

Detainee Known to ICV

A briefing for Schemes and ICVs



There have been some conversations at the National Expert Forum (NEF) regarding ICVs undertaking visits whereupon they see a detainee who is known to them from a setting other than custody.

This briefing is to consider what the Code states, give some guidance to schemes on what they should have in place for these occasions, and give some guidance to ICVs on what they could/should do when this occurs.

The Codes of Practice

The [Code](#) states:

61. If an ICV realises they know or are known by a detainee, they must declare this and consider whether to withdraw from the visit.

Scheme Managers

Schemes should have local guidance in place for ICVs, letting them know what you would like them to do, and reiterating their obligations under confidentiality. You may wish to consider arrangements such as:

- Ensuring that ICVs give the detainee the choice to go ahead or refuse the visit.
- The ICV who knows the detainee reverting to note taking only, with their ICV partner conducting the visit (if the detainee is happy for the visit to go ahead).
- Your reporting processes for occasions when ICVs are known to detainees.
- Confidentiality of visits, ensuring ICVs are aware that they are not able to disclose anything about the detainee outside of their role.

ICVs

ICVs need to be sensitive to the needs and potential embarrassment and/or shame someone might feel seeing a friend/relative/colleague/neighbour whilst they are being held in police custody.

ICVs should reassure the detainee that:

- That the detainee does not have to speak to this particular ICV if they would rather not.
- Visits are confidential and that ICVs are not able to discuss/identify detainees they have seen on a visit to police custody outside of their professional role under any circumstances.
- That the visit will only discuss issues pertaining to the detainees rights, entitlements and wellbeing whilst in custody.
- It is inappropriate to discuss anything that you wouldn't discuss on a visit with any other detainee (such as offering lifts home on release, offering to let family members know they are ok etc).

Briefing Ends.