

VOLUNTEERS
CUSTODY SUITES
VOLUNTEERS CHECKING ENTITLEMENT
INDEPENDENT
DETENTION REPORTING
OBSERVING AND EVALUATING
HUMAN RIGHTS CUSTODY SUITES
WELLBEING INDEPENDENT
HEALTH INDEPENDENT
HEALTH CUSTODY MONITORING
CHECKING SUITES VOLUNTEERS
ENTITLEMENTS CONDITIONS
INSPECTING FACILITIES
WELFARE HUMAN RIGHTS
HEALTH WELFARE
OBSERVING AND EVALUATING
VISITING
INDEPENDENT
MONITORING INSPECTIN
JMAN VOLUNTEERS FACILITY
RIGHTS WELFARE
WELLBEING

ANNUAL CUSTODY VISITORS REPORT

APRIL 2021 -
MARCH 2022

GLOSSARY

Board	Northern Ireland Policing Board
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
COVID	Coronavirus
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DP	Detained Person(s)
ICVs	Independent Custody Visitors
IT	Information Technology
FMO	Forensic Medical Officer
FP	Forensic Practitioner
NW	North West Team
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
PCSPs	Policing Community Safety Partnerships
Phoenixed	Being processed in custody and logged on to the database (photograph, DNA, Fingerprints)
PSNI	Police Service Northern Ireland
Scheme	Independent Custody Visiting Scheme
SCS	Serious Crime Suite
SE	South East Team
TACT	Terrorism Act 2000
TyFer	Tyrone-Fermanagh Team

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2. CHAIR'S FOREWORD



As Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (the Board) I am pleased to present the Independent Custody Visitor's Annual Report 2021-2022 which provides a comprehensive source of monitoring data in relation to the Custody Visiting Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is responsible for the oversight and running of the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) Scheme which involves impartial volunteers from across the community fulfilling a key function in ensuring the protection of the human rights of detained people in custody. The ICVs are independent of the police and the criminal justice system. Our system is part of the overall responsibility of the UK state in complying with the duty required by the United Nations human rights treaty to ensure that every place of detention anywhere in the four countries is inspected or visited by independent monitors to check on the welfare of those detained and to prevent ill-treatment.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive source of monitoring data in relation to the Custody Visiting Scheme. It highlights statistical evidence including:

- the number of detainees arrested under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (PACE) and detained under the Terrorism Act (2000) (TACT) who were interviewed by an ICV;
- the number of valid and invalid visits; and
- information on satisfactory and unsatisfactory visits.

The 2021-22 Annual Report was presented to Policing Board Members at the Board meeting on 7th July 2022, where Members noted some concerns regarding ICV visits to Musgrave Custody Suite. More detail regarding these concerns and PSNI's subsequent response can be found in the Conclusion section at the end of the report.

I would like to thank our Independent Custody Visitors for their continued dedication and commitment to their volunteering roles.

Doug Garrett

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Garrett".

Chair – Northern Ireland Policing Board

3. INTRODUCTION

The Northern Ireland Independent Custody Visiting Scheme was first established in 1991 by the Police Authority. The importance of an independent scheme which ensured the rights, health and wellbeing of the detainee and the facilities and conditions of detention was also recognised in 1999 by the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (the Patten Report). The Scheme was subsequently given a statutory footing by virtue of section 73 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 which requires the Policing Board to make and keep under review arrangements for designated places of detention to be visited by lay visitors (now referred to as custody visitors).

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are impartial volunteers from across the community and are independent of the police and the criminal justice system.

At the time of preparing this report there are currently 23 active ICVs with a further six ICVs about to join the scheme from the reserve list, after having completed their induction training on 10th June 2022. They are a mixed composition of gender, age and community background and are based in 3 Custody Visiting Teams regionally across Northern Ireland, namely; the North West; the South East; and Tyrone Fermanagh, referred to throughout the report as TyFer.

4. DEFINITIONS

The majority of visits carried out by ICVs will be to detainees held under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, known as a **PACE** arrest. ICVs are also required to visit the Serious Crime Suite in Musgrave Police Station and visit those detained under the Terrorism Act (2000) known as **TACT** detainees.

Custody visits are categorised by two types, namely; **Valid** and **Invalid**. A Valid visit is where ICVs gain entry to a custody suite and carry out a visit. An Invalid visit is where ICVs are unable to gain entry to a custody suite to carry out a visit for an identified reason.

Where a **Valid** visit takes place, there can be one of two potential outcomes, namely;

- A **Satisfactory** Visit - defined as a visit where no issue(s) within the suite are identified either by the ICVs or raised by the detained person in custody – in this situation no PSNI response or action is required; and
- An **Unsatisfactory** visit - defined as a visit where issue(s) within the suite have been identified by the ICVs and/or raised by the detained person – in this situation a PSNI response is required to advise of action(s) taken to either explain or resolve the issue(s).

5. OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

This Annual Report is for the period April 2021 - March 2022 and highlights the statistical information available in relation to the Custody Visiting Scheme. It includes figures in relation to all visits, including those defined above. The report also provides information in relation to detainees in custody, the review of custody records and provides a breakdown of those detained in the Serious Crime Suite (SCS) at Musgrave Street Station.

KEY FACTS

- PSNI advised that **24,178** detained persons were processed through custody during the period April 2021 to March 2022 with a total of **1,207** detainees at the time of the ICV visits;
- There were a total of **514** visits made by ICVs between April 2021 – March 2022;
- **33** visits (6%) were not completed (invalid), thus there were **481 valid visits**; **7** of the valid visits were classified as unsatisfactory (1%) with **474** classified as satisfactory (99%);
- The North West (NW) team recorded the highest level of satisfaction at 100%; and
- The highest level of unsatisfactory visits was captured by the Tyfer team at 3%.

OVERALL VISITS ANALYSIS

- The length of visits ranged from 5 minutes to 2 hours 35 minutes, with the average length of time spent on a visit being 30 minutes;
- The highest number of visits were made on a Thursday (19%);
- In comparison to 2020 - 2021 there has been an 1% reduction in unsatisfactory visits;
- The highest number of visits were made between 6pm and 9pm (32%); and
- There were 8 occasions when ICVs were delayed for more than 10 minutes when gaining entry to a custody suite, with these delays being between 12 and 28 minutes.

DETAINEES

- At the time of ICV visits, a total of 1,207 detainees were in custody and ICVs spoke to 557 (46%) detainees, a 1% decrease from the 2020 - 2021 uptake rate of 541 detainees (47%);
- The most common reasons for detainees not being seen was 'asleep' (33%);

- The overall refusal rate for April 2021 - March 2022 was 2% which is the same as that recorded in the previous year's report; and
- During the visits 75% (909) of Custody Records were inspected to check on the rights, health and wellbeing of detainees and conditions of detention which was a 1% increase from 2020 – 2021 (74%).

TACT VISITS ANALYSIS

- There were 42 visits made to detainees held under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT), 7 visits were **invalid**, which resulted in 35 **valid** TACT visits;
- There were 65 detainees held during this period, compared to 57 in the previous year, ICVs saw 25 (38%) detainees, compared to 24 (42%) in the previous year;
- The Custody Records of all 25 detainees seen by ICVs were checked;
- The Custody Records of the 40 detainees not seen by ICVs were not checked; and
- No TACT visits were classified as unsatisfactory, which was the same as the previous year.

6. ANALYSIS OF DATA

This section outlines the data collected on the Custody Visiting Scheme. Information is predominantly presented in table format and covers the three (3) main areas of treatment, effectiveness and the Serious Crime Suite.

PACE AND TACT VISITS

The majority of detainees visited by ICVs are held under the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 known as a PACE arrest. However, ICVs are also required to visit detainees arrested under the Terrorism Act (2000) known as a TACT detainee. The Serious Crime Suite is currently situated in Musgrave Police Station.

As highlighted in table 1 below, ICVs carried out a total of 514 visits during the reporting year. 33 visits were not completed so deemed invalid, hence there were 481 valid visits. These include 65 detainees held under TACT. Table 2 which follows shows the breakdown of the 33 invalid visits across stations with table 3 highlighting the reasons for the visit being deemed invalid.

TABLE 1
BREAKDOWN OF VALID/INVALID VISITS BY TEAM

Team	Total Visits	Invalid Visits	% of Invalid Visits
South East	259	21	8
North West	162	9	6
TyFer	93	3	3
Total Visits	514	33	6

TABLE 2
BREAKDOWN OF **INVALID** VISITS BY STATION

Team	Station	Invalid Visits
South East	Musgrave	9
	Lurgan	2
	Banbridge	2
	Antrim	1
	Musgrave SCS Announced	7
	Sub-total	21
North West	Strand Road	7
	Antrim*	2
	Sub-total	9
TyFer	Omagh	3
	Sub-total	3
TOTAL INVALID VISITS: 33		

*North West team visit Antrim as a contingency suite

TABLE 3
REASONS FOR **INVALID** VISITS

Date	Custody Suite	Reason
27 April 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	Covid positive upstairs. Unable to get up
30 April 2021	Banbridge	Station closed for repair work
12 May 2021	Lurgan	Closed due to maintenance
13 May 2021	Musgrave	Busy
23 May 2021	Banbridge	Didn't gain access to custody suite. Left after 12 minute wait
03 June 2021	Musgrave	ICVs made the decision to abort visit. Waited for over 15 minutes. Station extremely busy
29 June 2021	Omagh	Serious incident declared involving 3 persons and due to fear of cross contamination of Covid, we were not permitted to enter at this time but invited to come back later
05 July 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	Unable to gain access due to Covid clean
10 Aug 2021	Strand Road	Custody suite closed for maintenance
17 Aug 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	No access to custody suite
25 Aug 2021	Musgrave	No personnel appeared to assist our visit
26 Aug 2021	Lurgan	No visit due to Covid positive case

Date	Custody Suite	Reason
13 Sept 2021	Omagh	One ICV couldn't carry out the visit as he had an emergency medical appointment with his daughter. Visit aborted
19 Sept 2021	Antrim	ICVs waiting 12 minutes and made the decision to abort visit. No access
23 Sept 2021	Antrim	Closed for essential maintenance
24 Sept 2021	Antrim	Closed for essential maintenance
25 Sept 2021	Musgrave	Overly busy
23 Oct 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	Handover, left waiting. Aborted visit
29 Oct 2021	Strand Road	Custody suite just closed for deep clean. No one permitted in
16 Nov 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	No access - station extremely busy
17 Nov 2021	Musgrave	ICV aborted visit. No access to custody suite
05 Dec 2021	Musgrave	ICV aborted visit - no access
10 Dec 2021	Musgrave	Visit aborted. No one came to meet us
18 Dec 2021	Musgrave	Visit cancelled due to Covid & staff member awaiting a PCR test
30 Dec 2021	Strand Road	Covid outbreak today. Deep clean just undertaken. Staff currently doing LFT's and awaiting results
31 Dec 2021	Musgrave	All blocks closed due to Covid
31 Dec 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	Decided to abandon visit due to Covid DPs in reception area
07 Jan 2022	Strand Road	Advised deep clean being carried out in custody suite with Covid tests being carried out, Decided not to enter suite
24 Jan 2022	Omagh	Unable to gain access to custody suite. No reason given. Left sitting in reception
01 Feb 2022	Strand Road	Custody closed
04 Feb 2022	Musgrave SCS Announced	Deep clean for Covid ongoing. Waited 40 minutes but still wasn't ready
29 Mar 2022	Strand Road	Advised of Scabies present in custody suite, visit abandoned
30 Mar 2022	Strand Road	Custody suite currently in process of deep clean because of Covid. Visit abandoned Sergeants and District Commander copies left at reception
TOTAL VISITS NOT CARRIED OUT: 33		

As highlighted in table 4 which appears later in the report, 474 out of the 481 valid visits (99%) were classed as satisfactory, in comparison to 98% of visits in April 2020 - March 2021 which were classified as satisfactory. The North West Team recorded the highest level of

satisfactory visits at 100%, with the Tyfer Team recording the highest rate of unsatisfactory visits at 3%.

UNSATISFACTORY VISITS (Reasons for concern)

There can be a number of reasons why a valid visit can be classified as unsatisfactory, including the treatment, rights and health and wellbeing of detainees or issues with conditions of detention recorded by ICVs. Table 4 below provides a breakdown of all visits by station and team. Tables 5 and 6 which follow provide a breakdown of the reasons recorded for unsatisfactory visits relating to the treatment, rights and wellbeing of detainees and “other” relevant issues which required a response from the PSNI.

Overall unsatisfactory visits account for just 1% of visits in this reporting year, compared to 2% in the previous reporting year.

Some of the reasons highlighted may not affect detainees but require a response from PSNI e.g. protection of information/data.

TABLE 4
NUMBER OF VISITS SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY BY STATION AND TEAM

Team ¹	Station	Satisfactory Visits	Unsatisfactory Visits	Valid Visits
South East	Musgrave	80	1	81
	Antrim	48	2	50
	Lurgan	27	0	27
	Banbridge	44	1	45
	Musgrave SCS Announced	30	0	30
	Musgrave SCS Unannounced	4	0	4
	Antrim SCS Announced	1	0	1
	Sub-total	234	4	238
North West	Strand Road	75	0	75
	Coleraine	66	0	66
	Strabane	2	0	2
	Antrim*	10	0	10
	Sub-total	153	0	153
TyFer	Omagh	64	3	67
	Lurgan ²	23	0	23
	Sub-total	87	3	90
TOTAL VALID VISITS		474	7	481

*North West team visit Antrim as a contingency suite

2 The TyFer team was allocated Lurgan custody Suite in November 2021 as an interim measure, due to numbers of volunteers in the South East team being lower than usual. The South East team will resume visits to Lurgan custody suite once the team is back up to capacity

TABLE 5
UNSATISFACTORY VISITS REGARDING THE TREATMENT, RIGHTS AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF DETAINEES

Team	ICV Comments	Outcomes
South East	States hasn't been given food all day	In relation to the DP who claimed he hadn't been given any food, he had slept most of the day, given his meds and then went to interview, after which he was Phoenixed. ICV asked custody staff to check that meals were offered/provided at recognised meal times, particularly when a changeover of staff has taken place
	Shower head holder/fixture loose. Can come off. Potential hazard	Shower head is required for DDA compliance. Risk assurance is carried out before use
TyFer	Form Pace 15/2 medical booklet sitting on table in medical room with DPs medical details recorded	Police staff advised the items have been removed
	No ligature knife in location Medication form pad on desk along with forensic science report dated 15/06/21	Area Commander - Noted PACE 15 form completed left in doctors desk in folder. This room is kept locked and no one has access apart from custody staff. Forms secured in custody office. FMO reminded of this
	Form Pace 15 sitting on desk in medical room with DP details. Official sensitive document	PACE 15 form completed left in doctors desk in folder. This room is kept locked and no one has access apart from custody staff. Forms secured in custody office. FMO reminded of this
	Blue medical form in medical room with personal details (official sensitive form)	PACE 15 form completed left in doctors desk in folder. This room is kept locked and no one has access apart from custody staff. Forms secured in custody office. FMO reminded of this
North West	Nothing noted	

TABLE 6
RELEVANT ISSUES AND OUTCOMES CAPTURED AS 'OTHER' - REGARDING THE
CONDITIONS OF DETENTION OF DETAINEES

Team	ICV Comments	Outcomes
South East	Recorder in interview room 2 not working	Noted. recorder has been reset
	Both showers out of order due to Legionnaires	Area Commander - Noted
	Some pillows frayed, may need replaced	Three new pillows ordered
TyFer	Toilet area has blood stained toilet roll on floor	Area was cleaned and DP kept on appropriate observation until settled
North West	Cell 9 out of service	Fault cell 9 - reported already

Table 7 which follows provides a breakdown of other reasons for concern which have not resulted in the visit being classified as unsatisfactory but are provided to Board officials for monitoring purposes.

TABLE 7
THE REASONS FOR CONCERN REGARDING THE **CONDITIONS OF DETENTION OF DETAINEES**

Conditions	South East	North West	TyFer	TOTAL
Cleanliness	3	2	0	5
Faulty Equipment	4	1	2	7
Safety / Security Hazards	2	0	0	2
Sanitation	2	0	0	2
Heating	0	0	0	0
Lighting	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Alarm	0	0	0	0
Other	7	7	7	21
TOTAL	18	10	9	37

7. MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME

VISITS MADE

ICVs made 514 visits (valid and invalid) during April 2021 - March 2022. Table 8 shows a contrast of the number of actual visits made to each station during this period, compared to the number of guideline visits as set by the Board which is based on the footfall of detainees through each station and agreed budgets.

TABLE 8
COMPARISON OF GUIDELINE VISITS AGAINST ACTUAL VISITS CARRIED OUT

Team	Station	Guideline Number of Visits ³	Actual Number of Visits
South East	Musgrave	108	90
	Banbridge	36	47
	Lurgan	36	29
	Antrim	60	51
	Musgrave SCS Announced	48	37
	Musgrave SCS Unannounced	12	4
	Antrim SCS Announced	0	1
	Sub-total	300	259
North West	Coleraine	72	66
	Strand Road	72	82
	Strabane ⁴	0	2
	Antrim*	0	12
	Sub-total	144	162
Tyfer	Omagh	48	70
	Lurgan ⁵	15	23
	Dungannon ⁶	0	0
	Enniskillen ⁷	0	0
	Sub-total	63	93
TOTAL VISITS		507	514

*North West team visit Antrim as a contingency suite

³ Guideline Number takes into account any station closures including closures due to COVID

⁴ Strabane is used as a contingency suite so there are no guideline visits set

⁵ TyFer team started making visits to Lurgan in November 2021. This is a temporary arrangement until the South East team are back up to normal capacity

⁶ Dungannon was closed but re-opened in June 2022

⁷ Enniskillen is currently closed

There is a requirement for 10% of visits to be undertaken during unsociable hours (outside of 09:00-18:00). During the reporting period, April 2021 - March 2022 ICVs undertook 184 (36%) of visits during unsociable hours, as outlined in table 9 which follows. There were 3 completed forms which failed to state the times of the visit.

TABLE 9
VISITS CARRIED OUT BY TIME OF DAY

Time	South East	North West	TyFer	Number of visits	%*
00.00 – 9am	0	0	0	0	0
9am - noon	47	33	17	97	19
Noon – 3pm	53	47	13	113	22
3pm – 6pm	59	40	18	117	23
6pm – 9pm	95	40	33	168	33
9pm – 00.00	3	2	11	16	3
Not stated	2	0	1	3	1
TOTAL	259	162	93	514	100

*Percentages may not sum due to rounding

As highlighted in table 10 below, the majority of visits (19%) were carried out on Thursday; with the fewest visits (10%) carried out on Monday.

TABLE 10
DAYS ON WHICH VISITS WERE CARRIED OUT

Day	South East	North West	TyFer	Number of Visits	%*
Monday	19	22	9	50	10
Tuesday	31	36	15	82	16
Wednesday	49	24	9	82	16
Thursday	40	36	20	96	19
Friday	48	25	15	88	17
Saturday	32	12	18	62	12
Sunday	40	7	7	54	11
TOTAL	259	162	93	514	100

*Percentages may not sum due to rounding

DETAINEES SEEN BY ICVs

Table 11 below highlights that there were 1,207 detainees held at the time of the 481 valid visits, of which ICVs saw 557 detainees (46%). In comparison during April 2020 - March 2021 ICVs saw 1% more detainees (47%) equating to 541 out of the 1,160 held.

TABLE 11
DETAILS OF DETAINEES INTERVIEWED/NOT INTERVIEWED

Team	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Detainees Seen	Detainees Refused	Detainees Not Seen – Other Reason
South East	238	647	339	12	296
North West	153	403	140	2	261
TyFer	90	157	78	4	75
TOTAL	481	1207	557⁸	18	632

⁸ ICVs may see more than 1 detainee in a visit

Only 1% of detainees refused to be seen, a slight decrease from the 2020 - 2021 reporting year. There were 632 detainees not seen for other reasons as outlined in table 12 below, in comparison to 595 in the previous year.

TABLE 12
REASONS FOR DETAINEES NOT BEING SEEN

Reason	South East	North West	TyFer	TOTAL
Abusive/Dangerous	8	13	3	24
Asleep	224	155	29	408
Attending Hospital/Court	17	19	2	38
Being discharged	0	2	0	2
Being interviewed	24	32	18	74
Being processed	3	10	2	15
Intoxicated/drugs	1	2	2	5
Other/Unknown	14	11	10	35
With Solicitor/GP/Appropriate Adult	12	11	8	31
TOTAL	303	255	74	632

DETAINEE REFUSAL RATE

As highlighted in table 13, 1% (18) of detainees refused to be seen/interviewed, a slight decrease from the 2020 - 2021 reporting year. The following table provides a breakdown of the 18 detainees across stations with the highest refusal (3%) in the TyFer (Tyrone/Fermanagh) area.

TABLE 13
REFUSAL RATE BY STATION

Team	Station	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Detainees Refused to be interviewed	% Refusal Rate
South East	Musgrave	81	285	4	1
	Antrim	50	136	1	1
	Banbridge	45	95	0	0
	Lurgan	27	66	2	3
	Musgrave SCS Announced	30	65	5	8
	Musgrave SCS Unannounced	4	0	0	0
	Antrim SCS Announced	1	0	0	0
	Sub-total		238	647	12
North West	Antrim*	10	15	0	0
	Coleraine	66	120	0	0
	Strabane	2	4	0	0
	Strand Road	75	264	2	1
	Sub-total		153	403	2
TyFer	Omagh	67	107	3	3
	Lurgan	23	50	1	2
	Sub-total		90	157	4
TOTAL		481	1207	18	1

*North West team visit Antrim as a contingency suite

CUSTODY RECORDS CHECKED

Custody records are checked to ensure that detainee’s rights and entitlements have been adhered to for example, detention review times. ICVs checked 909 of the 1,207 custody records (75%). ICVs checked 864 custody records in the 2020 – 2021 reporting year and based on the number of detainees held it equated to 74% of records checked. Therefore, the percentage of custody records checked in this reporting year shows a slight increase of 1% on the previous year.

TABLE 14
CUSTODY RECORDS CHECKED

Team	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Custody Records Checked	% Checked
South East	238	647	516	80
North West	153	403	288	71
TyFer	90	157	105	67
TOTAL	481	1207	909	75

DELAY TO VALID VISITS

On occasion ICVs can be delayed entry to a custody suite. If the delay is greater than 10 minutes, but upon waiting the ICVs do gain access and carry out a visit, the visit is classed as a valid visit and also recorded against our statistics as a delayed visit.

Of the 481 valid visits made there were 8 occasions when ICVs were delayed entry to a custody suite, compared to 7 visits with delayed entry in the previous reporting year. Table 15 which follows provides a breakdown of these delays across the teams. The longest recorded delay was 28 minutes, which is less than in the previous reporting year, where the longest delay was 39 minutes. Table 15 provides an overview of any delays by team and station and Table 16 outlines the reason/s and the time delay/s.

TABLE 15
DELAYS TO VISITS BY TEAM AND STATION

Team	Station	Total Number of Delays Greater than 10 mins
South East	Musgrave	2
	Antrim	0
	Banbridge	0
	Lurgan	1
	Musgrave	0
	Musgrave SCS Announced	3
	Musgrave SCS Unannounced	0
North West	Coleraine	1
	Strand Road	0
	Strabane	0
	Antrim*	0
TyFer	Omagh	0
	Lurgan	1
TOTAL valid visits (which were delayed): 8		

*North West team visit Antrim as a contingency suite

TABLE 16
TIME DELAY DETAILS AND REASON/S

Date	Custody Suite	Time Delay (mins)	Reason for Delay
20 April 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	28	Covid deep clean
02 May 2021	Lurgan	15	Security breach IT station
18 May 2021	Musgrave	16	No reason given
22 July 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	15	Covid DP and DP in FP
05 August 2021	Coleraine	20	No reason given
25 August 2021	Musgrave SCS Announced	13	No reason given
24 October 2021	Musgrave	12	No reason given
26 November 2021	Lurgan	21	No reason given

8. MONITORING THE SERIOUS CRIME SUITE (SCS)

This section provides a breakdown of statistics captured in relation to those detainees held in the SCS in Musgrave Police Station. As highlighted in table 17 below, 35 valid visits to the SCS were recorded across the reporting year with 65 detainees. ICVs interviewed 38% of detainees (25), which is a decrease of 4% compared to 2020 - 2021, and an increase of 1 detainee spoken to.

Five out of 65 detainees refused an interview with ICVs (8%), which is a decrease of 8% compared to 2020 – 2021 which saw 9 of 57 (16%) detainees refusing to speak to ICVs.

TABLE 17
DETAILS OF DETAINEES INTERVIEWED/NOT INTERVIEWED IN THE SCS

Team	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Detainees Seen	Detainees Refused	Detainees Not Seen – Other Reason
SCS	35	65	25	5	35

OBSERVATION OF CCTV INTERVIEWS

5 CCTV Interviews were observed by ICVs as shown in Table 18. It should be noted that ICVs may only watch proceedings in relation to CCTV; no sound is available.

TABLE 18
OBSERVATION OF CCTV INTERVIEWS

Station	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	CCTV Interviews Observed	% Observed
Musgrave SCS Announced	30	65	5	8
Musgrave SCS Unannounced	4	0	0	0
Antrim SCS Announced	1	0	0	0
Total	35	65	5	8

9. CONCLUSION

The Board is committed to ensuring that the human rights of those detained in custody is maintained to the highest standard by the PSNI. It is apparent from the data analysed that improvements have been made in terms of both the preservation of human rights and the conditions of custody suites compared to previous reporting years. This is of particular note given the challenges and restrictions presented by COVID.

In addition, it is evident through the data provided in the ICV reports that there is a high standard and high volume of monitoring taking place by very committed volunteers. The Board are also committed to supporting and enhancing the role of ICVs through ongoing training and recognition events and the provision of a conference to recognise the contribution made by all volunteers.

The report was presented to Policing Board Members at the Board meeting on 7th July 2022, when Members noted some concerns regarding ICV visits to Musgrave Custody Suite.

The first concern raised was at the number of invalid ICV visits to Musgrave (9) and Musgrave Serious Crime Suite (7) and the reasons given which included 'busy', 'no access' and 'no personnel appeared'. A Valid visit is where ICVs gain entry to a custody suite and carry out a visit. An Invalid visit is where ICVs are unable to gain entry to a custody suite to carry out a visit for an identified reason.

The second area of concern noted by Board Members related to 5 instances of delays of greater than 10 minutes in ICVs gaining access to Musgrave and Musgrave Serious Crime Suite during 2021-22.

The Board brought these concerns to the attention of the PSNI who responded to note that throughout the period in question, the entire custody establishment faced significant operational challenges and expectations due to the Covid pandemic. This included, amongst other measures, continuous cleaning due to Covid outbreaks, managing PPE, shortages of staff due to isolation requirements and ensuring all staff were complying with procedures and regulations. In addition, at this time Custody staff had the task of conducting remote courts which also impacted on staffing levels.

PSNI also cited that Musgrave custody was at capacity on several dates during this period.

In addressing the Board's concerns, PSNI Management at Musgrave have been reminded of the necessity of immediate access of ICVs.



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Annual Custody Visitors Report April 2021 – March 2022

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