



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**  
**4 March 2014**

**Decision**

**UKBA Custody Visiting Provision**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. Attached to this report is a copy of the draft Notice of decision on which the Commissioner seeks the Board's comments.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Commissioner has indicated that he will seek the views of the Board on any decisions that he intends to make. Attached to this report at **Annex A** is a copy of the draft decision report.
3. Although Independent Custody Visiting is not a statutory requirement for the UK Border Agency (UKBA) it has been decided that for reasons of public confidence and transparency a scheme be introduced to visit the custody site at Birmingham Airport. UKBA has made a request that the WMOPC Custody Visiting Scheme provide this service behalf of the UKBA.
4. It is proposed that a team of trained and experienced ICVs undertake at least one unannounced visit per month to the custody site. In addition when a person is detained in custody the Custody Officer will contact the PCC Scheme Manager who will ascertain whether a pair of ICVs would be available to conduct a visit. As it is not a regular occurrence for persons to be detained at the site it was thought that this would be an additional mechanism to increase both public confidence and transparency. This means that detainees are offered visits and it helps to prevent visits to empty custody sites. This 'pre planned' notification procedure is the same as for visits to the Terrorist Act custody site.
5. A quarterly report will be provided to the UKBA giving a general overview of the visits made.
6. The ICV service shall operate in line with the WMOPC Custody Visitor Policy. Given the small scale of the requested service it will not be necessary to increase the level of resources currently in place.

7. UKBA has prepared a draft contract which sets out the nature of the agreement and the requirements of each organisation. In return for providing the service, the Commissioner shall receive a nominal payment.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

8. The Board is asked to comment on the contents of this report.

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