



Immigration Enforcement

Detention Services
3rd Floor Apollo House
36 Wellesley Rd
Croydon, CR9 3RR
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon. Caroline Nokes
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee

3 January 2023

Dear Caroline

Thank you for your email of 15 December to Dan Smith, following your recent visit to Derwentside immigration removal centre (IRC). Although Mr Smith hosted the visit, I am replying as the Director of Detention Services, as the majority of the questions relate to the operation of Derwentside IRC.

The Home Office publishes [quarterly statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2022) data on people entering and leaving detention; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2022>, as well as data on women who have either been released or returned from detention; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets#immigration-detention>.

Since Derwentside opened in December 2021, a total of 200 women have left the centre, however, as with other IRCs, it is not possible to break down this figure separately into the number of women who have either been removed from the UK or released back into the community.

The workforce requirements for Derwentside IRC reflects the lessons learned from detaining women at Yarl's Wood IRC and includes a ratio of female to male custodial staff that is appropriate for the specific needs of women in detention. It is our aim that around 60% of uniformed staff will be women. In relation to Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) employed at Derwentside, the below table shows the total and proportion of female DCOs broken down by month. Data in relation to characteristics of employees, including race and religion, is unavailable as it is not mandatory for employees to provide this information and therefore this data is not held.

Month	Total Female DCOs
Dec 2021	73 (65%)
Jan 2022	78 (67%)
Feb 2022	75 (69%)
March 2022	76 (67%)
April 2022	73 (68%)
May 2022	71 (68%)
June 2022	64 (66%)
July 2022	61 (68%)
Aug 2022	66 (65%)
Sept 2022	63 (65%)
Oct 2022	64 (62%)
Nov 2022	64 (65%)

All IRCs in England have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses commissioned by NHS England and delivered to the equivalent quality standards as services are in the community. Healthcare services at Derwentside is delivered to meet the healthcare needs of female residents. This includes healthcare services which take into account gender specific issues such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, emotional wellbeing and mental health. The healthcare provider at Derwentside makes every effort to ensure that female GPs and other healthcare professionals are available and that women are offered the option to choose to see a female healthcare professional wherever possible.

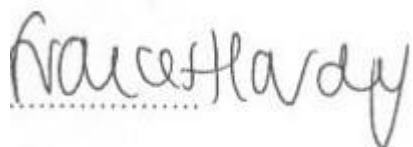
In relation to your specific ask about medical treatment received offsite, since 1 March 2022, when collation of this data commenced, 38 women at Derwentside IRC have received medical treatment offsite.

To answer your point about the cost of detention, the recently published [Home Office quarterly statistics](#) shows that, as of September 2022, the average cost of detaining an individual per day was £115.32. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a breakdown of the average cost to detain an individual at Derwentside due to commercial sensitivities.

In relation to notices of intent, Mr Smith recalls stating that only men had been served notices of return / removal for relocation to Rwanda. I would like to clarify that it is correct that a small number of women have been served with notices of intent, however no women have been issued with a notice of return / removal, which is the second step in the inadmissibility process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and I hope that this reply addresses the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Frances Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the first part of the signature, there is a dotted line.

Frances Hardy
Director, Detention Services