

## 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 Covid pandemic. ICVA is sharing this monitoring with national bodies to help to identify strengths and challenges and help to resolve problems. This month ICVA requested information from schemes on detainee access to washing facilities, attendance of safeguards and staffing in custody.

### Feedback

The following feedback summarises responses from independent custody visiting schemes from February 2022. ICVA received feedback from 20 police force areas across this time.

### Key messages

- 2 of the 20 respondents indicated that there were some issues with solicitor attendance, with one scheme noting that this was still being negotiated with the force and the solicitors in the area, the NPCC and operational partners group are aware of this issue.
- 13 of the 20 schemes reported that there were some issues with food supplies in their area, either currently or in recent weeks. The shortage is reported as being of certain items rather than all meals, including some shortages in the provision of all-day breakfasts which is noted as being popular with detainees. ICVA have raised this issue with the NPCC, although schemes are often dealing with it on a local, contractual level.
- ICVA asked at the request of a scheme if all schemes happy for benchmarking data to be shared amongst ICVA's membership only. 16 respondents were happy with this approach, three had additional questions which ICVA will clarify prior to taking further steps.
- 3 areas reported good practice examples this month. These included a culture of routinely offering detainees their entitlements rather than having a 'request culture' in custody with effective recording on custody records. Further examples include the screening offered by Liaison and Diversion services in one area, the planned used of tablets for the under 18's in custody, a referral scheme for veterans on release from custody and the monitoring of the explanation and use of cell bells for detainees on arrival to custody.

### Using feedback

ICVA continues to share feedback with national operational organisations such as the NPCC and Home Office.