

# **Annual Custody Visitors Statistics 2015/2016**

**Report produced by:  
Statistics and Research Branch,  
Northern Ireland Policing Board**

Data extracted: 17 May 2016

Trim: 295649

## Summary

Please note:

- Bangor closed from 13 April to 3 August 2015.
- Antrim closed in September 2015 for approximately 6 months. The Serious Crime Suite moving permanently from Antrim to Musgrave when this occurred.
- Banbridge closed since 13 April 2015. Armagh now operational.
- Strand Road closed 7-11 December 2015.

### **Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory visits** (pages 2 to 4)

- There were a total of 483 visits made between April 2015 to March 2016.
- 15 visits were not completed, thus there were 468 valid visits.
- Based on the valid visits the Tyrone/Fermanagh team recorded the highest level of satisfaction (92%).
- 57 visits were classified as unsatisfactory (12%) and 411 visits were classified as satisfactory (88%).
- 16% of the visits by the South East team were recorded as unsatisfactory.
- The main reason for unsatisfactory visits was faulty equipment (27).

### **Visits made** (pages 5 to 6)

- Almost a fifth of visits were made on Wednesdays (92, 19%).
- Over two in five visits were made between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. (222, 46%).
- Eleven visits (2%) were carried out between 12 o'clock and 9 a.m.
- Visits ranged from 4 to 80 minutes.
- The average length of time spent on each visit was 26 minutes.

### **Detainees** (pages 7 to 9)

- Of the 937 detainees held during this period, Custody Visitors saw 450, 61 detainees refused to be seen and 426 were not seen for other reasons.
- The most common reasons for detainees not being seen were being asleep (236) and being interviewed (81).
- The overall refusal rate for April 2015 to March 2016 was 7% (61 refused).
- There were a total of 685 (73%) custody records checked by Custody Visitors.

### **Delays** (page 9)

- There were 13 occasions when Custody Visitors were delayed for more than ten minutes.

### **Antrim and Musgrave Serious Crime Suites** (page 10)

- 9 visits were made to Antrim Serious Crime Suite during which time 8 detainees were held. Three detainees were seen and 5 refused to be seen. Antrim Serious Crime Suite moved permanently in September 2015 from Antrim to Musgrave.
- 9 visits were made to Musgrave Serious Crime Suite from October 2015 to March 2016. Of the 5 unannounced visits, 6 detainees were held. Five detainees were seen, none refused to be seen and one detainee was not seen for other reasons. Of the 4 announced visits, 9 detainees were held. One detainee was seen, 5 refused to be seen and 3 detainees were not seen for other reasons.

**Part One – Monitoring the treatment of detainees in line with PACE,  
Human rights provisions and Code of Ethics**

**Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory visits**

Custody Visitors made 483 visits during April 2015 to March 2016, 33% less than the number of visits carried out in January to March 2015 (726). Of these, 15 visits were not carried out (see Table 2) and were deemed to be invalid.

Custody Visitors classified 411 out of the 468 valid visits (88%) as satisfactory. The Tyrone/Fermanagh team recorded the highest level of satisfaction (92%). The highest level of unsatisfactory visits (16%) was recorded by the South East team.

**Table 1: Number of Valid Visits Made to each Station, April 2015 to March 2016<sup>1</sup>**

Team	Station	Satisfactory Visits	Unsatisfactory Visits	Valid Visits
<b>South East</b>	Musgrave	74	10	84
	Bangor <sup>2</sup>	17	12	29
	Antrim <sup>3</sup>	19	0	19
	Antrim SCS	9	0	9
	Banbridge <sup>4</sup>	1	0	1
	Lurgan	40	6	46
	Armagh	33	7	40
	Musgrave SCS	4	1	5
	Musgrave SCS Announced	3	1	4
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>North-West</b>	Coleraine	50	3	53
	Strand Road <sup>5</sup>	48	7	55
	Strabane	19	2	21
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Tyrone/Fermanagh (Ty/Fer)</b>	Dungannon	20	3	23
	Enniskillen	31	2	33
	Omagh	43	3	46
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Valid visits</b>		<b>411</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>468</b>

<sup>1</sup> These figures exclude the 15 incomplete visits.

<sup>2</sup> Bangor closed from 13 April to 3 August 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Antrim closed in September 2015 for approximately 6 months. Serious Crime Suite moved permanently from Antrim to Musgrave when this occurred.

<sup>4</sup> Banbridge closed since 13 April 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Strand Road closed 7-11 December 2015.

The reason why 15 visits were not carried out is given in Table 2.

**Table 2: Reason why visits were not carried out, April 2015 to March 2016**

Date	Custody	Reason
9 Apr 2015	Banbridge	Health & Safety issue due to very violent detainee - visit aborted
2 Jun 2015	Strabane	Suite Closed.
5 Jun 2015	Musgrave	Visit had to be aborted due to accident/security alert on motorway and 2nd custody visitor unable to reach destination before 7 p.m.
11 Jun 2015	Armagh	Due to DP having been diagnosed with scabies, the Custody Suite has been closed.
26 Jun 2015	Musgrave	Visit cancelled at last minute by other Custody visitor.
10 Jul 2015	Antrim	Visit aborted after 25 mins. Busy with detainees.
27 Oct 2015	Musgrave	No access to suite due to change over.
3 Nov 2015	Bangor	No visit undertaken - Advised twice by reception someone would come up to us.
8 Nov 2015	Enniskillen	ICV's arrived at front gate at 13.50 and were advised by security personnel on gate that the station would not open until 14.00 as it was closed for lunch. ICV's advised him we were custody visitors and required access but this was again denied, with ICV's told there would be no-one available to let us in. Custody visit therefore did not take place.
18 Nov 2015	Strand Rd	Custody suite closed.
15 Dec 2015	Strand Rd	Custody Suite closed due to maintenance - not informed.
3 Jan 2016	Musgrave	Visit aborted at 11.55 due to other Custody Visitor not turning up.
21 Jan 2016	Dungannon	Custody Suite closed.
14 Feb 2016	Bangor	Aborted visit, Custody Visitor went to wrong station (Musgrave).
22 Mar 2016	Strand Road	Waited 15 minutes – visit aborted.
<b>Total visits not carried out: 15</b>		

**Table 3: Incomplete Visits by Team, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Total Visits	Incomplete Visits	% of Visits Incomplete
South East	246	9	4
North-West	133	4	3
Ty/Fer	104	2	2
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>

## Reasons for concern

A full list of reasons for concern regarding the treatment of detainees is given at Table 4.

**Table 4: Reasons for concern regarding treatment of detainees by Team:  
April 2015 to March 2016**

Reason		South East	North-West	Ty/Fer	Total
Treatment/Rights of Detainees	Code of Practice	0	0	0	0
	Being told their rights	0	0	0	0
	Informing somebody	0	0	0	0
	Legal advice	0	0	0	0
	Checks on detainees carried out	0	4	0	4
	Requiring an appropriate adult	0	0	0	0
	Requiring Interpreter	0	0	0	0
	Review of detention	0	0	0	0
	Other	1	3	0	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
Health and Well Being	Adequate bedding	0	0	0	0
	Adequate food and drink	0	1	1	2
	Dietary needs	0	0	0	0
	Access to loo/washing	0	0	0	0
	Replacement clothing	0	0	0	0
	Medical attention	0	0	0	0
	8 Hours rest in 24	0	0	0	0
	Exercise	1	0	0	1
	Oxygen checks	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

A full list of reasons for concern regarding the conditions of detention of detainees is given at Table 5.

**Table 5: Reasons for concern regarding conditions of detention:  
April 2015 to March 2016**

Conditions	South East	North-West	Ty/Fer	Total
Heating	0	0	2	2
Lighting	3	1	2	6
Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Alarm	0	0	0	0
Cleanliness	1	0	0	1
Safety/Security Hazards	6	0	0	6
Sanitation	10	0	0	10
Faulty Equipment	21	3	3	27
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>

## Part Two - Monitoring the effectiveness of the scheme

### Visits made

Custody Visitors made 483 visits during April 2015 to March 2016, 243 less than in April 2014 to March 2015 (726).

Table 6 shows the number of visits made to each station during April 2015 to March 2016. Active stations for which the monthly target number of visits were not equalled or exceeded are indicated in italics, as are those teams that did not equal or exceed the monthly target number of visits for all stations in their area.

**Table 6: Number of visits made to each Station, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Station	Guideline Number of Visits <sup>6</sup>	Actual Number of Visits
<b>South East</b>	<i>Musgrave</i>	96	88
	<i>Bangor</i>	34	31
	<i>Antrim</i>	24	20
	<i>Antrim SCS</i>	12	9
	<i>Banbridge</i>	2	2
	<i>Lurgan</i>	48	46
	<i>Armagh</i>	45	41
	<i>Musgrave SCS</i>	12	5
	<i>Musgrave SCS Announced</i>	6	4
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>North-West</b>	<i>Coleraine</i>	48	53
	<i>Strand Road</i>	71	58
	<i>Strabane</i>	24	22
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Tyrone/Fermanagh</b>	<i>Dungannon</i>	24	24
	<i>Enniskillen</i>	36	34
	<i>Omagh</i>	48	46
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Total visits</b>		<b>530</b>	<b>483</b>

<sup>6</sup> Guideline Number takes into account any station closures.

Of the 483 visits, almost a fifth was carried out on Wednesdays (92, 19%). The least amount of visits was carried out on Mondays (56, 12%).

**Table 7: Days of visits, April 2015 to March 2016**

Day	South East	North-West	Ty/Fer	Number of visits	%
Monday	22	15	19	56	12
Tuesday	39	14	19	72	15
Wednesday	53	19	20	92	19
Thursday	33	22	14	69	14
Friday	35	20	7	62	13
Saturday	30	25	15	70	14
Sunday	34	18	10	62	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>100</b>

Almost nine in ten of all visits (430, 89%) were made in the 12 hour period between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Over two in five of all visits (222, 46%) were carried out between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Eleven visits (2%) were carried out between 12 o'clock and 9 a.m. and these were carried out by the South East (5) and Tyrone/Fermanagh (6) teams.

The shortest visit took 4 minutes while the longest visit took 80 minutes. The average length of a Custody Visit was 26 minutes.

**Table 8: Times of visits, April 2015 to March 2016**

Time*	South East	North-West	Ty/Fer	Number of visits	%
0.00 – 9 a.m.	5	0	6	11	2
9 a.m. – noon	35	37	22	94	19
Noon – 3 p.m.	12	24	5	42	9
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	34	25	13	72	15
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.	137	34	51	222	46
9 p.m. – 24.00	23	13	6	42	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>100</b>

\*There is a requirement for 10% of custody visits to be undertaken during unsociable hours. To avoid disturbing detainees during their 8 hour rest period (PACE requirement) the ICV will view them through the cell door hatch.

## Detainees seen by Custody Visitors

There were 937 detainees held at the time of these visits, of which visitors saw 450, 61 detainees refused to be seen, and 426 detainees were not seen for other reasons.

**Table 9: Team activity, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Detainees Seen	Detainees Refused	Detainees Not Seen – Other Reason
South East	237	574	287	35	252
North-West	129	274	107	25	142
Ty/Fer	102	89	56	1	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>426</b>

## Reasons for not seeing detainees

Table 10 shows a full list of the reasons why detainees were unable to see visitors.

**Table 10: Reasons for detainees not seeing Visitors, April 2015 to March 2016**

Reason	South East	North-West	Ty/Fer	Total
Refusal	35	25	1	61
Being interviewed	54	22	5	81
Being processed	9	6	1	16
Being discharged	0	1	0	1
Asleep	136	86	14	236
Intoxicated/drugs	7	3	3	13
Abusive/dangerous	12	12	2	26
With solicitor/GP/ Appropriate Adult	23	3	5	31
Attending Hospital/Court	11	7	0	18
Other/Unknown	0	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>487</b>

## Refusal rates

Table 11 shows the refusal rate by custody suite (calculated as the number of detainees who refused to be seen as a percentage of the number that were held in custody at the time of the visit).

The overall refusal rate for April 2015 to March 2016 was 7%, an increase when compared with April 2014 to March 2015 (5%: 1,216 held, 65 refused).

The refusal rate was lowest in the Tyrone/Fermanagh team (1%, 89 held, 1 refused). The highest refusal rate was in the North-West team (9%, 274 held, 25 refused).

**Table 11: Refusal rate by custody suite, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Station	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Detainees Refused	% Refusal Rate
South East	Musgrave	84	321	14	4
	Bangor	29	56	7	13
	Antrim	19	41	1	2
	Antrim SCS	9	8	5	63
	Banbridge	1	2	0	0
	Lurgan	46	69	2	3
	Armagh	40	62	1	2
	Musgrave SCS	5	6	0	0
	Musgrave SCS Announced	4	9	5	56
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>237</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>35</b>
North-West	Coleraine	53	101	10	10
	Strand Road	55	151	15	10
	Strabane	21	22	0	0
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>25</b>
Tyrone/Fermanagh	Dungannon	23	28	0	0
	Enniskillen	33	32	0	0
	Omagh	46	29	1	3
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>468</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>7</b>

## Custody records checked

There were a total of 685 custody records checked by visitors. This means that the Custody Visitors checked the custody records of just fewer than three in four detainees who were held (73%).

**Table 12: Custody Records Checked, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Valid Visits	Detainees Held	Custody Records Checked	% Checked
South East	237	574	411	72
North-West	102	89	74	83
Ty/Fer	129	274	200	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>73</b>

## Delay to visits

Of the 468 valid visits made during April 2015 to March 2016, there were 13 (3%) occasions when Custody Visitors were delayed by more than 10 minutes and this is detailed in tables 13 and 14. The reason for delay is taken from the CV2 forms.

**Table 13: Delays to visits by Team and Station, April 2015 to March 2016**

Team	Station	Total Number of Delays Greater than 10 mins
South East	Musgrave	4
	Bangor	2
	Armagh	1
North-West	Coleraine	3
	Strand Road	1
	Strabane	1
Ty/Fer	Omagh	1
<b>Total valid visits (which were delayed): 13</b>		

**Table 14: Reason for delays to visits, April 2015 to March 2016**

Date	Custody Suite	Time Delay (mins)	Reason for Delay
1 Apr 2015	Musgrave	15	Custody suite busy dealing with DPs.
7 Apr 2015	Omagh	12	Delay due to front desk dealing with member of public.
15 Jun 2015	Armagh	25	Very busy.
25 Jun 2015	Coleraine	19	Detainee getting admitted.
9 Jul 2015	Musgrave	15	Custody busy dealing with detainees.
23 Sep 2015	Musgrave	15	Custody Suite busy.
14 Oct 2015	Coleraine	19	Detainee being dealt with at hatch.
24 Oct 2015	Bangor	15	Custody staff busy.
21 Nov 2015	Strand Rd	17	Dealing with Juvenile.
22 Nov 2015	Strabane	35	Delayed due to detainee being booked in.
2 Dec 2015	Coleraine	17	Detainee getting booked in.
28 Dec 2015	Bangor	12	Staff taking telephone call.
26 Jan 2016	Musgrave	14	Custody suite busy.

## **Antrim Serious Crime Suite and Musgrave Serious Crime Suite**

During April 2015 to September 2015, 9 visits were made to Antrim Serious Crime Suite during which time 8 detainees were held. Three detainees were seen and 5 refused to be seen. Antrim Serious Crime Suite moved permanently in October 2015 from Antrim to Musgrave.

9 visits were made to Musgrave Serious Crime Suite from October 2015 to March 2016, 4 of which were announced. Of the 5 unannounced visits, 6 detainees were held. Five detainees were seen, none refused to be seen and one detainee was not seen for other reasons. Of the 4 announced visits, 9 detainees were held. One detainee was seen, 5 refused to be seen and 3 detainees was not seen for other reasons.