

ICV Annual Report 2020-21

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire Police have two active custody suites. Bridewell custody suite is located in the City of Nottingham and Mansfield custody suite is located in Mansfield police station in the north of the County. Newark custody suite is not used on a day to day basis, but is still considered part of the custody estate for business continuity purposes. Newark has not been used as a contingency suite during 2020-21.</p> <p>Bridewell continues to receive the highest number of detainees out of the two custody suites due to its capacity and location. In total there were over 16,000 detainees held in police custody in Nottinghamshire between April 2020 – March 2021. This is significantly less than the previous year and was attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic and several national lockdowns.</p> <p>Extensive work was carried out to build a new custody suite in the Basford area of Nottingham. Work has continued throughout the pandemic and the building is due to be handed over to Nottinghamshire Police in the summer of 2021.</p>
<p>Independent Custody Visiting in Nottinghamshire</p>	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping said: “This is a valuable scheme which, overseen by my Volunteer Manager, aims to increase public confidence in the treatment and welfare of detainees. The volunteers provide an impartial view of custody arrangements, giving the local community confidence that scrutiny of the custody suites is unbiased and totally independent.</p> <p>“Their findings are reported back to me and appropriate action taken if there’s a problem.”</p>
<p>Independent Custody Visitors</p>	<p>The ICV scheme in Nottinghamshire currently have 21 active volunteers. During previous recruitment campaigns, efforts were made to target recruitment to create a better balance in volunteer representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19% of volunteers are from BAME communities and 5% are from other white backgrounds. • 66% of volunteers are female and 33% are male across a spread of age groups. • 14% of volunteers have a disability.

	<p>ICVs are scheduled to visit each suite 2 – 3 times per week.</p> <p>Reports are made by way of an electronic reporting writing system. ICVs use a tablet to input their reports using cloud based software. These reports are sent to the Inspector and Volunteer Manager for their attention and action is taken to resolve any issues raised when necessary.</p> <p>Visits to detainees arrested under the Terrorism Act (Pace Code H)</p> <p>A small group of specially trained custody visitors are on standby to visit detainees held under the Terrorism Act. These volunteers are vetted to a higher level and receive specialist training to undertake this role. There have been no activations during 2020-21.</p>
Governance	<p>ICVs are encouraged to resolve as many issues as possible during the course of their visit with custody staff. These include minor issues for example, organising food and drink or requesting exercise or showers on behalf of detainees. Issues that ICVs report are considered more serious and would include detainees not receiving their rights and entitlements, for example, detainees not being given access to an appropriate adult (for vulnerable or juvenile detainees) or being offered legal advice.</p> <p>More serious concerns which are reported to the scheme manager are raised with the custody inspector by the Volunteer Manager. Issues are also formally discussed with volunteers and the custody Inspector at ICV Team Meetings. Custody visiting is also a standing agenda item on the weekly PCC Team Meeting and more serious matters raised by ICVs can be escalated through this meeting and if necessary, further escalated to the PCC and Chief Constable for discussion. The Volunteer Manager submits quarterly reports to the ACC responsible for custody, Custody Inspector and Chief Inspector. The scheme manager would also bring any serious incident or issue of national concern to the attention of ICVA.</p> <p>ICVs are invited to quarterly team meetings to review the previous quarters data and to discuss concerns that have been raised.</p>



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	<p>We offer on-going training and development to our volunteers through attendance at team meetings, regional and national conferences.</p> <p>At Christmas we were unable to hold our annual celebration event of the pandemic. Similarly, during Volunteers Week, an event was unable to be held, but the Police and Crime Commissioner sent a letter thanking ICVs for their contribution.</p>
<p>Independent Custody Visiting data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2020-21, there were 98 visits to custody made by Independent Custody Visitors. The visits comprised a mix of telephone and physical visits due to the pandemic. • 396 detainees were offered a visit; 71 (18%) declined the offer. Last year the figures were 677 and 121 (18%) respectively. • An average of 2 detainees were seen during each visit, 0.2 less than last year. • 69% of these visits took place during weekdays and 31% during the weekend. Last year it was 74% and 26% respectively. • Of the 98 unannounced visits made to custody, ICV's were granted immediate access to the custody area in 35% of cases. This is much lower than usual because of delays experienced with telephone interviews conducted during the pandemic. • Feedback from ICVs have reported few formal complaints which continues from the previous year. • There were no visits to the TACT suite during 2020-21.
<p>Independent Custody Visting scheme findings</p>	<p>In 2020-21 ICVs have reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful and supportive staff. • Concerns about custody accommodation including dirty cells, cold showers, and broken call bell button. • Concerns about staffing levels. • Concerns about detainee dignity including excessive waits for showers and exercise. • Late Reviews. • Detainee not being informed of review. • Detainee claimed use of force. • Detainee not received Right and Entitlements notice in an appropriate format (learning difficulties)

<p>How the police respond to Independent Custody Visitor findings</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire Police have designated an Inspector as a single point of contact for the ICV scheme. Electronic reports are generated and a notification is sent to the Inspector who considers the content of the ICV report. The Inspector replies directly to the ICV and Volunteer Manager after investigating the concern which has been raised. Significant issues are also logged by the Volunteer Manager for discussion with the Inspector and/or at ICV Team Meetings. All responses are documented and escalated as necessary.</p> <p>Processes are in place to raise serious matters through the weekly PCC Team meeting and if necessary, further escalated to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for discussion.</p> <p>The scheme can report a good relationship with custody staff, Inspector and Chief Inspector and issues have been raised, discussed and resolved in a co-operative and helpful manner.</p>
<p>Other areas of note/special events</p>	<p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, face to face visits to custody by ICVs were suspended in March 2020 and replaced with telephone visits. A new process of telephone 'visits' to detainees was created and established by June 2020. ICVs were able to make calls to custody and arrange to speak to detainees over the telephone. Physical visits were reinstated in October 2020, but telephone visits persisted in the light of a further two national lockdowns.</p> <p>Custody record reviewing continued during 2020-21, but reviews were mainly conducted by the Volunteer Manager as the pandemic prevented ICVs from attending the office and reviewing records in person. During 202-21 records of young people, vulnerable adults, detainees in poor mental health and records of foreign nationals / immigration were reviewed. The results of these reviews are submitted in report format to the Joint Audit and Scrutiny committee and published with their respective papers on the NOPCC website.</p> <p>ICVs have supported the creation of a new library of books at both Bridewell and Mansfield custody suite.</p>
<p>Independent Custody Visiting future plans</p>	<p>It has been decided to suspend custody record reviews until a decision has been made by the Home Office to include custody record reviewing to the role of ICVs.</p>



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Further information and
contact details

If you would like to find out more about the Independent Custody Visiting scheme please consider contacting the scheme manager or researching the websites listed.

Kayt Radford, Volunteer Manager, Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LU

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Volunteering/Volunteering.aspx>

[ICVA's website](#)

[National Preventive Mechanism](#)

[Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation](#)