

OPCC RECORD OF DECISION

PROJECT NAME OR TITLE

SUSPENSION OF CUSTODY VISITS.

DECISION RECORD PREPARED BY	
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Name:	Janet Hyndman
Role:	Business Resource Officer
Date of Decision:	18/03/2020

1. BACKGROUND

Government advice was issued to the general public on 16/03/2020 to undertake essential travel only and avoid unnecessary social contact in order to control the spread of Covid-19 (the 'Corona Virus'). Custody visitors conduct their visits face to face in police custody, speaking to custody staff and detainees. They examine and touch documents and stocks handled by custody staff. Social distancing is not considered reliable to reduce the risk in these circumstances. There have been unconfirmed disclosures by detainees of suffering COVID-19 symptoms in the recent days.

1.1 *Although they have no direct physical contact with detainees or staff, because this virus may be airborne, there is concern that this activity will:*

- *Put visitors at risk of contracting the virus*
- *Put detainees at risk of contracting the virus*
- *Put custody staff and officers at risk of contracting the virus*

As recorded in the report to JLB in December 2019, quarter 2 statistics show that 44% of the ICV population are aged 65+. Latest Government advice recommends social distancing for those aged 70 plus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

2. DECISION RECORD

2.1 The decision to suspend the ICV scheme for a period of 8 weeks was made by the PCC on 17th March 2020 following consultation with the Chief Constable and based on the government guidance issued on 16th March encouraging social distance to reduce the risk of COVID -19 transmission. This decision is based on an assessment of the current risks to

the population and the demographics of the volunteers involved in the scheme.

3. CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Consultation took place between the PCC and the ICV Scheme Manager, ICV Volunteer Co-ordinator, with consideration of the latest advice available from ICVA at the time (16/03/2020)

4. OPCC MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

4.1 Legal, Management and Equality Implications – Current and Future

The PCC's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer has advised that the arrangements set out meet the duty of care to the volunteers on the basis of 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 and the scheme can be reintroduced at any time.

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:

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:

<p>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:</p>	
<p>Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.</p>	<p>NO</p>

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:

**Police and Crime Commissioner
Alison Hernandez**

SIGNED
PRINT: Alison Hernandez
DATE: 23 March 2020

**Governance Signature by
Monitoring Officer
Frances Hughes**

SIGNED
PRINT: Frances Hughes
DATE: 23 March 2020

Decision logged in register? **[Tick if completed]**

Decision published on OPCC website? **[Tick if completed]**