



# **SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL**

**LERWICK VISITING COMMITTEE FOR LEGALISED POLICE CELLS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**31 March 2013**

# Lerwick Visiting Committee for Legalised Police Cells

## Annual Report 2012/13

### 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 2012) are:

Councillor Amanda Westlake (Chairperson)  
Councillor Malcolm Bell  
Councillor Allison Duncan

### 2 Report 2012/2013

- 2.1 Four meetings of the Visiting Committee have been held since 31 March 2012.
- 2.2 Members of the Visiting Committee have visited the Lerwick Legalised Cells on three occasions during 2012/13, one of which was carried out immediately following a Committee meeting, three 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 three 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 Two prisoners however complained about the lack of facilities in particular that there were no exercise area or outside smoking space. Other domestic issues were addressed by the duty officer. These complaints were reported to the Committee where they were advised that an outside smoking area was progressing. Members acknowledged that there was no suitable space available for the provision of an exercise area.
- 2.5 Statistics provided by the Lerwick Police Station indicate the following:

April 2011 – March 2012

Prisoners - 37

Number of days legalised cells occupied - 69

Average days per prisoner - 2

- 2.6 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 2013/14, until such time as the Scottish Government makes their decision following Prof. Coyle's review.

Clerk to the Visiting Committee  
31 March 2013