



GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD
DATE: 18TH JANUARY 2013
TITLE OF REPORT: GRAMPIAN INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Board Members with respect to the operation of an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Grampian.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board note the update provided.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Operation of an effective Independent Custody Visiting Scheme will provide assurance to the local community that the custody facilities and practices of Grampian Police are reasonable, efficient and fair.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

6.1 The Grampian Independent Custody Visiting Scheme has been in operation since July 2011. The following table details the visits that have been conducted in the nine month period April – December 2012.

Month	Number of Visits Per Station		
	Elgin	Fraserburgh	Queen Street
April	1	1	0
May	2	1	1
June	2	1	1
July	2	1	2
August	2	1	1
September	2	1	1
October	2	1	0
November	2	1	0
December	2	1	0

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- 6.3 During each visit, Custody Visitors are required to complete a visit report form summarising details of the number of detainees held at the time of the visit, the number of visits offered and conducted and a summary of the findings of the visit.
- 6.3.1 During the 17 visits conducted at Elgin Custody Suite a total of 62 detainees were held. Visits were offered to 55 detainees and were conducted with 35, a take up rate of 64%.
- 6.3.2 During the 9 visits conducted at Fraserburgh Custody Suite a total of 43 detainees were held. Visits were offered to 43 detainees and were conducted with 27, a take up rate of 63%.
- 6.3.3 During the 4 visits conducted at Queen Street Custody Suite a total of 69 detainees were held. Visits were offered to 28 detainees and were conducted with 12, a take up rate of 43%.
- 6.4 During the period of the report the visit report forms have raised no issues which have required to be raised with the Grampian Police Scheme Liaison Officer. This would require to be done where issues of concern have been raised by detainees or visitors which have not been addressed by the Custody staff on duty. Additionally there has been no pattern of refusal of visits or delays to visit process reported during this reporting period.
- 6.5 Currently, the Scheme has 4 appointed volunteer Custody Visitors. Since the last report to the Board, 3 volunteers have left the scheme, 1 due to a house move out of the Grampian area and 2 due to work commitments.
- 6.6 These low visitor numbers, and the locations of the remaining volunteers, account for the lower frequency of visits in Fraserburgh and Queen Street at this time.
- 6.7 As a result of media coverage in December 2012, 9 expressions of interest, resulting in 6 completed applications from potential volunteers, were received. The process of providing introductory training and then interviewing these prospective volunteers is on-going and will be completed by early February 2013.
- 6.8 The draft Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill details that the Scottish Police Authority must make arrangements for Independent Custody visits to take place. The Scottish Police Authority is yet to advise how it intends to facilitate Custody Visiting beyond 1st April 2013.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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DEPUTE CLERK
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