

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision	
PCCG-2020-021	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision
Subject	Independent Custody Visiting – Implementation of a Remote Visiting Process
Summary	To record the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the introduction of an alternative monitoring process for the Independent Custody Visiting scheme.

DECISION

1. The recent outbreak of Coronavirus has seen unprecedented decisions made for the welfare of the country.
2. Due to the risk posed by Coronavirus, the decision was taken in decision log number PCCG-2019-078 to suspend visits by the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme members to ensure their safety.

Although the threat of Coronavirus is not as severe as it was when visits were suspended in March 2020, it still poses a significant risk to the volunteers as well as anyone else they may come into contact with when conducting visits in custody. Therefore, my office has implemented an alternative monitoring process via telephone in conjunction with Gwent Police in order to negate the risk and to meet my legal obligation under the section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002.
3. This process offers detainees the opportunity to speak privately with my volunteers on the telephone in order that the volunteers can check on their welfare and ensure they have received their rights and entitlements under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code C.
4. I will continue to monitor the situation closely and should the risk of infection reduce further, I will consider the resumption of face to face visits for those volunteers who would prefer this method, ensuring that the relevant risk assessments are undertaken and that protective equipment is provided to them in order to ensure they are kept as safe as possible.

Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MDIPD, 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

07.07.20

Contact Officer

Name

Nicola Warren

Position

Governance Officer

Telephone

01633 642200

Email

Nicola.Warren@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Background papers

None