

Independent Custody Visitor Volunteer

ROLE PROFILE
Carry out the duties of an Independent Custody Visitor as set out in the scheme's guidelines, and in accordance with the Health and Safety requirements of the Custody Visiting Scheme.
Contribute to the maintenance of public confidence in the Police and in the Commissioner's oversight of the custody visiting arrangements.
Carry out an average of eight visits per annum (minimum four visits) to designated police stations in line with the scheme guidelines.
Undertake visits to police custody suites with fellow Custody Visitors, in line with agreed rotas, including occasional weekends and evenings making appropriate rearrangements if possible.
Check on the conditions of all parts of the custody suite, including those in which individuals are detained.
Carry out visits with persons detained to check on their health and wellbeing and that they have been offered their rights and entitlements under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
Consult custody records where consent is given and where it is appropriate to do so, in order to clarify that rights and entitlement has been offered.
Complete an Independent Custody Visitor Report Form at the end of each visit. Ensure that all relevant information is recorded in a correct, clear and concise manner.
Discuss any concerns and /or requests raised by persons in custody with custody staff, prior to leaving the custody suite.
Attend panel meetings with fellow visitors to discuss key issues raised, receive updates and training (two meetings per annum).
Attend annual regional conferences (optional) and / or national conferences (by invitation from the Commissioner).

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ROLE CRITERIA
What we expect you to do
Act independently of the Constabulary in Hertfordshire.
Be impartial and able to respect the rights of the detainee, while demonstrating an understanding and empathy with the role of the Custody Officer.
Be of good character and have a genuine commitment to serve the community.
Undertake initial training prior to commencing visits and undertake refresher training as necessary.
Be prepared to demonstrate flexibility in relation to attending visits and working with others.
Observe within the custody suites and challenge objectively and effectively when required.
Maintain confidentiality at all times.
Communicate effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds.
You must be
At least 18 years of age.
Living or working within Hertfordshire and have been a resident in the UK for the last 3 years.
Able to move swiftly within the environment of a custody suite in the case of emergency.
Able to travel to any meeting place by private or public transport. And be prepared to walk from the parking or public transport location to the Custody Suite/Meeting location. Please note there is no on-site parking available. Expenses will be paid in line with policy.