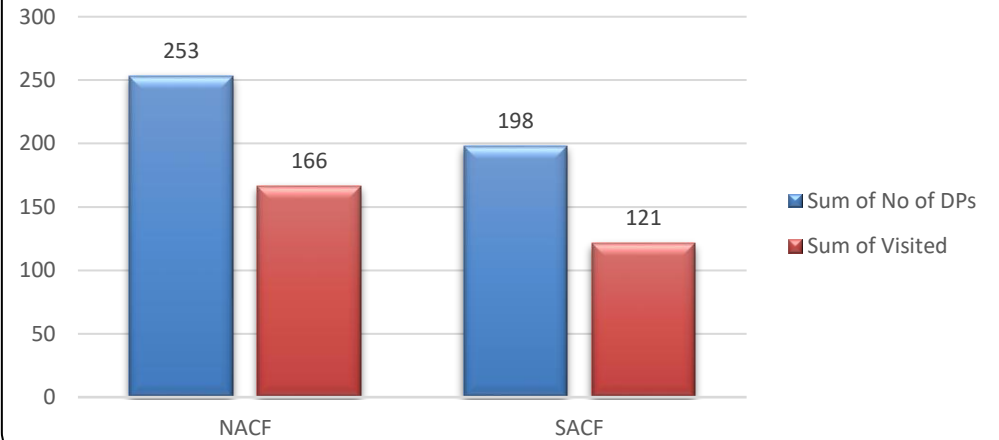
**Scheme Contact:** Michelle Ryan **Email:** [michelle.ryan@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.ryan@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

## Annual Detainee Statistics 2025-2026

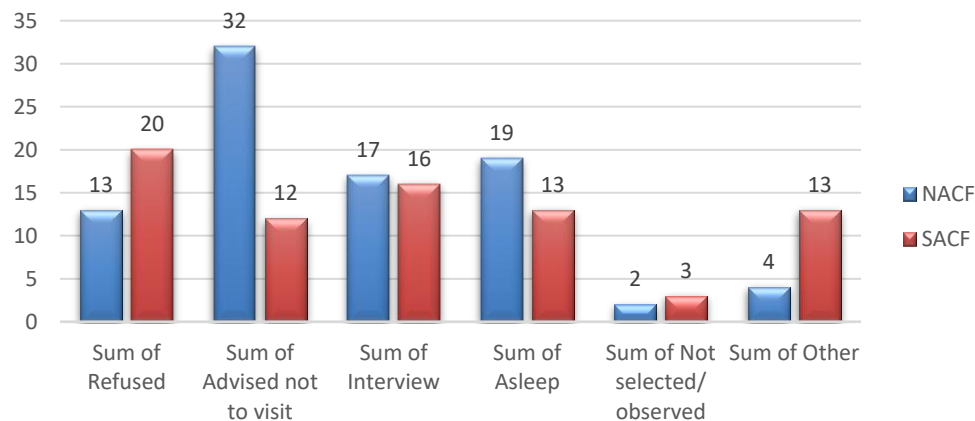
### Adults & Young People in Custody During ICV Visits 2025/2026



### Number of Detainees in Custody at Time of Visit & Number Personally Visited by ICVs 2025/2026



### Reasons Detainees were not seen during ICV Visits 2025/2026

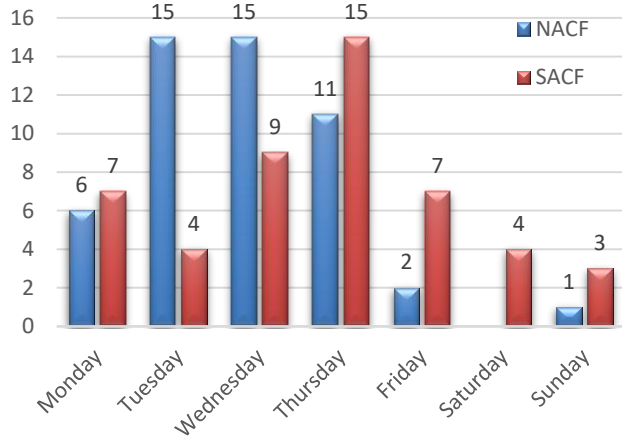


Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 17,171 people were detained by Staffordshire Police.

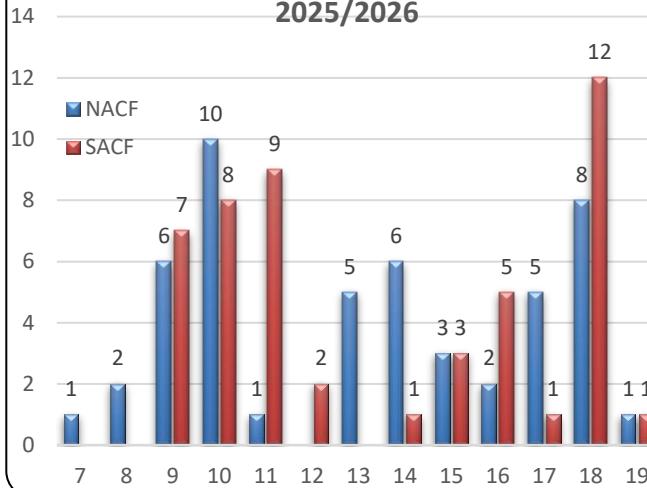
Proportionally, of all detainees for Staffordshire Police for the 12-month period prior to this report, adults represented 94.5% and juveniles 5.5%.

Of those present on ICV visits in this year adults make up the majority of detainees 92% across all panels, 8% were juveniles. These numbers are therefore representative of the detainee profile of Staffordshire Police custody facilities.

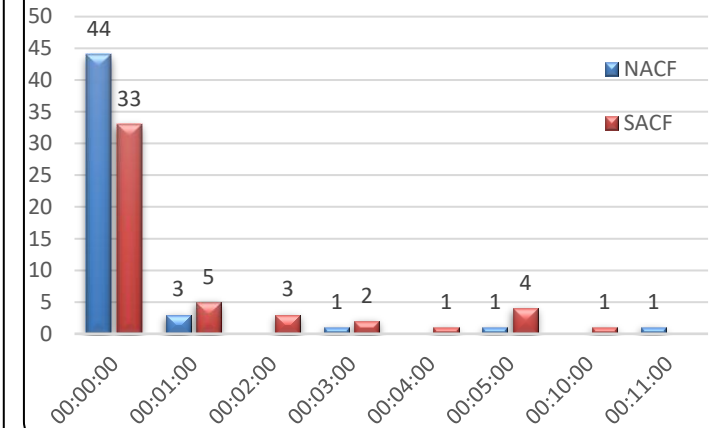
**Days of Visit 2025/2026**



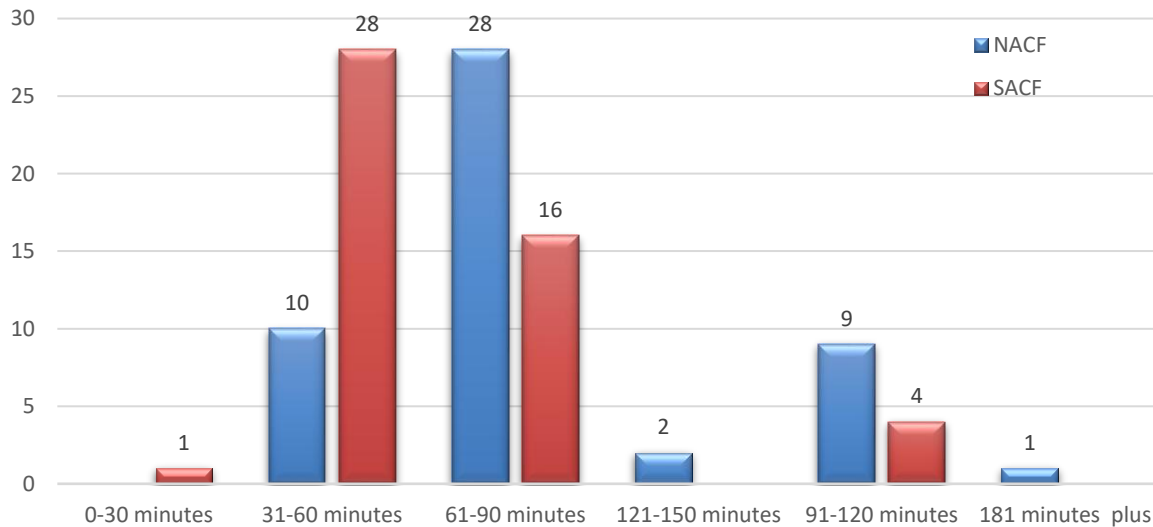
**Visit Start Time by Hour of the Day 2025/2026**



**Custody Admission Waiting Time in Minutes 2025/2026**



**Visit Length in Minutes 2025/2026**



ICVs should be admitted immediately to the custody area. The visit start time should be recorded at the moment they have been admitted to the custody area. If access is delayed for more than five minutes the credibility of the visit could be questioned. Access to the general custody suite from the reception area should only be delayed when the Custody Officer considers that the ICV may be placed in immediate danger if they are allowed to enter.

Average visit length across all panels for the period is **71 minutes**.

Actual time spent by Staffordshire's ICVs inspecting Custody Suites in this period amounts to **116 hours and 46 minutes**.