

## **OPCC Record of Decision**

Temporary Suspension of Custody Visits

### **Decision record prepared by**

Name:	<u>Janet Hyndman</u>
Role:	Business Resource Officer
Date of Decision:	22/09/20

### **1. Background**

Physical custody visits were suspended in March 2020, following government guidance. In May 2020 this decision was reviewed, when it was decided to review the decision should the Covid-19 Alert Level change from four to three. The reduction in the Alert Level from four to three occurred in June 2020, and in July 2020 it was decided to return to physical visits, following the introduction of new guidelines and risk assessment. Physical visits took place in August and September. Custody visitors made visits following these guidelines reported no concerns for their safety or for the safety of detainees or custody staff. Virtual visits through skype have continued since April 2020. Further scrutiny of police custody records took place between April – July. On 21 September 2020 the government raised the Alert Level from three to four, and as a result the decision was taken to suspend physical visits until the Alert Level reduces to three.

### **2. Decision record**

- 2.1 The decision will be reviewed again once the Covid-19 Alert level reduces to level three, together with a review of risk assessments drawn up in conjunction with force health and safety and the protocols put in place that would govern any change to visiting arrangements. Virtual visits via Skype will continue, with an intended increase from one per month per custody suite to two per month per custody suite.

### **3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication**

- 3.1 Consultation took place between the PCC and the ICV Scheme Manager

### **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 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 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:**

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 at a later date 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:

**Police and Crime Commissioner  
ALISON HERNANDEZ**

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SIGNED  
PRINT: Alison Hernandez  
DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Governance Signature by  
Monitoring Officer  
FRAN HUGHES**

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SIGNED  
PRINT: Frances Hughes  
DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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

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