



**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL – 25 JANUARY 2016**

**POOLE CUSTODY**

**REPORT BY THE SCHEME MANAGER**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

*To inform visitors regarding the changes to visits to Poole Custody.*

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 As visitors are aware, Poole Custody Suite has not been permanently operational for a number of years, opening only when required due to the closure of either Bournemouth or Weymouth was required, or during times of high demand such as Christmas and New Year. Since October 2014, there has been an agreement in place that visitors would conduct a monthly 'viewing' only visit to Poole to ensure that it was prepared to be opened at short notice should it be required. Initially these visits were hosted by a member of the Criminal Justice Division Staff, but more recently, for the sake of convenience for all, the Scheme Manager has accompanied the visitors.

**2. THREAT LEVEL**

2.1 With the increasing threat of terrorism, the Force have made a decision to keep Poole Custody as a sterile suite, therefore a decision has been made to cease the viewing visits with immediate effect.

**3. TERRORISM ACT TRAINED VISITORS**

3.1 In 2010 the Police Authority decided to arrange for Security Clearance level vetting and appropriate training for a team of 4 Independent Custody Visitors to enable them to make custody visits to any person being detained by Dorset Police under the Terrorism Act 2000. This was reviewed in 2013 by the Police and Crime Commissioner and for a number of reasons (shown below) a decision was made to withdraw the option for TACT visitors. Any detention under TACT must be advised to the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, David Anderson QC, for this reason we notified him of our decision not to provide TACT visitors. Advising Mr Anderson of this decision ensures that ensures that he has the opportunity to provide and external independent monitoring detention under the Act.

3.2 In the last 5 years, Dorset Police have not detained anyone under the Terrorism Act. Given the infrequency of the detention of people under the Act against the significant cost of vetting to the appropriate level and the requirement for annual refresher training for 4 visitors, we remain resolute that we will not provide TACT visitors.

3.3 Should the situation change in the future and there is an increase in the number of people held under the Act then we will revisit this decision.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 Panel members are asked to note the changes to viewing visits and the contents of this report.

Yvonne Fenwick  
Scheme Manager