

## Immigration Detention in police custody Monitoring Network – FAQ's

### Context

ICVA was approached by two organisations who have contact with those detained for immigration purposes who receive feedback on police custody from detainees they encounter in their work in other areas of immigration detention. Both organisations wanted to explore methods of passing feedback back to those monitoring police custody.

The three organisations have determined that setting up an **Immigration Detention Monitoring Network** would be a vital step in ensuring that those held under immigration powers are treated equitably, with dignity and have access to appropriate rights and entitlements during their detention.

### Who are the organisations in the network?

The Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) is a membership organisation of volunteers that make unannounced visits to police custody to check on the rights, entitlements, wellbeing and dignity of detainees held in police custody. The ICVA is funded by the Home Office, Policing Authority and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). ICVA will chair and minute the meetings.

The Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) is a membership organisation of Boards comprised of volunteers that monitor the treatment and conditions in prisons and immigration detention. The IMB is funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

The Association of Visitors to Immigration detainees (AVID) is a national charity that supports volunteer visits to people in immigration detention. AVID has member groups that visit every immigration detention centre and some prisons and the role of AVID is to ensure that every person affected by detention has access to a visitor.

### What is the aim of the network?

The monitoring network will share information and learning on the experience of those held in police custody under immigration powers in the UK. ICVA has produced a briefing for schemes and ICVs to assist with monitoring the treatment and conditions for immigration detainees in police custody [here](#).

The scope of the network will be focused on the treatment of and conditions for those held under immigration powers in police custody. Consideration will also be given to how treatment and conditions in police custody may impact individuals when they are held in settings visited by the IMB and AVID. Full information is available in the Terms of Reference for the group, available on request from [info@icva.org.uk](mailto:info@icva.org.uk).

### Who will attend the network?

Representatives from AVID and the IMB will attend. ICVA will attend, chair and minute the meetings. Regional representatives (the same group who attend the NEF) will attend on behalf of members.

Regional reps can also bring any information from their area on the specific issues or good practice seen in the course of monitoring immigration detainees in police custody to share with AVID and IMBs.

**When will the meetings take place?**

- Meeting will take place at six monthly intervals.
- Additional or extraordinary meetings may occur as necessary and agreed by the network.

**How will I know what happens at the meetings?**

Any minutes or actions produced will be shared with the staff leads for each organisation following the meeting and with regional representatives of independent custody visiting schemes for wider dissemination.