

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

As most of us look forward to the prospect of a less restricted year ahead, PAS is delighted to be celebrating its 30th birthday!

The brainchild of an impressive array of third sector muscle – Prison Reform Trust, Liberty, Justice, Nacro, Inquest and The Howard League for Penal Reform – PAS was launched in 1991 amid growing calls for legal advice from serving prisoners.

Since then, we have continued to grow and to expand the extent of our services. To our core telephone Advice Line service, we have added a successful Letters Clinic and Outreach Clinics working with prisoners on a one-to-one basis within prison walls. And, in response to feedback from prisoners themselves, we have expanded our legal staff to include specialist roles working with women prisoners, prisoners with disabilities, mental health and healthcare issues, and Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) prisoners.

Over the past year, prisoners have relied upon our services more than ever. We have played a leadership role in promoting access to justice for prisoners, who have been locked up in their cells, without visitors, for 23 hours a day since the first lockdown in March 2020

Now, looking ahead to the potentially rocky financial terrain ahead, PAS needs your help more than ever. Any donation that you can manage will be most appreciated. [Please donate what you can, here](#). Thank you.

Prisoner Letter Highlights COVID Confusion Inside Prison Walls

"Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter and [for] replying to my letter. Am ever so grateful and can't thank you enough for forwarding my letter to []... and hope they are still

looking into some sort of scheme for the future to help prisoners [who have] lived COVID in jail...

"Also very grateful for all your information given, as being in prison, it's difficult to receive information that is true or not mixed up by the time we have heard it! Or officers just don't know the answers to the questions we are asking. We are in limbo and wait for newspapers to arrive, or ask family to find out or watch the news, etc.

"You have been so kind... and you didn't have to bother writing back... but you did. You're amazing at your job and I wanted to share this with you. All you have done has helped me and others understand... better what's happening around COVID.

Keep up the good work."

Need Advice?

Call PAS free on 0800 0246 205
Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 12.30pm

You can also write to PAS at:
Prisoners' Advice Service, PO Box 46199, London EC1M 4XA

Adjudications – Categorisation – Contact with Children – Family – HDC – Healthcare – Human Rights – Mother and Baby Units – Parole – Probation – Release and Licence – Recall – ROTL – Transfers – Transgender Prisoners

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Are you confused about your rights in prison?

In an exciting new pilot project from PAS, our specialist Women Prisoners' Caseworker can advise you over the telephone, free-of-charge. She can advise on the law, how it applies to your situation and what can be done to address your issues.

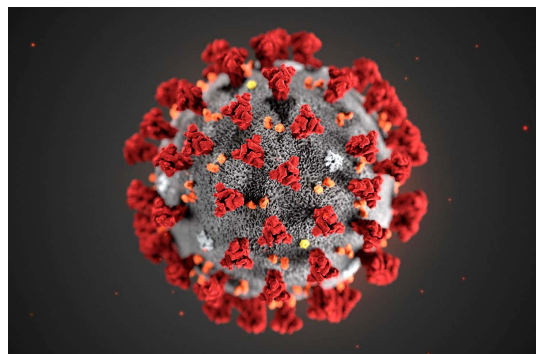
If your question relates to an issue that is not listed here, please do call as PAS can advise on a wide variety of prison related matters.

This is a pilot project and is currently running for a limited time in March and April 2021

Prisoners' Advice Service (PAS) is a registered charity (No: 1054495) and is a company limited by guarantee (No: 3180659).

New Freephone Service for Women Prisoners

PAS has launched a new freephone telephone number to encourage women prisoners to call while our Outreach Clinics remain suspended.



PAS

Statistics

Reveal

The service is available from women's prisons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 12.30pm, between now and the end of April, as a pilot project.

A new PAS poster, above, has been designed and distributed across the women's estate to publicise the service.

Family Law Guide For Men

After the success of PAS' four Family Law Guides for women prisoners, launched in November 2019, as well as of our Self Help Toolkits series and guides for LGBT+ prisoners, PAS is finalising plans to publish a Family Law Guide for male prisoners.

Authored by Rose Harvey-Sullivan, Barrister at 7BR Chambers, the guide is being made possible thanks to the support of Matrix Chambers, as well as of 7BR.

PAS Caseworkers are often asked for advice from male prisoners on issues surrounding parental responsibility, or when the mother, or carer, of his children refuses to grant access. The guide will lay out the law as regards to continued parental responsibility whilst imprisoned, and the laws surrounding the adoption and care of children of prisoners. The desired outcome of the guide is that, even though they are imprisoned, fathers are able to assert their legal rights in relation to their children, engage effectively in Family Law proceedings, and secure

Anguish of Prisoners During Lockdown while Advice Line Figures Soar

Since the onset of the COVID pandemic and the ensuing lockdown within prisons, our statistics show that PAS' Caseworkers are being contacted by more and more prisoners struggling with poor mental-health. Since April 2020, we have been contacted more than once every day by prisoners reporting mental health issues, up to twice a week with reports of self-harm and four times a month by prisoners with suicidal thoughts. Our Caseworkers provide an ear, send out information and advice and, in the most urgent cases, contact safer custody, healthcare and prison governors to help protect the most vulnerable. It is heart-rending work.

Throughout the course of 2020-21, despite the pandemic, our telephone Advice Line has continued to serve as the key channel through which we are able to advise prisoners on their legal, human and healthcare rights. We receive 100's of calls from prisoners every day that the Advice Line is running, worried about COVID inside prison walls and the rules and regulations concerning the virus that apply to them.

With outreach staff freed up due to the suspension of outreach work, PAS doubled the number

better long-term contact and living arrangements for children during their imprisonment. This in turn will enable them to maintain as active a role as possible in their children's lives, enhancing the mental wellbeing of, and potential outcomes for, both.

PAS is hoping to launch the guide at our online event coming up in May, details of which will be made available as soon as they are finalised.

Prisoners Club Together For PAS

At the beginning of March, PAS was delighted to receive a small donation from the prisoners at HMP Stafford.

The cheque - for £104.00 - may not have been the most expansive donation, but it is certainly one of the most heart-warming for the staff at PAS.

PAS Director, Lubia Begum-Rob, wrote a lovely letter of thanks to the prisoners, via the Cashier at Stafford, who responded that she would cascade our appreciation amongst the residents.

of Caseworkers answering the Advice Line. Concurrently, the number of prisoners using the service skyrocketed. Between 1 April and 31 December 2020, PAS successfully responded to 32,476 calls, an extraordinary increase of 86% on the same period in 2019.



PAS' telephone Advice Line is run by caseworkers four days a week. Our telephone number is globally cleared within all prisons throughout England and Wales. **Please note: In order to assist a prisoner, we need to be contacted by them directly before we can discuss matters with family members.**

NUMBER: 020 7253 3323

OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30;
Tuesday Evening 16.30-19.00**

Prisoners' Advice Service is a registered charity (No: 1054495) and is a company limited by guarantee (No: 3180659).

Copyright © Prisoners' Advice Service 2015, all rights reserved.

www.prisonersadvice.org.uk

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Prisoners' Advice Service · P O Box 46199 · London, London EC1M 4XA · United Kingdom