

CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009

Please note that figures quoted are provisional and are subject to revision.

Part One – Monitoring the treatment of detainees in line with PACE, human rights provisions and Code of Ethics

1. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory visits

- Custody Visitors made 237 visits during July to September 2009, 24% less than the 311 number of visits carried out in July to September 2008.
- Custody Visitors classified 167 out of the 231 valid visits (72%) as satisfactory. The level of satisfaction varied from team to team with the Antrim SCS team recording the lowest level (57%, 4 out of 7) while the North-West team recorded the highest level of satisfaction (94%, 33 out of 35).

Table 1: Number of visits made to each station, July to September 2009

Panel	Station	Satisfactory visits	Unsatisfactory visits	Total number of valid visits
Belfast/Antrim	Antrim Road	7	6	13
	Grosvenor Road	8	2	10
	Musgrave Street	11	8	19
	Strandtown	10	3	13
	Antrim	3	10	13
	Ballymena	12	1	13
	Lisburn	11	7	18
	Bangor	0	6	6
	Sub-total	62	43	105
Down/Armagh	Banbridge	15	3	18
	Downpatrick	7	2	9
	Lurgan	15	2	17
	Newtownards	0	0	0
	Newry	0	0	0
	Sub-total	37	7	44
North-West	Coleraine	13	1	14
	Limavady	9	0	9
	Strand Road	11	1	12
	Waterside	0	0	0
	Sub-total	33	2	35
Tyrone/Fermanagh	Dungannon	6	4	10
	Enniskillen	9	0	9
	Omagh	16	5	21
	Sub-total	31	9	40
Antrim SCS	Antrim SCS	4	3	7
Total valid visits		167	64	231

- During July to September 2009, 6 visits were aborted (see Table 2).

Table 2: Reason why visits were not carried out, July to September 2009

Date	Custody suite	Reason why visit was not carried out
10/7	Lisburn	Visit aborted as partner did not show up at agreed time.
10/7	Lisburn	Visit aborted as there was a mix-up in dates and times.
28/7	Musgrave St	Visit aborted as 2 other custody visitors had arrived although they were not scheduled to do so.
2/8	Grosvenor Rd	Custody suite busy on arrival. Kept at arrival desk for more than 20 minutes. Visit aborted.
29/9	Lisburn	Visit aborted after 25 minutes wait. Custody Visitors informed on arrival that station was busy.
30/9	Antrim Rd	2 Detained prisoners not seen. Visit aborted. Still problems at desk with interpreters etc.

Table 3: Visits aborted by Panel, July to September 2009

Panel	Total Visits	Visits aborted	Percentage of visits aborted
Belfast/Antrim	111	6	5%
Down/Armagh	44	0	0%
North-West	35	0	0%
TyFer	40	0	0%
Antrim SCS	7	0	0%
Total	237	6	3%

2. Reasons for concern

A full list of reasons for concern regarding the treatment of detainees is given at Table 4.

Table 4: Reasons for concern regarding treatment of detainees by panel: July to September 2009

Reason	Belfast/Antrim	Down/Armagh	North-West	Ty/Fer	Antrim SCS	Total
Legal advice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Having someone informed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Being told their rights	0	0	0	0	0	0
Needing medical attention	0	0	0	0	0	0
Checks on detainees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requiring appropriate adult	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requiring interpreter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of detention	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adequate food/drink	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adequate bedding	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 hours rest in 24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access to toilets/washing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dietary needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Replacement clothing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exercise	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total¹	0	0	0	0	0	0

1. Total of reasons in Tables 4 & 5 may sum to more than total of unsatisfactory visits because of multiple reasons for some visits.

A full list of reasons for concern regarding the conditions of detention of detainees is given at Table 5.

Table 5: Reasons for concern regarding conditions of detention: July to September 2009

Reason	Belfast/Antrim	Down/Armagh	North-West	Ty/Fer	Antrim SCS	Total
Heating	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lighting	0	2	0	0	0	2
Ventilation	3	0	0	0	0	3
Alarm malfunction	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cleanliness	1	1	1	0	0	3
Safety hazard	22	2	0	3	1	28
Sanitation problems	18	1	0	4	2	25
Faulty equipment	2	0	1	2	0	5
Other	3	1	0	1	0	5
Total¹	50	7	2	10	3	72

1. Total of reasons in Tables 4 & 5 may sum to more than total of unsatisfactory visits because of multiple reasons for some visits.

Part Two - Monitoring the effectiveness of the scheme

Visits made

1. Custody Visitors made 237 visits during July to September 2009, 74 less than in July to September 2008.
2. Table 6 shows the number of visits made to each station during July to September 2009. Stations for which the monthly target number of visits were not equalled or exceeded are indicated in bold italics, as are those teams that did not equal or exceed the monthly target number of visits for all stations in their area.

Table 6: Number of visits made to each station, July to September 2009

Panel	Station	Guideline number of visits ¹	Actual number of visits
Belfast/Antrim	Antrim Road	18	14
	Grosvenor Road	12	11
	Musgrave Street	30	20
	Strandtown	18	13
	Antrim	18	13
	Ballymena	12	13
	Lisburn	18	21
	Bangor	4	6
	Sub-total	130	111
Down/Armagh	Banbridge	18	18
	Downpatrick	9	9
	Lurgan	18	17
	Newtownards	0	0
	Newry	0	0
	Sub-total	45	44
North-West	Coleraine	21	14
	Limavady	12	9
	Strand Road	21	12
	Waterside	0	0
	Sub-total	44	35
Tyrone/Fermanagh	Dungannon	9	10
	Enniskillen	9	9
	Omagh	12	21
	Sub-total	30	40
Antrim SCS	Antrim SCS	6	7
Total		255	237

1. Guideline Number takes into account any station closures. Guideline numbers were revised in April 2009.

3. Just over two thirds of the 237 visits (154, 65%) were carried out between Mondays and Thursdays whereas just over one third (83, 35%) were carried out between Fridays and Sundays. Most visits were made on Thursdays (50) whereas the least number of visits were made on Saturdays (18). All 7 visits to the Antrim Serious Crime Suite were carried out on Wednesdays to Sundays.

Table 7: Days of visits

Day	Belfast/ Antrim	Down/Armagh	North-West	Ty/Fer	Antrim SCS	Number of visits	%
Monday	17	5	0	6	0	28	12
Tuesday	21	10	5	8	0	44	19
Wednesday	19	3	7	2	1	32	14
Thursday	28	6	6	8	2	50	21
Friday	14	9	11	10	1	45	20
Saturday	2	6	3	5	2	18	8
Sunday	10	5	3	1	1	20	8
Total	111	44	35	40	7	237	100

4. Over nine tenths of the visits (220, 93%) were made between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eleven visits (5%) were carried out between 12 p.m. and 9 a.m. and only 6 visits (3%) were carried out between 9 p.m. and midnight. Just over one quarter of all visits (64, 27%) were carried out between 6 and 9 p.m.

One visit took only 4 minutes while the longest visit took 104 minutes. One tenth of all valid visits (22, 10%) took 10 minutes or less. The average length of the visits was just under 27 minutes.

Table 8: Times of visits

Time	Belfast/ Antrim	Down/Armagh	North-West	Ty/Fer	Antrim SCS	Number of visits	%
0.00 – 9 am	5	4	0	1	1	11	5
9 am – noon	16	16	9	18	3	62	26
Noon – 3 pm	24	9	2	8	1	44	19
3 pm – 6 pm	23	6	8	12	1	50	21
6 pm – 9 pm	40	8	14	1	1	64	27
9 pm – 24.00	3	1	2	0	0	6	3
Total	111	44	35	40	7	237	

Detainees seen by custody visitors

At least one detainee was being held during 135 of the 231 valid visits (58%). At least one detainee was interviewed during 85 of these 231 valid visits (37%).

There were 308 detainees held at the time of these visits, of which visitors saw 153. 74 detainees refused to be seen, and 81 detainees were not seen for other reasons.

Table 9: Team activity, July to September 2009

Panel	Valid Visits	Detainees held	Detainees seen	Detainees refused	Detainees not seen – other reason
Belfast/Antrim	105	180	86	49	45
Down/Armagh	44	43	24	6	13
North-West	35	62	34	14	14
Ty/Fer	40	18	8	5	5
Antrim SCS	7	5	1	0	4
Total	231	308	153	74	81

Reasons for not seeing detainees

Table 10 shows a full list of the reasons why detainees were unable to see visitors.

Table 10: Reasons for detainees not seeing Visitors

Reason	Belfast/Antrim	Down/Armagh	North-West	Ty/Fer	Antrim SCS	Total
Refusal	49	6	14	5	0	74
Being interviewed	16	6	6	4	2	34
Being processed	6	1	0	0	0	7
Being discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asleep	12	4	6	0	0	22
Intoxicated/drugs	3	0	1	0	1	5
Abusive/dangerous	1	1	0	0	0	2
With solicitor/GP	6	1	1	0	1	9
Permission refused by Appropriate Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Unknown	1	0	0	1	0	2
Total	94	19	28	10	4	155

Refusal rates

Table 11 shows the refusal rate by custody suite (calculated as the number of detainees who refused to be seen as a percentage of the number that were held in custody at the time of the visit). The overall refusal rate for July to September 2009 was 24%. The refusal rate varied from team to team with the Antrim SCS team recording the lowest refusal rate (0%, 5 held and 0 refusals) while the Tyrone/Fermanagh team recorded the highest rate of refusal (28%, 18 held and 5 refusals).

Table 11: Refusal rate by custody suite, July to September 2009

Panel	Station	Valid Visits	Detainees held	Detainees refused	Refusal rate (%)
Belfast/ Antrim	Antrim Road	13	28	8	29
	Grosvenor Road	10	6	2	33
	Musgrave Street	19	54	15	28
	Strandtown	13	8	1	13
	Antrim	13	27	12	44
	Ballymena	13	26	6	23
	Lisburn	18	24	4	17
	Bangor	6	7	1	14
	Sub-total	105	180	49	27
Down/Armagh	Banbridge	18	28	3	11
	Downpatrick	9	6	0	0
	Lurgan	17	9	3	33
	Newtownards	0	0	0	-
	Newry	0	0	0	-
	Sub-total	44	43	6	14
North-West	Coleraine	14	30	11	37
	Limavady	9	8	2	25
	Strand Road	12	24	1	4
	Waterside	0	0	0	-
	Sub-total	35	62	14	23
Tyrone/Fermanagh	Dungannon	10	5	3	60
	Enniskillen	9	6	1	17
	Omagh	21	7	1	14
	Sub-total	40	18	5	28
Antrim SCS	Antrim SCS	7	5	0	0
Total		231	308	74	24

Custody records checked

There were a total of 189 custody records checked by visitors, all were PACE. This means that the custody visitors checked the custody records of 61% of detainees who were seen or were not seen because they were asleep/intoxicated/on drugs.

Table 12: Custody Records Checked, July to September 2009

Panel	Valid Visits	Detainees held	Custody Records Checked	Percentage Checked
Belfast/Antrim	105	180	119	66
Down/Armagh	44	43	27	63
North-West	35	62	31	50
Tyrone/Fermanagh	40	18	11	61
Antrim SCS	7	5	1	20
Total	231	308	189	61

There were 56 detainees, all PACE, who refused a visit but allowed their custody records to be checked.

Delay to visits

Of the 231 valid visits made during July to September 2009, there were 10 (4%) occasions when custody visitors were delayed by more than 10 minutes and these are detailed below. The reasons for delay are taken from the CV2 forms.

Table 13: Delays to visits by panel and station, July to September 2009

Panel	Station	Total number of delays greater than 10 mins
Belfast/Antrim	Antrim Road	1
	Grosvenor Road	1
	Musgrave Street	2
	Strandtown	0
	Antrim	1
	Ballymena	2
	Lisburn	1
	Bangor	0
	Sub-total	8
Down/Armagh	Banbridge	0
	Downpatrick	0
	Lurgan	0
	Newtownards	0
	Newry	0
	Sub-total	0
North-West	Coleraine	0
	Limavady	0
	Strand Road	0
	Waterside	0
	Sub-total	0
Tyrone/Fermanagh	Dungannon	1
	Enniskillen	0
	Omagh	1
	Strabane	0
	Sub-total	2
Antrim SCS	Antrim SCS	0
Total valid visits		10

Table 14: Reason for delays to visits, July to September 2009

Date	Time delay	Custody suite	Reason for delay
2/7	20 mins	Antrim	Cell flooded by DP caused a delay on entry into the custody suite.
6/7	13 mins	Musgrave St	Custody Sgt was booking in a detainee on arrival.
28/7	15 mins	Dungannon	Delay due to Sgt dealing with DP being bailed.
2/8	20 mins	Grosvenor Rd	Custody Suite busy on arrival.
3/8	15 mins	Ballymena	Delay due to miscommunication and busy suite
6/8	15 mins	Musgrave St	Delay due to person being booked in.
2/9	13 mins	Omagh	Slight delay as a prisoner was being processed
14/9	19 mins	Ballymena	Sgt was booking a detainee.
22/9	25 mins	Lisburn	Delay due to a detainee being booked in.
30/9	18 mins	Antrim Rd	Problems at desk with interpreter.

Antrim Serious Crime Suite

During July to September 2009, 7 visits were made to Antrim Serious Crime Suite. There were 5 detainees held at the time of these visits, of which visitors saw one. No detainees gave consent for their interviews to be observed.