



2018/2019 Quarter 4 Statistics

1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING

2018 / 2019 Quarter 4 Statistics

1st January 2019 – 31st March 2019

Purpose

To provide statistical data on Independent Custody Visits made to the Police Stations and Custody Suites in Staffordshire during the period 1st January 2019 and 31st March 2019.

Background

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. 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 has 14 members and is responsible for visits to the Northern Area Custody Facility (NACF) at Etruria. The Southern Area Panel also comprises 14 members and visits the Watling House Custody Facility at Gailey. The Trent Valley Panel ceased operating in January 2019 when the Burton Custody Facility was closed.

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 SCO to secure greater understanding and confidence in the operation, in practice, of the custody environment and the treatment of detained persons.

The SCO 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 1st January 2019 and 31st March 2019 3623 people were detained by Staffordshire Police. Of those detainees 162 (4.5%) 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	86	64	6	156
	Juveniles	3	3	0	6
Total Number of Detained Persons Present		89	67	6	162

- Adults 96% make up the majority of detainees across all panels and 4% were juveniles. Proportionally, of all detainees for Staffordshire Police for the 12 month period 2017/2018, adults represented 93% and juveniles 7%.
- During the visits a total of 89 detainees were visited.
- During these visits 53 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	3	1	0	4
Being interviewed	5	13	0	18
Asleep	4	7	0	11
Advised not to visit	4	0	0	4
Not selected/observed	0	0	0	0
Other reason	14	2	0	16
Total of Detainees not visited, as % against Detainees present during visit	30 34%	23 34%	0 0%	53 33%

- Across all panels 33% of detainees present in custody during the ICV visit were not seen. However, only 2% 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 :-

Day of the week that Visits were undertaken	Northern Area	Southern Area	Trent Valley	Total All Panels
Monday	2	6	0	8
Tuesday	5	3	0	8
Wednesday	2	3	1	6
Thursday	6	3	1	10
Friday	8	1	0	9
Saturday	0	4	0	4
Sunday	1	0	0	1
Total number of visits conducted	24	20	2	46

- 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:-

Visit Start Times (24hour)	Northern Area	Southern Area	Trent Valley	Total All Panels
06:00 -12:00	10	8	1	19
12:01 - 18:00	9	5	1	15
18:01- 00:00	5	6	0	11
00:01 – 05:59	0	1	0	1
Total number of visits conducted	24	20	2	46

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	23	19	2	44
Entry after 5 but before 10 minutes	0	0	0	0
Entry after 10 but before 15 minutes	1	1	0	2
Entry after 15 minutes	0	0	0	0
Total for Individual Panels	24	20	2	46

- All Panels recorded an excellent 96% rate of entry within 5 minutes. This 96% 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

Visit Length	Northern Area	Southern Area	Trent Valley	Total Across All Panels
0 - 30 Mins	1	3	0	4
31 - 60 Mins	9	6	0	15
61 - 90 Mins	8	4	2	14
91 - 120 Mins	6	5	0	11
Over 2 Hours	0	2	0	2
Total for Individual Panels	24	20	2	46

- Average visit length across all panels for the period is 69 minutes.
- Actual time spent by Staffordshire's ICV's inspecting Custody Suites in this period amounts to 53 hours and 61 minutes.

Summary

- The excellent admittance times continuing from the last year into this current quarter provide the SCO 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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