

OPCC Record of Decision

Resumption of Independent Custody Visiting

DECISION RECORD PREPARED BY

Name:	<u>Janet Hyndman</u>
Role:	Business Resource Officer
Date of Decision:	09/03/21

1. Background

On 5th January 2021, the decision was made to suspend physical custody visits. The reasons were:

- To reduce the number of interactions between custody visitors, detainees and custody staff and so control the spread of the virus.
- The OPCC is satisfied there is a good level of care of detainees within custody and there are immediate risks that warrant physical custody visits.
- The OPCC has in place means to evaluate detainee care (through virtual visits, custody log reviews and liaison with HQ custody).

This decision was reviewed in February 2021. As part of the review the national picture and the mitigation that can be achieved to ensure visits can be done safely was considered. It was decided to resume physical visits on the condition that all visits are made on a voluntary basis, and that no visits are made by ICVs who are identified as being vulnerable as defined by HM government guidelines published on 16 February 2021, and that the guidelines and Risk Assessment would be updated to cover and mitigate all known risks and incorporate the latest operational guidelines. These guidelines and RA were reviewed and agreed by the COVID Gold group on 9 March 2021.

2. Decision Record

- 2.1 It has been decided to resume the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme with immediate effect. This scheme will be resumed in line with the revised guidance and risk assessment and comply with the current UK government and operational guidelines.

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication



3.1 Consultation took place between the PCC, OPCC Leadership Board and the ICV Scheme Manager. COVID Gold have considered and agreed to the resuming of the service.

4. OPCC Monitoring Officer advice

4.1 Legal, Management and Equality Implications – Current and Future

The PCC's Treasurer and Monitoring Officer have advised that the arrangements set out meet the duty of care to the volunteers based on the risk assessment undertaken and current government advice. There are no current and going concerns identified by this scheme about the way in which custody is provided across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

The PCC's Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer has advised that there are no financial considerations associated with this decision.

5. Supporting documents:

There are no supporting documents that relate to this decision

6. Official approval



6.1 Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.



For OPCC office use:

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication:	N/A
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published later in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	no

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

<p>Police and Crime Commissioner</p>  <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Signed Print: ALISON HERNANDEZ Date: 9th March 2021</p>	<p>Governance Signature by Monitoring Officer</p>  <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Signed Print: R Martin Date: 9th March 2021</p>
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<i>Decision logged in register? [Tick if completed]</i>	✓
<i>Decision published on OPCC website? [Tick if completed]</i>	✓