



Bedfordshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner



# Bedfordshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

December 2025  
Quarterly Bulletin



# This Quarters Custody Data

- Luton
- Kempston

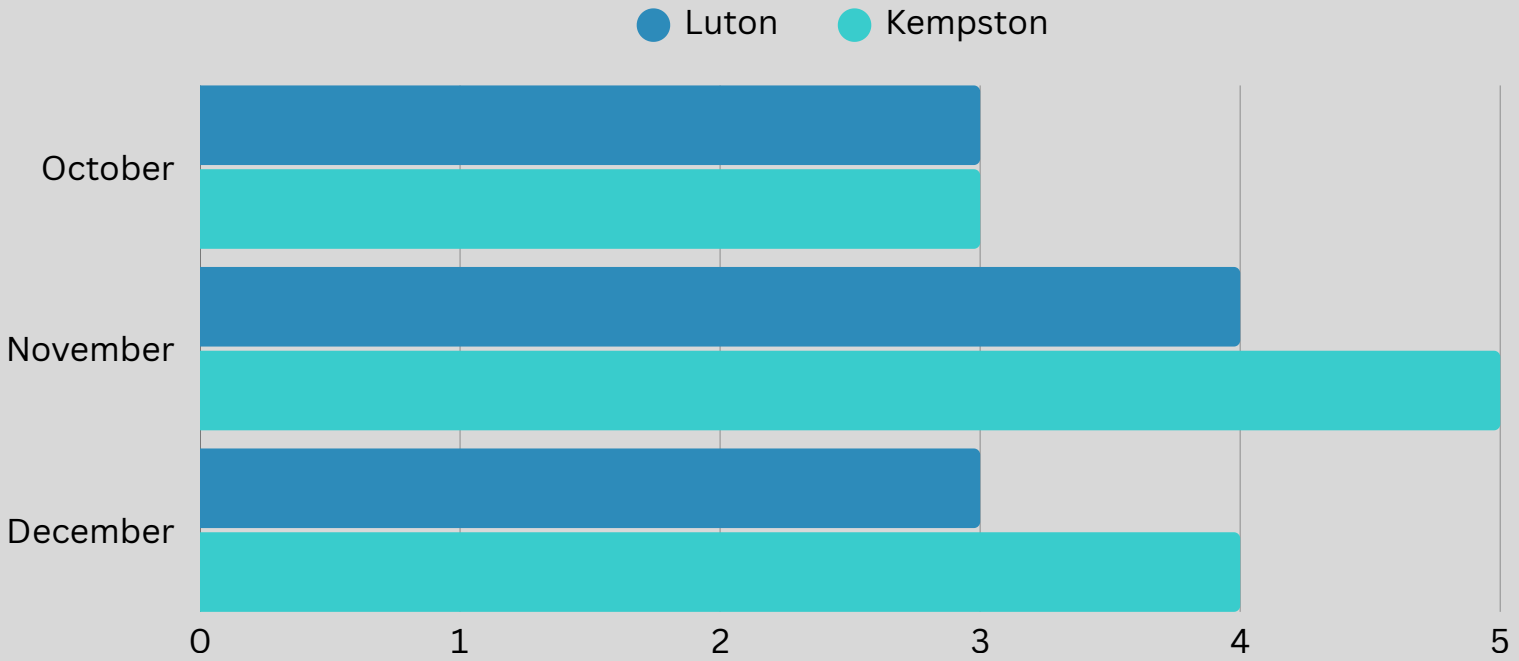


The chart above illustrates the total number of detainees held at Luton and Kempston custody suites during October, November and December 2025. Across this three-month period, Bedfordshire Police Custody recorded 2532 detainees in total. A breakdown by month is provided below.

Month	Luton	Kempston	Total
October	516	407	923
November	424	371	795
December	443	371	814

# 22

## ICV visits to Bedfordshire Police Custody Suites



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

# 137

Total detainees  
spoken to and/or  
observed by ICVs:

# 1000

# Feedback from ICVs

ICVs reported that there was no menopause or distraction items available in Luton.

This was raised within the monthly meetings between the Scheme Manager and Inspectors, and as a result has been reviewed and stock has been ordered.

Healthcare Professional requested for a medical fridge on an ICV visit.

The Inspector advised that in Kempston, where the request was made, there is a medical fridge in the back office. The Inspector will send out comms to the HCP's to make them aware.

Staff are placing their own food in fridges for detainee stock of food.

The Inspector has sent out comms to all staff.

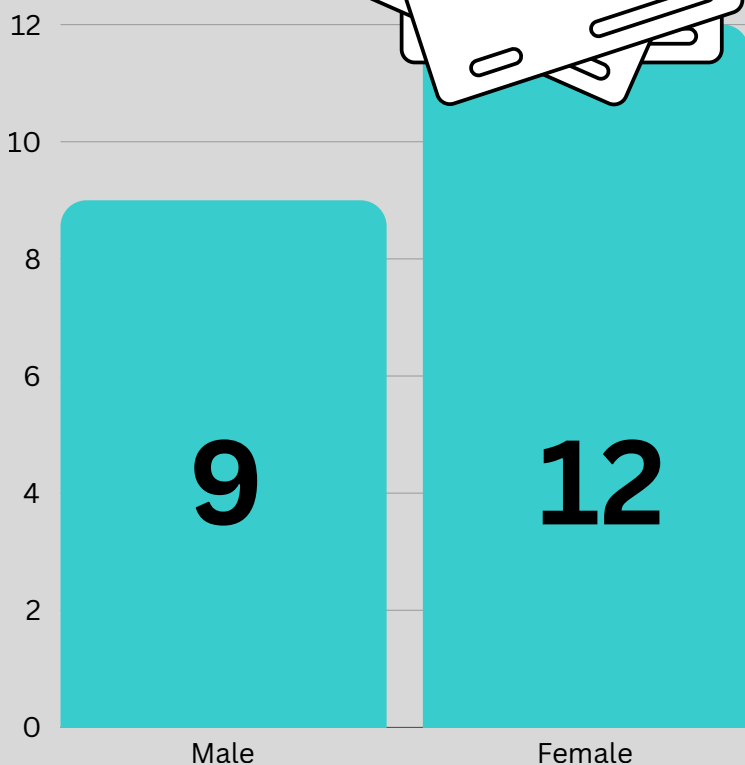
Although the custody suite was busy it was calm and orderly. The Detention Officer was very helpful and explained everything clearly to us - particularly about the changes to the phone system.



# Recruitment



**21**  
volunteers



For 2026, one of our key priorities is to increase volunteer recruitment for the ICV scheme. Currently, three new ICVs are progressing through the vetting process, and five interviews are scheduled. We remain dedicated to attracting volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds to ensure our ICV panel truly reflects the diverse communities of Bedfordshire.

# You Said, We Did

## Looking back at 2025

“We require a new way of reporting as the paper forms are dated and difficult to use”



Implemented in late 2024, positive impact noticed throughout 2025

Implemented in late 2024, positive impact noticed throughout 2025 - more visits have been booked over the weekend and spread evenly throughout the week

“We require a new, updated and improved rota system for booking visits”



“More ICVs required to ensure we are completing one visit per week per suite”



3 new ICVs are undergoing vetting and 5 interviews have been booked in for the New Year

This has been approved by the Chief Inspector and will be utilised in the New Year prior to the inspection

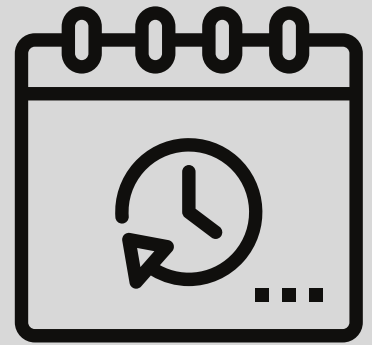
Adding a supplementary form/questions to assist ICVs with monitoring for upcoming HMICFRS inspection



# Dates for the Diary

## ICV Panel Meetings 2026

- Thursday 26th March
- Wednesday 24th June
- Tuesday 15th September
- Monday 14th December



# Training Resources

A new e-learning platform was launched in November 2025, and already has some fantastic resources on it, including an induction package for new ICVs. The platform is engaging, professional and super accessible. This platform will allow scheme managers to assign and track volunteer training, and is going to be an excellent learning experience for the ICVs due to the accessibility of the platform.

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/>

**ICVA**  
The Independent Custody  
Visiting Association





# 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](mailto:PCC@beds.police.uk)

