

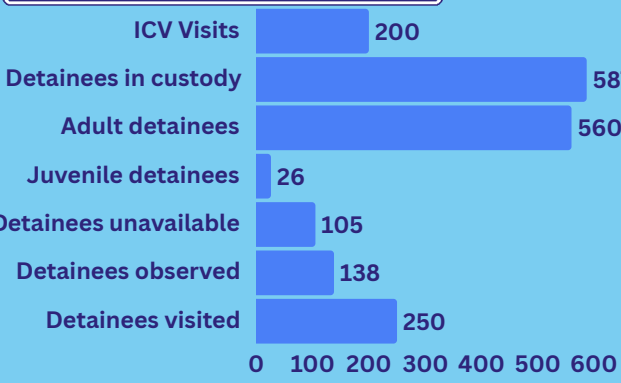
INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS (ICV)

This report summarises Independent Custody Visiting activity across Dyfed-Powys between April 2025 and March 2026. It brings together quantitative data, key findings, and thematic insights across all four quarters.

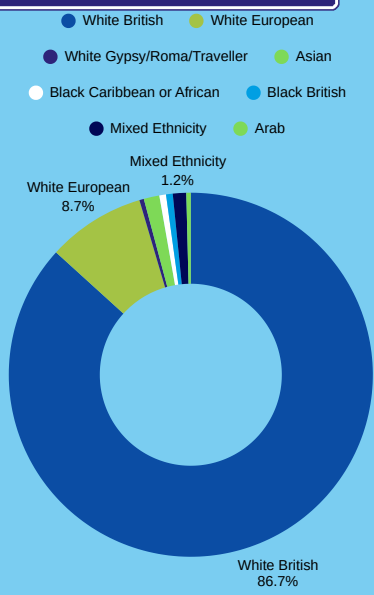


25-26 VISITING STATISTICS

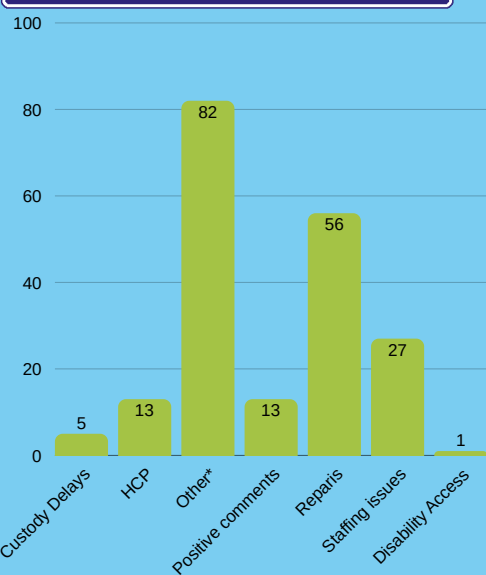
Visiting data:



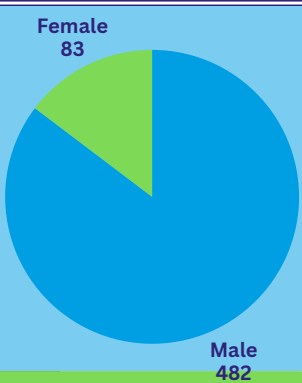
Ethnicity of detainees:



Themes of issues raised:



Gender of detainees:



** "Other" issues raised include Religious and Cultural provisions, Catering arrangements, stock control, practical arrangements and facilities.

Highlights of the Year (2025-26)

- Consistent independent oversight was maintained throughout the year, with 200 custody visits conducted despite operational pressures and staffing challenges.
- A strong theme of professionalism and respectful treatment by custody staff was noted across all four quarters, including positive feedback from detainees.
- ICVs maintained a clear focus on vulnerable detainees, including juveniles, females in custody, and those with mental health or medical needs.
- Staffing pressures and short-notice station closures emerged mid-year; however, these concerns were constructively escalated and later mitigated through improved resourcing.
- Estates, repairs, and maintenance issues were consistently identified, leading to strengthened governance and clearer accountability with the Estates team.



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- Healthcare provision, particularly the lack of embedded Health Care Provision (HCP) cover at Brecon, remained under scrutiny, with improvements observed later in the year following expanded remote access.
- Strong partnership working between ICVs, the OPCC, and Dyfed-Powys Police supported a culture of learning, transparency, and continual improvement.

Juvenile Detainees – Key Observations:

Across 2025–26, Independent Custody Visitors encountered 26 juvenile detainees during visits. While representing a small proportion of detainees seen, juveniles consistently received heightened scrutiny due to their inherent vulnerability. ICVs closely monitored access to Appropriate Adults, safeguarding arrangements, healthcare provision, and the overall environment. ICVs raised concerns where access to juveniles was restricted without clear rationale and highlighted delays linked to staffing and custody pressures. Positive practice was also observed, particularly where staff demonstrated trauma-informed approaches, calm de-escalation, and proactive engagement with Appropriate Adult services.

ICV Participation Over the Year:

The ICV scheme was supported by a committed cohort of volunteers throughout 2025–26. Active participation remained stable, with between 13 and 15 Independent Custody Visitors per quarter. While volunteer numbers fluctuated slightly due to recruitment, vetting processes and short-term breaks, the scheme maintained consistent coverage across all custody suites. Visual participation data illustrates the resilience and sustainability of the volunteer workforce during the year.



WE ARE RECRUITING FOR VISITORS

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the Dyfed Powys area?

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people to join us!
The criteria for suitable applicants
and further information
is available on our website



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Phone: 01267 226440

Website: <https://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en>