

CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT 2008

1. Details of the annual statistics for the Custody Visiting Scheme for 2007/08 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 and the Scheme currently has 54 Custody Visitors.
3. In 2007/08, Custody Visitors made a total number of 272 visits compared to 283 visits in 2006/07. Of the 2809 persons being detained at the time of the visits, 657 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 1,832 detainees who were available and selected to be seen, 1,755 (96%) consented to meeting the Custody Visitors and 77 (4%) declined. In the previous year, there were 1,451 detainees available to be seen and 1217 (84%) consented to a visit and 234 (16%) declined.
4. Of the detainees seen, 722 (41%) raised issues which related to medical issues, food/drink and phone calls. Last year, 669 (55%) 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	2007/08
	283	272
NUMBER OF DETAINEES <i>(all persons held in custody at the time)</i>	3217	2809
DETAINEES NOT AVAILABLE FOR A VISIT	639	657
DETAINEES DECLINING A VISIT	234	77
DETAINEES CONSENTING TO A VISIT	1217	1755
DETAINEES NOT SELECTED FOR A VISIT	1127	320
DETAINEES RAISING ISSUES	669	722

TIME	NO. OF VISITS	
	2006/07	2007/08
00.00 - 06.00	2	1
06.00 - 09.00	15	15
09.00 - 12.00	73	77
12.00 - 15.00	35	34
15.00 - 18.00	48	38
18.00 - 21.00	95	93
21.00 - 00.00	15	9

DAY OF WEEK	NO. OF VISITS	
	2006/07	2007/08
MONDAY	37	30
TUESDAY	41	40
WEDNESDAY	35	31
THURSDAY	27	34
FRIDAY	61	67
SATURDAY	47	39
SUNDAY	35	35