



# Annual Statistics

1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019



# **INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING**

## **Annual Statistics**

### **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

#### **Purpose**

To provide statistical data on Independent Custody Visits made to the Police Stations and Custody Suites in Staffordshire during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

#### **Background**

It is the responsibility of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, in accordance with section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to operate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. The scheme provides an independent check on the way the Force carry out their duties with regard to detained persons.

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 Detained Persons (DPs).

In Staffordshire there are now two ICV Panels. The Northern Area Panel is the largest with 14 members and is responsible for visits to the Northern Area Custody Facility (NACF) at Etruria. The Southern Area Panel comprises 14 members and visits the Watling House Custody Facility at Gailey. The Trent Valley Panel had 11 members and visited Burton Custody Facility. Burton Custody Facility closed on 14 January 2019.

ICVs are required to conduct their visits in pairs and following each visit they complete an ICV1 Form. The ICV1 form records the arrival, start and end time for each visit, the category of DPs present and whether they are male, female or juvenile. 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 DPs they visit.

These arrangements allow the Staffordshire Commissioner to secure greater understanding and confidence in the operation, in practice, of the custody environment and the treatment of detained persons.

The Office of the Staffordshire Commissioner produce quarterly statistical data and annual statistical data from the information provided by Independent Custody Visitors on their ICV1 report forms. The production of statistical data in a report format will ensure a formal independent oversight of custody proceedings.

## Detainee Statistics

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 15,815 people were detained by Staffordshire Police. Of those detainees 734 (4.6%) were present when Independent Custody Visitors conducted their visits.

| Visiting Panel                           |           | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total Across all Panels |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Breakdown of Detained Persons            | Adult     | 369           | 201           | 117          | 687                     |
|  | Juveniles | 19            | 14            | 14           | 47                      |
| Total Number of Detained Persons Present |           | 388           | 215           | 131          | 734                     |

- Adults 93% make up the majority of detainees across all panels and 7% were juveniles. Proportionally, of all detainees for Staffordshire Police for the 12 month period, adults represented 93% and juveniles 7%.
- During the visits a total of 416 detainees were visited.
- During these visits 298 detainees were not visited for the reasons as detailed below:

| Reasons why visits were not made to Detained Persons                               | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total For Reason Specified |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Visit refused by Detainee  | 20            | 9             | 8            | 37                         |
| Being interviewed  | 32            | 19            | 17           | 68                         |
| Asleep   | 49            | 24            | 16           | 89                         |
| Advised not to visit   | 33            | 8             | 4            | 45                         |
| Not selected/observed  | 4             | 2             | 1            | 7                          |
| Other reason   | 28            | 24            | 11           | 63                         |
| <b>Total of Detainees not visited, as % against Detainees present during visit</b> | 42.7%         | 40%           | 43.5%        | 42%                        |

- Across all panels 42% of detainees present in custody during the ICV visit were not seen. However, only 5% of detainees refused to see an ICV.

## Visit Statistics

### Day of the Week:

The following table summarises the number of days on which ICV visits took place and the total visits in the period undertaken by that panel, the most common day of the week for each panel is denoted with an \*:

| Day of the week that Visits were undertaken | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total All Panels |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Monday                                      | 10            | 19 *          | 3            | 32               |
| Tuesday                                     | 19            | 10            | 8 *          | 37               |
| Wednesday                                   | 19            | 11            | 7            | 37               |
| Thursday                                    | 22            | 11            | 7            | 40               |
| Friday                                      | 26 *          | 12            | 7            | 45               |
| Saturday                                    | 4             | 10            | 3            | 17               |
| Sunday                                      | 3             | 4             | 1            | 8                |
| <b>Total number of visits conducted</b>     | 103           | 77            | 36           | 216              |

- Please note that the total number of visits conducted is how many ICV visits were undertaken, it does not represent the number of detainees that were present for each visit undertaken by the ICV's.

### Visit Times:

The following table summarises the times of day on which visits took place, the most common visit time for each panel is denoted with an \*:

| Visit Start Times (24hour)              | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total All Panels |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 06:00 -12:00                            | 42            | 29 *          | 17 *         | 88               |
| 12:01 - 18:00                           | 48 *          | 27            | 13           | 88               |
| 18:01- 00:00                            | 13            | 20            | 6            | 39               |
| 00:01 – 05:59                           | 0             | 1             | 0            | 1                |
| <b>Total number of visits conducted</b> | 103           | 77            | 36           | 216              |

### Waiting Times:

ICVs should note their arrival time on the ICV1 Form as the time they present themselves at reception and declare their intention to perform a custody visit. 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. Once inside the custody suite ICVs are aware that they may have to wait for staff to become available to escort them on their cell visits but are able to utilise any time they may have by observing the formal booking in process and checking any ancillary rooms.

The following table summarises the length of time that ICVs had to wait to be admitted to custody:

| Waiting Times                        | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total All Panels |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Entry within 5 minutes               | 100           | 76            | 36           | 212              |
|                                      | 97%           | 99%           | 100%         | 98%              |
| Entry after 5 but before 10 minutes  | 1             | 0             | 0            | 1                |
| Entry after 10 but before 15 minutes | 2             | 1             | 0            | 3                |
| Entry after 15 minutes               | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0                |
| <b>Total for Individual Panels</b>   | 103           | 77            | 36           | 216              |

- Trent Valley Panel recorded an excellent 100% rate of entry within 5 minutes whilst the Southern Panel recorded a 99% rate and Northern Panel 97% rate. This overall 98% level of entry within 5 minutes shows excellent co-operation from Staffordshire Police in the smooth and transparent operation of the ICV scheme.

#### *Length of Visit:*

The following table summarises the length of each custody visit, the most common length for each panel is denoted with an \*:

| Visit Length                       | Northern Area | Southern Area | Trent Valley | Total Across All Panels |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 0 - 30 Mins                        | 7             | 11            | 3            | 21                      |
| 31 - 60 Mins                       | 43            | 36            | 11           | 90                      |
| 61 - 90 Mins                       | 38            | 18            | 12           | 68                      |
| 91 - 120 Mins                      | 11            | 10            | 8            | 29                      |
| Over 2 Hours                       | 4             | 2             | 2            | 8                       |
| <b>Total for Individual Panels</b> | 103           | 77            | 36           | 216                     |

- Average visit length across all panels for the period is 64 minutes.
- Actual time spent by Staffordshire's ICV's inspecting Custody Suites in this period amounts to 232 hours and 36 minutes.

#### **Findings**

- The OPCC is continuing to actively recruit custody visitors that are able to undertake visits between the hours of midnight and 6am at this time of day. One visit have been conducted in the last 12 months between these times and hopefully this can be built upon in the next period.

#### **Summary**

- The visits conducted by ICV's throughout Staffordshire in 2018/2019 are proportionate to the overall split between adult and juvenile detainees in the same period.
- The excellent admittance times for the annual period provide the OPCC with confidence

that all Custody Officers and staff operate to the highest levels of integrity when carrying out their roles in Custody Suites and the scrutiny of these facilities across Staffordshire.

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ICV Results on a Page 2018/2019





