



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-19

Independent Custody Visiting Scotland

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
POLICE CUSTODY IN SCOTLAND.....	5
Custody Estate	5
Throughput Figures	6
Detainee Demographics	6
Children in Custody	7
INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING IN SCOTLAND	8
Key Inputs	8
ICVS Volunteers	9
Demographics of Volunteers	9
Frequency of Visits	10
CUSTODY VISITING 2018-19.....	11
Key Assurance Outcomes	11
ICVS findings	12
Challenges for ICVS.....	15
AREAS OF FOCUS.....	16
Engagement with Police Scotland	16
Successes	16
FUTURE PLANS	20
FURTHER INFORMATION	22

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present our Annual Independent Custody Visiting Review. This report covers the period of 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 and provides an analysis of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Scotland.

Through the management of the scheme and support for the visitor community, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) plays an active role in promoting the right treatment for people in police custody, ensuring that issues relating to individuals or the custody estate are addressed appropriately.

During the reporting period I am pleased to say that there have been no serious issues reported about the care and treatment of individuals. A wealth of feedback has been provided and important system issues raised by our many visitors. This mix of reassurance and insight illustrates the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication from our volunteers and staff.

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS) has enabled the SPA to fulfil its responsibility under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) ensuring the wellbeing of those held in police custody is monitored and any issues relating to detainees or the custody estate is addressed. This year the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) developed a Quality Assurance Framework which aimed to help reflect on how schemes comply with Code of Practice, areas of strength and promote custody visiting. A vast amount of work has gone into providing evidence for peer assessments and sharing of resources, within each level, I am pleased to say that ICV scheme in Scotland was awarded 'Silver' for providing a good standard of custody visiting and volunteer management.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the ICV team and to all our volunteers for their commitment to this vital role.



Susan Deacon CBE

Chair, Scottish Police Authority



INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Police Authority has a duty to implement and coordinate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, the primary purpose being to provide independent oversight of Police Scotland custody to ensure that detainees are being treated fairly and in accordance with the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). It aims to prevent ill-treatment through establishing a system of regular visits to places of detention. OPCAT requires that the State designate a 'National Preventive Mechanism' (NPM) to carry out visits and monitors and reports on the treatment of and conditions for detainees.

NPM is made up of 21 bodies who monitor places of detention across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This includes police custody, prison, court custody, immigration and military detention, secure children's homes and places where people are detained under mental health legislation. The NPM members have the power to enter places of detention and speak to detainees and staff in private. ICVS is a member of NPM.

Chapter 16 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 provides visitors with the necessary authority to carry out various tasks relating to the detention of persons, including the examining of custody records, when a detainee indicates there is an issue around provision of rights or the standard of care received.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are members of the local community who volunteer to check on the welfare of people detained in police custody in Scotland. Visitors attend police stations unannounced and in pairs and write short reports about their visit. The SPA ICVS team is then informed of any issues that arise during a visit to consider if appropriate action is required.



POLICE CUSTODY IN SCOTLAND

Custody Estate

Custody centres across Police Scotland are organised into 12 clusters:

- Cluster 1 - Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray
- Cluster 2 - Tayside
- Cluster 3 - Highlands and Islands
- Cluster 4 - Forth Valley
- Cluster 5 - Edinburgh City, Lothian and Borders
- Cluster 6 - Fife
- Cluster 7 - Glasgow Central North and West
- Cluster 8 - Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
- Cluster 9 - Glasgow South and East
- Cluster 10 - Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway
- Cluster 11 - Lanarkshire
- Cluster 12 - Argyll and West Dunbartonshire

There are currently **77** custody centres across the clusters. Custody centres are classified as Primary Centres, Weekend Only Centres and Ancillary Centres. Primary Centres are open 24/7 and staffed by Criminal Justice Services Division (CJSD) staff and officers. Weekend Only Centres are open at the weekend in response to local demand and are staffed by CJSD staff and officers. Ancillary Centres are opened as and when required and are generally staffed by officers from Local Policing Division, who have received the necessary training. They tend to be located in rural locations.

At the start of the reporting period, the **77** custody centres are **31** Primary Centres, **one** Weekend Only Centre and **45** Ancillary Centres. During 2018–19 **two** primary centres were closed and removed from the custody estate and **five** primary centres were re-classified as Ancillary.

There are **four** designated police stations which may be used as Legalised Police Cells (LPC) and are unique to certain parts of Scotland. These police cells have been 'legalised' so are used to hold prisoners waiting trial locally; or who have been returned from prison for sentencing or following conviction pending transfer to prison.

Scotland has **one** terrorist detention centre, Scottish Terrorist Detention Centre (STDC) which holds detainees who have been arrested on suspicion of being persons who are or have been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism or have been arrested for statutory offences as detailed in the Terrorism Act.

The following primary centres had the highest throughput which ranged from **4699-10552** detainees in 2018-19. The figures below were obtained from Police Scotland.

TABLE 1: Centres with the highest throughput	
St Leonards	10552
London Road	5536
Govan	8148
Kittybrewster	7587
Dundee	7206
Cathcart	6249
Falkirk	6590
Motherwell	5544
Clydebank	4699
Livingston	5193
Coatbridge	4858

Throughput Figures

Total number of detainees through custody in 2018-19 was **118,418** broken down into region:

TABLE 2: Throughput figures per region	
North	27,006
East	33,228
West	58,184

Detainee numbers have declined compared to last year's figure of 130,755. Some of the decline can be attributed to Police Scotland's approach to divert people away from custody centres and addressing reoffending by tackling the underlying causes of health and wellbeing, welfare, housing and employability through their partnership approach in police custody.

Detainee Demographics

19% were female and **81%** were male. The majority of detainees fell into the age bracket of 16–25 and 26–35 year olds. **70%** of those through custody in 2018-19 described themselves as white Scottish.

Three key vulnerabilities are mental health followed by drug and alcohol dependencies.

TABLE 3: Age range of detainees in custody

U16	1,472
16-25	30,451
26-35	38,666
36-45	27,295
46-60	17,461
Over 60	3,073

TABLE 4: Vulnerability of detainees

Mental health issues	45,562
Drug dependent	20,844
Alcohol	12,293

Children in Custody

Children in custody are determined as under the age of 18. During this reporting period **5,485** children went through custody (5% of the throughput).

TABLE 5: Age range

11	7
12	44
13	183
14	452
15	785
16	1,598
17	2,416

Where ICVs have spoken with children, there has been no concerns recorded with regards to their care and welfare or the provision of their legal rights and entitlements.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING IN SCOTLAND

Many people arrive in custody without understanding their rights and entitlements. For some it will be their first experience which can be frightening and stressful. ICVs are there to observe and ensure that detainees understand why they are held in custody, that they have access to legal advice and that they can let someone know where they are. Custody visitors can also check cells, other areas within the custody centre and check CCTV to ensure they are fit for purpose and in working order.

ICVS has a dedicated team which is responsible for organising and overseeing the delivery of custody visiting in Scotland:

- The national manager role is to monitor custody centres across Scotland to preserve and promote Human Rights and provide independent scrutiny of the treatment of detained persons and the conditions in which they are held.
- The regional coordinators manage, coordinate and support the ICVs and provide direction, increase compliance and share good practice. They are the first point of contact for the ICVs and liaise directly with the Inspector for the cluster area.

Arrangements are kept under review and are revised as necessary in accordance with any changes to legislation or Code of Practice. ICVs are supported in their role through regular contact with the custody visiting team, regular meetings and training events.

Key Inputs

During the reporting period of 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, all custody suites in the Police Scotland estate were visited, fulfilling one of the scheme's prime obligations under OPCAT.

In 2018-19, the SPA invested **£258,300** in administering the scheme in Scotland. This includes the ICVS team salaries, recruitment campaigns, visitor expenses, training events and materials, ICVS conference, cluster meetings and induction days.

ICVS Volunteers

In 2018-19, there was a total of **139** visitors in Scotland:

TABLE 6: Number of Independent Custody Visitor Volunteers				
Region	Number of current ICVs	ICVs reappointed	Leavers	ICVs joined
North	31	3	8	2
East	51	3	9	*8
West	57	23	6	5
Total	139	29	23	15

*One ICV moved from West to East Region

From October 2018, the East Coordinator took over Cluster 11 (West) resulting in an additional **12** visitors.

During the reporting period **four** visitors from Cluster 11 were reappointed.

Demographics of Volunteers

The scheme seeks to be representative of the communities in Scotland taking account of different ethnic backgrounds, gender and age ranges. When new members are appointed to the scheme, consideration is given to enhancing this representation.

Currently the scheme has a complemented blend of experienced and newly recruited ICVs, allowing experienced ICVs to mentor newly appointed colleagues.

In 2018–19, **58%** of our ICVs were female and **41%** male.

TABLE 7: Age range of Independent Custody Volunteers in Scotland	
Age range	Number
20-29	14
30-39	11
40-49	16
50-59	32
60+	66

Frequency of Visits

The regional coordinators determine the frequency of visits by considering the throughput in each cluster and splitting them into weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually and annually. These are broken down into the following days:

TABLE 8: Days of the week							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
North	30	60	45	55	52	44	62
East	36	46	48	57	53	39	43
West	89	88	91	103	140	112	76
Total	155	194	184	215	245	195	181

Regional coordinators arrange meetings between the ICVs and the cluster inspector. Such meetings are arranged on a quarterly basis and provide an opportunity to discuss day to day issues and any problems which arise.

The national manager will highlight any issues that are being raised consistently with CJSD chief superintendent and/or SPA board members.

CUSTODY VISITING 2018-19

Key Assurance Outcomes

The SPA is pleased to report that, in over **1,363** unannounced visits, there were no significant issues raised regarding care or ill treatment of detainees, either by detainees or ICVs.

The vast majority of issues that were raised were resolved immediately by the custody officers at the time of the visit.

The percentage of detainees accepting visits as a proportion of those offered a visit has increased to **74%**.

TABLE 9 : ICVS visits						
Region	Number of ICV visits	Total number of detainees in custody at time of visits 2018-19	Detainees Not available	Detainees Offered a visit/ interview	Detainees declined a visit/ interview	Detainees seen
EAST	317	1757	206	930	277	653
NORTH	348	1105	135	655	168	487
WEST	698	3359	319	1740	408	1332
Total	1363	6221	660	3325	853	2472

52 detainees were observed either through the cell hatch or by observation within the custody area.

There are a number of reasons why detained persons are not visited. For example, Police Scotland may advise against it for health and safety reasons. During the reporting period **267** detainees were refused access i.e. for personal safety, violent, intoxication.

There were a total of **nine** Legalised Police Cell (LPC) activations during 2018-19 and ICVs were only able to attend **two**.

During the reporting period there were no Scottish Detention Centre (STDC) activations. However ICVs did attend the centre to carry out an estate visit.

TABLE 10: ICVS Visit Breakdown

Detainee type	Number of detainees	Detainees unavailable	Refused access to detainee	Detainees observed	Detainees offered a visit/ interview	Detainees declined a visit/ interview	Detainees agreed to a visit/ interview
ADULT (F)	858	114	27	6	584	149	435
ADULT (M)	5234	523	235	44	2653	694	1959
JUVENILE (F)	17	5	0	1	7	1	5
JUVENILE (M)	112	18	5	1	81	9	18
Total	6221	660	267	52	3325	853	2472

ICVS findings

ICVs observations and feedback is crucial in providing the necessary reassurance that there are no incidents of ill treatment on those held in police custody. ICVs are also encouraged to report examples of good practice to highlight real and sustained efforts from officers and staff.

During the reporting period 2018-19, there were no serious issues raised by any detainee during any of the visits covered by this report.

However, issues that were raised were often connected to the physical state of Police Scotland custody centres, or the availability of adequate custody staff to deliver anything more than a very basic service.

A large number of issues raised throughout the year were resolved immediately at the time of the visit and, given the preventive nature of the scheme, this provided the most satisfactory resolution for the majority of the visits. Those that were unable to be resolved immediately were escalated by the regional coordinators and outcomes were discussed at the cluster meetings with Police Scotland.

In general the ICV reporting forms, completed by ICVs, identified and praised the good work of officers and staff. There was a small number of ICVs who commented on members of staff being negative and unhelpful towards them and the detainees. These were escalated to cluster inspectors for further investigation and discussions with individual members of staff.

Regular checks are carried out in the custody centres by ICVs and these include:

- Detainee is aware of detention, lawyer/named person informed
- Ensuring cells are clean, up to standard and hazard free
- Detainees have been offered or received medical assistance if required
- Ensuring reading materials, sanitary protection, food and drink is available for detainees
- Checking detainee meals and preparation area
- Checking items such as anti-harm blankets, pillows and mattresses are sufficient
- Ensuring shower areas and wash areas are clean and detainees have been offered a chance to wash
- Detainee requests have been met where possible
- The general appearance of a detainee is considered i.e. suitable clothing, clothing for court, any injuries, medical attention
- The characteristics i.e. mental health, foreign national, disability
- The specific/diverse needs of the detainee have been met where possible
- The overall experience including detainees view on staff/officers and being searched/restrained have been recorded.

The most significant issues that the ICVs raised with us were:

1. Non-gender specific care and welfare

In a number of custody centres, female detainees' care and welfare routines were being carried out by male staff and, in some occasions, there were no female staff on duty. Because of what ICVs reported, standard operating procedures in Police Scotland have now been updated to change that. We were also able to highlight the requirement for sanitary products to be made available along with an effective disposal process.

2. Healthcare

ICVs in Grampian were reporting frequently on the lack of healthcare provision for detainees. This resulted in them having to be transported a considerable distance to hospital for treatment - a particular issue for victims of sexual crimes. As a result, medical healthcare is now embedded within the Grampian area.

Since smoking was banned in Scottish prisons, smoking patches have also been rolled out to all custody centres and is prescribed by NHS staff. Detainees were advised by custody staff that once in prison they would be offered nicotine replacements and cessation groups.

3. Police Scotland custody estate/staffing

The quality of the fabric of the custody estate, inherited from the legacy police forces, still varies throughout. Perceptions of staffing levels and the pressures impacting on officers and staff dealing with individuals being processed through custody has an impact on the effective and efficient management of detainees.

4. National issue – stock

There is still an ongoing issue with the supply of blankets and suits and generally not enough stock available. Items are being returned by the new laundry contract damaged and stocks are not being returned after being sent for cleaning etc.

5. National issue - repairs and maintenance

ICVs still raise a number of concerns throughout the whole custody estate about the time taken to undertake repairs once issues have been reported. For instance: cells out of commission, toilets not working, CCTV out of action, lights not working, showers not working, dampness in cells and flaking paintwork. This comes down to the maintenance service provider and available funding.

6. Remote supervision

There have been a number of issues raised by Police Scotland staff regarding the remote supervision model and concerns that it could lead to delays in processing detainees. ICVs and staff have been advised that a further risk assessment would be carried out and in some centres additional sergeants would operate to provide oversight.

7. Washing/shower facilities

The facilities do vary throughout the estate as not all cells have hand washing facilities and detainees are unable to wash their hands there and then, unless requested and escorted out of cell. Detainees are also not always offered a shower and it depends if they have been detained for more than a full day.



Challenges for ICVS

We are aware that occasionally visits cannot be carried out in those custody centres where staff perform dual roles (overseeing front desk and custody).

Glasgow city centre police station, which only opens on Saturday evening for transfers in from the central belt, presents many challenges for ICVS as there is limited time for the ICVs to attend.

Although the communication regarding legalised police cell activations has improved between Police Scotland and ICVS, there is still work to be done in terms of when ICVS are initially advised. Seven out of nine activations were not visited due to late communication which limited the time for ICVs to attend.

Stornoway remains a challenge due to the difficulty in recruiting of ICVs on the island. At present visits are done quarterly by ICVs from the mainland or surrounding islands and, although this accommodated the throughput figures, having visitors in Stornoway would help support the legalised cell activations.

ICVs reported concerns with regard to the scheme policy on the positioning of escorting officers and where they should stand when a visit is being carried out. This has been discussed at Cluster meetings and ICVs were advised that the instructions are best practice but may not always be possible due to the layout of the custody centre. The escorting officer should stand in a place that guarantees their safety.

ICVs are still reporting issues with gaining immediate access into the custody area and the ICVS team are not being notified in advance of custody closures. This results in ICVs turning up to closed centres with no staff on site. Reports have highlighted there are still delays of more than 30 minutes. In total **33** visits were delayed (30 minutes or more) which is an increase on last year's figure of **28**. There were **45** abandoned visits which is an improvement compared to last year's figure **73**.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Engagement with Police Scotland

Positive working relationships between ICVs and custody staff/officers are integral to the success of the scheme. Communication and training is undertaken to ensure both parties understand the roles and responsibilities to strengthen the effectiveness of the overall monitoring and evaluation process. This has enabled us to make regular recommendations for protected groups, as well as ensuring key challenges are highlighted through regular reporting.

We regularly receive feedback from ICVs advising where staff have been accommodating and helpful, which is a reflection that the continued training and communication has had a positive impact.

In any case where custody staff do not respond well to ICVs or their visit, ICVs are able to report this in confidence to the regional coordinators. This matter is handed over to the national manager to facilitate and resolve with Police Scotland.

ICVs find the regional cluster meetings useful for resolving outstanding issues and for training purposes. Having direct access to senior custody officers allows them to formally discuss their concerns with Police Scotland and share positive experiences.

Overall Police Scotland were responsive and took action to resolve any matters promptly.

Successes

Annual conference

The ICVS annual conference in May 2018 at Hilton Edinburgh Carlton was attended by over half of our ICVs, along with guest speakers and representatives from the criminal justice sector.

The morning session focussed on Policing and Criminal Justice Services Division. Gill Imery QPM spoke of her recent appointment as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland and her wide ranging powers to look at the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

The afternoon session looked at **Just Us**, a group led by woman who have experience of mental health issues, and **Breathing Space** – a free, confidential phone and web based service for people in Scotland experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety.

Just us was the most eye opening, the presentation by real life people was very helpful and will trigger thoughts when going

“Wide variety of presentations covering a range of important issues”

“Enjoyed all presentations, each was valuable in their own way, and I will leave today having learned a great deal.”

Letter of Rights

Police Scotland have a statutory obligation to provide detainees with the Letter of Rights under The Right to Information (Suspect and Accused Persons) Scotland Regulations 2014. Since being raised by ICVs, improvements have been made in providing detainees with their Letter of Rights and ensuring that they fully understand why they have been detained.

Policy Development

ICVS also informed Police Scotland's custom, practice, policy and provided input to Police Scotland's Care and Welfare policy where advice was given on:

- Sanitary provision
- Non gender specific care.

Training

The ICVS team delivered training inputs to the new Criminal Justice (CJ) PCSO/CJ PCSO team leaders as part of the transformation project for the new Criminal Justice Hubs. The ICVS team are also in discussions with Police Scotland on the training pilot of existing custody officers and staff and the opportunity to provide ICVS overview. Members of the ICVS team attended six training events to present information on the background of ICVS, legislation and the responsibilities of the new members of Criminal Justice staff.

Information sharing

The ICVS team worked to improve communication and relationships with Police Scotland regarding the sharing of information between the regional coordinators and the cluster inspector. The national manager is currently looking to improve the way in which issues and concerns are raised at a national level and attended the Criminal Justice Services Division (CJSD) senior management team in January 2019. The West regional coordinator attended the regional inspectors meeting in February 2019 to highlight the importance of ICVS and to develop an improved line of communication. This is currently on going.

QAF Peer Assessment accreditation

ICVA ran a Quality Assurance Framework which was for schemes to be recognised for the excellent work they are undertaking, to benchmark progress and achievements alongside other schemes, and to further enhance engagement with Local Policing Bodies and the local community.

ICVS Aide memoire

This provides ICVs with a list of areas to consider when carrying out their custody visits. It helps them complete in detail the visit report form and provide the ICVS team with the relevant information about the care and welfare of a detainee. Changes and improvements have been made to the aide memoire to improve the information they provide and ensure the key areas are noted such as time of detention, general appearance, characteristics, specific/diverse needs and overall experience.

The aide memoire was piloted for three months and visitors were selected to feedback suggestions and improvements. We can look forward to implementing early June 2019.

Refresher training

In February 2019 the West regional coordinator held refresher training events for the ICVs within the area to cover topics raised such as female officer staff, positioning, checking of custody records, impartial/professionalism, timekeeping and the selecting of detainee types. The ICVs were split into syndicate groups and provided with various scenarios to discuss and feedback in groups. The inputs were well received by all and will be rolled out in other regions in the near future.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

HMICS published its inspection report following the unannounced inspection of 17 custody centres during May and June 2018. The centres visited were Ayr, Campbeltown, Coatbridge, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Elgin, Fort William, Greenock, Hawick, Kirkwall, Lanark, Lerwick, Lochgilpead, Oban, Saltcoats, Stornoway and Wick. ICVs were consulted as part of the inspection process and participated in a series of focus groups across the country. These reports have an impact on what the ICVs look out for when carrying out their visits and allows the team to consider the key findings and recommendations.

The full report can be found here:

<https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-inspection-custody-centres-across-scotland>

HMICS inspection of the Greater Glasgow Policing Division took place over the winter of 2018. The report was recently published and can be found here:

<https://www.hmics.scot/sites/default/files/publications/HMICS20190321PUB.pdf>

To help strengthen and formalise a more joined up approach with the common purpose of monitoring treatment and conditions in Scotland. HMICS and ICVS are in the process of developing a formal document describing the broad outlines of an agreement and the way in which information will be shared in the future.

Police Scotland ICVS Single Point of Contact (SPOC) pilot

After reviewing the ICVS annual review over the last few years, Police Scotland identified the need for a ICVs points of contact to improve the relationship and decrease the number of abandoned visits being reported each year.

A pilot ran in two custody centres in the west to help increase awareness on how ICVS preventive monitoring is in pursuit of OPCAT. A single point of contact (SPOC) was identified to alleviate the pressure on the custody sergeant to escort the ICVs during the visit. The SPOC would inform the custody supervisor of the ICVs attendance and thereafter escort the ICVs visit from start to finish. The custody supervisor will still make themselves available to ICVs at each visit if required.

The feedback has been very positive from the ICVs and has reduced the number of delays and abandoned visits in Cathcart and Govan centres.

Role of governance of lay visitors in monitoring places of detention in the UK

The national manager and a volunteer (Cluster 7) attended the above meeting in London on 26 June 2018. The meeting was very informative and gave the scheme things to consider in relation to ICV in Scotland, in particular the challenges faced by ICVs in ensuring compliance with the OPCAT. It also provided opportunities for the sharing of good practice.

NPM Visit

Jade Glenister, the UK's National Preventative Mechanism Assistant Coordinator, visited Edinburgh in September and spent some of her time shadowing ICVs at the St Leonards custody centre.

UNICAT Training – Scottish Human Rights Commission

On 1 November 2018, the national manager and regional coordinators attended a training and capacity building event hosted by the Scottish Human Rights Commission in Edinburgh on UNICAT. The chair of the UNICAT Committee, Jens Modvig, shared best practice on how the NPM of state parties can better engage with the CAT process. The input was very informative and provided the team with a human rights based approach to making sure people's rights are put at the very centre of policies and practices.

Transfer or Release

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) Report – Inspection of Court Custody Provision, Edinburgh Sheriff Court was published in 2018. The report recommended that Police Scotland should ensure that those arriving from police custody are appropriately dressed for the journey and their subsequent court appearance.

The ICVS team highlighted the importance when observing the transfer or release of detainees and asked the ICVs to look out for the appropriateness of the clothing and, if necessary, discuss with custody staff and record on the visit report form any issues/concerns/positive comments raised.

There were no reports of concerns from detainees with regard to their treatment whilst being transferred from one custody centre to another during the reporting period.

FUTURE PLANS

ICVS will continue to work to raise awareness about the benefits of the scheme and the essential work that ICVs carry out. This will involve an increase in the use of social media and the opportunities available.

ICVs will continue to provide the SPA with reassurance that detainees are treated as they should whilst in custody and recommendations arising from HMICS will be monitored and information fed back.

Work is ongoing with Police Scotland to strengthen the effectiveness of the overall monitoring and evaluation process. Making regular recommendations for protected groups as well as ensuring key challenges are highlighted through regular reporting to the SPA and to partners.

Where can we develop further partnerships and collaboration?

Development of the ICVS database to enable the SPA to capture detailed custody visiting information that is easily accessible and can be shared amongst NPM, ICVA and the wider monitoring community.

How can we strengthen the impact of the visitors' voice?

- By encouraging our ICVs to follow up with the checking of custody records for clarification and to provide reassurance/clarity for the ICVs, Police Scotland and the ICVS team.
- By making improvements to the aide memoire – this will provide the ICVs with key areas to consider and help provide ICVs in completing a more detailed report. Focusing on the key areas of detention, general appearance, characteristics, specific/diverse needs and overall experience
- By better communicating our findings and the work of ICVS in Scotland internally and externally and making better use of social media platforms.

Development of the custody training platform

Last year we identified new training priorities for our ICVs to support development and improve performance. Our East regional coordinator identified a platform that would accommodate the geographical spread of ICVs and would provide ICVs easy access to training materials and better equip them with relevant and up to date knowledge and information.

A survey took place in February 2019 in which ICVs were asked to respond and provide their views. We received excellent feedback and so many informative responses. The ICVS team are currently in the process of designing the course and assessment strategy and look forward to reporting further in 2019-20.

Joint observation/inspection with HMICS

The roles of monitoring between HMICS and ICVS are separate and independent of one another, however both are complementary. To help strengthen and formalise a more joined up approach with the common purpose of monitoring treatment and conditions in Scotland, both organisations are currently seeking to formalise the sharing of information through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Focus on ICVS viewing custody records

The custody record is a detailed electronic log of everything that happens to a detainee during their detention. During an interview with a detained person, ICVs can request to check the custody record for clarity and reassurance and this will form part of the process when carrying out visits.

Detainee Dignity

ICVS will be promoting and providing inputs on the ICVA bitesize module on Dignity and Custody Visiting which outlines detainee dignity and what ICVs should look out for in terms of good practice and areas of concerns when carrying out their visits.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are interested in becoming an Independent Custody Visitor, please contact:

ICVS
Scottish Police Authority
1 Pacific Quay
Glasgow
G51 1DZ
Email: icvs@spa.pnn.police.uk

For more information on the role of ICVS, please visit www.spa.police.uk

Do you have any friends/family who live in Fife or Stornoway.

Please let them know about Custody Visiting. We are actively looking for volunteers in these areas.



