

## LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - SPRING 2016

Last year, more than **32,000** 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 better understand their experiences of getting legal advice while in detention.

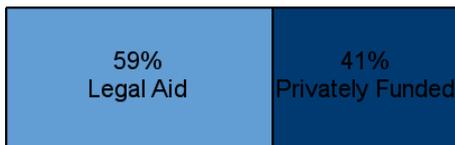


1 in 4 of the detainees we spoke to have NEVER had a legal representative while in detention.

Just over half of detainees currently have a legal representative.

# 54%

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



*"How am I expected to pay for a solicitor when I'm detained and can't earn any money?"*



**1 in 5** detainees have lost their legal representative as a result of being moved from one Immigration Removal Centre to another.

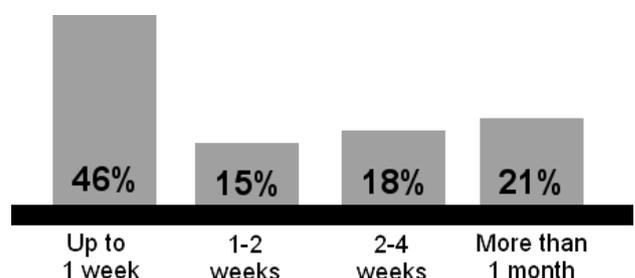
### Access to free legal advice in Immigration Removal Centres

**73%** Aware that free legal advice is available for detainees.

**51%** Made a free appointment with the Detention Duty Advisor.

**10%** Taken on as Legal Aid client.

Time spent waiting before being able to arrange a free appointment with the detention duty advisor.



Six out of ten of the detainees surveyed entered detention after serving a prison sentence.

# 78%

of these detainees received **no independent advice** about their immigration case while in prison.

Of those who did get some advice about their immigration case while in prison, sources included:

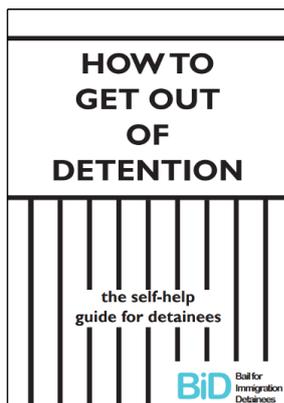
- Prison Officers
- The Home Office
- Criminal Lawyers
- Family
- BID



61% of detainees have found that websites that would help them with their immigration case are blocked by their detention centre.



*"The legal advice I've received is unclear and confusing. I can't see a way out of detention."*



58% of those surveyed have read BID's self-help materials.

# 9/10

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



93% 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 11th since BID first surveyed immigration detainees in 2010 - was carried out by phone in January and February 2016. In total, we spoke to 117 detainees, each of whom had previously been in contact with BID. 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 Cox, 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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