

BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

LEGAL ADVICE SURVEY - SPRING 2019

Almost **25,000** people entered immigration detention in the UK in 2018.

Last year, BID helped **5,941** 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.



More than **1 in 6** detainees surveyed have **NEVER** had a legal representative while in detention.

Less than two thirds of those surveyed currently have a legal representative.

64%

Legal Aid 69%	Privately Funded 31%
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42%

Less than half of detainees were taken on as clients following a free legal advice appointment with the legal aid solicitor in detention

65%

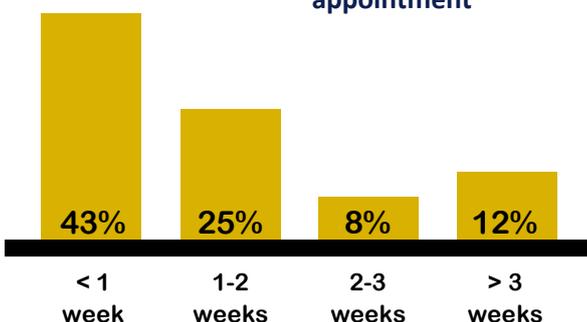
Almost two thirds of respondents without a solicitor had conducted work on their own immigration case

“The free lawyer said his firm was full and I should apply to another firm”

29%

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

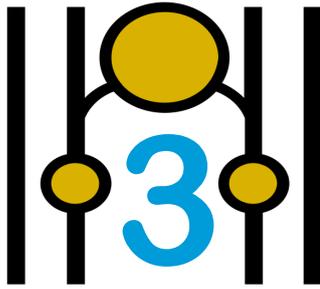
Time spent waiting for a 30 minute free legal advice appointment



50%

...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 (**58%**).



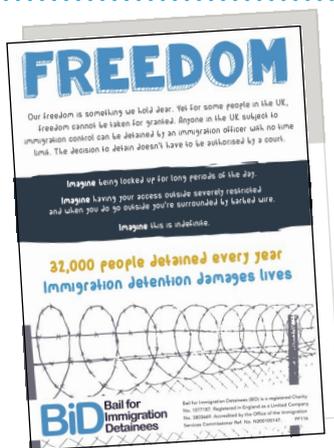
Just **3 out of 43** detainees received any **independent advice** about their immigration case while they were in prison.



Just **25%** of those who had an appointment with the legal aid solicitor in detention received specific advice about their case.



79% of those who had used the internet to research their case reported that they had been blocked from accessing websites that might help them with their immigration case.



44% of those surveyed have seen or read BID's self-help materials

79%

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

84% said it was easy to contact BID. Our helpline for detainees is open from 10-12, Monday to Thursday 020 7456 9750



The Spring 2019 Survey is the 17th conducted by BID since BID first began surveying immigration detainees in 2010 twice a year regarding their access to legal representation. A total of 77 detainees were interviewed in April 2019. Detainees held in prisons were not included in this interview sample. 88% (n=68) were male and 12% (n=9) were female. The sample were detained at the following IRCs: Brook House (n=18); Colnbrook (n=14); Harmondsworth (n=25); Morton Hall (n=10); Yarl's Wood (n=9). Each of the detainees had previously been in contact with BID, and has 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.

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