

## Custody Independent Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

### 1. Introduction

This document defines the terms of reference for the Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel, its membership and the roles and responsibilities of the members.

### 2. Custody Independent Scrutiny Panel purpose

In 2022, the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) identified that there was limited independent scrutiny of disproportionality and custody in forces across England and Wales. Following several high-profile incidents in recent years there has been a decrease in public confidence in the treatment of the public by the police.

The APCC and the NPCC have suggested that an Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel would improve transparency, increase public confidence and identify both good and poor practices.

The overall purpose of the Custody Independent Scrutiny Panel is to ensure that the implementation of police detention and custody procedures in Dyfed Powys are proportionate, lawful, and necessary.

### 3. Panel Structure

The Membership of the Scrutiny panel shall comprise of:-

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner representative
- An Independent Chair (to be selected in the first meeting)
- Independent Custody Visitor volunteer
- Quality Assurance Panel Member
- Independent Advisory Group Member
- Health Care Professional
- Custody Sergeant (present to answer any questions)

The Police and Crime Commissioner may invite officers or staff either from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner or the Police Force to provide professional advice to the Panel.

## Operating Arrangements

- The meeting will be held in person.
- OPCC staff will randomly select up to fifteen custody records for scrutiny
- Case information will be prepared by Dyfed Powys Police (Sergeant Andrew Rogers) and shared during the meeting. All information will be collected at the end of the meeting.
- If a meeting is cancelled, all members will be informed.
- If decisions are required outside of the meetings these will be directed to the chair who will consider and arrange circulation to members as required.
- A report of the findings will be compiled by the OPCC Quality of Service Caseworker and shared with the Chair for its accuracy.
- The report will be shared with Head of Custody for consideration and a response to any recommendations made.
- The report will be shared at the Strategic Custody Detention Scrutiny Board.

## 5. Terms of Reference

The panel has been established to provide independent scrutiny of custody to ensure that Dyfed Powys police are implementing police detention and custody procedures proportionately, lawfully and appropriately.

Each meeting will be thematic and each subject will be chosen in the previous meeting.

The scrutiny will involve examining areas such as:

- Juvenile detention ( Dignity and Respect, disproportionality, timeliness)
- Use of strip search (Compliance with policy, dignity and Respect, disproportionality, timeliness).
- Monitoring Risk level of detention ( Use of Anti Rip Suits, dignity and Respect, disproportionality, timeliness).
- Use of force (Compliance with policy, dignity and Respect, disproportionality, timeliness).
- Other topics requested by the panel.

## 4. Frequency of Meetings

The Panel shall meet four times a year, once every three months. Additional meetings can be convened if the Commissioner and the Force are in agreement where there is urgent business to transact.

## 5. Requirements of Participation

- Training: In order to participate Panel members will need to have completed the Introduction to Custody training provided by Dyfed Powys Police.



- Vetting: There are no additional vetting requirements for ICVs beyond existing vetting levels (NPP Level 2).
- All members will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement which will be reviewed annually.

## 6. VERSION CONTROL AND REVIEW DATE

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Heddlu Police

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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu  
Dyfed-Powys  
Police and Crime Commissioner