

Independent Custody Visiting Association
Checklist for Independent Custody Visitors
Detainees thought to have swallowed/packed drugs
August 2018



Those detained and thought to have swallowed or packed drugs can be held in police custody for significantly longer detention times than normal. This checklist provides ICVs with areas to consider when going on custody visits. ICVs are in place as members of the public to report on what is and is not acceptable in custody. If you feel that the detention is 'wrong' for whatever reason you should record this on your form to send to the scheme manager. You may wish to comment on dignity and wellbeing as well as other elements included below.

When you arrive in custody

- Ask how long the detainee thought to have secreted drugs has been in custody.
- Try to prioritise visits to those held for prolonged periods.

During your visit

- Check on rights, entitlements and wellbeing as you would for any visit.
- Check additional arrangements such as:
 - Has the detainee had access to varied food?
 - Have showers been regularly offered?
 - Has the detainee been offered regular exercise and fresh air?
 - Has the detainee been offered reading materials/a radio?
 - Has the detainee been offered nicotine replacements if needed?
 - Has the detainee been able to make additional phone calls?
- Ask the detainee if you are able to check the custody record

When looking at the custody record (with permission)

- Check how long the detainee has been in custody.
- Check the frequency of medical visits, have they been seen daily by a healthcare professional?
- Does the custody record detail offers of the entitlements above regardless of the detainees acceptance/refusal?

When completing your report

- Note how long the detainee has been in custody.
- Report on rights, entitlements and wellbeing as normal.
- Report on whether the detainee has been offered regular showers, daily exercise, varied food etc.
- Note if you have not been able to access the custody record and why.

If you have had access to the custody record:

- Report when the detainee came into custody and how long they have been there.
- Please make a note of the frequency of healthcare interactions with the detainee.