In the last 12 months, almost 30,000 people entered immigration detention in the UK.
Every year, BID helps almost 4,000 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.

1 in 5 of the detainees we spoke to have NEVER had a legal representative while in detention.

Just over half of those surveyed currently have a legal representative.

53%

Of those, just more than half have their legal representative paid for through legal aid.

54% Legal Aid
46% Privately Funded

“I’ve been going round in circles trying to get legal representation to help me apply for bail.”

3/4 detainees felt that not having legal representation meant they didn’t know how to challenge their detention.

Access to free legal advice in Immigration Removal Centres

81% Aware that free legal advice is available for detainees.

69% Made a free appointment with the Detention Duty Advisor.

24% Taken on as a client by the Legal Aid provider.

Time spent waiting for an appointment with the detention duty advisor.

- 26% Up to 1 week
- 39% 1-2 weeks
- 24% 2-3 weeks
- 11% More than 3 weeks
More than half of the detainees surveyed were either being held in a prison, or had been moved to an Immigration Removal Centre after serving a prison sentence.

Just 5 out of 86 detainees received any independent advice about their immigration case while they were in prison.

62% of respondents reported that they had been blocked from accessing websites that might help them with their immigration case.

50% of those surveyed have read BID’s self-help materials and 97% would find it useful to have more information on issues affecting their detention.

62% of respondents reported that they had been in contact with BID, and their experiences are reflected in this data.

For detainees in prison without a legal representative, sources of information and advice about their immigration case included:

- Prison Officers
- The Home Office
- BID

For further details about this survey or the work of Bail for Immigration Detainees, please contact John Hopgood, Policy and Research Manager, on john@biduk.org or visit our website www.biduk.org

Bail for Immigration Detainees prepares and presents bail applications on behalf of asylum seekers and immigrants who are detained. Winner of the JUSTICE Human Rights Award 2010. Registered in England as a limited company No. 3803669. Registered address: 1b Finsbury Park Road, London N4 2LA. Registered Charity No. 1077187. Exempted by the OISC. Ref. No. N200100147.