

# BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

## LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - AUTUMN 2016

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.

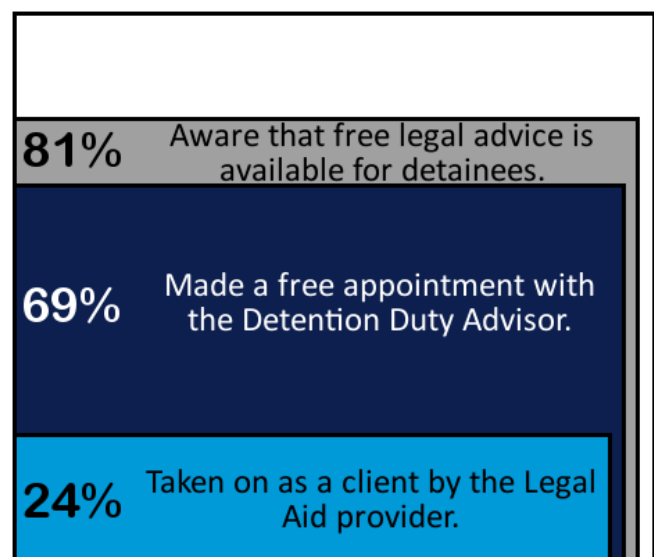


*"I've been going round in circles trying to get legal representation to help me apply for bail."*

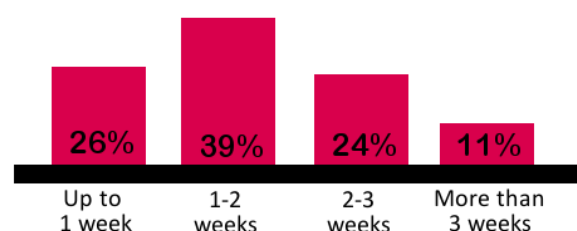
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detainees felt that not having legal representation meant they didn't know how to challenge their detention.

### Access to free legal advice in Immigration Removal Centres



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



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.



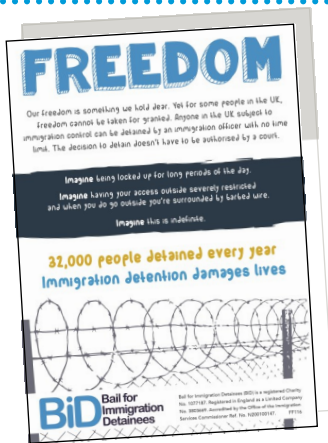
Just 5 out of 86 detainees received any **independent advice** about their immigration case while they were in prison.

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

- Prison Officers
- The Home Office
- BID



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.

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



91% said it was easy to contact BID. Our helpline for detainees is open from 10-12, Monday to Thursday 020 7456 9750

This survey - the 12th since BID first surveyed immigration detainees in 2010 - was carried out by phone and by mail in October and November 2016. In total, we spoke to a total of 138 detainees - 122 held in Immigration Removal Centres, and 16 held in prisons. Each of the detainees had previously been in contact with BID, and their experiences are reflected in this data.

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 contact John Hopgood, Policy and Research Manager, on [john@biduk.org](mailto:john@biduk.org) or visit our website [www.biduk.org](http://www.biduk.org)

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