

CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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 282 visits during October to December 2009, 6% less than the 299 number of visits carried out in October to December 2008.
- Custody Visitors classified 220 out of the 272 valid visits (81%) as satisfactory. The level of satisfaction varied from team to team with the Down/Armagh team recording the lowest level (74%, 34 out of 46) while the Antrim SCS team recorded the highest level of satisfaction (100%, 5 out of 5).

Table 1: Number of visits made to each station, October to December 2009

| Panel | Station | Satisfactory visits | Unsatisfactory visits | Total number of valid visits |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Belfast/Antrim | Antrim Road | 18 | 1 | 19 |
| | Grosvenor Road | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| | Musgrave Street | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| | Strandtown | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| | Antrim | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| | Ballymena | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| | Lisburn | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| | Bangor | 18 | 3 | 21 |
| | Sub-total | 99 | 26 | 125 |
| Down/Armagh | Banbridge | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| | Downpatrick | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| | Lurgan | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| | Newtownards | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Newry | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 34 | 12 | 46 |
| North-West | Coleraine | 24 | 3 | 27 |
| | Limavady | 15 | 2 | 17 |
| | Strand Road | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| | Waterside | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 62 | 7 | 69 |
| Tyrone/Fermanagh | Dungannon | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| | Enniskillen | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| | Omagh | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| | Sub-total | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| Antrim SCS | Antrim SCS | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total valid visits | | 220 | 52 | 272 |

- During October to December 2009, 10 visits were aborted (see Table 2).

Table 2: Reason why visits were not carried out, October to December 2009

| Date | Custody suite | Reason why visit was not carried out |
|-------|---------------|--|
| 2/10 | Grosvenor Rd | Aborted visit after 25 minute wait due to some procedure with a DP throwing food |
| 4/10 | Strandtown | Custody Suite closed due to defective cells. |
| 5/10 | Strandtown | Custody Suite Closed. Visit aborted. |
| 10/10 | Downpatrick | Aborted visit. Colleague was late and did not have a mobile with her so could not be contacted |
| 15/10 | Grosvenor Rd | Visit aborted at 18:27 as DPs were being processed |
| 13/11 | Dungannon | Visit aborted as partner could not make it at the last minute. |
| 20/11 | Musgrave St | Visit aborted as there was a delay of 35 minutes |
| 30/11 | Ballymena | No one at enquiry desk or answering bell. Visit aborted after 11 minute wait. |
| 9/12 | Musgrave St | Visit aborted as suite closed due to an electrical fault. |
| 10/12 | Lisburn | Custody Visit cancelled as Custody Visitor could not attend. |

Table 3: Visits aborted by Panel, October to December 2009

| Panel | Total Visits | Visits aborted | Percentage of visits aborted |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Belfast/Antrim | 133 | 8 | 6% |
| Down/Armagh | 47 | 1 | 2% |
| North-West | 69 | 0 | 0% |
| TyFer | 28 | 1 | 4% |
| Antrim SCS | 5 | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 282 | 10 | 4% |

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: October to December 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 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 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 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total¹ | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

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: October to December 2009

| Reason | Belfast/Antrim | Down/Armagh | North-West | Ty/Fer | Antrim SCS | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Heating | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lighting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ventilation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alarm malfunction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleanliness | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Safety hazard | 12 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| Sanitation problems | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Faulty equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Other | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total¹ | 24 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 51 |

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 282 visits during October to December 2009, 17 less than in October to December 2008.
2. Table 6 shows the number of visits made to each station during October to December 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, October to December 2009

| Panel | Station | Guideline number of visits ¹ | Actual number of visits |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Belfast/Antrim</i> | Antrim Road | 18 | 19 |
| | <i>Grosvenor Road</i> | 12 | 10 |
| | <i>Musgrave Street</i> | 30 | 24 |
| | Strandtown | 18 | 18 |
| | <i>Antrim</i> | 18 | 13 |
| | Ballymena | 12 | 12 |
| | <i>Lisburn</i> | 18 | 16 |
| | Bangor | 12 | 21 |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 138 | 133 |
| Down/Armagh | Banbridge | 18 | 19 |
| | Downpatrick | 9 | 10 |
| | Lurgan | 18 | 18 |
| | Newtownards | 0 | 0 |
| | Newry | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 45 | 47 |
| North-West | Coleraine | 21 | 27 |
| | Limavady | 12 | 17 |
| | Strand Road | 21 | 25 |
| | Waterside | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 44 | 69 |
| <i>Tyrone/Fermanagh</i> | Dungannon | 9 | 10 |
| | Enniskillen | 9 | 9 |
| | <i>Omagh</i> | 12 | 9 |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 30 | 28 |
| <i>Antrim SCS</i> | <i>Antrim SCS</i> | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 263 | 282 |

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

3. Just under three quarters of the 282 visits (203, 72%) were carried out between Mondays and Thursdays whereas just over one quarter (79, 28%) were carried out between Fridays and Sundays. Most visits were made on Mondays (58) whereas the least number of visits were made on Saturdays (15). All 5 visits to the Antrim Serious Crime Suite were carried out between Mondays to Thursdays.

Table 7: Days of visits

| Day | Belfast/ Antrim | Down/Armagh | North-West | Ty/Fer | Antrim SCS | Number of visits | % |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| Monday | 32 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 58 | 21 |
| Tuesday | 28 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 55 | 20 |
| Wednesday | 18 | 8 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 45 | 16 |
| Thursday | 19 | 8 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 45 | 16 |
| Friday | 18 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 41 | 15 |
| Saturday | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 5 |
| Sunday | 13 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 8 |
| Total | 133 | 47 | 69 | 28 | 5 | 282 | 100 |

4. Over nine tenths of the visits (268, 95%) were made between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eight visits (3%) were carried out between 12 p.m. and 9 a.m. and only 6 visits (2%) were carried out between 9 p.m. and midnight. Just over one third of all visits (98, 35%) were carried out between 6 and 9 p.m.

One visit took only 4 minutes while the longest visit took 143 minutes. One twentieth of all valid visits (14, 5%) took 10 minutes or less. The average length of the visits was just under 29 minutes.

Table 8: Times of visits

| Time | Belfast/ Antrim | Down/Armagh | North-West | Ty/Fer | Antrim SCS | Number of visits | % |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 0.00 – 9 am | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 am – noon | 13 | 21 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 58 | 21 |
| Noon – 3 pm | 32 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 57 | 20 |
| 3 pm – 6 pm | 31 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 55 | 20 |
| 6 pm – 9 pm | 52 | 10 | 29 | 5 | 2 | 98 | 35 |
| 9 pm – 24.00 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 133 | 47 | 69 | 28 | 5 | 282 | 100 |

Detainees seen by custody visitors

At least one detainee was being held during 164 of the 272 valid visits (60%). At least one detainee was interviewed during 100 of these 272 valid visits (37%).

There were 356 detainees held at the time of these visits, of which visitors saw 148. 97 detainees refused to be seen, and 111 detainees were not seen for other reasons.

Table 9: Team activity, October to December 2009

| Panel | Valid Visits | Detainees held | Detainees seen | Detainees refused | Detainees not seen – other reason |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Belfast/Antrim | 125 | 196 | 83 | 51 | 62 |
| Down/Armagh | 46 | 48 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| North-West | 69 | 88 | 45 | 19 | 24 |
| Ty/Fer | 27 | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Antrim SCS | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 272 | 356 | 148 | 97 | 111 |

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 | 51 | 19 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 97 |
| Being interviewed | 26 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 54 |
| Being processed | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Being discharged | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Asleep | 10 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Intoxicated/drugs | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Abusive/dangerous | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| With solicitor/GP | 8 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| Permission refused by Appropriate Adult | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other/Unknown | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Total | 113 | 35 | 43 | 12 | 5 | 208 |

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 October to December 2009 was 27%. The refusal rate varied from team to team with the Antrim SCS team recording the lowest refusal rate (17%, 6 held and 1 refusal) while the Down/Armagh team recorded the highest rate of refusal (40%, 48 held and 19 refusals).

Table 11: Refusal rate by custody suite, October to December 2009

| Panel | Station | Valid Visits | Detainees held | Detainees refused | Refusal rate (%) |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Belfast/ Antrim | Antrim Road | 19 | 30 | 5 | 17 |
| | Grosvenor Road | 8 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| | Musgrave Street | 22 | 73 | 21 | 29 |
| | Strandtown | 16 | 11 | 2 | 18 |
| | Antrim | 13 | 26 | 9 | 35 |
| | Ballymena | 11 | 13 | 4 | 31 |
| | Lisburn | 15 | 16 | 5 | 31 |
| | Bangor | 21 | 19 | 4 | 21 |
| | Sub-total | 125 | 196 | 51 | 26 |
| Down/Armagh | Banbridge | 19 | 20 | 11 | 55 |
| | Downpatrick | 9 | 12 | 2 | 17 |
| | Lurgan | 18 | 16 | 6 | 38 |
| | Newtownards | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Newry | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Sub-total | 46 | 48 | 19 | 40 |
| North-West | Coleraine | 27 | 26 | 5 | 19 |
| | Limavady | 17 | 13 | 3 | 23 |
| | Strand Road | 25 | 49 | 11 | 22 |
| | Waterside | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Sub-total | 69 | 88 | 19 | 22 |
| Tyrone/Fermanagh | Dungannon | 9 | 7 | 2 | 29 |
| | Enniskillen | 9 | 6 | 3 | 50 |
| | Omagh | 9 | 5 | 2 | 40 |
| | Sub-total | 27 | 18 | 7 | 39 |
| Antrim SCS | Antrim SCS | 5 | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| Total | | 272 | 356 | 97 | 27 |

Custody records checked

There were a total of 198 custody records checked by visitors, all were PACE. This means that the custody visitors checked the custody records of 54% of detainees who were seen or were not seen because they were asleep/intoxicated/on drugs.

Table 12: Custody Records Checked, October to December 2009

| Panel | Valid Visits | Detainees held | Custody Records Checked | Percentage Checked |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Belfast/Antrim | 125 | 196 | 111 | 57 |
| Down/Armagh | 46 | 48 | 24 | 50 |
| North-West | 69 | 88 | 56 | 64 |
| Tyrone/Fermanagh | 27 | 18 | 6 | 33 |
| Antrim SCS | 5 | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| Total | 272 | 356 | 198 | 54 |

There were 66 detainees, all PACE, who refused a visit but allowed their custody records to be checked.

Delay to visits

Of the 272 valid visits made during October to December 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, October to December 2009

| Panel | Station | Total number of delays greater than 10 mins |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Belfast/Antrim | Antrim Road | 1 |
| | Grosvenor Road | 0 |
| | Musgrave Street | 1 |
| | Strandtown | 1 |
| | Antrim | 3 |
| | Ballymena | 0 |
| | Lisburn | 0 |
| | Bangor | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 6 |
| Down/Armagh | Banbridge | 0 |
| | Downpatrick | 0 |
| | Lurgan | 0 |
| | Newtownards | 0 |
| | Newry | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 0 |
| North-West | Coleraine | 2 |
| | Limavady | 1 |
| | Strand Road | 0 |
| | Waterside | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 3 |
| Tyrone/Fermanagh | Dungannon | 0 |
| | Enniskillen | 0 |
| | Omagh | 0 |
| | Strabane | 0 |
| | Sub-total | 0 |
| Antrim SCS | Antrim SCS | 1 |
| Total valid visits | | 10 |

Table 14: Reason for delays to visits, October to December 2009

| Date | Time delay | Custody suite | Reason for delay |
|-------|------------|---------------|---|
| 5/10 | 13 mins | Antrim SCS | Delay due to custody sergeant being busy. |
| 8/10 | 20 mins | Musgrave St | Delay due to suite being extremely busy. |
| 9/10 | 16 mins | Limavady | Kept waiting in the public area. |
| 10/10 | 20 mins | Coleraine | Delay due to a violent detainee. |
| 12/10 | 15 mins | Antrim | Delay due to custody suite being busy. |
| 20/10 | 26 mins | Antrim | Custody Sgt busy booking in a detainee. |
| 20/10 | 28 mins | Antrim Rd | Delay into suite due to custody staff processing detainees. |
| 22/10 | 45 mins | Coleraine | Due to processing of persons in custody, we were delayed gaining entry in suite |
| 9/11 | 11 mins | Antrim | Custody Sergeant on phone. |
| 17/11 | 14 mins | Strandtown | Delay due to custody suite being busy. |

Antrim Serious Crime Suite

During October to December 2009, 5 visits were made to Antrim Serious Crime Suite. There were 6 detainees held at the time of these visits, of which visitors saw one. One detainee gave consent for their interview to be observed.