

## Independent Custody Visiting Quarterly Update:

### April – December 2020



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
4798	12	24	8	5	11

Number of ICV Calls	Total number of detainees in custody at time of ICV visits	Total number of detainees unavailable	Number of detainees refused	Total number of detainees spoken with
48	78	31	42	5

### Active ICVs: 21

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

### Recruitment Update

Three new ICVs were interviewed in November and are currently going through vetting with the aim of joining the scheme in the New Year. The ICV recruitment drive is still ongoing and we are hoping to recruit new Team Members early next year.

### Scheme Update:

- 19th March – ICV visits suspended - Dyfed-Powys Police made the decision to postpone all non-essential visits to Police sites in order to safeguard the resilience of policing in Dyfed-Powys, and in particular the sensitive sites of Police Stations. The Force therefore made the decision that only essential visits should be made to Custody in order to protect both the custody staff and custody environment.
- 10th August – ICV calls introduced - The OPCC decided to introduce phone calls into custody suites across Dyfed-Powys for ICVs to speak directly with detainees, checking on their wellbeing and to ensure that their rights are being upheld. This approach ensures that the health and safety of custody and ICVs are protected, whilst allowing my Visitors to speak with individuals in detention.
- 18th September - In Policing Board on the 18th of September a decision was made to introduce a phased return to physical ICV Visits, with a mixed rota of calls and physical visits to be introduced. This decision is continuously reviewed and dependent on local Covid-19 levels in each area.

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#### ICV findings:

- Environmental issues such as faulty lights, heating issues and the cleaning of vents within custody have been reported and resolved.
- Monitoring of Covid-19 matters such as PPE provisions, Covid-19 procedures within the suites and whether Covid-19 has caused any delays in the provision of healthcare and Appropriate Adults – No issues found.
- The absence of a Bible as a religious book in one of the suites – New Bible on order.
- Plans for work to be undertaken on one of the Custody front desks.

#### 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. There has been 128 records reviewed since March 2020.

#### 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.
- 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.