



Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



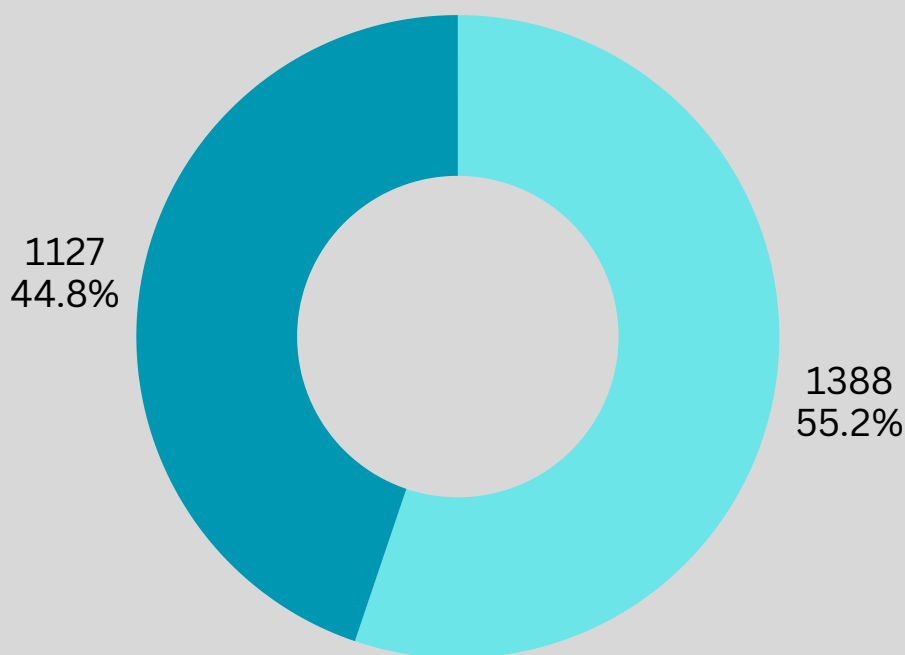
Bedfordshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

September 2025
Quarterly Bulletin



This Quarters Custody Data

- Luton
- Kempston

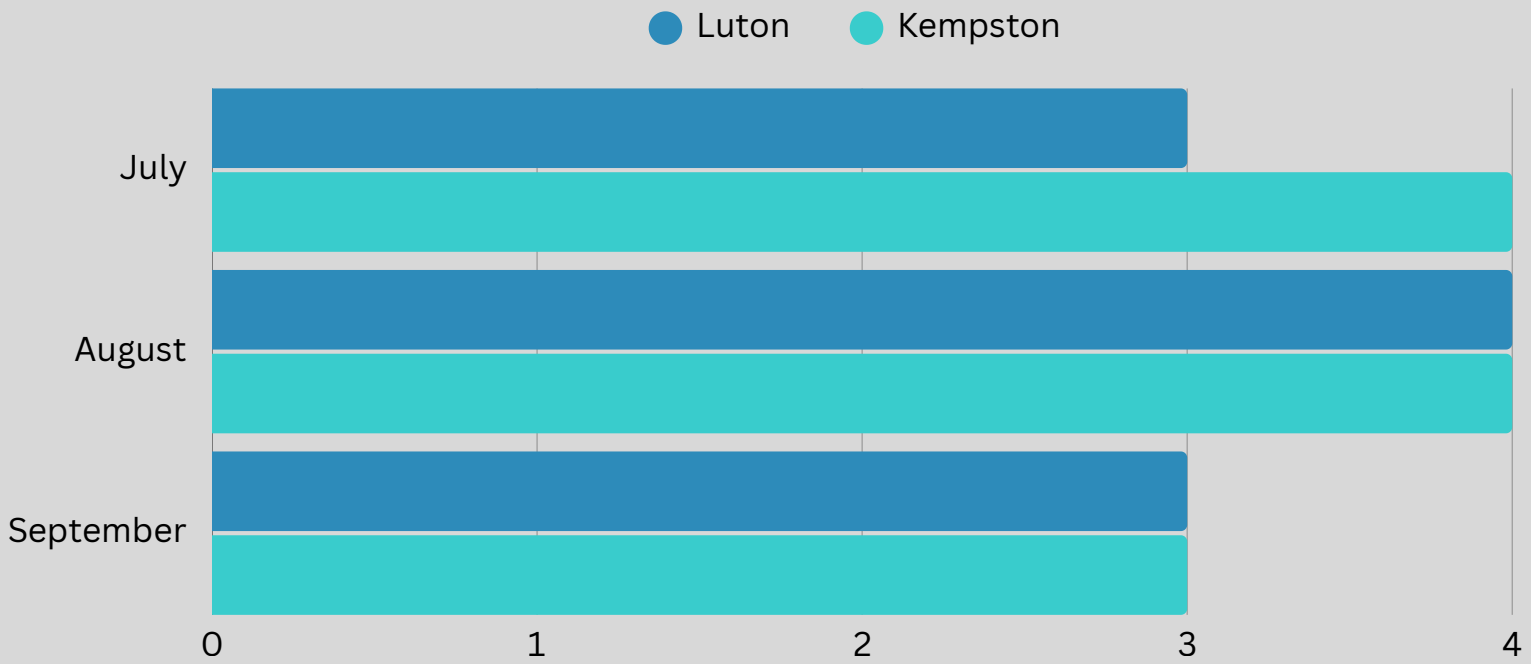


The chart above illustrates the total number of detainees held at Luton and Kempston custody suites during July, August, and September 2025. Across this three-month period, Bedfordshire Police Custody recorded 2,515 detainees in total, which is a slight increase compared to the previous quarter. A breakdown by month is provided below.

Month	Luton	Kempston	Total
July	422	495	917
August	377	442	819
September	328	451	779

21

ICV visits to Bedfordshire Police Custody Suites



Total number of
detainees in
custody at time of
ICV visits:

131

Total detainees
spoken to and/or
observed by ICVs:

103

Feedback from ICVs

ICVs reported the presence of beetles, indicating a possible infestation, in the affray corridor.

This issue was raised with the Custody Sergeant following multiple ICV visits. The OPCC subsequently followed up with the Custody Inspector, who confirmed that a cleaner had attended and the situation should now be under control. Since then, ICVs have not reported any further sightings of beetles.

ICVs have raised recurring concerns regarding difficulties accessing custody suites. This is unacceptable and does not meet national standards, which state: "Unannounced visits are made at varying times of the day and night, with independent custody visitors having immediate access to the custody area."

Delays or refusals to admit ICVs have typically been attributed to reasons such as staff shortages or operational pressures within the custody suite. The matter has been escalated to Custody Inspectors and the Chief Inspector. In response, communications has been issued to all custody staff, reinforcing the importance of allowing ICVs prompt entry. This issue will continue to be closely monitored moving forward.

After speaking with detainees, ICVs found that some were unable to pray as they were unaware of the available shower facilities.

ICVs observed that although detainees are informed of their entitlements upon entering custody, the volume of information provided can make it difficult for them to retain everything. As a result, communications have been sent to all custody staff to remind detainees of what they can access throughout their stay. This has also been incorporated into the Inspectors' checklists during their reviews.

ICVs observed that some cells were untidy, with leftover food containers and empty cups present.

Communications have been sent to custody staff reminding them to dispose of any rubbish once detainees have finished their food or drink. However, in cases where detainees are aggressive or uncooperative, staff may choose not to disturb them in order to avoid escalating the situation.

ICVs noted that Cell 18 is currently out of use due to a fault with the toilet.

The OPCC has actively followed up on this issue throughout the quarter, and with support from the Custody Inspector, Estates has now resolved the matter. The cell is now back in use.

The majority of reports, if not all, highlighted that custody staff were consistently accommodating, courteous, and professional in their conduct.

The OPCC ensures that all positive feedback is communicated to custody suites through monthly meetings with Custody Inspectors and the Chief Inspector.

24 - 25 Annual Report

The Independent Custody Visiting Annual Report 2024–2025 was published this quarter. Before being made publicly available, the report was presented to the Police and Crime Panel for review. You can click the link below where you will find the full annual report.

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INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING
BEDFORDSHIRE

2024-25

**INDEPENDENT
CUSTODY VISITING
ANNUAL REPORT**

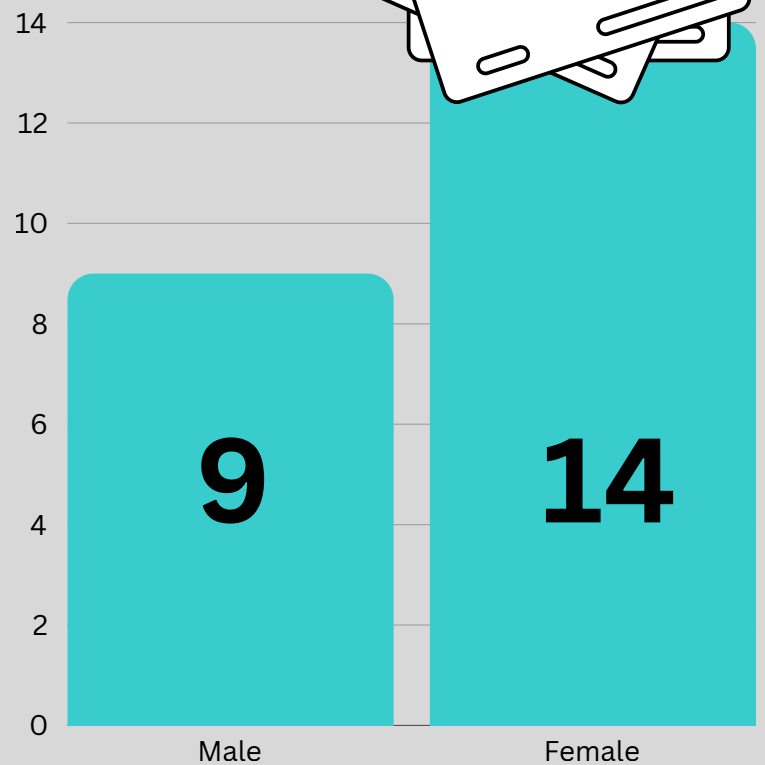
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Bedfordshire

CLICK HERE

Recruitment

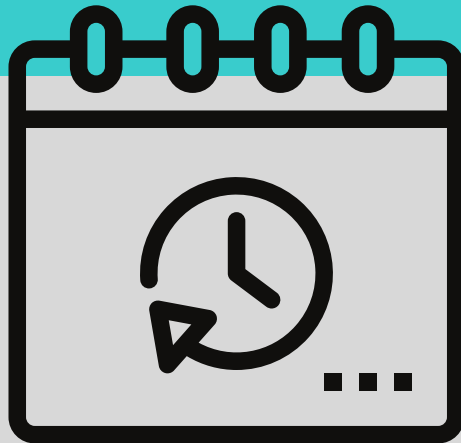


23
volunteers



In the upcoming quarter, we aim to raise greater awareness of the role of Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs), with the intention of recruiting more individuals. We remain committed to attracting volunteers from diverse backgrounds to ensure the ICV panel reflects the communities of Bedfordshire.

Dates for the Diary



ICV Panel Meeting - Thursday 18th December 2025

Training Resources

Over the past quarter, ICVA has produced several resources that may be useful to ICVs. The following link will direct you to the ICVA website, where you can access a range of training materials and guidance documents:

<https://icva.org.uk/icv-resources/>

The UK National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) has also shared several resources aimed at supporting staff and volunteers working within scrutiny bodies. The following page provides access to materials that offer insight into the NPM's role and its preventive work:

<https://nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/training-resources/>





CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

SCAN ME



Bedfordshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme



Can you spare some time for your local community?

WHO ARE WE?

- We are members of the local community who visit police custody suites unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed.

WHO CAN BE A VISITOR?

- Subject to certain exceptions anyone can apply to be an ICV. Visitors must be more than 18 years old, have been a resident in the UK for at least three years prior to the date of application and currently reside, work or study in Bedfordshire.



Interested in joining us or would you like to find out more information?

Contact us:
PCC@beds.police.uk



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