

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITS

Under an agreement with the Police, members of the Independent Monitoring Board are available by rota to be called by the Custody Sergeant, when it is thought that a detainee is likely to be held for up to or beyond 48 hours before appearing before the Courts. Where practical, a member will endeavour to attend the suite to ascertain and confirm that the detainee in question is being cared for and treated justly, fairly and with humanity whilst in custody.

- During this reporting period the Board was called 20 times and attended on 19 occasions. The notification of 48 hours detainees improved during the reporting period but there was one occasion when notification was received too late for a Board Member to attend.
- During this reporting period there were eleven unscheduled rota visits, including one induction visit for newly appointed members.
- The average visit duration was approximately 56 minutes (ranging from 30 to 105 minutes). Visits were undertaken at a variety of times during the day.
- Visiting was suspended from March 2020 due to the Coronavirus but two members remained available to monitor detainees held for more than 48 hours¹.

¹ More information is available upon request from the Independent Monitoring Board