

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision	
PCCG-2022-034	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision
Subject	Amendment of Tenure for Independent Custody Visiting Volunteers
Summary	To record the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the increase of tenure for members of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme to up to three terms.

DECISION

1. The Police Reform Act 2011, Part 3, Section 299 confirms the statutory requirement for the PCC to run the Independent Custody Visiting scheme. It is the well established system whereby volunteers attend police stations to check on the treatment of detainees and the conditions in which they are held. They also check that their rights and entitlements are being observed. The Scheme offers protection to both detainees and the police and provides reassurance to the community at large.
2. There are currently seven Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) in Gwent. They conduct unannounced visits in pairs at both custody units in Gwent (Newport and Ystrad Mynach) on a weekly basis. The ICVs serve a three year term which can be renewed subject to a satisfactory performance review, for a further three years.
3. Risks:
4 out of 7 ICVs' tenure is due to end; 3 in October and 1 in December 2023 and despite numerous recruitment campaigns over the last few years, there has been difficulty in attracting the required number of volunteers to join the scheme.

Should there not be sufficient numbers of ICVs to conduct the visits this could result in a potential breach of statutory duty. More importantly this could result in a failure to ensure that detainees are afforded the offer of a welfare check and an inability to provide reassurance to the public that people are being treated appropriately by Gwent Police.
4. We have contacted the Independent Custody Visiting Association who provide guidance nationally in relation to custody visiting and they have confirmed that many other schemes operate a 9 year tenure.
5. Next Steps:
 - Current ICVs whose tenure is due to expire in 2023 will have their tenure extended by 3 years to 2026 and for recent and future ICVs tenure to be extended from 6 years to 9 years with an additional performance review to be built in at year 6.

- The Scheme Terms & Conditions and handbook will be amended to reflect the changes to the tenure arrangement.
- A recruitment and communications strategy will be developed to explore as many opportunities as possible to encourage members of the public to join the scheme. We will also work with the Positive Action Outreach Officer in force in order to encourage applications from a wider demographic spectrum.


Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MCIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signed



Date

13.02.2023

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Background papers	None