

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

With days finally becoming longer and warmer, PAS brings you up-to date with recent events in the world of prisoner advice, including a previously unpublished success story.

Also included: PAS is very happy to report on our financial year-end output figures for 2022-23, which reveal the sustained demand for, and uptake of, PAS' services throughout.

We thank all of our funders, whether long-established or new, for helping us to arrive at year-end with our finances hale and hearty for another year.

As ever, if you would like to make a donation towards our work, we would be delighted to receive it. You can donate online [here](#).

PAS Helps Prisoner Labelled "Grass" Transfer to Safer Prison

Prisoner A first called us as he had been having issues with other prisoners on every wing at his current place of incarceration. He had become known as a "grass" and did not think there was any way he could be kept safe there. Despite making several requests to be transferred to another prison, authorities at his current prison did not believe he was under threat and so had refused to move him. As a result, Prisoner A had been keeping himself in isolation, gone on hunger strike, and his mental health had suffered significantly. PAS contacted the prison governor to advise that Prisoner A had called us, that he was experiencing a number of issues with various prisoners and that he wanted to be transferred. The prison responded to us, explaining that they had spoken with Prisoner A, and that the latter had not indicated that he was at risk from anyone and, as a result, would not be transferring him.

Prisoner A then called us again twice, explaining he had been assaulted by a fellow prisoner, who punched him. We contacted Safer Custody just before Christmas and informed the prison of the assaults so that they might be properly investigated. We again asked that the prisoner be transferred,

reminding the prison that it had a duty of care towards the men incarcerated there, including the duty to protect them from both physical and mental harm, and that Prisoner A had been suffering on both counts due to the assault and his isolation regime. Prisoner A was then transferred to another prison over the Christmas period, and called us in the New Year to thank us for our support throughout this process.



PAS Supporters Gather to Remember Eric Allison

The evening of the 19th April saw the welcome return of our annual panel event after lockdown. Entitled, "Remembering Eric Allison: Don't Mourn, Mobilise", the event was dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and former Trustee, who died in November last year.

Led by Trustee, Mandy Mahil, the panel included Simon Hattenstone, features writer at the Guardian, Donna Mooney, co-founder of [UNGRIPP](#) and Jan Cuncliffe, co-founder of [JENGbA](#). It was an emotional and inspiring evening.

Simon spoke of his working relationship with Eric over the years, highlighting his friend's unique approach to campaigning journalism and their quest to achieve a more humane treatment of prisoners. Jan

PAS Announces Output Stats for 2022-23

Financial year, 2022-23, saw the continued demand for PAS' services, and our Caseworkers work tirelessly to deliver these. Our Advice Line and Letters Clinic both remained vital lifelines for prisoners and, following the end of COVID restrictions inside prisons, we were finally able to restart our Outreach Clinics, where PAS Caseworkers attend prisons to meet with prisoners face-to-face.

We successfully answered an impressive 32,465 calls to the Advice Line, received 1,402 letters from prisoners and sent out 6,446 items in response. We delivered 45 Outreach Clinics in nine separate prisons, reaching 351 prisoners on a one-to-one basis, including 11 clinics in the women's estate, which saw 95 women receive advice from our Women Prisoners' Caseworker.

Finally, PAS opened 88 legal cases on behalf of prisoners whose situations would benefit from this action.

and Donna described their work to shed light on the injustices of IPP sentences and Joint Enterprise convictions, reminding us that there is still much work to be done if justice is truly to be available to all.

In closing, our Chair, Martine Lignon, delivered a heart-warming eulogy to PAS Patron Lord David Ramsbotham, who died in December 2022.

The event was made possible through the kind support of [Reed Smith](#), who generously provided the venue and some very much appreciated post event drinks and snacks, as well as a stellar view of London.

Both Eric and Lord David fought tirelessly for prisoners over many years and both men will be sorely missed.



A big thank you goes out to all of our corporate legal volunteers, who helped us respond to queries from prisoners throughout the year, and a heartfelt acknowledgment to all of our funders and supporters, without whom PAS would not be able to continue.



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

Freephone Service from Women's Prisons
NUMBER: 0800 024 6205
Tuesday morning 10:00-12.30

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