

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITS

- Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) make unannounced visits, in pairs, each month, throughout the year. The purpose of these visits is to monitor the treatment of people detained in the holding cells, and that the processes for ensuring that the provision for the rights and entitlements of such people are adhered to; and further to monitor the effectiveness and condition of the custody suite facilities as a whole.
- All of these visitors are members of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), who similarly undertake the independent monitoring of the Isle of Man Prison at Jurby, and of the Custody Suite at the Courts of Justice in Douglas.
- Under an agreement with the Police, members of the Board are available by roster 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. A member will 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 were called fourteen times and attended on twelve occasions.
- In addition there were thirteen unscheduled rota visits of which one was an induction visit for newly appointed members.
- The average visit duration was 45 minutes (ranging from 20 to 85 minutes). Visits were undertaken at a variety of times during the day.
- In their latest report, the ICV again said *inter alia*: "Staff members were invariably co-operative and helpful, despite their sometimes heavy workload."
- I am grateful for the continuing work carried out by the Independent Visitors, which is important in terms of helping the Constabulary meet its obligations.
- The new custody block has transformed the detention and treatment of people and it has made the work of our custody staff so much better. As noted last year, custody officers now have a pleasant working environment, which is good for their wellbeing and for their performance.