

# BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

## LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - SPRING 2018

In the last 12 months, **27,331** people entered immigration detention in the UK.

In the last year, BID helped **5,840** people apply for bail or challenge their deportation.

One of BID's key aims is to improve access to justice for detainees. To help with that, and to improve our own advice service, BID speaks directly to detainees twice each year so that we can document their experiences of getting legal advice while in detention.



Almost **1 in 5** detainees surveyed have **NEVER** had a legal representative while in detention.

half of those surveyed currently have a legal representative.

# 50%

Of which:



# 68%

Almost three quarters of detainees weren't taken on as Legal Aid clients following a free legal advice appointment.

# 74%

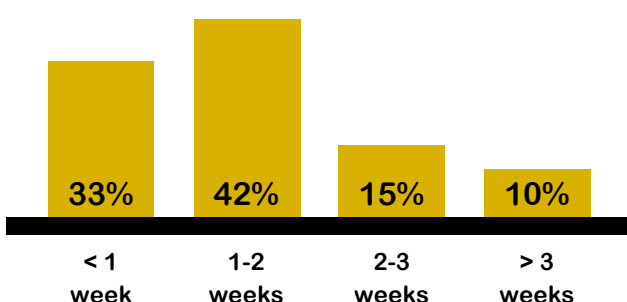
Three quarters of respondents had worked on their own immigration case.

*"Language is big problem. I don't understand the process and the people I contact don't understand my language. I am looking for a lawyer urgently"*

# 23%

Nearly a quarter of respondents had lost their legal representative on one or more occasion as the result of a transfer between IRCs.

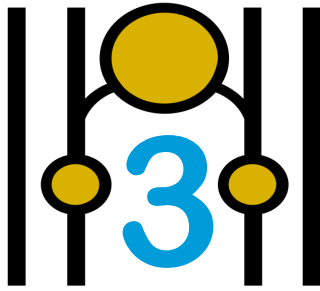
Time spent waiting for a 30 minute free legal advice appointment



# 57%

of detainees without a legal representative cited money as the main reason they were unable to get legal assistance.

Over **half** the detainees surveyed had been moved to an Immigration Removal Centre after serving a prison sentence (**51%**).



Just **3 out of 50** detainees received any advice about their **case from an immigration solicitor** while they were in prison.



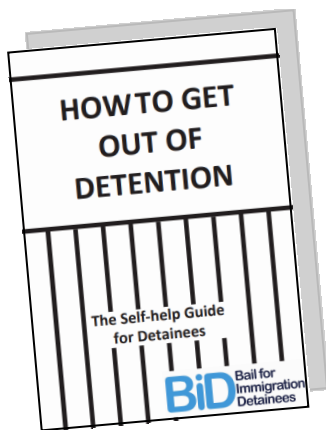
Just **20%** of those who had an appointment with the legal aid solicitor in detention received specific advice about their case.



**73%** of those who had used the internet to re-search their case reported that they had been blocked from accessing websites that might help them with their immigration case.



With cuts to legal aid, BID is concerned not only about the lack of legal representation, but also the quality of advice they receive.



**54%** of those surveyed have read BID's self-help materials

**84%**

of detainees say that talking to BID helped them better understand how to apply for bail.

**84%** said it was easy to contact BID. Our helpline for detainees is open from 10-12, Monday to Thursday  
020 7456 9750



The Spring 2018 Survey is the 15<sup>th</sup> conducted by BID since BID first surveyed immigration detainees in 2010. A total of 103 detainees were interviewed between 3rd of April 2018 and 20th of April 2018. Detainees held in prisons were not included in the interview sample. 87% (n=91) were male and 13% (n=13) were female. The sample were detained at the following IRCs: Brook House (n= 17); Campsfield (n= 2); Colnbrook (n= 20); Dungavel (n= 1); Harmondsworth (n= 30); Morton Hall (n= 15); Tinsley House (n= 6); Yarl's Wood (n= 13). Each of the detainees had previously been in contact with BID, and had signed letters of authority consenting to the disclosure of their anonymised information to further BID's research work.

BID would like to thank staff and students at the BPP Law School Pro Bono Centre for their assistance in carrying out the survey.

For further details about this survey or the work of Bail for Immigration Detainees, please visit our website at [www.biduk.org](http://www.biduk.org).

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