

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Professionalism and Trust Committee – for information Independent Custody Visitor Panel – for information	Dated: 02/02/2026 22/04/2026
Subject: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Annual Report 2024/25	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides statutory duties	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	NA
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	NA
Report of:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Rachael Waldron, ICV Scheme Manager, Town Clerk's Department

Summary

This report provides an update on the City of London's Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme and presents the Panel's annual report for the reporting period. It outlines recent issues raised by the ICV Panel regarding custody provision within the City and highlights key operational challenges address during the year. These include ensuring the timely attendance of Appropriate Adults during custody procedures, improvements to recruitment and onboarding processes within the City and contributions to the design of the new Sailsbury Square custody facility to embed best practice.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Independent Custody Visiting scheme has been firmly established and operating in its current form since November 2007. In May 2009, the Police Committee agreed that an annual report would be presented to the Committee to provide regular updates on the Scheme's progress and activities.
2. Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) undertake unannounced visits in pairs to review the treatment and conditions of individuals held in custody. Their role is to ensure that detainees' rights and entitlements are upheld and that their dignity is maintained. These visits are carried out independently and confidentially on a voluntarily basis, with reports submitted to the City of London Police and the ICV Scheme Manager following each visit. The ICV Panel, comprising all custody visitors, meets quarterly with representatives of the City of London Police, typically including the Custody Manager. Any serious concerns identified during visits are escalated to the ICV Scheme Sponsor through the Scheme Manager.

Current position

3. The ICV Annual Report provides an overview of key issues identified within the custody environment, details the remedial actions implemented, and highlights examples of effective practice. It also sets out the objectives of the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme for the current financial year.

Legal Implications

4. In accordance with Section 51 of the Police Reform Act (2002), the City Corporation is required to have in place an Independent Visitors Scheme.

Conclusion

5. The City of London Independent Visiting (ICV) Scheme continues to provide impartial oversight of custody operations, ensuring detainee rights, welfare and dignity are upheld. The Scheme reflects the commitment and professionalism of its volunteers, who have played a vital role in maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the reporting period.
6. The Panel extends its thanks to all Independent Custody Visitors for their dedication and valuable contribution to maintaining high standards within the custody environment.
7. Further updates on the Scheme will be presented to Members annually, reinforcing the City's commitment to openness and continuous improvement in custody provision.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – ICV Annual Report 2024/25

Background Papers

ICV Guidelines – January 2017 Police Committee

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