



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

**STANDARDS FOR INSPECTING COURT
CUSTODY VEHICLES IN SCOTLAND**

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Introduction and Background

This report is part of the programme of inspections of Court Custody Vehicles (CCVs) carried out by HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS). These inspections contribute to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). OPCAT requires that all places of detention are visited regularly by independent bodies – known as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) – which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detention. HMIPS is one of several bodies making up the NPM in the UK.

The inspections of CCVs are informed by our set of Standards for Inspecting and Monitoring first published by HMIPS April 2018.

These Standards contribute positively to the effective scrutiny of CCVs in Scotland, and will encourage continuous improvement in the quality of care and custody of people transported in CCVs.

The Standards provide assurance to Ministers and the public that inspections are conducted in line with a framework that is consistent, and that assessments are made against appropriate criteria. This report is set out to reflect the performance against these Standards.

HMIPS assimilates information resulting in evidence-based findings utilising a number of different techniques. These include:

- obtaining information and documents from the CCVs inspected;
- shadowing and observing staff as they perform their duties within the CCVs;
- interviewing custodies and staff on a one-to-one basis;
- inspecting a wide range of facilities impacting on both custodies and staff; and
- reviewing policies, procedures and performance reports

The information gathered facilitates the compilation of a complete analysis of the CCVs against the Standards used. A record of the evidence gathered is produced by those undertaking the inspection.

HMIPS will make the presumption that any vehicle inspected by them is road legal and complies with all construction and use requirements.

Vehicle Registration Number	Depot	Location of inspection	Type of vehicle

Standards, commentary and quality indicators

Standard 2: Decency, Dignity, Respect and Equality

The custody vehicles should meet the basic requirements of decency and all custodies within custody vehicles are treated with dignity and respect, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Commentary

All custody vehicles should be of adequate size and fit for purpose for the number of custodies they are used to transport, be safe, well maintained, clean and hygienic. Each custodies should have access to toilet facilities and any comfort breaks are conducted and managed within secure premises such as Police Custody Units or Prisons. Specific provision will be provided for the sanitary needs of women.

	Quality Indicators	Satisfactory
2.1	Vehicle is clean with no rubbish within aisle/cells and all areas are odour free	
2.2	Good general level of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the vehicle	
2.3	Custodies have access to toileting facilities on request	
2.4	Any comfort breaks have been taken within secure premises	
2.5	Where a body fluid spillage kit is present within the vehicle, it is in date and usable or staff are aware of procedures to deal with such an incident	
2.6	If urine bags are present they are in date and usable by male and female custodies	
2.7	There is specific provision to meet the sanitary needs of female custodies in transit	
2.8	Hand sanitation is available and can be provided immediately prior to each mealtime	
2.9	Ambient meals meet dietary requirements, are well presented and in date	
2.10	There is drinking water on board the vehicle and it is in date	

Free text

Standard 3: Personal safety

All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of custodies while in the custody vehicles.

Commentary

All appropriate steps are taken to minimise the levels of harm to which custodies are exposed. Appropriate steps are taken to protect custodies from harm from others or themselves. Communication methods between custodies being transported and staff is effective and well signposted. Signage is clear and emergency procedures are known to staff and custodies.

	Quality Indicators	Satisfactory
3.1	Crew confirm that safety checks sheets for that day are completed and signed	
3.2	Every custody receives a safety briefing/information prior to commencement of journey	
3.3	Safety briefing is available for non - English speaking custodies	
3.4	Anti-ligature knife/scissors are readily available	
3.5	Fire extinguishers and fire blankets are fixed in place and in date and associated signage is clearly displayed	
3.6	Hand held metal detector is available and in working order	
3.7	Crew are confident in dealing with emergencies and are able to communicate contingency plans for vehicle evacuation and other unpredictable events	
3.8	If fitted CCTV equipment is in working order	
3.9	Aisles and entrance areas are free from obstruction	
3.10	Communication methods were tested and working including mobile phone	

Free text

Standard 4: Health, wellbeing and medical treatment

All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the health and wellbeing of custodies while in the custody vehicles and that appropriate and timeous medical treatment is available when required.

Commentary

Where it is necessary to do so, custodies should then receive treatment which takes account of all relevant NHS standards, guidelines and evidence-based treatments.

	Quality Indicators	Satisfactory
4.1	At least one member of staff within the vehicle is trained in emergency first aid	
4.2	First aid kits are present and in date (where not sealed)	
4.3	Procedures in place for those unable to understand English or have hearing impairments	
4.4	Provisions are made to relieve boredom and stress during long journeys	
4.5	Any custody's personal medication is documented and available if required	
4.6	Lighting is of sufficient quality to operate safely and to read by	
4.7	Air conditioning and heating is available and adequate	

Free text

Standard 5: Effective, courteous and humane exercise of authority

The implementation of security and supervisory duties is balanced by courteous and humane treatment of custodies in custody.

Commentary

Procedures security, and the personal safety, searching, supervision and escorting of custodies in custody are implemented effectively. The level of security and supervision is proportionate to the risks presented at any given time.

	Quality Indicators	Satisfactory
5.1	Escorting chains are in good condition	
5.2	Spare handcuffs are carried and in good condition	
5.3	Provisions for securely preserving evidence or unauthorised items are within the vehicle	
5.4	Provision for the safe securing and storage of sharps	
5.5	Vehicle is locked and secured when not in use or parked	
5.6	No PERs or other custody information is left in the vehicle or on display	
5.7	Custodies personal property and cash are appropriately stored	

Free text

QUALITY INDICATOR	RECOMMENDATION	RELEVANT AGENCY

QUALITY INDICATOR	GOOD PRACTICE	RELEVANT AGENCY