



Who Needs To See This Bulletin?

Please ensure this is circulated to ALL STAFF who have contact with prisoners

Please print out copies of this bulletin and distribute around your establishment. You may also wish to distribute to Managers at your establishment's morning meeting

Quick-Time Learning Bulletin Order, Control and Violence - Evidence Gathering

NOMS is committed to a zero tolerance approach to violence and will always take action on individual and / or collective acts of violence.

Over the past few weeks a total of 9 prisoners have received additional custodial sentences of up to 20 months following 2 separate incidents of concerted indiscipline.

Although the incidents were different in manner, the strength of evidence gathered by staff proved vital in securing the convictions. This bulletin promotes what you can do to help secure successful prosecutions.

KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- Developing close relationships with the police and CPS locally is essential to secure prosecutions.
- Ensure all video and still cameras have memory cards or tapes with sufficient space.
- Ensure batteries for cameras are always fully charged.
- When an incident starts, appoint a member of staff to video the incident from a safe position.
- If possible, a member of staff from the wing / area where the incident is taking place should be filming. During one incident, the member of staff was able to give a commentary, on film, of prisoner identities, actions and timeframes.
- If National Dog & Technical Support Group (NDTSG) and / or National C&R are involved, they will film their involvement in the incident. It is important that their recordings are used as evidence as well. Good practice is to coordinate the collection of this information from the prison.
- Seek assistance from the Police Intelligence Officer (PIO) and request guidance on how best to collect and preserve evidence. The PIO can assist when liaising with the police for investigations.
- Immediately after the incident, gather witness statements and compile a database pertaining to each prisoner and what they were seen to be doing.
- Once resolved, seal off the incident area to preserve the evidence, if possible.

PROMPTS FOR ACTIONS:

- Does your establishment have a video camera?
- Is the video camera maintained and accessible at short notice?
- Are staff in all areas of the establishment aware of their responsibilities in preserving evidence and maintaining a proper audit trail?
- Does the establishment have staff trained in evidence collection?
- How involved is your Police Intelligence Officer during incidents?
- Can the PIO access police training courses for prison staff (e.g. evidence gathering)?

Contacts

If you have identified learning points which may assist other establishments in delivering safer custody please contact us at [scoplearning@noms.gsi.gov.uk]. Any resulting learning bulletins will be anonymous.