

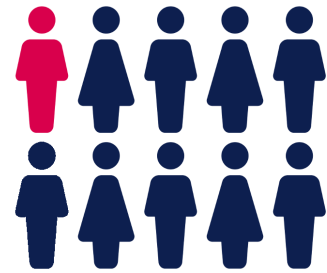
BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - SPRING 2017

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

Just over two-thirds of those surveyed currently have a legal representative.

69%

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



"I'm confused about everything. Without a lawyer I don't know how to challenge my detention."

1 in 2

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

33%

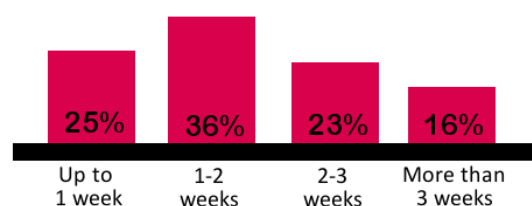
A third of respondents were unaware that they can access 30 minutes of free legal advice while in detention.

49%

Half of respondents were not able to access the 30 minutes of free legal advice they are entitled to.

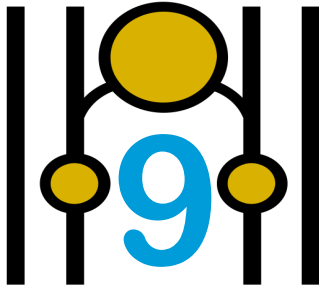
70%

Almost three-quarters of detainees weren't taken on as a Legal Aid client..



Time spent waiting for a free legal advice appointment

Almost 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 9 out of 58 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:

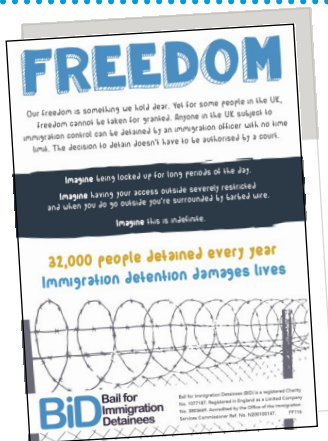
- Prison Officers
- The Home Office
- BID



63% of respondents reported that they had been blocked from accessing websites that might help them with their immigration case.



"BID Caseworkers coming to the IRC is the only way I could get legal advice. It's so helpful!"



40% of those surveyed have read BID's self-help materials and 96% would find it useful to have more information on issues affecting their detention.

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 13th since BID first surveyed immigration detainees in 2010 - was carried out by phone and by mail in March and April 2017. In total, we spoke to a total of 128 detainees held in Immigration Removal Centres and 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 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. Registered with the OISC. Ref. No. N200100147.