

**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 from mid-January to mid-February 2021. ICVA received 20 forms of feedback from 20 police force areas across this time.

Key messages

* All respondents report that detainees are able to access good quality hygiene similar to that which they could access outside of custody.
* All respondents also reported that detainees are able to access important safeguards such as Appropriate Adults and solicitors.
* We asked schemes how legal advice was being delivered in their custody suites. 95% (19 areas) reported by telephone, 85% (17) reported in person and 65% (13) reported video advice.
* We asked schemes to indicate for the most common way legal advice is being provided. 55% (11) stated by telephone, 35% (7) stated in person and 10% (2) stated by video.
* No schemes reported problems accessing in-person legal advice, although one scheme noted a preference for remote legal advice in their area and cited an example where an Appropriate Adult objected to remote legal advice for a vulnerable adult.

**Using feedback**

ICVA has fed back previous concerns that detainees are not being given the opportunity to give informed consent to remote legal advice. We will share data on how legal advice is being provided with national operational organisations and continue to inform these discussions.