

MONITORING PLACES OF DETENTION DURING COVID-19

A TABLE OF RESPONSES BY NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISMS AND OTHER MONITORING BODIES TO COVID-19 IN DETENTION CONTEXTS



Ms. Debra Long
Co-Deputy Director
Human Rights Implementation Centre
University of Bristol Law School

Professor Rachel Murray
Director, Human Rights Implementation Centre
University of Bristol Law School

Introduction

Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the imposition of stringent lockdown and quarantine measures as well as social distancing, pose particular challenges for those who are detained, the staff supporting and managing detention facilities and others who engage with them. As identified by the WHO : ‘people in prisons and other places of detention are not only likely to be more vulnerable to infection with COVID-19, they are also especially vulnerable to human rights violations’ (15 March 2020: https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/434026/Preparedness-prevention-and-control-of-COVID-19-in-prisons.pdf?ua=1).

Challenges arise, both within the various traditional detention contexts such as prisons, youth offending and police facilities, court cells, immigration, psychiatric and social care settings, and also for new places of detention that have emerged during the pandemic, such as quarantine. National governments’ responses to the pandemic have taken place against a backdrop of chronic under-resourcing and poor conditions of detention (<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Tackling%20discrimination.pdf>). As the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights in the UK noted ‘The Covid-19 pandemic poses significant risks to people in detention and otherwise deprived of their liberty. Places of detention are often overcrowded, and social distancing is difficult to maintain when detainees live in close proximity to one another... In the circumstances, it is right that the Government’s response to Covid-19 in detention settings should receive particular scrutiny from a human rights perspective.’ (paras. 98 & 99: JCHR Report on Government’s response to Covid19 HC265, <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2649/documents/26914/default/>).

States that have ratified the UN Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) are required to designate or establish a ‘national preventive mechanism’ (NPM) which could be composed of one or more organisations, whose purpose was to prevent torture by, among other things, undertaking visits to places where people are, or may be, deprived of their liberty. Back in March and April 2020 when many countries were first in lockdown it was apparent that visits to places of detention were strictly limited if not stopped completely. However, as the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) has acknowledged during the early stages of the pandemic, ‘whilst the manner in which preventive visiting is conducted will almost certainly be affected by necessary measures taken in the interests of public health, this does not mean that preventive visiting should cease’ (Advice, 25 March 2020: <https://undocs.org/CAT/OP/10>).

We were struck by some of the innovative ways in which NPMs were trying to manage this while undertaking a monitoring role.

- How to uphold the principle of do no harm while at the same time monitoring the safety of those detained, the staff in those facilities and those monitors still undertaking visits to detention facilities;
- Adapting methodologies to undertake preventive visits and preventive monitoring;
- Inclusion of additional issues that may need monitoring (such as the provision of PPE in detention facilities);
- Considering how existing human rights standards need to be interpreted in the new context; for example ensuring detainees are protected from the virus whilst appropriate access to the facilities, activities and human contact required to ensure their safety, mental and physical health and rehabilitation
- Recognising new vulnerabilities while not forgetting marginalised and other groups who may be at risk.

With funding from and in collaboration with the Zahid Mubarek Trust (ZMT), Prof Nick Hardwick at Royal Holloway University, and with the support of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), we have gathered information on the initial responses by NPMs, and in some instances other detention monitoring bodies, around the world to restrictions imposed in detention contexts by Governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This table summarises our findings. The information contained within this table was gathered from publicly available information.

The table will continue to be updated and we would welcome information from organisations on any updates or corrections to assist us to continue to gather and share information. Please send further information to Debra Long at: debra.long@bristol.ac.uk

<u>Type of response</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Measures adopted by the monitoring body in response to COVID-19</u>
I. Visiting methodology		
a) On site visits		
	Bolivia	<p>During the early stages of the health emergency, the NPM carried out a preventive visit to a detention centre in La Paz where women are detained with their young children, in order to monitor health protocols and recommend appropriate health and hygiene measures. The NPM also distributed PPE and hygiene products to the women and their children, as the authorities were unable to carry out such distributions. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.10)</p>
	Chile	<p>The NHRI has visited prisons following riots, and were able to detect inadequate confinement conditions (including overcrowding) of potential COVID-19 patients. (https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.29)</p>
	Georgia	<p>Ombudsman Office: From 16 March 2020, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19, the office shifted to a new socially distanced working model. They decided “not to discontinue individual visits in prisons. In a two-month period, they managed to meet with more than 100 prisoners, using glass barriers and other measures to minimise the risk as much as possible.” https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/</p>
	Georgia	<p>“Regular NPM visits were postponed given the new and emerging challenges to address with COVID-19 – instead, we planned and implemented new approaches to monitoring in detention facilities with quarantines (e.g distance monitoring). https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/</p>
	Italy	<p>The NPM found it necessary to conduct visits during and after widespread riots in prisons. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.10)</p>

	Kazakhstan	The NPM was involved in the development of a plan with the Prosecutor General’s Office, the Ministry of Interior, and CSOs for “special visits” during the lockdown to penitentiary facilities. This allowed the NPM to maintain preventive visits to selected places of detention in maximum compliance with sanitary and epidemiological requirements of the authorities. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.10)
	Lithuania	Visited centre for migrants – but call into question purpose of those centres designed to remove people from the country when they cannot be removed. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/414735213
	Lithuania	Visited establishments for the elderly and disabled persons APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/414735213
	New Zealand	Some remote monitoring but short, targeted on-site visits too. The NZ Ombudsman carried out visits to 9 prisons between 29 April and 8 May 2020 – noting concerns with some restrictions in place i.e. lack of access to fresh air and to activities https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/opcat-covid-19-report-report-inspections-prisons-under-crimes-torture-act-1989
	Philippines	Places of detention closed to visitors in February 2020. Interim NPM wrote to and monitored places of detention to ensure alternative modes of communication and visits. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.30
	UK (Care inspectorate)	They have carry out targeted inspections that are short, focused and carried out with colleagues from Health Improvement Scotland and Health Protection Scotland, to assess care and support for people experiencing care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/coronavirus-professionals/inspection-during-covid-19

	UK (Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland)	Some inspections are being carried out. The Chief Inspector visited Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre on or around 18 June 2020 to view the arrangements in place to protect staff and young people from Covid-19 and hear about their experiences. http://www.cjini.org/NewsAndEvents/Latest-News/Chief-Inspector-visits-Woodlands-Juvenile-Justice.aspx
	UK (Care and Quality Commission Wales)	Site visits will only occur when absolutely necessary and if there are no other means of assessing the suitability of the premises. https://careinspectorate.wales/200323-coronavirus-covid-19-our-approach-registration-and-variation-applications
	UK (HMIP)	Developed short scrutiny visits (one-day duration) carried out by a smaller delegation (two or three inspectors) with a health inspector to prisons and other places of deprivation of liberty. Such visits focus on issues essential to the safety, care and basic rights of those detained in the current circumstances. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.10; see also https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/about-hmi-prison/covid-19/short-scrutiny-visits/ ; and https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/05/Locals-SSV-web-2020.pdf) Short scrutiny visits in which three similar establishments (for example, young offender institutions or local prisons) are visited. The aim of these visits is not to report on how an establishment meets HMI Prisons' Expectations, as in a regular full inspection, but to give a snapshot of how it is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to share any positive practice found. The purpose of our current approach is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fulfil HMI Prisons' statutory duty to report on treatment and conditions effectively, without adding unreasonable burdens to a system currently dealing with unprecedented challenges • promote transparency about the response to COVID-19 in places of detention and ensure that lessons can be learned quickly • use an adapted methodology which provides effective independent scrutiny while adhering at all times to the 'do no harm' principle. This means that HMI Prisons will not put detainees, prison staff or its own staff at unreasonable risk and will work in line with national public health guidance. https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/05/Locals-SSV-web-2020.pdf

	UK (HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland)	Has formal liaison visits grounded in human rights and based on an assessment of risk to any prison establishment where they believe there is an urgency to visit. The liaison visit framework involves ad hoc visits by and a one day inspection visit carried out by HMIPS and healthcare partners https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	Some have continued to do visits to police facilities with safety measures in place; https://icva.org.uk/covid19-update-from-chief-executive/
	UK (Independent Monitoring Boards)	Boards are able to carry out some limited on-site work https://www.imb.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-update-from-imb-national-chair/ (30 March 2020)
	UK (Ofsted)	They will usually only carry out on-site visits to social care providers when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • off-site inspection activity has raised concerns and the provider has been unable to provide sufficient evidence that allows us to decide that children are safe • They have received information that has raised concerns that we can only fully consider through an on-site visit • They must visit to be able to decide whether to take, or to stop taking, regulatory action There may be other circumstances in which they decide that an on-site visit is necessary, but they will decide on a case-by-case basis. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update#regulatory-work

	UK (Ofsted)	<p>They will usually announce an urgent monitoring visit so that we can take account of the circumstances, such as whether any children are self-isolating.</p> <p>In some cases, they may consider that the risks are so great that they need to visit unannounced. When this happens, the inspector will explain on arrival why they have come and ask the provider to take action so that they can safely enter. The inspector will usually stay outside while they do this.</p> <p>Inspectors will plan the visit to ensure that they are on site for the minimum amount of time. In announced visits, they will agree in advance with the registered provider what activity they will carry out.</p> <p>The inspector will ask the provider to try to limit the number of children and staff that they will need to see, talk to or meet with. They will ask the provider to ensure that any child who is self-isolating or unwell is able to stay in their bedroom or in a room not required for the visit. Inspectors will follow government guidance on, for example, washing hands, physical contact and social distancing. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update#regulatory-work</p>
	Uruguay	<p>Based on the principle of ‘do no harm’ they drew up a road map for each of the visits – including maximum number of people to visit an institution; maximum length of time for a visit (2 hours) – had focused and periodic visits to places APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/438897506</p>
b) Remote monitoring		
	Australia	<p>In New South Wales, the oversight body has conducted a virtual inspection of a correctional centre. The inspection process had been planned independently of COVID-19 and the oversight body had conducted a pre-inspection visit to the centre prior to the adoption of restrictive measures. The virtual inspection enabled confidential interviews with staff and prisoners to proceed during the week scheduled for the on-site inspection, with video footage and photos supplied to the inspection team in lieu of on-site observation. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.10-11)</p>

	Georgia	<p>“Regular NPM visits were postponed given the new and emerging challenges to address with COVID-19 – instead, we planned and implemented new approaches to monitoring in detention facilities with quarantines (e.g distance monitoring).</p> <p>https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/</p>
	New Zealand	<p>Have carried out some remote monitoring.</p> <p>https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/opcat-covid-19-report-report-inspections-prisons-under-crimes-torture-act-1989</p>
	UK (Care Quality Commission)	<p>Mental Health Act Reviewers will conduct checks remotely and will complete site visits if they identify concerns. Mental Health Act Reviewers will work with local advocates and groups to reach people and families through the phone and online.</p> <p>https://nhsproviders.org/topics/covid-19/coronavirus-member-support/national-guidance/changes-in-regulation/care-quality-commission-approach</p>
	UK (Care Inspectorate Wales)	<p>Monitoring activity in adult and children’s services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular check-in telephone calls to providers. Information captured on a survey and stored in an online records management system (CaSSI). • Themes are then collated and analysed. • Daily analysis of notifications relating to COVID-19. Follow-up with providers where necessary (for example, high numbers) with responses recorded in CaSSI. • Daily analysis of deaths reported in care homes. Follow-up with providers where necessary (for example, high numbers) with responses recorded in CaSSI. <p>https://careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2020-05/200513-approach-to-assurance-during-COVID-19-en.pdf</p>
	UK (Healthcare Inspectorate of Wales)	<p>HIW is continuing to monitor and risk assess settings and services though established intelligence feeds. This includes monitoring of performance measures, analysis of serious incidences and public concerns. Our first point of contact and concerns functions remain fully operational.</p> <p>https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0</p>

	UK (HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland)	<p>HMIPS have also developed a remote monitoring framework for independent prison monitors (IPMs). Volunteers phone the prison, talk to prisoners, talk to staff, and gather intelligence https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf</p> <p>https://www.prisoninspectorescotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/news_attachments/HMIPS%20-%20Independent%20Prison%20Monitoring%20-%20Remote%20Monitoring%20Framework%20-%2024%20April%202020.pdf</p>
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	<p>some remote visits after midnight, ensuring that the unannounced element of independent custody visiting continues https://icva.org.uk/covid19-update-from-chief-executive/</p>
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	<p>Members have been using video conferencing on mobile phones to ensure ‘virtual’ visits can continue to take place. The first call took place at the Nuneaton Custody Centre, Warwickshire, the week of 17 April 2020. Such calls enable members to remain at home while being shown around the facilities by a detention officer and also speak with detainees remotely. https://icva.org.uk/guest-blog-using-technology-to-continue-monitoring-warwickshire-opcc/</p>
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	<p>Unannounced monitoring calls to each of Surrey’s custody facilities. During these calls, ICVs talk through each detainee with a Sergeant ensuring they have had their rights and entitlements met, that appropriate adults and solicitors have been called (and are available where necessary) and that custody staff are happy with hand washing and PPE provision etc. Any concerns can be raised in the usual way, either to a more senior officer on the day or directly to [Scheme manager who can] then dip into custody records to check things out. https://icva.org.uk/guest-blog-continuing-monitoring-remotely-a-scheme-managers-reflections/</p>
	UK	<p>The NPM was granted online access to the police tracking system and is now monitoring police custody remotely. <u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u>, p.13)</p>

	UK (Independent Custody Visitors Scotland)	Put in place remote monitoring to reviewing custody records to monitor the care provided to detainees. http://www.spa.police.uk/icvs/615215/ Any concerns have been raised with Police Scotland and raised with SPA Policing Performance Committee. http://www.spa.police.uk/icvs/615215/
	UK (Lay Observers)	Have developed a distance monitoring programme with a team of LOs contacting custody suites and vehicle bases to ask a series of questions on: the treatment of suspected COVID-19 detainees; the health and hygiene in custody suites; and the care of vehicles and transportation https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf
	UK (Ofsted)	They will decide what needs to be done on or off site on a case-by-case basis, considering the lines of enquiry and the apparent level of risk. They will carry out as much of their activity as possible off site. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update#regulatory-work
c) monitoring new detention contexts (e.g. quarantine)		
	Hungary	The NPM requested the authorities to designate a contact person who would be available at short notice, and provide information about the setting up of new and temporary places of detention. <i>APT/OSCE Guidance, p.13</i>
d) New visiting guidance to respond to COVID-19		

	UK (Care Inspectorate)	<p>Developed a new Key Question and three quality indicators Key question: How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>7.1 People’s health and wellbeing are supported and safeguarded during the COVID-19 pandemic. 7.2 Infection control practices support a safe environment for both people experiencing care and staff. 7.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of people experiencing care. https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/coronavirus/QReality_indicators_Key_question_7.pdf</p>
2. NPM staffing and strategic arrangements		
a) maintaining staff contact and planning		
	Argentina	<p>The Procuración Penitenciaria de la Nación is using video conferencing, the team continues to hold meetings on a daily basis. By the same means, they meet twice a week with project facilitators. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.38.</p> <p>A special work regime was established to guarantee the coverage of the tasks that it carries out and thus preserve the access of detained persons to the attention of their rights and specific needs. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.41</p>
	Brazil	<p>NPM members have divided up the tasks of monitoring the measures being adopted in each state of the country. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/418866710</p>
	Georgia	<p>We developed special monitoring tools for COVID-specific situations in closed institutions (preventive health mechanisms, overcrowding etc), particularly prisons, ensuring our monitoring doesn’t harm people detained.” https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/</p>

	New Zealand	The number of inspectors available to respond to complaints and issues raised has been doubled, and the Inspectorate moved to a seven day a week operation from the first week of lockdown. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p. 36
	Togo	Had a period of reflection – internal training on how members can be protected against the virus using in-house medical expertise. They developed and adopted an internal response plan. They are also using the time to finalise their annual activity report. APT podcast https://vimeo.com/422367212
	Uruguay	Based on the principle of ‘do no harm’ they drew up a road map for each of the visits – including maximum number of people to visit an institution; maximum length of time for a visit (2 hours) – had focused and periodic visits to places APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/438897506
	UK (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales)	HIW is in the process of planning a new work programme to commence during the summer, concentrating on those areas where we consider there to be the highest risk of quality standards not being met and where we can make the biggest difference. The new plan will also align with the early focus of the NHS Wales COVID-19 Operating Framework on key areas of harm and essential services https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	ICVA have also created a community hub where scheme managers can share ideas and resources on monitoring https://icva.org.uk/coronavirus-update-from-chief-executive/
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors Scotland)	The team have been engaging via email and telephone with ICVs and encouraging them to feedback on any of the searches carried out. At the end of April, the East and North Coordinators started teleconference meetings with the ICVs and Cluster Inspectors in their region to discuss and raise any issues or concerns. In the West, the use of emails and telephone calls involving visitors and cluster inspector still continues. http://www.spa.police.uk/icvs/615215/

	UK (Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland)	As part of our safeguarding role, the Commission is responsible for arranging visits from designated medical practitioners (psychiatrists who are independent from the team treating a patient) to give second opinions to treatment in certain circumstances. Given the potential pressure on capacity to undertake these visits, the Commission is currently prioritising second opinions visits so that the most urgent are guaranteed. They will continue to monitor the situation. https://www.mwscot.org.uk/news/mental-welfare-commission-coronavirus-response-updated-24-march
b) PPE for NPM staff		
	Kyrgyzstan	One of the first actions taken by the NPM was to help allocate donated protective suits, respirators, glasses and gloves to their staff. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.9)
3. Focus on other aspects of mandate		
	Togo	They are also using the time to finalise their annual activity report. APT podcast https://vimeo.com/422367212
	UK (Care Inspectorate Wales)	Whilst they have paused their routine inspection regime, they will prioritise and divert additional resources to registration and variation work. https://careinspectorate.wales/200323-coronavirus-covid-19-our-approach-registration-and-variation-applications
	UK (Health Inspectorate Wales)	In the absence of site visits and face-to-face interviews, work on the reviews programme continuing where possible e.g. a report on the work undertaken so far on the National Review of Maternity Services will be produced, which draws on public and staff surveys. https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0
	UK (Health Inspectorate Wales)	HIW is also continuing work with Audit Wales on its data review of Unscheduled Care, and will also be contributing to Audit Wales' work looking at Quality Governance across health boards and trusts https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0

	UK (Ofsted)	Suspended all routine inspections. Will continue important regulatory work to help maintain social care (SC) provision for the most vulnerable children, and the registration of vital early years (EY) services. This includes reviewing notifications from providers and other information they receive. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update#regulatory-work
	UK (Ofsted)	Temporarily adjusted their regulatory and inspection activity to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision that causes concern • the need to register new provision • expansion to existing provision https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update#regulatory-work
4. Data collection and analysis		
a) Across the NPM		
	New Zealand	The Inspectorate is maintaining oversight of the number and categories of complaints received by the inspectorate and within each prison, including a close examination of all complaints connected with COVID-19. This will enable any concerning issues or trends to be identified at pace, and passed to the Department for resolution. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p. 36
	Togo	They are using their regional officers to gather information. APT podcast https://vimeo.com/422367212
b) Contact with detainees		
	Albania	The NPM has established daily contact with authorities to gather information. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.13.)
	Argentina	They follow up with individuals deprived of their liberty, as well as their families, by telephone. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.38.

	Australia	In Victoria the Ombuds institution has set up a hotline for detainees to leave messages that are processed on the same day. Informational posters have been disseminated inside prisons and youth detention facilities to explain the new arrangements (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.12)
	Georgia	Members of the NPM have joined closed Facebook groups for people quarantined in such centres (with the consent of the group members). This allows the NPM to access information about conditions and treatment shared by people held in the centres, including through live video broadcasting. The NPM has been able to identify and follow up with quarantined individuals in some cases. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.12.)
	Ireland	The Office of Inspector of Prisons (OiP) issued a special writing journal to 88 prisoners across several prisons. Prisoners who were/are under protective health measures by the Irish Prison Service were selected to take part in order to report their experiences of this period. The journals were left with the prisoners for 14 days with the aid of Irish Red Cross volunteers in each of the prisons involved.
	Kazakhstan	The NPM reached an agreement with the Ministry of Interior and the Prosecutor General’s Office to use video or telephone communications with detainees. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health measures necessitated by it, the NPM has established a practice of interviewing people within the penitentiary system and other places of detention online. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.12)
	Kazakhstan	The NPM branch of East Kazakhstan and CSO partners held an online meeting with imprisoned people at a very early stage of the pandemic. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.11)
	New Zealand	The Inspectorate “is now managing all complaints and issues that come to us, rather than referring individuals back to the established complaints process. This allows the Inspectorate to identify any emerging risks and challenges which can then be communicated to the Department so appropriate and timely action can be taken. We have designed a poster for prisoners outlining the new process, which has been distributed to all prisons.” https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p. 36
	New Zealand	The Chief inspector has “written an ‘open letter’ to all prisoners explaining the Inspectorate’s role and what we are doing to ensure their fair treatment. I have also written to all Prison Directors to outline our processes.” https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p. 36

	Norway	The Parliamentary Ombudsman decided on 11 March 2020 to suspend its physical inspections but in order to collect data for a report on protecting inmates during the pandemic they distributed a survey to a selection of inmates in four prisons. (https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-versjon_2.pdf , p. 12)
	Paraguay	The NPM receives direct complaints from detainees through a telephone hotline. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.12)
	Paraguay	The NPM responded to a request from detainees to facilitate a videoconference meeting between them and a wide range of authorities – including judges, public defenders, public prosecutors and members of the Ministry of Justice. Following this meeting, a task force will be set up to address overcrowding in places of deprivation of liberty. APT/OSCE Guidance, p.12.)
	Togo	Due to the lockdown and curfew in place they have not been able to visit in person but they have kept in contact with prisons and other places of detention; they accept complaints. APT podcast https://vimeo.com/422367212
	UK (Care and Quality Commission)	The CQC will still monitor the services using information such as people's feedback about their experience of using them https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-purpose-role/how-we-do-our-job-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors Scotland)	Maintaining oversight by the use of telephone monitoring allowed custody visitors to carry out interviews with detainees. Telephone monitoring testing took place over two weeks which allowed the team to sort out any issues/changes to the process and engage with partners such as Police Scotland. This was rolled out nationally on 1 June and to date there has been 36 successful calls made to police custody. http://www.spa.police.uk/icvs/615215/

	UK (Independent Monitoring Boards)	<p>Freephone application line for prisoners put in place on 27 April 2020.</p> <p>Ten thousand prisoners in 13 pilot prisons will be able to call for free from a phone in their cell or a communal phone. Lines will be open from 7am-7pm seven days a week during the six-week trial, taking live calls from prisoners for eight hours each day, with a backup voicemail service outside this core period or when lines are busy. The prisoner's concerns will be passed on to the relevant board, who will respond through the 'email a prisoner' service, or through the normal IMB routes or the IMB clerk.</p> <p>Like calls to the Samaritans, these calls will be confidential, and not recorded by HMPPS.</p> <p>https://www.imb.org.uk/independent-monitors-launch-new-hotline-for-prisoners-to-report-concerns-during-pandemic/</p>
	UK (Independent Monitoring Boards)	<p>Freephone messaging service for people in immigration detention was put in place.</p> <p>The freephone messaging service will be piloted 24 hours a day at all IRCs for an initial period of six to eight weeks, from Monday 4 May. Publicity materials sent to the centres for distribution and will also be available in nine languages but the number is not being promoted beyond the centres, to ensure that lines are kept open exclusively for people in detention.</p> <p>https://www.imb.org.uk/freephone-messaging-service-launched-for-people-in-immigration-detention/</p>
	UK (Lay Observers)	<p>A free phone line for detainees in prisons to raise any issues about their treatment in court custody or during transportation</p> <p>https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf</p>

	UK (Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme)	Can be contacted by phone for urgent matters. All queries will be taken and passed to appropriate member of staff. Email also possible https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/covid-19
	UK (Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority)	Have a phone line and app for people to contact the organisation. The RQIA Update app allows care service managers to contact the RQIA, raise issues and request a call back from one of the Inspectors. https://www.rqia.org.uk/guidance/coronavirus/ https://rqiani.glideapp.io/
c) Contact with the authorities		
	Argentina	the PPN requested the SPF send updated information regarding the situation of each penitentiary under its jurisdiction. In this sense, the SPF, through the health sectors of each unit/complex, prepared a report of the detainees who belong to an identified risk group. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.40
	Brazil	The NPM requests information about infections and deaths inside the penitentiaries, as well as preventive health and sanitary measures being taken, from the prison administration. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.14.)
	Georgia	They are “working with state institutions to conduct a transparent and frequent dialogue as well as provide them with recommendations that will help to protect people as much as possible.” https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/
	Italy	Part of crisis management - in Italy, the President of the NPM is part of the Ministry of Justice’s task force on detention and COVID-19, with the authorities recognizing the key role of NPMs in a crisis of this nature. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.6)

	Lithuania	<p>Closure of places of detention to external visits have made it difficult for the NPM to carry out its mandate. They have focused on building a collaborative relationship with the authorities, checking documents and have video conference calls.</p> <p>APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/414735213</p>
	Norway	<p>To gather data for a report the Ombudsman gathered data via a Letter from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Ministry of Health and Care Services, received on 20 April and 4 June, respectively; from the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service and the Norwegian Directorate of Health; via phone interviews with prison management in ten prisons, as well as written information and procedures from the prisons; and written information and procedures obtained from prison healthcare services in eight prisons; as well as Phone interviews with the chairs of the five Supervisory Boards for the Norwegian Correctional Service.</p> <p>(https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-versjon_2.pdf, p.12)</p>
	New Zealand	<p>Clinical inspectors (who are registered nurses) have contacted all prison health centre managers to explain the change in processes and hear any concerns. This engagement remains ongoing.</p> <p>https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p. 36</p>
	Philippines	<p>Have requested data on COVID-19 infections among detention population. Members have conducted webinars with personnel from places of detention</p> <p>APT podcast – https://vimeo.com/429231818</p>
	Portugal	<p>The NPM strengthened information channels with authorities, reaching an agreement to share new orders for prison administrations with the NPM immediately.</p> <p>(APT/OSCE Guidance, p.13)</p>
	Romania	<p>The NPM has established daily contact with authorities to gather information.</p> <p>(APT/OSCE Guidance, p.13.)</p>

	UK (Care Inspectorate Wales)	<p>Monitoring activity in adult and children’s services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular check-in telephone calls to providers. Information captured on a survey and stored in an online records management system (CaSSI). • Themes are then collated and analysed. • Daily analysis of notifications relating to COVID-19. Follow-up with providers where necessary (for example, high numbers) with responses recorded in CaSSI. • Daily analysis of deaths reported in care homes. Follow-up with providers where necessary (for example, high numbers) with responses recorded in CaSSI. <p>https://careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2020-05/200513-approach-to-assurance-during-COVID-19-en.pdf</p>
	UK (Care Inspectorate Wales)	<p>Continuing to provide a single point of contact for providers and members of the public.</p> <p>https://careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2020-05/200513-approach-to-assurance-during-COVID-19-en.pdf</p>
	UK (Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland)	<p>The Chief Inspector is maintaining close communication with the Department of Justice to ensure she is aware of any changes to the regime in prisons and the Juvenile Justice Centre. https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf</p>
	UK (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales)	<p>In independent healthcare settings - HIW will continue to work with the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU) ensuring that enhanced arrangements are in place to monitor patient and staff safety in independent mental health hospitals at this challenging time. This includes assurance on business continuity arrangements and regular updates on staffing levels at all hospitals. NCCU have established a command centre approach so that hospitals have direct access to support and advice. Any issues arising are shared with HIW.</p> <p>https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0</p>
	UK (HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland)	<p>Report every 2 or 3 weeks to Cabinet Secretary of Justice</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/435009518?ref=tw-share</p>

	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	Some schemes set up dip checking for custody records and got access to performance data https://icva.org.uk/covid-19-update-from-chief-executive/
	UK (Independent Monitoring Boards)	All boards to receive daily updates from the establishment they monitor and updated regime management plans https://www.imb.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-update-from-imb-national-chair/ (30 March 2020)
	UK (Independent Monitoring Boards)	Where possible Boards are dialling in to meetings that they cannot attend https://www.imb.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-update-from-imb-national-chair/ (30 March 2020)
	UK (Lay Observers)	Although personal visits to courts by LOs – who are based across England and Wales – have been deferred for now, members of the team are in regular contact with the officers who drive the detainees to and from court and the custody staff who look after them whilst at court. https://layobservers.org/court-custody-watchdog-praises-staff-dedication-during-covid-19-outbreak/ Regular discussions are held with HMCTS, PECs and contractors https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf
	UK (Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority)	Have developed a RQIA Web Portal to allow Nursing and Residential Care Homes to update HSC organisations about information pertaining to Covid-19 in a streamlined and timely way. https://www.rqia.org.uk/guidance/guidance-for-service-providers/covid-19-(coronavirus)/

	Uruguay	NPM requested information from the authorities and psychiatric institutions they were monitoring on their contingency, protocols and situation of persons under their care – on their health and conditions, and any outbreaks of COVID-19 and held virtual meetings with the authorities to follow-up on the recommendations in their statement on urgent protection measures for facilities (including psychiatric institutions) and the request for information. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/438897506
d) Collaboration with CSOs and other stakeholders		
	Brazil	Local Preventive Mechanism of the State of Rio de Janeiro – has developed a platform, together with a social movement and DataLab organisation to collect ‘denunciations’ of individual or collective cases, focused on access to health as well as institutional violence. They have also systematically collected data and cross checked it against State information – so they have noticed the bottlenecks within penitentiary and socio-education systems APT Podcast - https://vimeo.com/441310232
	Italy	The NPM has been in close contact with penitentiary workers, volunteers operating in prison and a network of local oversight institutions. Together they identified common objectives and presented some co-ordinated recommendations to the authorities. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.7)
	Italy	Close co-operation with the Italian ombuds network, as well as with CSOs that have regular contact with individuals deprived of liberty and their families across the country, has also proved useful. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.15)
	Kazakhstan	The NPM branch of East Kazakhstan and CSO partners held an online meeting with imprisoned people at a very early stage of the pandemic. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.11)

	Norway	Gathered information for a report on the protecting prisoners during the pandemic via a variety of sources (see above) including through dialogue with non-profit organisations, such as "For Fangers Pårørende" (FFP – for families of prison inmates), the Red Cross and WayBack. (https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-versjon_2.pdf , p.12)
	Portugal	The NHRI performs the role of both NPM and ombudsperson (with some staff working across mandates), intra-institutional co-operation and exchange of information has been strengthened during this health emergency. As part of its remote monitoring activities, the NPM is able to update its knowledge on the situation in places of deprivation of liberty by consulting the individual complaints received by the ombuds' complaints department. The NPM has also strengthened its contacts with CSOs in contact with families of individuals deprived of their liberty. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.15)
	Togo	They have established an 'observatory' working with CSOs to collect information. APT podcast https://vimeo.com/422367212
	UK (Healthcare Inspectorate of Wales)	HIW is also working with partners to monitor services in regards to COVID-19, including regular intelligence sources and data analysis. https://hiw.org.uk/checking-people-wales-are-receiving-good-care-during-covid-19-pandemic-0
	UK (HMIP)	MOU developed between HMIP and Prisons & Probation Ombudsmen (PPO) for data sharing. The data provided to HMI Prisons will be used solely to inform decisions about where to undertake short scrutiny visits, and to provide background information for inspectors who undertake these visits. The PPO will provide a weekly summary of relevant (formal or informal) information or intelligence relating to the current treatment and conditions for prisoners and/or establishments' response to the COVID-19 crisis See MOU April 2020
e) use of media to monitor and gather data		
	Lithuania	The Seimas Ombudsperson has started monitoring social care homes through social media. The Human Rights Division of the Seimas Ombudsperson's Office launched a private Facebook group named "Quarantine in social care institutions", where they collect information on conditions, good practices, challenges and experiences within those institutions in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic

	Philippines	The NPM has monitored social media to gather information on specific conditions in prisons https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.30
4. Data dissemination		
a) issuing reports / briefings		
	Brazil	The Local Preventive Mechanism of the State of Rio de Janeiro publishes weekly monitoring reports consolidating all the information gathered through their remote monitoring activities, including health and sanitary conditions, preventive measures adopted by detention authorities, and COVID-19 cases and deaths inside places of detention (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.6.) APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/441310232
	Brazil	Local Preventive Mechanism of the State of Rio de Janeiro has also developed ‘technical notes’ addressing most urgent issues such as transparency, deaths, urgent need for an emergency release for the reduction of overcrowding. APT Podcast - https://vimeo.com/441310232
	Brazil	Local Preventive Mechanism of the State of Rio de Janeiro – has made ‘denunciations’ to the OAS and UN (SPT and OHCHR) APT Podcast - https://vimeo.com/441310232
	Georgia	As of 1 June “we are developing reports and recommendations to respective state institutions.” https://www.penalreform.org/blog/protecting-human-rights-in-covid-19-detention-monitoring/
	Italy	The NPM publishes an online bulletin on an almost daily basis. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.6)
	Lithuania	All activity was recorded in a daily diary which was made public – which was appreciated by the press and external organisations. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/414735213

	Norway	<p>The Ombudsman has issued several reports concerning protecting the rights of detainees during the pandemic, including a report presenting the findings of an investigation into the safeguarding of inmates in Norwegian prisons during the initial period following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-versjon_2.pdf</p> <p>And an article on the use of solitary confinement as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons, discussing the balance between infection control and human rights. https://icpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Expert-Network-Newsletter-_Special-Issue-6-CORRECTED_.pdf</p>
	Philippines	<p>Advisory and public statements have been issued on the rights of detainees during the pandemic APT podcast – https://vimeo.com/429231818</p>
	UK (Children’s Commission for England)	<p>Released a report looking at how the COVID-19 lockdown has impacted on children in custody drawing on data from Youth Custody Service supplemented with evidence from conversations with children in YCS and HMIP short scrutiny visits to YOIs https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/cco-children-in-custody.pdf</p>
	UK (HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland)	<p>HMIPS provides weekly updates and have established a series of independent prison monitors (IPM) projects to improve the service in the future. https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf</p>
	UK (Lay Observers)	<p>Weekly reports are being produced and there are regular discussions with HMCTS, PECs and contractors https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/WEB-NPM-member-approaches-for-website-.pdf</p>
	Uruguay	<p>They made a statement on urgent protection measures for facilities they were monitoring (including psychiatric institutions)</p> <p>APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/438897506</p>

5. Policy and legislative review and input		
a) on early release or reduction of detention population		
	Argentina	<p>Has issued a series of recommendations to contain and mitigate the virus within Prisons. It issued an appeal for the consideration of the release of detainees vulnerable to COVID-19. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.39</p> <p>Advocated for alternative measures to incarceration be considered in cases of: convictions for non-violent crimes or crimes of less than 3 years, people who are able to access parole in the short term, transitory or with assistance, people with care obligations over others, especially mothers with children, and people at greater risk to their health, such as older adults and pregnant women. In response, on April 13th the Federal Chamber of Criminal Cassation issued the agreed No. 9/20 in which the courts of the jurisdiction were urged to adopt alternative measures to confinement. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.39</p>
	Brazil	<p>Local Preventive Mechanism of the State of Rio de Janeiro has also developed ‘technical notes’ addressing most urgent issues such as transparency, deaths, urgent need for an emergency release for the reduction of overcrowding. APT Podcast - https://vimeo.com/441310232</p>
	France	<p>The NPM, together with the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the ombuds institution, publicly requested the Ministry of Justice to reduce the prison population and lessen overcrowding. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.7)</p>

	Honduras	The NPM advocated for the enactment of legislation aimed at reducing the number of pre-trial detainees. The law approved by the National Congress determines that individuals with pre-existing chronic diseases who belong to a risk group should have their detention revoked and replaced with a less severe non-custodial measure. Furthermore, the NPM worked with a team of medical doctors to identify detainees who fit that criteria and present a list of names to the Penitentiary Department and the competent court to enable their release. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.7)
	Lithuania	Visited centre for migrants – but call into question purpose of those centres designed to remove people from the country when they cannot be removed. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/414735213
	Philippines	Interim NPM wrote to the Secretary of justice to fast track release of certain convicted persons through pardon or parole. Urged Supreme Court to release prisoners – online bail hearings have been heard APT podcast – https://vimeo.com/429231818
	Senegal	The NPM has shared with the authorities a list of relevant criteria to consider when rolling out their release plan. It is important that such decisions be taken following vulnerability and risk assessments, in accordance with clear and transparent criteria, without discrimination. APT/OSCE Guidance, p.22
b) Safety/wellbeing measures		
	Armenia	The NPM immediately translated the guidance of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture related to COVID-19 into Armenian and sent it to the relevant authorities, including the Supreme Judicial Council, the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Ministries of Justice and Health, in order to inform the government’s actions according to these standards (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.6)

	Argentina	The PPN also recommended the SPF and the MJSyDDHH approve a budget item in order to acquire cleaning services custodial spaces and to strengthen the delivery of food and hygiene products to each person deprived of their liberty. They also requested the guarantee of that all living units will have a supply of running water. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.40
		For this aspect, the SPF made informational posters on effective hygiene techniques which were made available to all prison units for widespread dissemination of information on how to prevent COVID-19. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf , p.40
		The National Committee for the Prevention of Torture has also developed and issued general guidelines for the adoption of measures in places of detention to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure the well-being of detainees, including ensuring that detainees enjoy the same healthcare standards that are available in the outside community and that they have free access to necessary health services without discrimination based on reason for their legal situation. https://cnpt.gob.ar/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/recomendaciones-a-adoptar-en-lugares-de-detencion-a-raiz-de-la-emergencia-sanitaria.pdf
	Brazil	NPM published a technical briefing with recommendations to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in places of detention. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/418866710
	Brazil	Have taken action against the measure announced by the State of placing detainees in metal containers. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/418866710
	Brazil	NPM acted when there was a riot in a prison in Manaus. They established contact with the representatives of the State Court, Public Prosecution Office, Local Committee to Prevent Torture and others and urged the rights of those involved to be respected. APT podcast - https://vimeo.com/418866710

	Cyprus	The Ombuds institution addressed a letter to the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. The statement contained a list of guidelines and specific recommendations, in accordance with the CPT's Statement of Principles, relating to the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and requested the government to adhere to them. <u>APT/OSCE Guidance, p.23)</u>
	France	the NPM had recommended the temporary closure of administrative detention centres in light of the sanitary situation and the absence of deportation prospects. <u>(APT/OSCE Guidance, p.8)</u>
	New Zealand	Has challenged restrictions in place for people in detention during Covid-19 <u>https://www.hrc.co.nz/news/concerns-about-rights-people-detention-during-response-covid-19/</u>
	Norway	The Ombudsman reviewed opportunities for detained to maintain personal hygiene; and access to physical activity and educational services; time out of cells, use of solitary confinement <u>https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-version_2.pdf</u> , p. 16, and 22-25, 26-38.
	Spain	The ombuds institution called for the government to release those detained in immigration detention centres, putting forward similar arguments. <u>(APT/OSCE Guidance, p.8)</u>
	UK (Care Inspectorate)	Developed COVID-19 FAQs for service providers <u>https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/coronavirus-professionals/covid-19-faq</u>
	UK (Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland)	The Mental Welfare Commission is being contacted for advice on mental health care and treatment related to the pandemic. In light of this, and in anticipation of emergency legislation currently going through Parliament, they have produced an advice note for practitioners who are using the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act when caring for patients. This advice will be updated frequently as the situation develops. <u>https://www.mwscot.org.uk/news/covid-19-mental-welfare-commission-advice-note-version-11-2-july-2020</u>

c) to maintain visits		
	New Zealand	<p>The NPM questioned the authority of detention agencies to suspend all visits to places of deprivation of liberty, including statutory visitors like NPMs. The Human Rights Commission – which acts as the Central NPM – identified that such a measure is inconsistent with OPCAT, domestic legislation and constitutional conventions. “We wanted to push back against such measures immediately, in order to maintain the possibility to visit, if it was safe and appropriate for us to do so.” (<u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u>, p.6)</p> <p>https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2020-06/Report_on_inspections_of_prisons_under_the_Crimes_of_Torture_Act_1989_062020.pdf</p>
c) for detainees to maintain contact with family and outside world		
	Albania	<p>The NPM liaised with penitentiary officials to ensure that videoconferencing technologies were functioning properly, to guarantee contact outside the place of deprivation of liberty. (<u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u>, p.24)</p>
	Argentina	<p>The PPN suggested the use of cell phones during the suspension of visits, although there is still no news on their implementation. However, a protocol for video conferences was formalized so that people deprived of liberty can connect with their family. https://files.constantcontact.com/d0a15046701/d8da3387-95af-4d84-a29d-0dd09efe7359.pdf, p.41</p>
	Italy	<p>In Italy, Antigone, a CSO working closely with the Italian NPM, collected and distributed 3,000 mobile phones to prisons, to allow prisoners to maintain contact with their families. (<u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u>, p.24)</p>

	Norway	The Ombudsman analysed the legal basis for the suspension of visits by family members of detainees, and examined measures put in place to compensate for the suspended physical visits such as the provision of access to tablets/iPads, extended phone time. https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Norwegian-NPM-report-on-Covid-19_revised-versjon_2.pdf , p. 14-15, 20-21
d) maintain safeguards		
	Serbia	The Protector of Citizens issued an opinion to the Ministry of Justice about the exercise of the right to a fair trial and called on the ministry to take all measures within its competence to allow access to alternative means of communication (videoconferencing) between defendants and their defence attorney. (APT/OSCE Guidance, p.26)
	UK (HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland)	An Independent Review of Police Scotland’s use of the increased powers was announced on 9 April 2020 https://www.hmics.scot/news/updated-position-hmics-inspections
	UK (HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland)	In the process of revising the scrutiny plan for 2020-21, taking account of the terms of reference of the independent review of the use of police powers, and the oversight being applied by others, notably the Scottish Police Authority. https://www.hmics.scot/news/updated-position-hmics-inspections

	UK (Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme)	The Policing Board has asked its Human Rights Advisor to conduct a review of the PSNI's response to COVID-19. The review will consider the extent of the application the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 such along with the temporary introduction of spit and bite guards, the temporary suspension of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme and the health and safety issues for both PSNI and the public. https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/review-police-covid-19-response
	UK (Scottish Human Rights Commission)	Continued to provide advice on legislation, including emergency legislation introduced in response to COVID-19. https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/covid-19/ Jointly with the Scottish members of the NPM have written to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to highlight the importance of efforts to uphold the rights of people in detention and deprived of their liberty during the COVID-19 https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2020/04/NPM-letter-to-Cabinet-Secretary-for-Justice-re.-COVID-19.pdf
	Uruguay	Has been advocating for the rights and safeguards of those deprived of their liberty to be respected, highlighting their particular vulnerability and calling for appropriate access to health care and treatment.
6. Recognition as key workers		
	Cape Verde	The NPM has made a request for accreditation as 'essential workers' to safeguard its visiting privileges. (<u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u> , p.6)
	South Africa	The NPM has worked to have their members and staff recognized as "essential workers". They have received accreditation to that effect, which allows them to carry out some monitoring work despite curfew and restrictions of movement (e.g., roadblocks). (<u>APT/OSCE Guidance</u> , p.6)
	UK (Independent Custody Visitors)	Independent custody visitors have been designated as 'Key Workers' by the Home Office https://icva.org.uk/covid19-update-from-chief-executive/

If you have any queries, or any information to add to the table, your contact would be greatly appreciated.

Prof Rachel Murray (Rachel.Murray@bristol.ac.uk)

Debra Long (Debra.Long@bristol.ac.uk)