

Anti-Rip Clothing in Custody

Interim Evaluation Dyfed-Powys Police/Dyfed Powys OPCC/ICVA Pilot November 2022

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Note from Sherry Ralph, Interim Chief Executive of ICVA:

‘The removal of a person’s clothing is an extreme measure to ensure their safety whilst in custody, which can have a serious impact for detainees and staff. I am delighted that Dyfed Powys Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have been working with ICVA to ensure that where this measure is used, it is done so proportionately, with full justifications and only in circumstances where all other options have been exhausted. The maintenance of detainee dignity during their time in custody is a key driver for all of those involved in the pilot, and I am grateful to Dyfed Powys Police, the OPCC and of course the independent custody visitors for their admirable engagement and consistently hard work.’

Introduction

ICVA has undertaken a thematic review of the use of anti-rip clothing¹ in police custody having noted the frequency with which it was reported as an area of improvement or a cause for concern in inspectorate reports². The reports revealed consistent concerns with the use of anti-rip clothing in custody, a brief overview of recorded issues being:

- The suits/clothing are recorded as being used in the absence of risk information, often with difficult detainees, by force, and have been noted as being potentially punitive.
- Poor recording and practice in terms of both proportionality and justification of the use of the suits.
- Concerns regarding detainee dignity being effectively maintained during clothing removal by force.
- Detainees have been left naked in an endeavour to manage harming behaviours, in suites both where the clothing is used, and those where it is not.
- Using the clothing when detainees are also on Level 4 observations which is reported as unnecessary.

ICVA has reviewed all inspectorate reports since 2017 to July 2022 (a small number are repeat inspections). Of 39 reports reviewed, 27 reports note the use of anti-rip suits. 24 of the 27 reports contain issues. There were only three reports containing no issues where the clothing was used. Other than the three noted, all reports where anti-rip clothing was used contained issues around proportionality, justification, detainee dignity or a combination of factors which were recorded as areas in need of improvement, or more often as causes of concern.



In addition, three of the reports where anti-rip clothing is not used or is not recorded as problematic contain evidence that detainees had been left naked or partially naked as an action to mitigate risk of self-harm which is vastly inappropriate. Several of the causes of concern were repeat recommendations for forces.

Some large forces do not use the suits at all, including the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and Thames Valley, Leicestershire and Kent instead utilising observations to mitigate risk, and there have been other forces undertaking projects to reduce the use of the suits.



ICVA attained a pro bono legal opinion regarding specifically the use of the suits, by force, in the absence of risk information. This opinion states that the use of the suits in circumstances where there are alternative methods of monitoring detainee likelihood of harming behaviour such as increased observations is likely to be unlawful. The opinion cites that operational capacity for observations is very unlikely to be an acceptable legal rebuttal for the use of the clothing by force.

¹ Other terminologies include: anti-ligature clothing, safety suit, AHS or anti-harm suit.

² Please note that pictures used are illustrative only and that other types of colours and styles of clothing will be in use in custody suites.

ICVA produced a lengthy report covering the review of reports, current guidance and collating feedback received from experts in custody. There were varying responses, but most forces/stakeholders stated that the suits are currently overused and should either not be used at all or used only in very exceptional circumstances with effective reporting in the custody record. Chief Inspector Steve Thomas from Dyfed Powys Police also commented that the numbers of detention officers to service increased observations can, in his view, lead to increased use of the clothing as a risk measure.

ICVA has welcomed the support from stakeholders, the National Police Chiefs Council and Dyfed Powys to get a pilot in place and the incredibly hard work from CI Thomas and Caryl Bond and her independent custody visitors in particular.

The Pilot – The Aims

Dyfed Powys police led by Chief Inspector Steve Thomas of Dyfed-Powys Police (who Chairs the NPCC risk subgroup), Dyfed Powys OPCC and ICVA agreed to work together on a pilot to:

1. Closely monitor the use of anti-rip suits in Dyfed Powys custody suites on a force wide basis.
2. Improve recording of the use of anti-rip clothing overall.
3. Remove the use of anti-rip clothing by force, in the absence of risk information.
4. Increase the quality of justification and consideration of proportionality where the clothing is used.
5. Improve the arrangements for detainees being offered custody/their own clothes as soon as practicable.
6. Reduce the use of anti-rip clothing overall.

The agreed methodology of the pilot was that independent custody visitors would review the custody records of those detainees for whom anti-rip clothing (or anti-harm clothing) was a feature of their time in custody. A memorandum of understanding and terms of reference for the pilot working group were agreed and are included at Appendix B and C respectively.

The three parties signed to the MOU have met on a monthly basis to track progress of the pilot, discuss emerging findings and to consider actions to move work forwards.

As the pilot progressed, ICVA received interest from other schemes, and thanks go to Caryl Bond and CI Steve Thomas for sharing the work and discussing good practice with other areas and nationally at the NPCC conference, ad hoc meetings and so on. Appendix A has an overview of the work independently undertaken by Norfolk and Suffolk, which differs in approach from the pilot but has a similar focus to the work of the pilot.

ICVA agreed to undertake an evaluation of the pilot, encompassing the implementation phase, a review of the data collected as part of this monitoring, conclusions and recommendations. This evaluation has been written by ICVA's Chief Operating Officer, however all parties of the pilot have had significant input and agreed the contents.

Phase 1 – Implementation Actions

The first phase of the pilot was led by CI Steve Thomas and Caryl Bond, independent custody visiting scheme manager at Dyfed-Powys OPCC. Both parties were supported by ICVA during the implementation process. In the implementation phase, the force, ICVA and the scheme manager reviewed the custody records to attain an overview of current practice and set benchmarking.

Dyfed Powys Police

- The first phase of implementation was for recording of the use of the suits to be put in place as this was not something the force currently did. Police systems required amending to make the use of anti-rip clothing a recorded field in custody records.
- The Head of Custody worked with the force data analyst to add a reporting field to the custody record. This process consisted of a drop-down box to select if the clothing had been used, with a free text box for officers to record detail on the rationale and justification for the use of the suits.
- The Head of Custody shared awareness of the new recording amongst custody staff and ensured that all were aware of the rationale for the additional recording and background to the pilot.
- The Head of Custody put in place a system that Inspectors, when undertaking custody reviews of detainees in anti-rip clothing, always review the clothing. This review needed to include commenting on the necessity for it to remain. Scrutiny from the force was put in place to ensure these reviews were occurring as per the guidance and resources amended to include Inspector focus on anti-rip clothing.
- The Head of Custody worked with the data analyst at the force to ensure that the recording was working, and that custody records where use of the clothing was a feature could be easily extrapolated for scrutiny/review.
- Performance reviews on the use of the clothing for the force were put in place, at monthly meetings with the Head of Custody (CI Thomas) to track progress from a force perspective.

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

- The Scheme Manager (Caryl Bond) attained engagement from the PCC in the pilot.
- Scheme Manager discussed with ICVs to garner support for the additional work on the project and was able to engage a group of ICVs happy to undertake the reviews.
- Scheme Manager undertook risk assessments and worked with the force and OPCC to establish how the ICVs would attain records, what if any redaction was required and arrangements for reviews.
- Scheme Manager undertook a training day for custody record reviewing ICVs to refresh previous practice and focus on the additional information for the anti-rip pilot. CI Thomas and Sherry Ralph from ICVA both attended the online event in part to share rationale and force perspective.

ICVA

- ICVA pulled together governance documents for the group, to be found at Annexe A and Annexe B.

- ICVA produced a RAG rating scheme for those reviewing records to help guide them as to what the inspectorate would consider good practice, and what practices were most concerning.
- ICVA amended custody record review documents to include specific questions on the use of anti-rip clothing to help guide reviewers.
- ICVA has maintained a co-ordination and promotional role for the pilot, having arranged, chaired and disseminated brief notes from the pilot project meetings.
- The implementation phase of the pilot lasted from the early planning stages in July 2021 until March 2022 when ICVs were able to take over the reviewing.

Phase 2 – Go Live

In March 2022, ICVs began reviewing custody records. There was a delay due to covid restrictions meaning that ICVs were not able to attend the OPCC building to use force computers to access records.

The ICVs visit the OPCC building and work in pairs or alone (depending on preference) to review the records against an agreed checklist with questions provided by ICVA and agreed by the pilot group. ICVs review the whole custody record against a number of areas of detainee rights, entitlements and wellbeing as well as a detailed examination of the use and recording of anti-rip clothing. The criteria for review have been produced by ICVA and amended by the OPCC for local use.

All records including the use of anti-rip clothing are available for review. Depending on numbers, the ICVs have endeavoured to review all uses, or at least 90% of records where numbers have impacted on time available. At the time of writing, ICVs review all uses of anti-rip clothing in custody in Dyfed Powys.

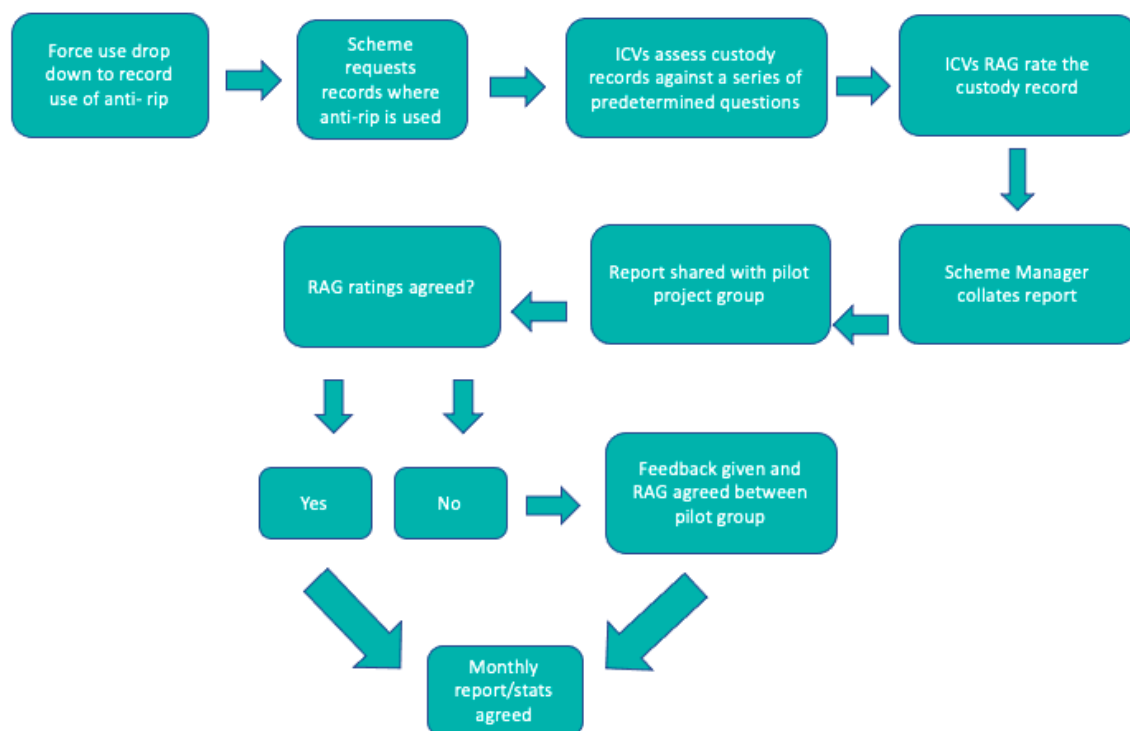
The ICVs then apply a RAG rating using the information provided by ICVA:

Reason for Rating	Follow Up Action
Drop down in use, full rationale for use of suit which is both justifiable and proportionate to risk posed.	No further action required at this point.
Suit removed as soon as practicable.	
Clear de-escalation, distraction items etc. used to mitigate risk of detainee DSH.	
Little or unclear justification for the use of the suit.	Advice/further training given to custody staff.
Insufficient information to determine the proportionality of the use of the suit.	
Detainee left in suit for prolonged periods of time.	
Suit drop down used but no further information.	Further exploration required as to use/rationale. Cases to be raised with custody Inspector.
Suit used in absence of risk information but no other rationale.	
Suit used by force with no further information.	
Drop down not used, information on suit discovered as part of routine CRR by ICVs.	

Once all records have been RAG rated, and ICVs recorded the reasons for the rating they then pass the information to the OPCC scheme manager who pulls together an overview report.

This report is then sent to the pilot group, who review the information and ratings. On occasion, the scheme manager, ICVA and the force will agree a change of grading for a custody record review where there is evidence that the recording in the custody record better fits a different RAG rating.

This occurs on a monthly basis. Feedback is then given to custody staff. This feedback includes examples of good practice as well as challenging those areas where improvements are required.



Overview of challenges

As with any new initiative, there are challenges in terms of implementation and getting a project truly embedded and running effectively. Below represents an overview of the challenges from the implementation phase to the point of interim evaluation. These challenges present some valuable learning for wider roll out of scrutiny and are reflected in the recommendations for smooth adoption of wider scrutiny/guidance regarding anti-rip clothing.

Force perspective:

- **Data** - Attaining the amends to the force IT system to allow use of anti-rip clothing to be a reportable function and for custody staff to record justification and rationale detail.

- **Awareness** – custody staff all needed to be made aware of the changes to recording in the system and to use the drop down consistently.
- **Rationale** – Explaining to staff as to the rationale for the pilot work, what benefits would there be to adopting the new approach.
- **Culture** – Attaining a cultural shift from automatically using the suits where risk information is not attained at booking in, a practice which has been embedded for some time.
- **Consistency** – ensuring custody staff continued to utilise the drop down and rationale box and ensure consistent messaging from all of those responsible for custody as to the importance of the work.
- **Support** – providing additional resources for Inspector reviews and ongoing feedback as to good/poor practice.
- **Accountability** – Including the use of the drop down and effective recording in performance management of those working in custody.

OPCC perspective:

- **Data** – Work needed to be done in conjunction with the force and the OPCC to establish whether custody records required redaction for ICVs to view them. Decision was reached that provided the following conditions were met, ICVs could review unredacted custody records:
 - ICVs were vetted to NPPV Level 2
 - ICVs signed a specific confidentiality agreement for the pilot
 - Records were reviewed at OPCC HQ under supervision
 - Additional training was given to ICVs on confidentiality and its importance
 - No records were printed
- **Training** – ICVs required refresher training on how to review a custody record and the background and additional information required from the anti-rip pilot.
- **Resources** – The scheme manager has to dedicate significant resource to the pilot, attaining a data position, training the ICVs, arranging for the reviews, supervising ICV reviews, compiling review reports and attending pilot and engagement meetings.
- **Time** – Custody records can take some time to ‘get to know’ and therefore the speed of ICV reviews was initially slower than optimal. As the pilot has progressed and ICVs are more comfortable with the format of the records, this has improved significantly. In months where the use of the clothing is higher, ICVs are not able to review all records.

ICVA perspective:

- **Aims vs Operational** - ICVA has been clear that we would like to see the removal of the use of the clothing on a national level in favour of effective observations, harm minimisation and de-escalation techniques. Whilst this remains the organisational objective of ICVA, collaboration with the force has meant that the operational goal of removing the use of the clothing in the absence of risk information and increasing the quality of recording has been agreed as the first steps.
- **Resource** – ICVA is a small organisation and therefore capacity to support the pilot at times could be an issue.

Overview of Successes


The pilot project has not only had some successes in terms of data as detailed later, but also some qualitative successes of note from each perspective.

Force perspective:

- **Recording** - The rationale and justification for use of the clothing has drastically improved, meaning that staff are more confident in their decision making.
- **Inspectorate Reports** - The force has been working proactively on an issue which has arisen in many HMICFRS reports.
- **Staff understanding** - Staff understand the aims of the pilot and the potential benefits in terms of better record keeping and increased scrutiny of risk decisions.
- **Collaboration** - The force has welcomed joint work and increased scrutiny offered by the OPCC scheme manager and the independent custody visitors.
- **Public Confidence** - This scrutiny supports democratic oversight of policing and public confidence.
- **Awareness Raising** - National marketing such as an article in Policing Insight has a positive reflection and effect on Dyfed Powys police and the custody team.


OPCC perspective:

- **Whole custody approach** - ICVs review the custody record in their entirety, therefore picking up on other areas for custody to note in terms of good practice or needing improvement such as rights, entitlements and detainee care overall.
- **ICV engagement** - ICVs have found the pilot work fascinating and have fed back to both the scheme manager and ICVA how much the work has added to their role.
- **ICV expertise** - ICVs have stated that custody record reviewing work has given them a better understanding of custody processes and determinations that staff have to make.
- **Independent Oversight** - ICV scrutiny brings independent oversight to project work, meaning that the pilot organisations and the public can have confidence in the pilot and its findings.



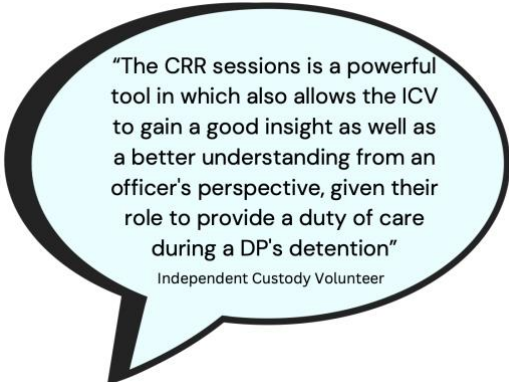
"Being part of the ICV review team has allowed me to apply this knowledge, when undertaking station visits"

Independent Custody Volunteer



"The study allowed volunteers to view the complete custody record, which gave background, context, and reasoning for the difficult decisions that had to be made by custody staff"

Independent Custody Volunteer

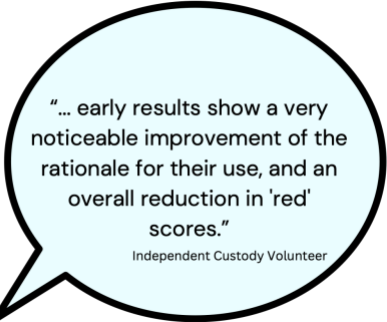


"The CRR sessions is a powerful tool in which also allows the ICV to gain a good insight as well as a better understanding from an officer's perspective, given their role to provide a duty of care during a DP's detention"

Independent Custody Volunteer

ICVA perspective:

- **Detainee Dignity** – The pilot has shown that a greater focus on the use of the anti-rip suits has meant less detainees have been left in anti-rip clothing without review for significant times in custody. Detainees can change into alternative clothing as soon as the risk has passed in many more cases. This is an important outcome for detainee dignity.
- **Demonstrating ICV value** – ICVs are an incredible resource across the whole of the UK. Involvement in important hopefully national, projects such as this, really demonstrate the value that volunteers can bring to both Police and Crime Commissioners and Policing Bodies, Police Forces, and most importantly, those who are deprived of their liberty by the State.
- **Collaborative working** – ICVA has found working collaboratively with the OPCC and the force invaluable, without the collaboration from those two parties there would be no pilot and no impact. An effective collaboration has been proven to get improvements made which are beneficial to the organisational aims of all parties.



“... early results show a very noticeable improvement of the rationale for their use, and an overall reduction in 'red' scores.”

Independent Custody Volunteer

Other work in this area:

As the pilot work progressed, other schemes and forces have been in touch with ICVA, the OPCC and the force to express an interest, or to share the work occurring in their area.

The most well-established oversight comes from Norfolk and Suffolk, who utilise ICVs on their force led scrutiny panels. The main focus of these panels was to look at strip search but also to examine the use of anti-rip clothing and as to whether the use was justified/not justified. The force scrutiny panels align with the Dyfed Powys pilot in that there is an agreement that use of the clothing without risk information on booking in would not be a justified use of the clothing.

The force has fed back that this work on the panels has gone very well, with 95% of anti-rip uses reviewed being considered as justified in the last report to ICVA. You can find a complete overview of the approach and the impact of the scrutiny panels in Appendix A.

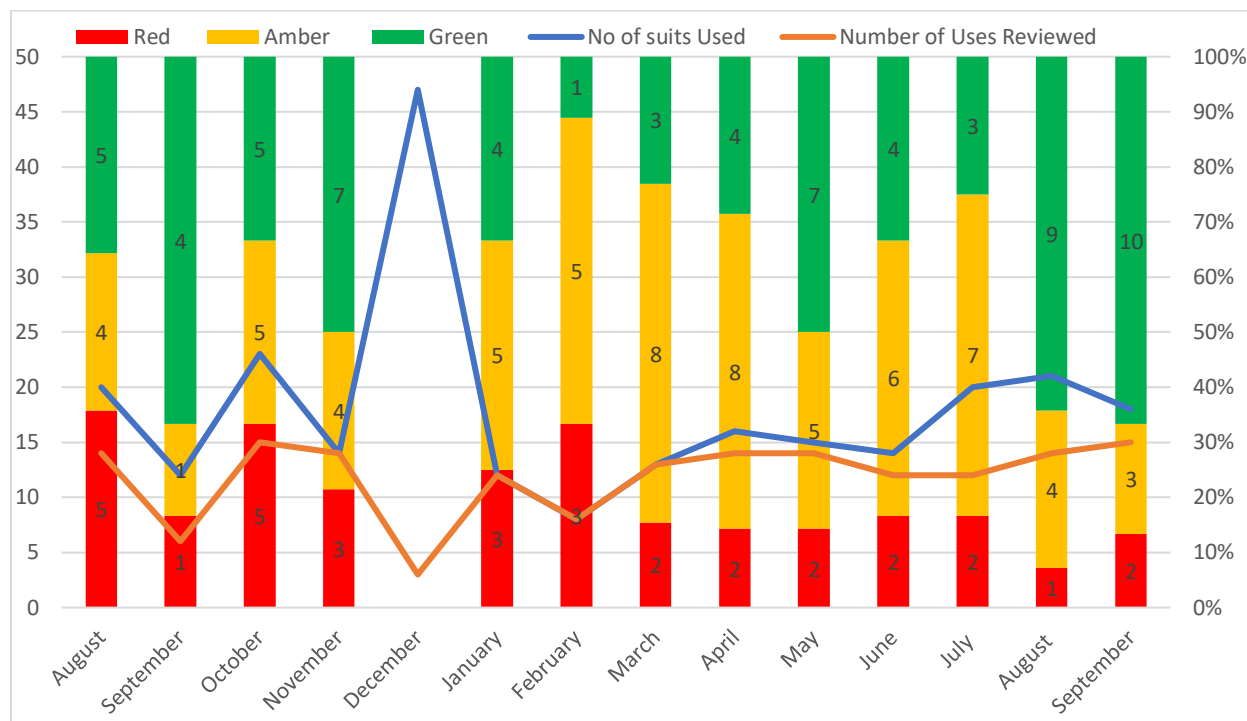
The Head of Custody for Dyfed Powys and ICVA's COO presented on the pilot at the National Police Chiefs Council annual meeting with a good level of engagement. The pilot has also featured in Policing Insight, the OPCC website and more.

Other force areas who have shown interest in the work of the pilot are:

- North Wales OPCC and force.
- Sussex OPCC and force.
- Hertfordshire force.

The Data

The following table demonstrates the findings of the pilot to date at the time of writing. The records from March onwards are those reviewed by ICVs. Records pre-March were reviewed by the OPCC, force and ICVA.



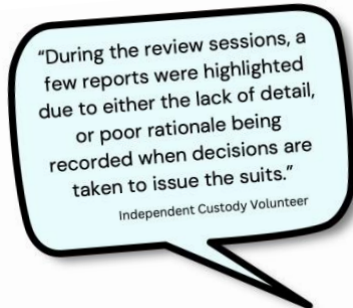
Notes to the chart:

- ICVs have consistently reviewed the majority, but not all of the records where anti-rip clothing is used.
- Overall, there has been a decline in reds since the implementation phase of the project.
- There is a significant and consistent increase in those entries that are rated as green, most notably in the more recent returns showing that the feedback loop to the force from monitoring is having a sustained effect on the quality of records.
- Numbers of uses have remained reasonably stable overall after a peak in December last year, which is presumed to be a statistical anomaly for season. This will be closed monitored in force and independently in December 2022.

Conclusions

The removal of clothing from detainees is incredibly impactful on their dignity, their wellbeing and their ongoing engagement with custody processes. It should be taken seriously. Inspectorate reports consistently issue causes of concern pertaining to the use of the clothing and it is in the best interests of the force as well as the detainee to effectively record its use and ensure that the clothing is only used as a last resort, if at all.

There are several areas who do not use the clothing, indicating that it is entirely possible to manage risk effectively, in busy suites, without needing to use anti-rip garments; the use of which often involves force. ICVA posits that although a full-scale review of these arrangements has not been possible, it is unlikely that all of the suites where the clothing is not used have state of the art CCTV or consistently high staffing levels.



There is currently a paucity of specific recording of the use of anti-rip clothing across custody suites. This leads to poor recording and focus in terms of the proportionality and justification for the use of the clothing which should be remedied as a priority. It is vital to effective scrutiny that all records where the clothing has been used can be identified.

It is clear that engagement from Heads of Custody to challenge custody culture is key to implementing successful reporting and to make progress on inappropriate use of the clothing. Engaging staff in the rationale for the work provided some early progress in terms of the reporting, with the Head of Custody quickly becoming certain that all uses were recorded. The culture aspect of when the suits are used, how they are reviewed and when they are removed was more challenging and required ongoing input.

Dyfed Powys has a local custody records IT system, which allowed changes to the recording of anti-rip clothing to be made with relative ease and on a local level in terms of the pilot. It is likely that changes to Niche, Athena and other police systems will need to involve a national steer from a policing body such as the NPCC.

The pilot has found that effective reporting and monitoring of the use of anti-rip clothing has an impact on use of the clothing by force, in the absence of risk information. Uses of the clothing are increasingly well justified with full consideration of proportionality by custody staff which is to be applauded. The challenge now will now be to ensure that all records hit the 'green' mark and to ensure that all other methods of managing risk effectively for the for both the force and detainee dignity are considered prior to use of the clothing.

Recommendations

Home Office

- That the Home Office consider expanding point 8.5 or adding an additional point of PACE Code C and H to include that detainee clothing is not to be removed due to perceived risk only.
- That the Home Office puts in place mandatory reporting of the use of anti-rip clothing as a subset of the use of force data.

National Police Chiefs Council:

- Ensure that all forces, without delay, implement a reportable function for the use of anti-rip clothing on custody systems to allow greater scrutiny.
- All forces should be made aware that the use of anti-rip clothing in the absence of risk information because a detainee is not engaging in the risk assessment questions, is inappropriate and should cease.

- That the NPCC agree to work towards a removal of the use of anti-rip clothing in police custody, in favour of use of effective observations, de-escalation and dynamic risk management.

College of Policing

- That the Authorised Professional Practice for custody be updated to reflect that forces should never use anti-rip clothing, by force, in the absence of risk information.
- That the CoP estates manual ensures that the custody design build reflects optimal use of CCTV so that adequate observations can be managed without the need for clothing removal under any circumstances.

ICVA

- That ICVA will continue to support changes to scrutiny of the use of anti-rip clothing by:
 - Keeping members updated
 - Providing custody record reviewing support to schemes
 - Disseminating RAG ratings and other pertinent tools for scrutiny
 - Providing support to statutory bodies on policy review
- ICVA will support stakeholders in implementing changes by assistance with drafting, providing background and sharing any other information of use.

Dyfed Powys OPCC are committed to the pilot continuing until March 2023, with the force noting that this work is now embedded practice in all Dyfed Powys police custody suites.

Appendix A – Norfolk and Suffolk

As noted earlier in the report, Norfolk and Suffolk have force-led scrutiny panels which look at, amongst other things, the use of anti-rip clothing. With thanks to the force for their input, please see below for some detail on how the scrutiny panel works, and the outcomes to date.

Panel Structure

SUFFOLK	NORFOLK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ICVs • Office of the Policing Crime Commissioner’s representative • PIC Inspector • Guest attendees at the request of the ISSSP; complainant, public, press etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ICVs • Office of the Policing Crime Commissioner’s representative • Independent Advisory Group (IAG) member • Guest attendees at the request of the ISSSP; complainant, members of the community, press etc.

The panels meet and review a selection of custody records with the data/records using anti-rip clothing being identified via safer detention forms. ICVs are given excerpts from the custody record pertaining to anti-rip use to examine.

ICVs then determine whether, in their view, the use of the anti-rip clothing is justified or not justified. This is discussed live at the panel with a determination made jointly but led by the ICVs as to a final decision on justification. Please see below for the data regarding justification from the scrutiny panel to date:

Date of Records Reviewed	% Of Records Justified
May-21	90
Jul-21	90
Oct-21	70
Apr-22	75
Jul-22	95
Oct-22	95

The panel reports two consistent months of 95% the dip sampled records being graded as justified by ICVs. A custody representative stated:

‘The panel has gifted us the unique opportunity to ensure that when we are utilising measures for prevention of self-harm within custody, that we are doing it in a proportionate and necessary measure. The use of R/P utilisation has reduced and, more importantly, the rationale around its use has significantly improved thanks to the findings of the panel which has seen the last two reports produce a 95% Justification rate. The panel allows for internal learning, which in turn can lead to improvement around legitimacy around detainee welfare and the use of R/P clothing’.

Appendix B – Memorandum of Understanding



Anti-Rip Pilot Dyfed-Powys Memorandum of Understanding

Contents:

1. Background to pilot project
2. Partnership aims and objectives
3. Partnership activities, roles and responsibilities
4. Monitoring
5. Evaluation
6. Disclaimer

1 Background

1.1 Dyfed Powys Police, Dyfed Powys Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and ICVA have formed this partnership to examine the use of anti-rip clothing across Dyfed Powys custody suites.

1.2 It is an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of all parties involved and detainees held in police custody.

1.3 ICVA had raised an issue with the improper use of anti-rip clothing in custody across the UK, including issues with overuse, use in the absence of effective risk assessment and sufficient recording of justification for use of the clothing. Dyfed Powys Police have agreed to take part in a pilot to improve practice in this area with oversight from independent custody visitors from Dyfed Powys OPCC and ICVA.

2 Partnership aims and objectives

2.1 The overarching aim of this partnership is to reduce the use of anti-rip clothing in custody in Dyfed Powys.

2.2 Specific objectives are:

2.2.1 to ensure that where anti-rip clothing is used, that justifications are effectively and fully recorded

2.2.2 to ensure that where anti-rip clothing is used, it is proportionate to the risk of self-harm by ligature that is posed

2.2.2 to ensure that anti-rip clothing is used with a focus on detainee dignity

2.2.3 to ensure that anti-rip clothing usage is effectively monitored

3 Partnership activities

3.1 Activities to be delivered by the partnership are:

3.1.1 That the ICVs from the Dyfed Powys will review custody records against the ICVA produced questions.

3.1.2 Dyfed Powys police will examine areas requiring improvement and raise with custody staff to improve practice and in line with the pilot aims.

3.1.3 ICVA will arrange meetings, take notes and provide oversight and support to other partners as required.

3.2 The initial timeframe for partnership activities will be 6 months from the start of ICV reviews. This may be extended.

4 Monitoring

4.1 All partners commit to ongoing monitoring, with meetings of the partnership to be held on a monthly and no less than six weekly basis be held.

4.2 ICVA will co-ordinate the meetings and report back to senior teams and governing boards as appropriate.

4.3 All partners commit to following up on actions identified at pilot monitoring meetings which may include changes to processes/training and practice as areas requiring improvement/good practice examples are received.

5 Impact evaluation

5.1 ICVA has agreed to lead on evaluation of the pilot project.

5.2 This evaluation may be an 'in-house' evaluation or may be a commissioned service in fuller time, with agreement being sought from the partnership prior to any external activity.

5.3 Partners agree that they will provide relevant data and insights to assist with the project evaluation.

5.4 ICVA will ensure that partners are able to view/sign off an evaluation prior to it being placed in the public sphere.

9 Disclaimer

9.1 It should be noted that by signing this document or by participating in the anti-rip pilot project, the partners are not committing to legally binding obligations. It is intended that the partners remain independent of each other and that their collaboration and use of the term 'partner' does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

Signed on behalf of ICVA

..... 

Sherry Ralph, COO, ICVA..... Date ...22nd March 2022

Signed on behalf of Dyfed Powys OPCC

.....Caryl Bond..... Date23/02/2022..... [*Caryl Bond, Assurance Support Officer, Dyfed-Powys OPCC.*]

Signed on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police

..... 

Date 24.03.22 *Chief Inspector | Head of Custody Services*

Annexe C – Terms of Reference

Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)

Anti-Rip Pilot Steering Group

Terms of Reference

March 2022

Purpose

The Anti-Rip Steering Group will oversee and deliver the anti-rip pilot and evaluation.

ICVA established the group in order to:

- Oversee the implementation of the project plan.
- Provide a problem-solving group for Dyfed Powys Police and OPCC in implementing the pilot.
- Ensuring that the pilot is implemented with input and engagement from key stakeholders including the NPCC and Home Office.

The Steering Group is responsible for ensuring that the anti-rip pilot demonstrates impact and is evaluated effectively.

Membership

- ICVA – Chief Operating Officer Sherry Ralph.
- Dyfed-Powys Police – Chief Inspector Steve Thomas.
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner – Caryl Bond, Scheme Manager.

Working methods

The Steering Group will meet via conference call every month. The agenda will be flexible, but is likely to include the following at each meeting:

- Update on project plan
- Feedback from participating schemes
- Discussion on trends from record reviews
- Identifying/checking in on actions for custody staff
- Planning for evaluation and presentation to the NPCC

The Steering Group is able to meet outside of this and anticipates that they may do so should any critical issues or specific project activities such as training, comms or presentations occur.

Meetings and governance

ICVA will chair and manage the Steering Group. ICVA will commit to keeping notes of meetings and resultant actions.

ICVA will use the reports from the Steering Group to formally feedback on progress to the ICVA National Expert Forum and Board of Directors and key stakeholders.