

# BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

## LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - AUTUMN 2017

In the last 12 months, almost **30,000** people entered immigration detention in the UK.

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 3** detainees surveyed have **NEVER** had a legal representative while in detention.

Less than half of those surveyed currently have a legal representative.

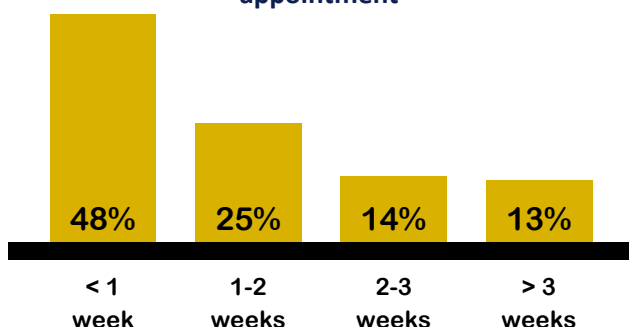
# 44%

and of those:



*"I have seen three solicitors. They tell me what I am doing is correct and to keep trying to get myself a solicitor. The last one said that I need to wait two weeks and then he might have space for my case. I am still waiting."*

Time spent waiting for a 30 minute free legal advice appointment



# 79%

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

# 62%

More than half of respondents had worked on their own immigration case.

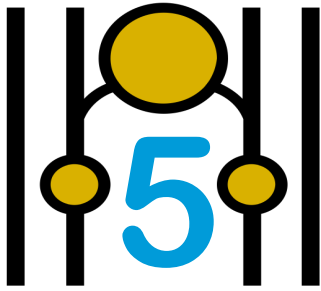
# 28%

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

# 43%

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

Over **half** of the detainees surveyed had been moved to an Immigration Removal Centre after serving a prison sentence (**53%**).



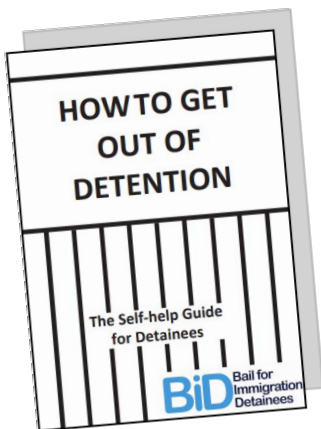
Just **5 out of 51** detainees received any **independent advice** about their immigration case while they were in prison.

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

- Prison Officers
- The Home Office
- BID



**30%** of respondents reported that they had been blocked from accessing websites that might help them with their immigration case.



**56%** of those surveyed have read BID's self-help materials

**7/10**

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

**92%** said it was easy to contact BID. Our helpline for detainees is open from 10-12, Monday to Thursday  
020 7456 9750



The Autumn 2017 Survey is the 14<sup>th</sup> conducted by BID since BID first surveyed immigration detainees in 2010. A total of 101 detainees were interviewed between 2 November 2017 and 10 November 2017. Detainees held in prisons were not included in this interview sample. 91% (n=92) were male and 9% (n=9) were female. The sample were detained at the following IRCs: Brook House (n= 25); Campsfield (n= 9); Colnbrook (n= 4); Dungavel (n= 1); Harmondsworth (n= 14); Morton Hall (n= 13); The Verne (n=23); Tinsley House (n= 3); Yarl's Wood (n= 9). 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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