

Custody Detention Scrutiny Panels

FAQs for Scheme Managers/ICVs



Introduction

This week your PCC will have received a letter from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and Lisa Townsend and Emily Spurrell (PCCs for Surrey and Merseyside respectively, Custody Leads for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners), regarding a new scrutiny panel model for custody. This model is the [Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel](#) or **CDSP**.

We have put together this FAQ for scheme managers and ICVs to answer some of the questions you may have at a glance although we recommend that you read the documents sent to the office fully.

Is this a new panel?

Yes, although forces/OPCCs may have other scrutiny panels that look at elements of disproportionality or specific elements of custody, this is a new panel and your office will have received a guide to assist with setting it up. The panels will be PCC (or Deputy Mayors) led.

Why is the panel being suggested?

Although other scrutiny panels exist, currently there is no consistent approach to addressing disproportionality within detention profiles. Setting up effective CDSPs is hoped to help build public trust and confidence in this often-hidden area of policing, in particular the confidence of Black and other ethnic minority communities. ICVA also recognises the work that schemes have been undertaking as part of the anti-racism theme in recording the ethnicity of detainees but is clear that the CDSP approach adds value to this work.

Doesn't this duplicate independent custody visiting?

No, the panels are being set up to look at areas that ICVs do not monitor as part of their key remit and with a specific focus on disproportionality. The [guidance document](#) suggests that panels might wish to scrutinise areas such as:

- Strip search
- Use of Force
- Use of anti-rip clothing
- Mental health

The full list of suggested areas is included in the guidance document.

Who will be on the new panel?

The panel is suggested as being made up of a mix of people, pulling from (full list in guidance):

- ICVs, IAG, other panel members
- Solicitors, appropriate adults etc.
- Representatives with lived experience of police custody and/or disproportionality.

Do OPCCs have to have a CDSP and an ICV panel?

OPCCs (and equivalent bodies), must, by law have an independent custody visiting scheme which is run in accordance with the current [Code of Practice](#). Whilst the CDSP are recognised and supported by ICVA, the NPCC and the APCC as good practice, there is no current legislative framework surrounding them.

When are these panels due to start?

The guidance has been sent to all Chief Constables and PCCs to be taken forward locally. Arrangements for panels will need to be agreed between these bodies as well as putting in place some of the operational details such as training for panel members, locations, focus and so on.