Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision

Nottinghamshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Author:	**Jackie Nash**
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For Decision or Information	**Decision**
Date received*:	**16th May 2013**
Ref*:	**2013.016**

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: ICV AND AWS ANNUAL REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Independent Custody Visiting and Animal Welfare Lay Visiting Schemes Annual Reports outline the yearly progress of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Volunteer Schemes in relation to performance and future focus.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

ICV and AWS Annual Reports.

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information?**	Yes		No	X
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**:				

DECISION:

To approve the ICV and AWS Annual Reports 2012/13.

DECLARATION:
I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature: **Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner** Date: 15/5/13

OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature: K Dennis **Chief Executive** Date: 15th May 2013

** See guidance on non public information and confidential information.

Nottinghamshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Annual Report 2012/13

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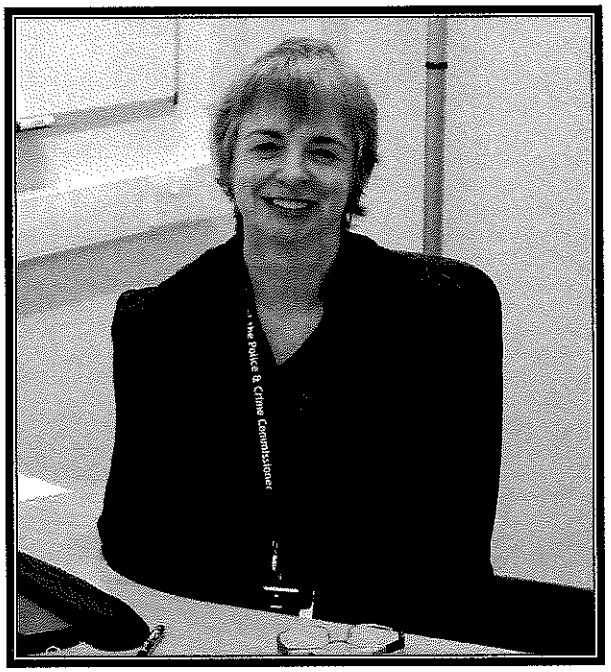
INTRODUCTION BY
CHRIS CUTLAND, DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER



This year has seen a significant change in the governance of policing with the introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioner. During times of financial constraint it is vital that the high standards of Nottinghamshire Police Custody are maintained.

We have seen a very positive year from the volunteers who make up our Custody Visitors Team. Their commitment and professionalism helps to ensure that detainees of Nottinghamshire Police are treated appropriately and their needs are met in line with legal requirements.

This year they visited to 1020 detainees during 251 visits, with volunteers making between 2 and 5 visits each month. The Volunteers are also involved in the training of detention officers and as part of their team meetings, have the opportunity to advise senior police officers of issues and concerns that they find on their visits.

The scheme would not function without the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers. We are very proud of our ICV Scheme.

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Welcome to the 2012/13 Annual Report of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. This report covers the period from 1st April 2012 – March 2013.

The Commissioner has a statutory duty to manage and oversee delivery of the scheme. This is performed in consultation with Nottinghamshire Police.

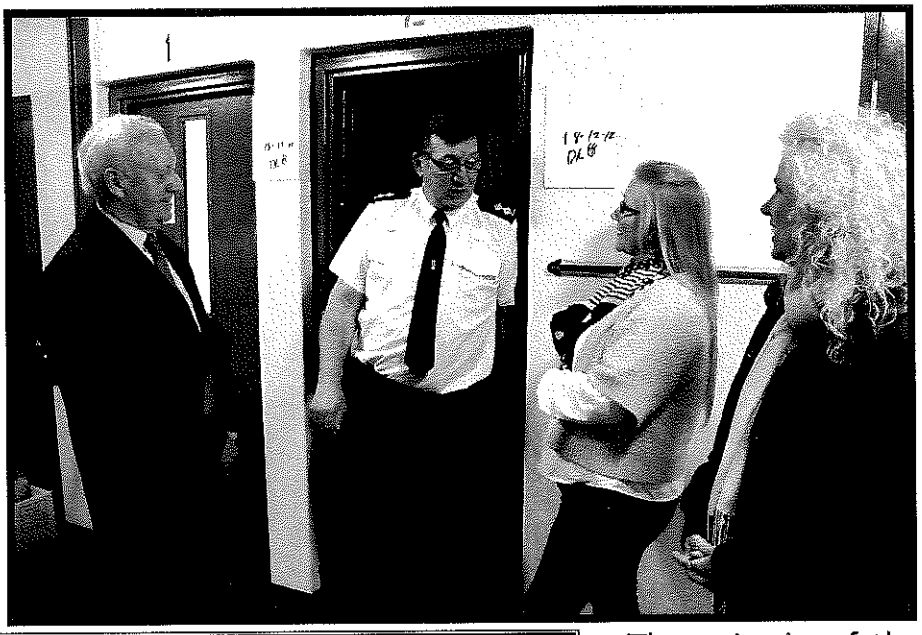
WHAT IS INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING

Independent Custody Visiting, which began nationwide in the early 1980's, following the Scarman Report into the Brixton disorders, is designed to provide an independent check on the welfare of people in police custody.

The Nottinghamshire Custody Visitors make unannounced visits, weekly, in pairs, to the City and County's 3 Custody Suites in Nottinghamshire – Bridewell (in the City), Mansfield and Newark, to check that detainees are receiving their rights and entitlements, such as meals, medical attention and legal advice. During the visits they do not take sides, but look, listen and report on what they find in the custody suite.

They also check on the general conditions, such as the provision of blankets, cell cleanliness and the way the toilets, CCTV and call buttons are functioning. At the end of each visit they make a short report that is provided both to the Police and the Commissioner. The reports are discussed at each of the quarterly Custody Visitors' Team Meetings.

Custody Visitors can visit anyone held in police custody, including detainees held under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, Mental Health detainees, Immigration detainees and vulnerable detainees such as juveniles.



The main aim of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme is to increase public confidence in the treatment and welfare of persons detained in police custody. Consequently, extra training was introduced in 2009 for Custody Visitors to visit persons detained under the Terrorism Act 2000.

VULNERABLE DETAINEES

Independent Custody Visitors come into contact with many vulnerable detainees during custody visits.

It is important that detainees with mental health and learning problems are identified by custody staff and healthcare practitioners within the custody suite to ensure they receive appropriate support or treatment. Healthcare in the custody suite is provided by medical practitioners who are familiar with mental health and learning disabilities.

Independent Custody visitors in Nottinghamshire ensure that vulnerable detainees are visited as a priority.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

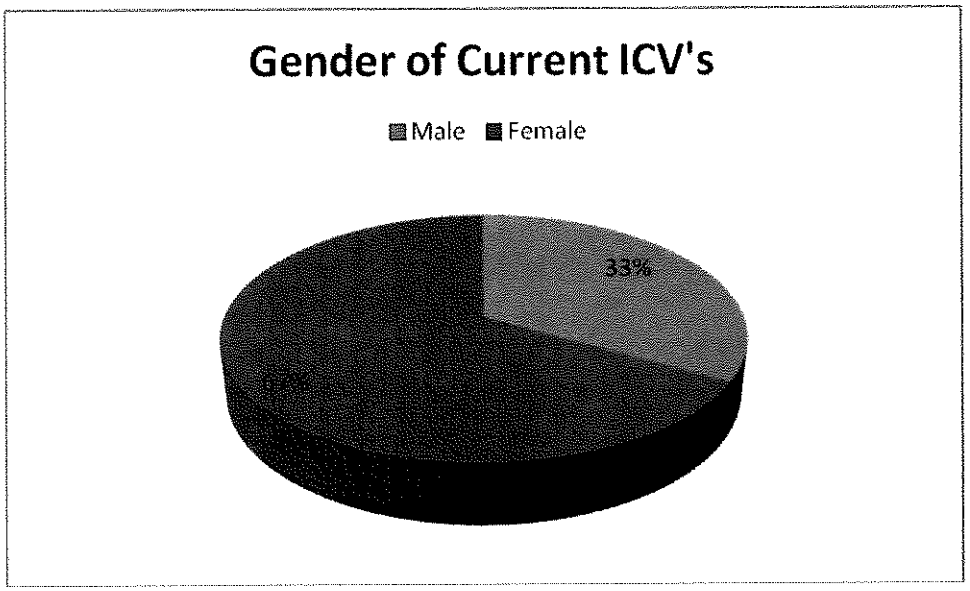
This Annual Report covers the findings of the Custody Visitors from their visits to Custody Suites during 2012/13 and discussion from Team Meetings.

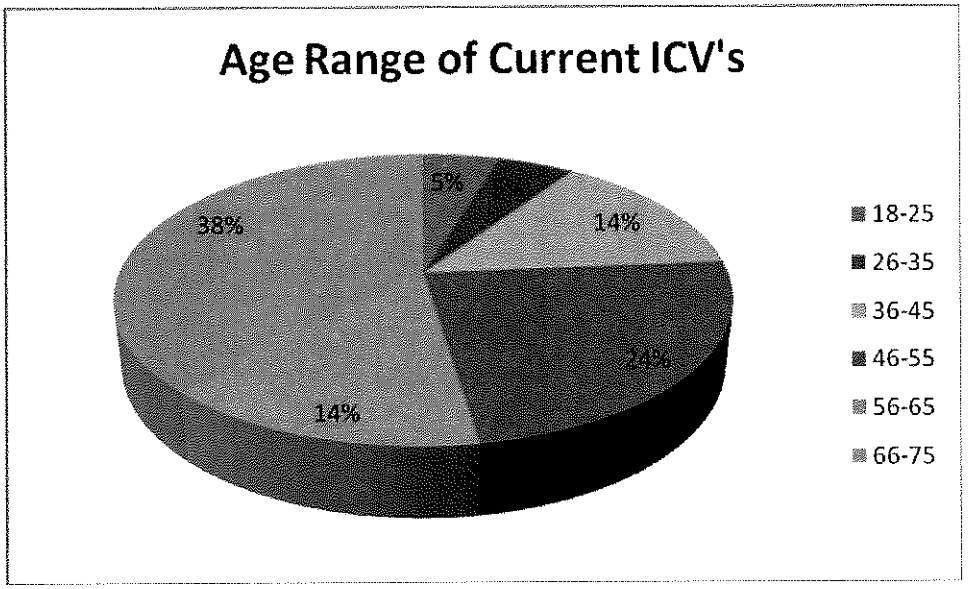
It is produced to update the Police & Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner on the work of the Custody Visitors. It is also circulated within the community, which we hope will raise the awareness of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme and help in the recruitment of new Custody Visitors.

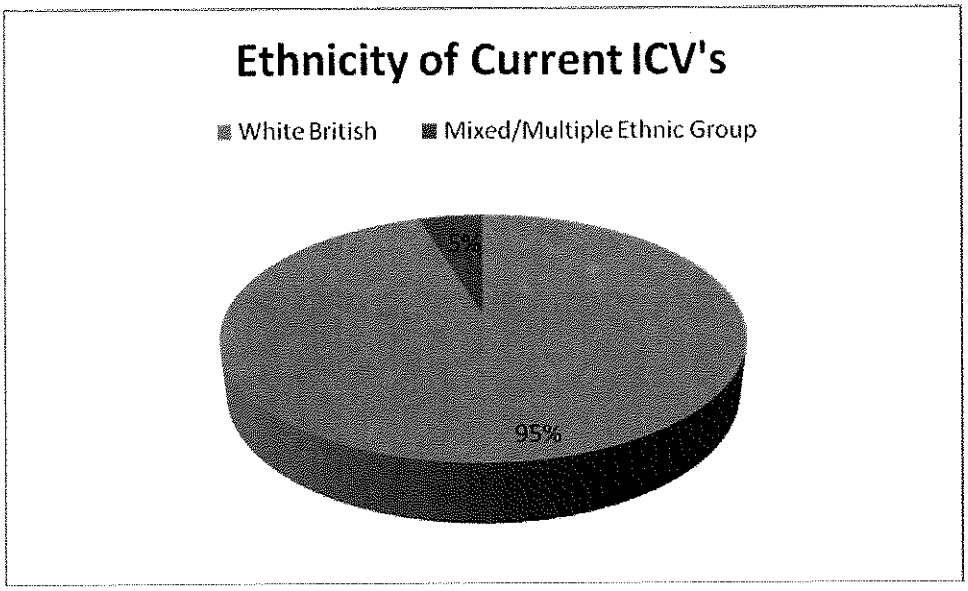
The Commissioner is committed to the Equality Scheme policy, to demonstrate how we promote equality and eliminate discrimination.

The Custody Visiting Scheme has tried to be as representative as possible, and to reflect this in the ethnic origin, gender, and age range of the membership. The appointment of new members to the Scheme takes account of the need to preserve and, where possible, to enhance the diversity.

Nottinghamshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme currently has 21 volunteers, following a successful recruitment campaign in 2012 when we recruited an additional 6 new volunteers.


Gender of Current ICV's
Male
Female
33%


Age Range of Current ICV's
5%
14%
38%
24%
14%
18-25
26-35
36-45
46-55
56-65
66-75


Ethnicity of Current ICV's
White British
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group
5%
95%

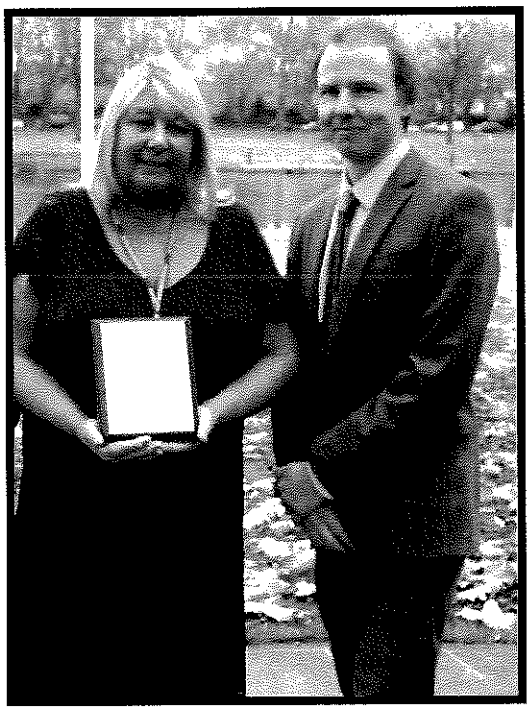
HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2012/13

Between April 2012 and March 2013, Independent Custody Visitors made a total of 251 visits to custody suites throughout Nottinghamshire, and spoke to 1,020 detainees.

Independent Custody Visitors attended the Regional Advanced Training Conference at Leicestershire Police HQ on 20th May 2012, for Independent Custody Visitors across the East Midlands Region (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire).

In April 2012, Independent Custody Visitors were invited to a Volunteers Recognition Evening as a 'thank you' for their commitment and dedication to the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS AWARD



Before Christmas last year we were awarded the Investing in Volunteers Award. Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management, for organisations who involve volunteers in their work.

We have always been proud of our volunteers and the excellent work they do and we felt that gaining the standard would recognise our volunteers and assure them that they are being treated in accordance with best practice standards.

As well as showing our volunteers how much they are valued, the award will enable us to publicly demonstrate our organisations commitment to Volunteering and effective volunteer management by the use of the Investing in Volunteers logo on our letterhead and publications.
Michael Scott, representative of Volunteering England presented the award.

ARTICLES FROM INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS

Alick Whyte (ICV Scheme New Recruit)

When asked by our Volunteer Manager to write a couple of paragraphs on why I joined the scheme, I scratched my head to account for my wish to become an ICV. Having spent 30 years as an officer in the RAF Provost Branch and a further 10 years as a Police Adviser to British Forces Germany, I suppose it was a reluctance to sever completely all connection with the criminal law and police procedure. You could add to this a fairly healthy wish to have an outside interest and activity in retirement.

It took a year before an ICV vacancy arose but events moved quickly from there. So, after the selection process and induction training, my baptism was softened by an introductory visit to the Bridewell. It was expectedly sombre but unexpectedly clean and modern. Mansfield came as no surprise after the Bridewell, and Newark, my local station, with no detainees to question during my first visit, seemed positively gentle. (I was reliably informed that the small hours of Sunday morning after the local night clubs have turned out are anything but idyllic).

My initial impressions are that detainees are very well looked after in British custody suites. The custody staff were invariably welcoming despite the inconvenience caused by our arrival, and I was impressed by the balance of firmness with friendliness shown to detainees demonstrating even a modicum of civilized behaviour.

It's early days but I feel that waiting for that ICV vacancy was worthwhile.

Terry Farrelly (ICV Scheme New Recruit)

Having worked for most of my life in the public sector, I decided, when I retired, that I would look for some voluntary work where I could put something back into the community. I subsequently read an article in the newspaper seeking volunteers to carry out the functions of an Independent Custody Visitor. Within a short period of time, following my submission of an application for consideration, I found myself being interviewed and being offered the position and I attended a well structured and detailed training session.

When I passed the necessary vetting checks, it was off to Police Headquarters to be photographed and issued with my personal Identification Card which I would need to gain entry to the custody suites at the various police stations in Nottinghamshire.

I received my first allocated duty which I carried out in the company of an experienced custody visitor and found it to be very interesting and a good insight into what the work entailed. I have now carried out a further two visits and learned how

to communicate with custody staff and detainees. Hopefully I will go on to successfully complete my probationary period and ultimately achieve my aim of becoming a reliable, efficient and valued member of the team.

Laura Harrison (ICV Scheme New Recruit)

I joined the ICV Scheme (which I would say I am thoroughly enjoying and feel is very worthwhile and rewarding), as a way of giving something back to our community. I feel personally that the ICV role is challenging, rewarding and insightful and I feel I can make a contribution and a difference towards the welfare of the detainees but also the custody staff by reporting their concerns.

Joining the scheme has also increased my confidence at a time of personal life changes. It has helped me to build on previous experiences and hopefully will help/enable me towards a change in my career path. So, in brief, the ICV role is both rewarding personally but I also feel I am making a positive contribution to our community.

Lindsey-Jayne Trueman (ICV with 2 years experience)

I joined the scheme because I wanted to give some of my time to a project or programme that I thought might benefit people who might be disadvantaged by circumstances or life choices. The Custody Visiting Scheme provided a structured framework within which I could commit a manageable amount of time and which I felt would benefit individuals, the organisation and possibly improve arrangements and practices for others. There is a link with Human Rights and fair and appropriate treatment for individuals; causes which I am particularly interested in.

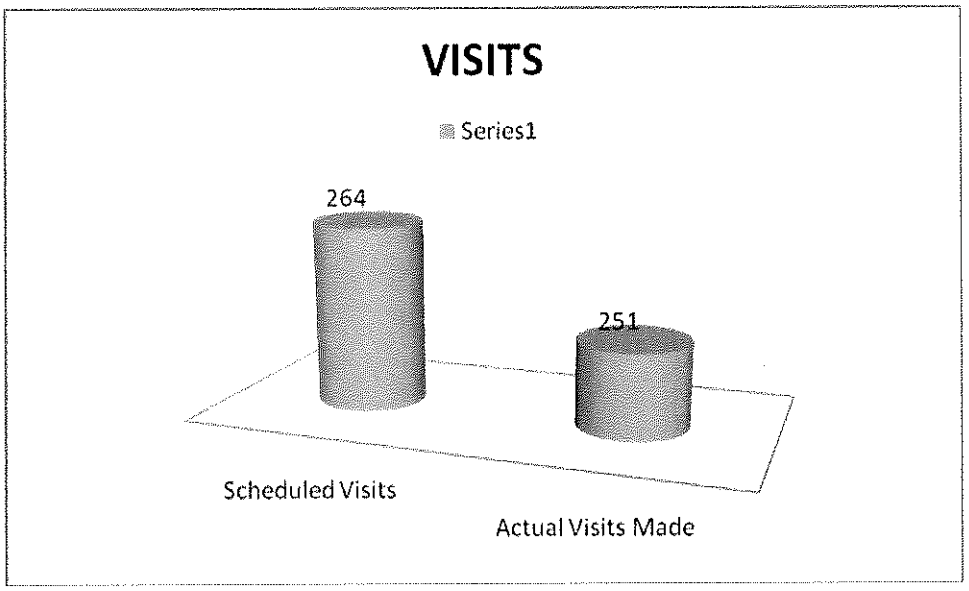
As a volunteer, I visit custody suites with a volunteer colleague and together we check on the welfare of those being detained. The majority of the time we are well received by the detainees and I feel we add value to the Commissioner's office and the work of the custody staff, highlighting issues raised by individuals as well as those which we identify ourselves during the visit.

Ultimately, the detainee has a voice! This can lead to changes in working practices, highlighting particular issues for improvement regarding detention as well as reassuring the Commissioner and communities that detainees, particularly vulnerable ones, are treated appropriately with regard to rights and welfare entitlements.

It means a great deal to me to think that the time I spend volunteering has the potential to improve or change things for the better for the detainee or future detainees; it is even possible that our visit could lead to a detainee making a different life choice in the future.

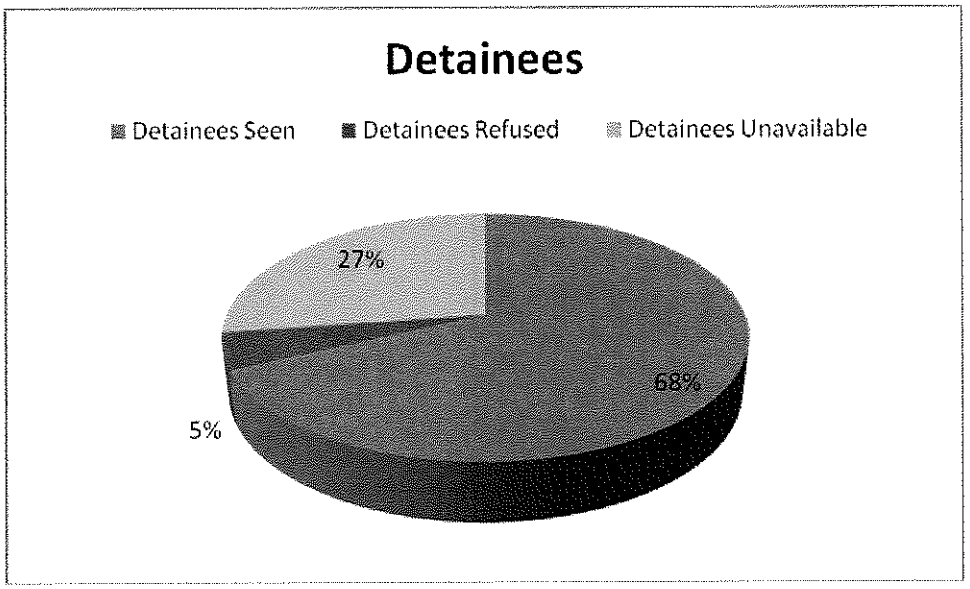
VISITING STATISTICS

During the reporting period, Independent Custody Visitors made a total of 251 visits to custody suites.

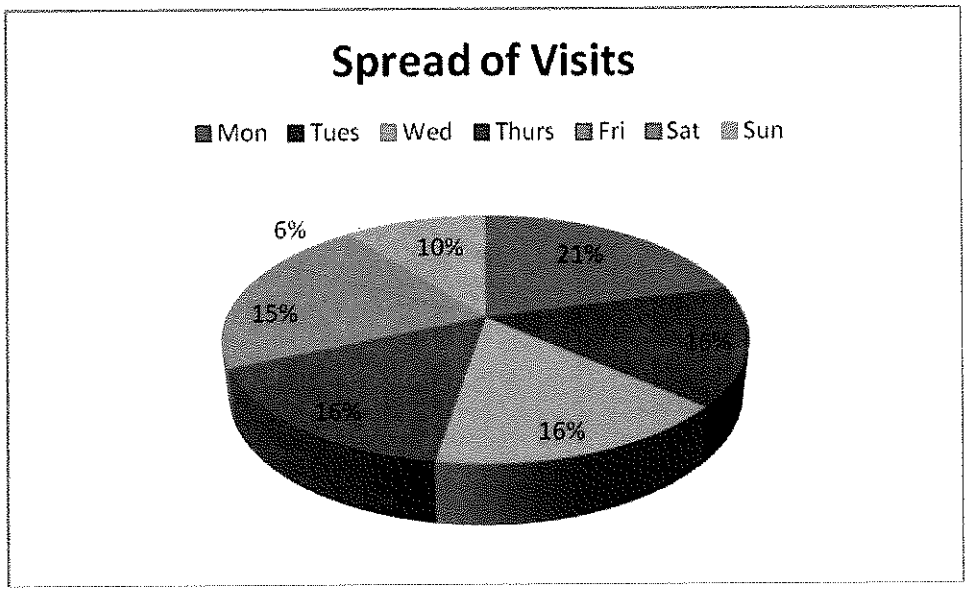


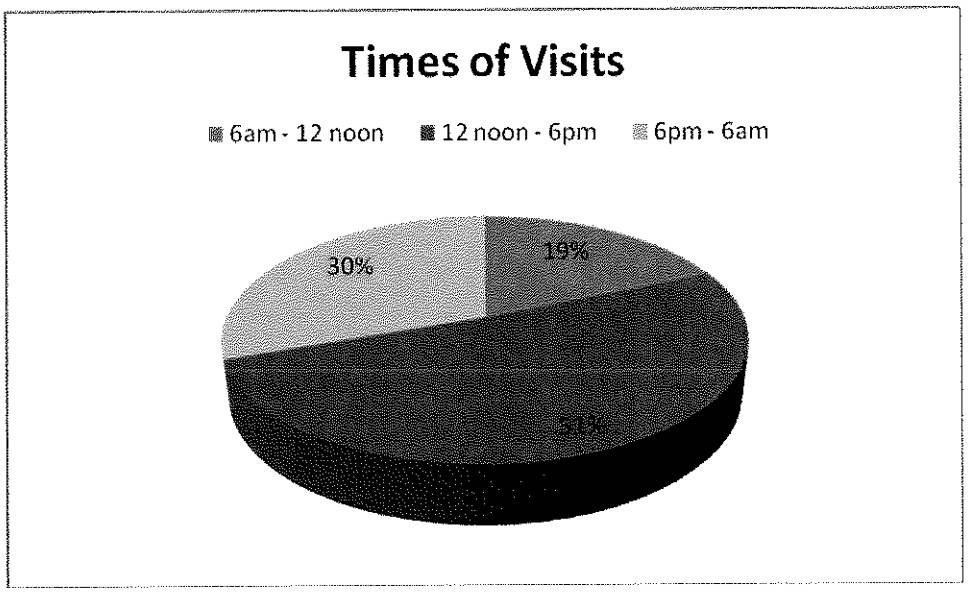
A total of 1,098 detainees were selected for a visit. 1,020 agreed to a visit, 438 were not available for a visit - those who were asleep, being interviewed, seen by a doctor or solicitor etc.

78 detainees exercised their right not to speak to ICV's.



ICV's make their visits at any time of the day and all visits are unannounced.





TEAM MEETINGS AND TRAINING

Independent Custody Visitors regularly get together at quarterly team meetings to network with other volunteers and raise any concerns with the Chief Inspector of Custody.

Team Meetings are also valuable for the delivery of a variety of training sessions to meet the needs of the custody visitors.

Induction Training is provided to all new ICV's who are then teamed up with experienced custody visitors for "on the job" training.

CONCERNS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE BY INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS AND ACTION TAKEN DURING 2012/13

When concerns have been raised with the Police, they have generally been dealt with promptly, which helps maintain a co-operative and open relationship. The Chief Inspector responsible for Custody is invited to attend the Team Meetings on a regular basis, and these sessions have been very helpful to ensure practices are clarified and issues of concern addressed.

The Custody Visitors are also pleased to report that whilst they are undoubtedly an additional responsibility to custody staff when they are busy, their role is generally well understood and accepted. Custody Visitors find the detention staff very supportive, welcoming and helpful.

Concerns were raised by ICV's about CCTV, the teltronics cell call system and cell doors in all 3 custody suites. A capital investment was made for the installation of a new CCTV and teltronic system and the replacement of cell doors.

CCTV and teltronics have been completed at Newark. Installation is ongoing at Mansfield and has commenced at the Bridewell. There have been issues with sound quality, labelling of cells on the cell call system and systems not being 'integrated' in the way that we expected. All of these issues are being addressed with installer and our estates department.

The new cell doors have been welcomed by staff and there have been few issues with the installation. Newark and Mansfield are now fully complete - the installation has started at the Bridewell.

There have been issues at all 3 suites with heating, sometimes caused by the various works being undertaken (but not exclusively). Temperature alarms are being installed and will alert staff if temperature falls to a certain level. Staff will also be provided with portable temperature measuring devices if they have concerns about areas of the suite.

The standard of cleanliness in the custody suites was also a concern for ICV's but improved cleaning regimes and maintenance programmes have been put in place. The custody suites are now regularly deep cleaned and painted and are monitored on an ongoing basis by site managers.

Custody Suite	Concern Raised	Action Taken
Bridewell	Cell out of action due to door problem.	New door fitted and cell painted and brought up to same standard as other cells.
	Lack of clean blankets – no cleaning service over bank holiday.	Unprecedented demand over bank holiday. Situation monitored in advance of bank holidays.
	COSH cupboard door not locked.	COSH cupboards added to walk around checks.
	Fire door sticking on opening.	Doors serviced.
	Faulty light in CCTV room.	Bulb replaced.
	Plastic meal spoons snap and could be used for self harm,	No product available which is snap proof. Any detainee with self harm issues will be placed on constant observation either CCTV or in person.
	Cleanliness of cells.	Cells regularly cleaned to a high standard.
	Faulty toilets.	Repaired.
	Kitchen geyzer required de-scaling.	De-scaling complete.
	Glass broken on cell door.	Repaired.
	Intoxilyzer room door open despite sign on door saying 'keep closed at all times'.	A door closer has now been fitted.
	Dirty microwaves.	Microwaves all been deep cleaned.
	Privacy screens only appear to provide vocal privacy/reduction of sounds.	Screens are designed to provide privacy of conversation, particularly when 2 people are being dealt with at the same time. However, the screens are being assessed and frosting may be appropriate.
	Shower on ground floor not suitable as it has a flexihose.	This shower is the only power shower in the Bridewell. If the water system fails the other showers go off and the power shower is used. However, detainees are always monitored by custody staff when using this shower.

Custody Suite	Concern Raised	Action Taken
Bridewell	Poor cleaning stock, no disinfectant.	Cleaning product supplies raised with Facilities Dept, however COSH regulations limit the number and types of cleaning products untrained staff can use.
	Exercise yard flooding.	Exercise yard drains have been cleaned and the yard now drains away. Drainage holes are very small to comply with safer detention requirements and easily clog.
	Graffiti on cell door.	Maintenance work underway and painting doors is part of the process.
	Poor ventilation in observation room which contains new teltronics equipment.	Teltronics system will be partitioned off into the far end of the room. If further ventilation is required it will be provided.
	B Floor very hot, air conditioning not working.	AC pumps have been submitted for repair as swell as control system for the building.
Mansfield	Air conditioning extractor fan in the kitchen needs cleaning.	Vents cleaned by air conditioning engineers.
	Floor and wall of shower cubicle requires maintenance.	The custody suite is being painted and this area has been prioritised.
	Dripping handwash.	Fixed by plumber.
Newark	Out of date meals.	A routine stock checking policy is now in place to stop this problem.
	Exercise yard out of use - door jammed.	Door now repaired. Alternative exercise yard can be used if required.
	Air vents in air conditioning units very dirty.	Air vents cleaned.

All concerns raised were quickly responded to by the Police Custody Senior Managers.

Message from Temporary Chief Inspector Mark Turner

Although Custody Visitors, by their very definition, are independent, we nevertheless have an association. We both have a shared interest in ensuring that detainees are treated properly and in accordance with Codes of Practice whilst they are in our custody.

The Custody process is an integral element in reducing crime and keeping the public safe. However, this function is conducted in a secure environment away from the public. The role in the Independent Custody Visitor is absolutely paramount to ensure we are transparent and accountable for the care we provide for detainees. The Independent Custody Visitor provides a 'window' into custody and fully supports our drive to earn the trust and confidence of the public. Feedback from custody visitors is tracked and allows us to constantly review the quality of service we provide.

Independent and open scrutiny of the Police is one of the most important 'checks and balances' in our society and is what we should expect in a healthy liberal democracy.

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary [HMIC] visited Nottinghamshire in March 2013 and commented favourably on the strong relationship between the Police and the Independent Custody Visitors [ICV's]:

Quote from the HMIC Report

"...The scheme is active providing a regular schedule of visits. ICVs said that they were admitted to custody suites quickly and were challenging. No trends, and ad hoc issues dealt with and communicated effectively through monthly report and quarterly meetings. Consistent police representation [from the Police]. ICVs commented on recent increased morale within custody suites which is a positive sign.. ICVs received Investing in Volunteers Award. "

I look forward to the year ahead, working alongside the Independent Custody Visitors scheme to ensure that we continue identify and implement further improvements.

2013/14 IN FOCUS

During 2013/14 the Nottinghamshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme will continue to work to fulfil its responsibilities and to maintain its presence in the community. The Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner will seek -

- To move towards ensuring that the overall set of Independent Custody Visitors is representative of the local community and provides a suitable balance in terms of age, gender and ethnicity.

- To make all reasonable adjustments to accommodate those with disabilities and those who do not have English as their first language, where they are considered suitable candidates.

- To ensure that mental and social care needs are identified to guarantee that the detainee receives appropriate healthcare in relation to drugs and alcohol.

- To ensure that systems are in place to make certain that the output from visits is drawn rapidly to the attention of those in a position to make the appropriate response.

- To evaluate the effectiveness of training for Independent Custody Visitors and the extent to which it is achieving its objectives.

- To increase the number of late night and weekend custody visits.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

Jackie Nash
Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Manager
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
County Hall
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West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

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Email: jackie.nash@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

For more information on the role of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner or our Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, please visit our website:
www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

Nottinghamshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

CUSTODY MEETING
Thursday 16th May at 2pm
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

AGENDA

1) **Minutes of the last meeting - issues outstanding.**

   a) Jane Dean said a new Performance Officer would be starting on 4th February to pull together the Crime & Justice Performance Pack. Jane said she would follow up on this.

   b) Mark Turner said that under PACE it is not appropriate for juveniles to remain in custody overnight. Kevin Dennis felt that if they were returned home they could be more at risk. Kevin said he would take this up with the Youth Offending Team to consider alternative accommodation.

   c) Mark Turner said he would contact the Library with regard to reading material in different languages.

   d) Custody staff feel that there are too many custody visits at the Bridewell especially shift changeover times. Jackie said she would look at Bridewell visits and times.

2) **Update on HMIC/CJJI Action Plan and Standards**

3) **Chief Insp Turner's 101 Business Case regarding unrelated calls to custody.**

4) **Update on Air Handling Units due for installation w/c 13/05/131.**

5) **Shower room at Mansfield in poor state of repair. ICV's reported several times.**

6) **Ceiling panels missing in the kitchen at Newark, ICV's reported several times.**

7) **CCTV Mansfield - D cells 3 - 6 and JD cells 1 - 2. Vulnerable detainees more likely to be placed in these cells due to low beds. These are scheduled to be part of the proposed custody improvements for 2013/14. Is there a date for this work to commence?**

8) **Concern raised by ICV's on Bridewell visit 28/04/13 (details circulated)**

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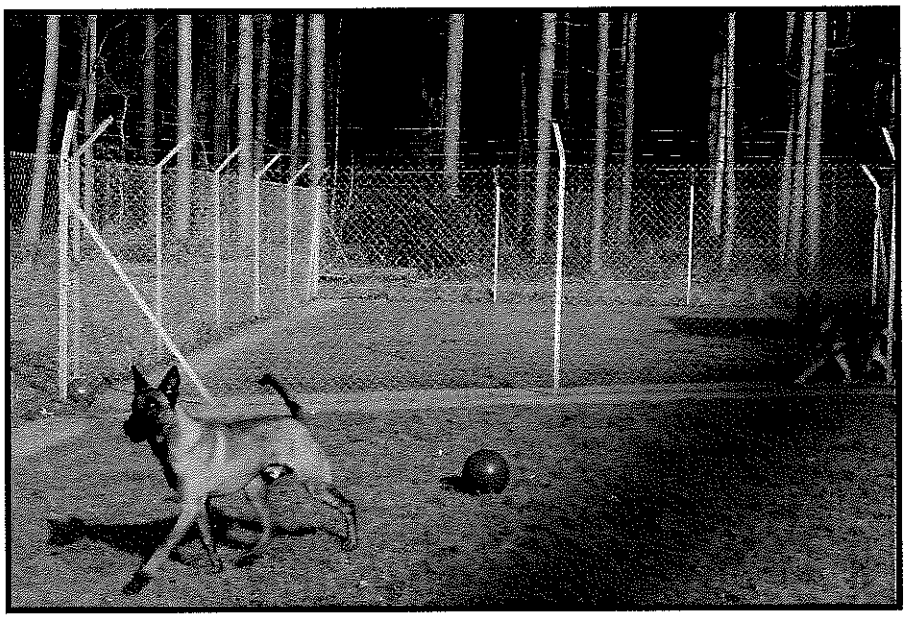
Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



ANIMAL WELFARE LAY VISITING SCHEME

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

INTRODUCTION BY CHRIS CUTLAND, DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The death of a police dog whilst training in Essex in 2003 resulted in an understandable loss of public confidence in police dog training methods. In response to this the ACPO Police Dog Sub-Committee embarked upon a review of police dog training and handling, aimed at restoring public confidence by ensuring that police training methods are humane, ethical and transparent.

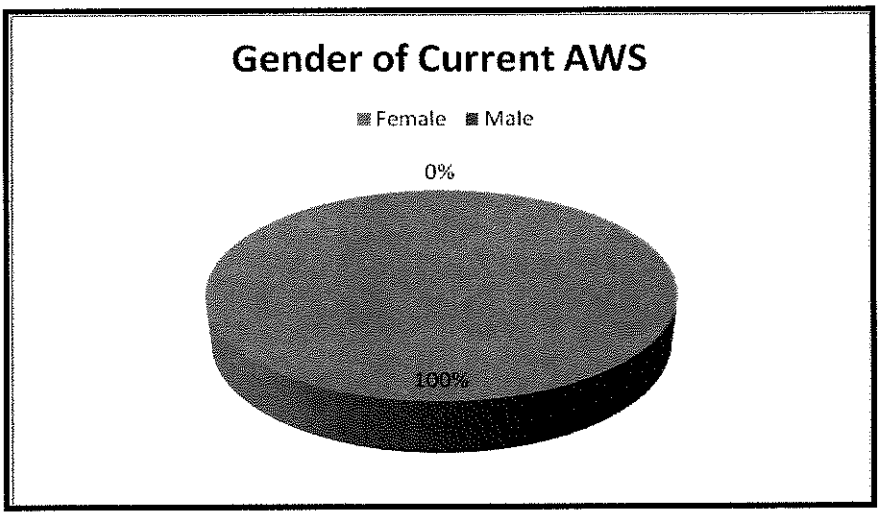
Central to this issue is the need for transparency in re-building public confidence and ensuring that the welfare of animals engaged in police work is maintained and any mistreatment is identified and dealt with promptly.

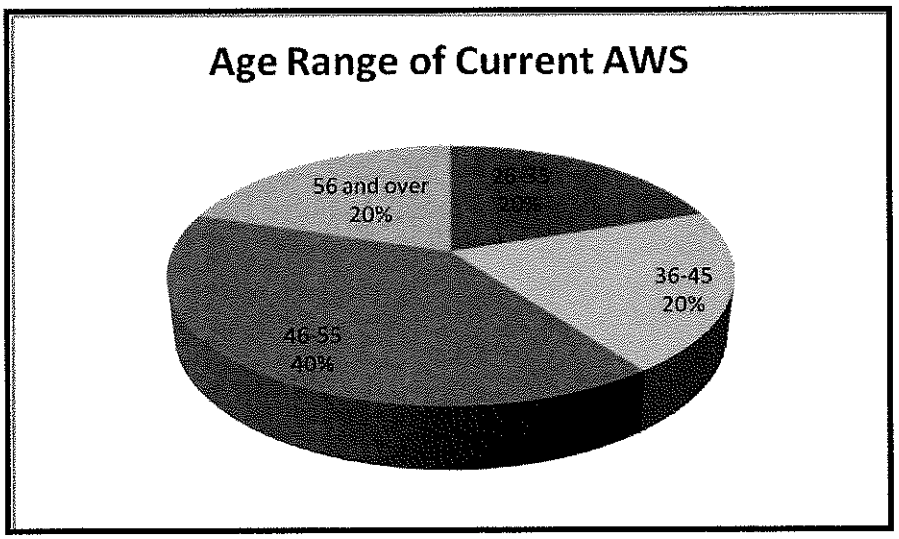
In 2005 the Animal Welfare Lay Visiting Scheme was introduced enabling volunteers from the local community to observe and report on the conditions under which police dogs and horses are housed, trained and transported.

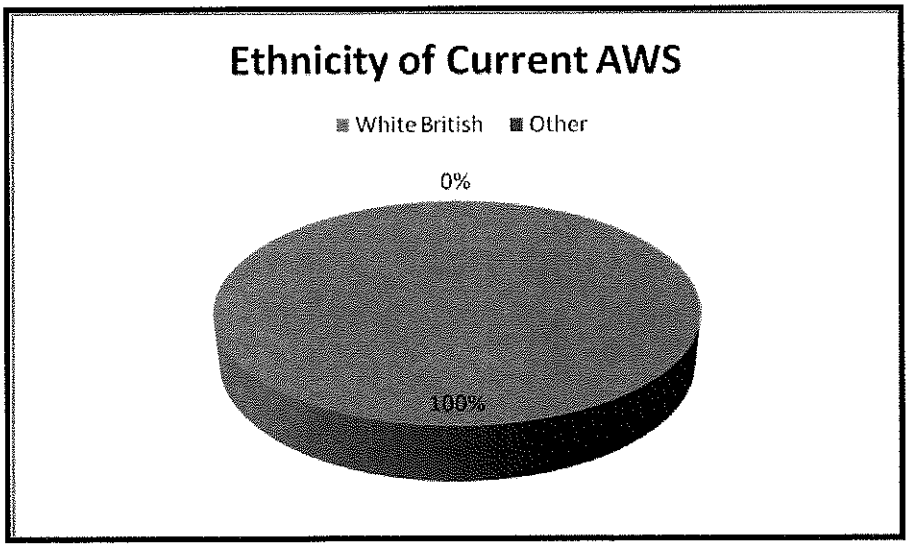
Sadly, during 2012, after a long period of consultation and consideration, a decision was made to disband the Mounted Section due to budgetary constraints. All the horses and the two stable cats were rehomed.

Animal Welfare Lay Visitors are independent volunteers of the local community who make unannounced visits to check on the welfare of animals engaged in police work.

We have seen a very positive year from the volunteers who make up the Animal Welfare Team. The scheme would not function without their expertise, professionalism and dedication to the welfare of police working animals. We are very proud of our Animal Welfare Scheme.


Gender of Current AWS
Female
Male
0%
100%


Age Range of Current AWS
56 and over
20%
36-45
20%
46-55
40%

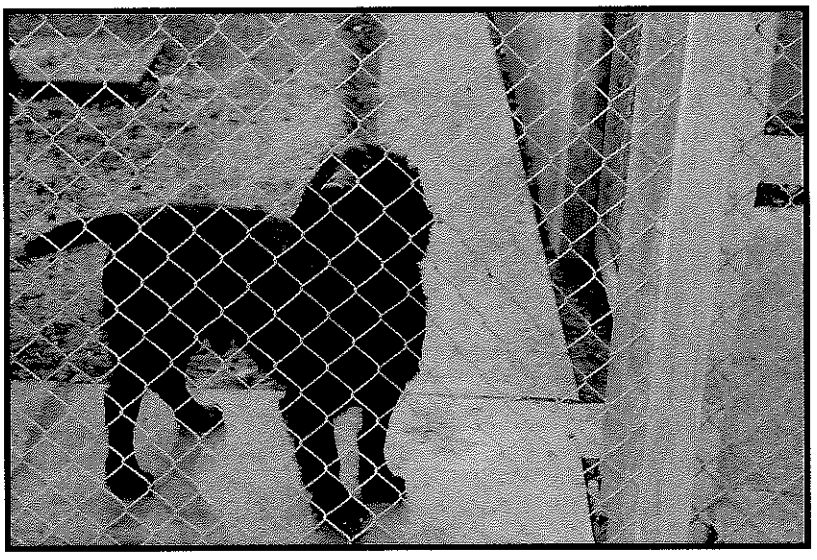

Ethnicity of Current AWS
White British
Other
0%
100%

ANIMAL WELFARE VISITS

There are 5 Animal Welfare Lay Visitors on the Nottinghamshire Scheme who visit the dogs once a month. They work in co-ordination with the RSPCA and their inspection visits are based on the Five Freedoms:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst.
- Freedom from discomfort.
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- Freedom from fear and distress.

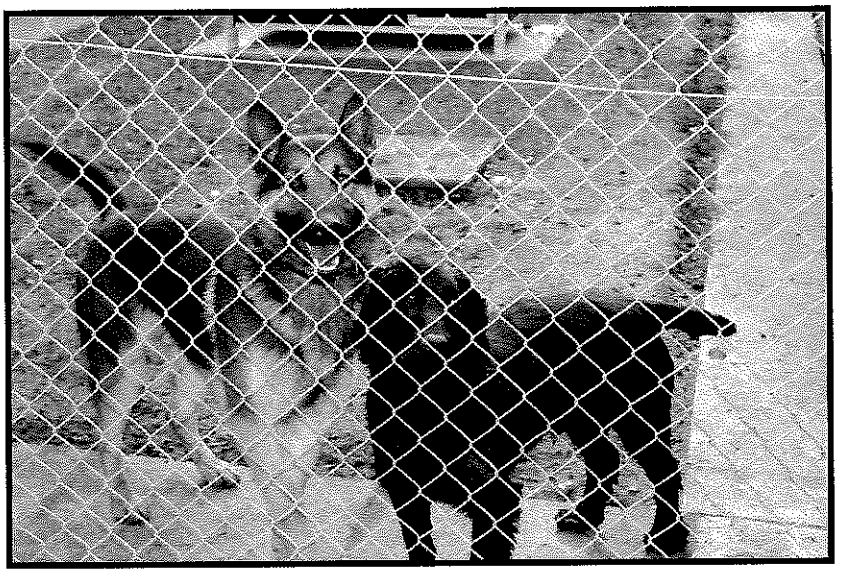
AWS Lay Visitors made 12 visits to the kennels over the reporting period as well as various training visits and made over 107 individual inspections of police dogs.



THE DOG UNIT

There are currently 14 General Purpose Dogs, one of which is trained to provide support to Firearms Officers, a further 9 Drug Detection Dogs and 3 Explosive Detection Dogs.

Four of the General Purpose Dogs will be trained as Firearms Support Dogs at the end of April 2013. A number of the drug detection dogs are able to trace weapons and it is hoped that within the next year two dogs will be trained to search for traces of blood to assist with the forensic aspect of policing.



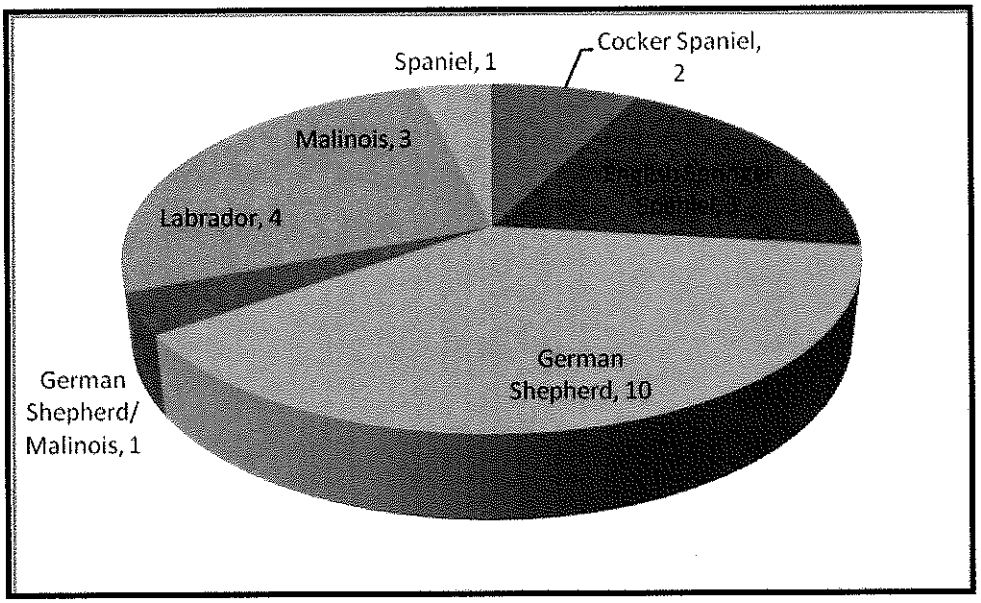
KENNEL UPGRADE

The Police & Crime Commissioner together with Nottinghamshire Police are seeking to upgrade and improve the provision of kennels for operational police dogs. The existing kennels have been in place for a number of years and have been subjected to a number of upgrades and repairs during this time. In 2012, the kennel complex attracted strong criticism from the RSPCA relating to the animal welfare provision.

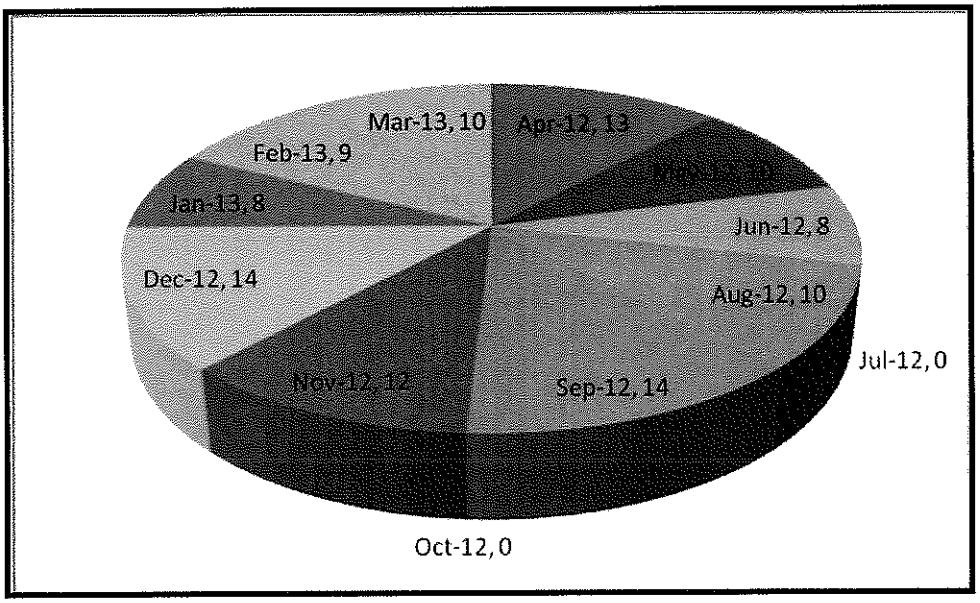
A major part of the subsequent RSPCA report pointed to the type and construction of the kennel complex and not at the direct welfare of the dogs. However, it was evident that a review of the facility was required to provide a system that was fit for purpose; a safe place.

Plans are now in place to seek the construction of a new kennel complex that meets the modern day needs and the legislative requirements governing animal welfare and provides an operational kennel facility that will last 20+ years. The existing permanent kennels within the main complex will be replaced with new and energy efficient units, supported by modern management facilities. A sum of £400,000 has been sent aside in the Capital Programme for 2013/14 for the new kennel upgrade. The Building Surveyor is currently designing the scheme in conjunction with the Dog Section and the RSPCA.

The Chart below shows the breeds of working dogs within Nottinghamshire Police.



The Chart below shows the number of dogs seen by AWS Lay Visitors between April 2012 and March 2013.



Nigel Rippon, Specialist Policy and Training Compliance Manager (Operational Support), Nottinghamshire Police

Throughout the year, Operational Support has worked closely with the Animal Welfare Scheme to seek a safe, efficient and cost effective facility for our Police Dogs. Throughout the reporting period, the police dog kennel system has witnessed a number of significant alterations and adjustments in order to ensure full compliance with Animal Welfare Legislation and recommendations. Operational Support have been proactive in seeking external support and advice on how to improve and maintain standards of care, and in doing so have worked closely with both the AWS and RSPCA to achieve this. As the result of a very detailed and probing visit last year, the AWS and Nottinghamshire Police responded to a number of areas of improvement and changes to day-to-day functions and welfare provision. Throughout this period, the AWS have been active in assisting the Force to continue to strive towards best practice by implementing and overseeing a regular visit programme. This programme has been supported by an agreed animal welfare inspection criteria that is fed back to Operational Support for the necessary action.

The Animal Welfare Lay Visiting Scheme has provided an open and transparent process of regulation and support to ensure welfare issues are addressed in an effective and timely manner with a consistent approach by the volunteer visitors. They all show a keen interest in supporting a clean and manageable facility, as well as interacting with the staff in the facility. Regular group meetings with Operational Support ensure consistency and regulation.

With the help of the Animal Welfare Scheme, Nottinghamshire Police is able to say that they have made considerable progress towards the provision of one of the best police dog kennel facilities within the region. By working together, the environment for working dogs is much improved.

CONCERNS RAISED BY AWS LAY VISITORS

During the period April 2012 - March 2013 all dogs were recorded as being well and happy by the Animal Welfare Lay Visitors.

Their one concern was about the conditions of the kennels in which the dogs are housed during working hours and when the dog handlers are on holiday.

A site visit to the kennels was arranged with the RSPCA and the following recommendations were made:

1. **The far kennel block and isolation facilities should cease to be used as they do not meet AWA standards and Nottinghamshire police should demolish these and provide more appropriate facilities.**

2. **All internal surfaces within the kennels must be impervious and kept in good repair so they can be kept clean.**

3. **All kennels must be kept in good repair so they are free from hazards to protect the health and welfare of the dogs.**

4. **Environmental enrichment must be provided within the kennels, for example sleeping platforms and toys, etc.**

5. **Exercise areas should have environmental enrichment and would benefit from some barriers put in so that dogs cannot see other dogs all the time.**

6. **Suitable bedding must be provided for all dogs when staying in the kennels. It is not acceptable to leave dogs without because they chew it.**

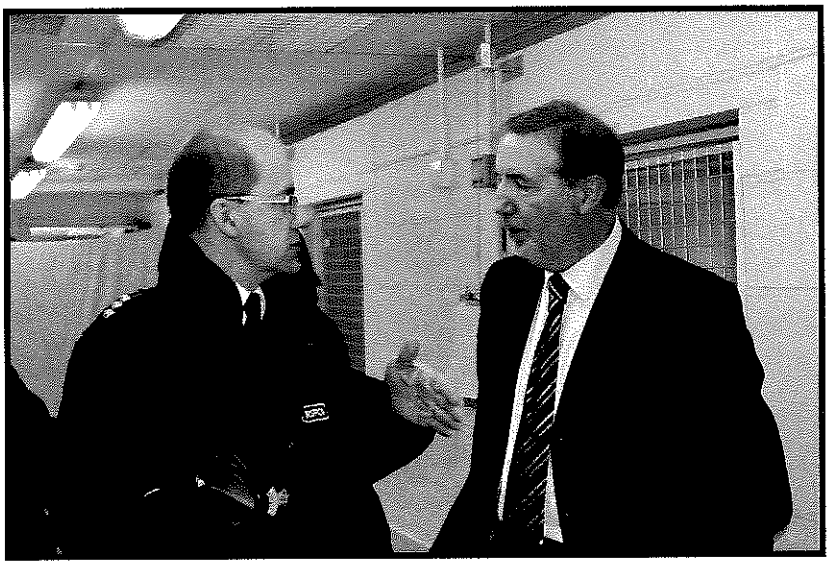
7. **The temperature must be better monitored and controlled in the kennels to ensure the dogs are kept comfortable.**

8. **Cleaning regimes must be significantly improved to ensure high levels of bio security.**

9. **The isolation facilities are totally inadequate and need redevelopment.**

10. **Record keeping would benefit from a more efficient approach where data is recorded on clip boards on each kennel.**

Extensive refurbishments were made to the kennels and on Tuesday 5th March 2013, the Police & Crime Commissioner and his Deputy made a further visit to the kennels with the RSPCA.



The RSPCA Chief Inspector made the following comments:

"I am extremely pleased with the progress to date, and the relatively quick time that vast improvements have been made.

Congratulations to all involved, this of course remains an ongoing project. I am aware there are formal plans for a complete re-build.

The RSPCA remains committed to the project and offers every available assistance in production of plans and future buildings.

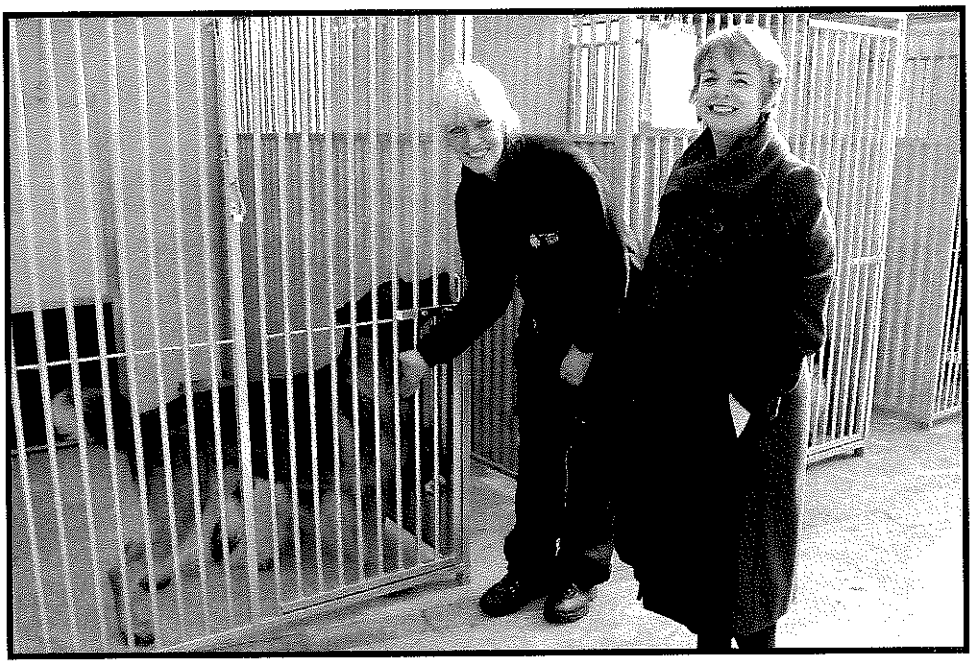
The new and portable fabricated kennels on site are more than adequate for the purposes of holding Police Dogs. I am aware further demolition of old buildings is still to take place. The panel fencing has clearly served its purpose in reducing noise and stress (including pacing of some dogs along the fence line). I am aware further items such as Kongs have been purchased.

The new cleaning regime has vastly improved with clearly identifiable cleaning equipment with colour coding.

I have also viewed the Standard Operating Procedure written specifically for the site. The author should be congratulated for their effort and work produced.

The temperature has clearly been improved in the main block. It is recommended the temperature checks are taken at ground level to confirm good circulation of the warm air.

I look forward to being involved in the future with further developments of the site."



FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

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For more information on the role of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Animal Welfare Visiting Scheme, please visit our website:

www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk