

Independent Custody Visiting Quarterly Update:

January – March 2021

Total number of detainees through custody	Number of ICV visits
1346	0

Number of ICV Calls	Total number of detainees in custody at time of ICV visits	Total number of detainees unavailable / refused	Total number of detainees spoken with
41	65	61	4

Active ICVs: 21

- Pembrokeshire: 5
- Powys: 6
- Ceredigion: 5
- Carmarthenshire: 5

Recruitment Update

Four new ICVs have been appointed within this quarter. The ICV recruitment drive is still ongoing and we are hoping to recruit new Team Members early next year.

Scheme Update:

- Due to an increase in covid-19 cases the decision was made to suspend physical ICV visits. This decision will be continuously reviewed with the aim of returning to visits as soon as possible.
- The OPCC has continued to review Custody records every month. This has helped the Office to maintain an oversight of the custody environment whilst visits have been on pause. A mixed rota of physical visits and calls to recommence from April 2021 onwards.
- The number of detainees accepting an ICV call continues to be an issue, this is an issue nationally.
- ICVs have managed to solve some environmental issues via the phone through discussions with the Custody Sgt, these include, Religious material issues, some estate issues with cell call buzzers and have provided some feedback in relation to CCTV footage issues.

Custody Record reviewing findings:

Whilst ICV visits have been reduced, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has been reviewing a selection of custody records every fortnight in order to maintain an oversight of the custody environment during the pandemic.

Main findings:

- Improvements in females being appointed a female member of staff.
- New Custody system prompts have brought improvements in the explanation of the use of the cell call bell and explanation to all detainees that the toilet area is pixilated for dignity.

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- No delays in the provision of Appropriate Adults or remote solicitor advice over the period.
- The availability of alternative accommodation for children continues to be an issue and this is being discussed at an all Wales level.
- There is a lack of detail being recorded within custody logs in relation to the provision of hygiene matters such as handwashing and showers.