

CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT 2009

1. Details of the annual statistics for the Custody Visiting Scheme for 2008/09 and a comparison with the previous year, are attached as Appendix 1.
2. As Members are aware, each Custody Visitor Panel is responsible for one custody suite which is visited twice a week and the Scheme currently has 50 Custody Visitors.
3. In 2008/09, Custody Visitors made a total number of 293 visits compared to 272 visits in 2007/08. Of the 3823 persons being detained at the time of the visits, 816 were unavailable to accept a visit for a number of reasons including in interview, asleep, doctors visit, detainee violent/drunk or Custody Visitor refusal. Of the 1565 detainees who were available and selected to be seen, 1489 (95.1%) consented to meeting the Custody Visitors and 76 (4.9%) declined. In the previous year, there were 1832 detainees available to be seen and 1755 (95.7%) consented to a visit and 77 (4.3%) declined.
4. Of the detainees seen, 753 (50.5%) raised issues which related mainly to food/drink, additional bedding, information about their release, medical issues and phone calls. Last year, 722 (41.1%) detainees seen raised issues. The majority of issues raised by detainees were resolved at the time of the visit by the Custody Officer. Any issues, which cannot be resolved by the Custody Officer, are referred to the Chief Inspector responsible for custody for consideration and appropriate action.
5. It is important to note, however, that the vast majority of reports received from Custody Visitors were complimentary about the conditions in the Custody Suites.

APPENDIX 1

ANALYSIS OF VISITS MADE BY ALL THREE PANELS

	2007/08	2008/09
NUMBER OF VISITS MADE	272	293
NUMBER OF DETAINEES <i>(all persons held in custody at the time)</i>	2809	3823
DETAINEES NOT AVAILABLE FOR A VISIT	657	816
DETAINEES DECLINING A VISIT	77	76
DETAINEES CONSENTING TO A VISIT	1755	1489
DETAINEES NOT SELECTED FOR A VISIT	320	1442
DETAINEES RAISING ISSUES	722	754

TIME	NO. OF VISITS	
	2007/08	2008/09
00.00 - 06.00	1	1
06.00 - 09.00	15	17
09.00 - 12.00	77	98
12.00 - 15.00	34	45
15.00 - 18.00	38	29
18.00 - 21.00	93	90
21.00 - 00.00	9	13

DAY OF WEEK	NO. OF VISITS	
	2007/08	2008/09
MONDAY	30	53
TUESDAY	40	40
WEDNESDAY	31	30
THURSDAY	34	27
FRIDAY	67	57
SATURDAY	39	39
SUNDAY	35	47