

CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT 2007

1. Details of the annual statistics for the Custody Visiting Scheme for 2006/07 and a comparison with the previous year, are attached as Appendix 1.
2. As Members are aware, each Custody Visitor Panel is responsible for one custody suite which is visited twice a week. Following a successful recruitment campaign undertaken last Summer, the Scheme currently has 62 Custody Visitors.
3. In 2006/07, Custody Visitors made a total number of 283 visits compared to 301 visits in 2005/06. Of the 3,217 persons being detained at the time of the visits, 639 were unavailable to accept a visit for a number of reasons including in interview, asleep, doctors visit, detainee violent/drunk or Custody Visitor refusal. Of the 1,451 detainees who were available and selected to be seen 1,217 (84%) consented to meeting the Custody Visitors and 234 (16%) declined. In the previous year, there were 959 detainees available to be seen and 536 (56%) consented to a visit and 423 (44%) declined.
4. Of the detainees seen, 669 (55%) raised issues which related to medical issues, food/drink, writing/reading materials/phone calls, additional bedding and medical issues. Last year, 277 (51%) detainees seen raised issues. The majority of issues raised by detainees were resolved at the time of the visit by the Custody Officer. Any issues, which cannot be resolved by the Custody Officer, are referred to the Chief Inspector responsible for custody for consideration and appropriate action.
5. It is important to note, however, that the vast majority of reports received from Custody Visitors were complimentary about the conditions in the Custody Suites.

APPENDIX 1
ANALYSIS OF VISITS MADE BY ALL THREE PANELS

NUMBER OF VISITS MADE	2006/07	2005/06
	283	301
NUMBER OF DETAINEES <i>(all persons held in custody at the time)</i>	3217	1425
DETAINEES NOT AVAILABLE FOR A VISIT	639	382
DETAINEES DECLINING A VISIT	234	423
DETAINEES CONSENTING TO A VISIT	1217	536
DETAINEES NOT SELECTED FOR A VISIT*	1127	84
DETAINEES RAISING ISSUES	669	277

* Since the new custody suites become operational, Custody Visitors now select a number of detainees to visit from the total number being detained at the time.

TIME	NO. OF VISITS	
	2006/07	2005/06
00.00 - 06.00	2	0
06.00 - 09.00	15	8
09.00 - 12.00	73	71
12.00 - 15.00	35	49
15.00 - 18.00	48	31
18.00 - 21.00	95	124
21.00 - 00.00	15	17

DAY OF WEEK	NO. OF VISITS	
	2006/07	2005/06
MONDAY	37	32
TUESDAY	41	60
WEDNESDAY	35	43
THURSDAY	27	48
FRIDAY	61	57
SATURDAY	47	30
SUNDAY	35	31