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**Feedback from police custody**

**Introduction**

The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) leads, supports and represents independent custody visiting schemes across the UK. ICVA is requesting additional feedback from schemes throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. ICVA is sharing this monitoring with national bodies to help to identify strengths and challenges and help to resolve problems.

**Feedback**

The following feedback summarises responses from independent custody visiting schemes in the second two weeks of August. ICVA received 15 forms of feedback from 14 police forces and one external agency areas across this time.

Key messages

* Detainees are able to access safeguards and are using both remote and in person access to legal advice. We received a report of a delay accessing solicitors and a report of a solicitor refusing to attend custody in person.
* A significant number of schemes continue to report problems with video enabled justice. These centre around the increased time detainees spend in police custody, with schemes reporting concern on the impact on the wellbeing of detainees. Schemes also highlight the additional demand and strain this is placing on police.
* We have received a report that detainees are attending virtual courts later in the day and so, if remanded, are not able to be transferred to prison as prison reception has closed.
* We have received feedback that detainees do not have sufficient access to books during the pandemic.

**Using feedback**

ICVA will continue to share feedback on VEJ with relevant national organisations. ICVA is looking to share good practice on managing books and distraction resources for detainees during the pandemic.