



GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE AUTHORITY BRIEFING PAPER

PREPARED FOR: British Transport Police

SUBJECT: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to update British Transport Police on Independent Custody Visits that have taken place between 1st April 2009 to 30th June 2009 at the custody facility at Piccadilly Train Station, Manchester.

Number of Visits

In agreement with British Transport Police, Independent Custody Visitors are scheduled to visit the BTP facility once every 4 weeks on a random basis.

During this period, 3 custody visits have taken place, and a further visit was abandoned due to volunteers being unable to gain access to the custody facility.

As the ICV report book is located within the custody suite, ICVs have now been issued with photocopy report forms so that a report can be completed if access cannot be gained to the custody facility.

ICVs have been provided with the following numbers in order to gain access to the custody facility:-

- 0161-228-4551
- 0161-228-5393

Issues Raised

On two occasions, the open bladed ligature knife has been commented on by ICVs and clarification is needed regarding the safety of this implement. The ligature knives used within GMP custody suites is a hook which folds into a casing.

No further issues have been raised during this period.

Recommendations

BTP are asked to clarify the acceptability of the ligature knife contained within the custody facility and if there are any further means of gaining entry when there are no detainees in custody and the facility is therefore un-staffed.

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