



# **SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL**

**LERWICK VISITING COMMITTEE FOR LEGALISED POLICE CELLS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**31 March 2012**

# Lerwick Visiting Committee for Legalised Police Cells

## Annual Report 2011/12

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Clerk to the Visiting Committee is the Executive Manager – Governance and Law. The Members of the Visiting Committee (appointed on 23 May 2007) are:

Councillor Florence B Grains (Chairperson)  
Councillor Allison Duncan  
Councillor Leslie Angus

### 2 Report 2011/2012

- 2.1 Three meetings of the Visiting Committee have been held since 31 March 2011.
- 2.2 Members of the Visiting Committee have visited the Lerwick Legalised Cells on 13 occasions during 2011/12. A further 3 visits were carried out immediately following a Committee meeting, 13 visits were planned and no unannounced visits were made.
- 2.3 In each case, Members of the Visiting Committee found the Legalised Cells to be in a clean, warm and tidy condition, Members were met well and accompanied at all times. Prisoners were met on 12 occasions. In most instances the prisoners had no complaints regarding their conditions or treatment, the cells were reported to be warm with additional blankets provided when required, together with reading material and good food.
- 2.4 Statistics provided by the Lerwick Police Station indicate the following:

April 2011 – March 2012

Prisoners -47

Number of days legalised cells occupied - 101

Average days per prisoner - 2.15

- 2.5 The occupancy rates for this year are similar to last year. The number of days occupied is calculated in line with the Prison Service whereby a period of time up until midnight is one day, thereafter a new day (after midnight) is classed as a second day, therefore these two days in police custody may not equate to a 24 hour period.

### 3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Lerwick Visiting Committee will continue to ensure the number of visits is maintained throughout 2012/13.

Clerk to the Visiting Committee  
31 March 2012