



Association of
Police and Crime
Commissioners



The Independent Custody
Visiting Association

Company Number: 08632556

The Rt Hon Nick Hurd, MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service
The Home Office
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Dear Minister

Police and Crime Commissioner Support for Improved Menstrual Care in Police Custody

The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) wrote to the then Home Secretary in January this year, highlighting problems with menstrual care in police custody and requesting changes to PACE Codes to improve this.

As Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, you launched a consultation on proposals to change PACE Codes in August, stating that everyone who is held in custody should be treated with dignity.

The proposed changes received warm support, culminating in a letter of support from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) that was signed by every Police and Crime Commissioner in England and Wales. This display of unity and support is both powerful and unprecedented. It demonstrates the value that PCCs place on independent custody visiting and the dignity of detainees in police custody. Furthermore, this collective support demonstrates the excellent work of the Home Office, notably the civil servants within the Police Powers Unit, when researching and drafting the proposed reforms. We would like to express our thanks for the Unit's work and engagement with ICVA when designing the changes.

ICVA and the APCC have been delighted with this joint work. It is a perfect example of how monitoring bodies can work with government departments, alongside other stakeholders, to make national improvements. We will continue to work with the Home Office to provide monitoring and oversight of police custody and work together to deliver ongoing improvements.

Yours sincerely,

Martyn Underhill
Chair
The Independent Custody Visiting Association

Katie Kempen
Chief Executive
The Independent Custody Visiting Association