

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

With this newsletter, PAS is delighted to invite you to its upcoming annual panel discussion, to be held at the beginning of October.

The event will continue our recent focus on the roles of activity and creativity in prisoner rehabilitation. It will showcase a range of organisations engaged in providing prisoners with meaningful, creative occupation - both in prison and upon release. Representatives from [Finding Rhythms](#), [2makeit](#), [Glasshouse](#) (tbc) and [Tap Social Movement](#) will share insights on the power of music-making, art, writing, horticulture and hospitality training in reducing prisoner recidivism.

The event will take place on Thursday, 2 October 2025, from 6pm, at the London offices of [Reed Smith](#). Refreshments will be served before and after the discussion. We very much hope to see you there!

To reserve your free place, please e-mail list@prisonersadvice.org.uk.

We also take a look at the notorious Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence, in our case study and a summary of recent reports on the issue.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and thank you for your support. If you would like to make a donation in favour of our work, please do so [here](#).

Case Study: PAS Helps IPP Prisoner 15 Years Over Tariff Secure Release

Prisoner A, who had been a client of PAS for many years, and whose story is complex and heart-rending, was finally granted release after languishing in prison for 15 years over her original custodial tariff of two and a half years.

A Vietnamese national, Prisoner A came to the UK with her family as a young adult. She was convicted of grievous bodily harm (GBH) in 2008 and given the notorious Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence, which meant that

she could be detained well after the expiry of her minimum tariff. The Parole Board will only direct the release of the remaining IPP prisoners if it considers the risk posed is low enough to be managed by licence conditions. Prisoner A had been stuck in prison since 2007, first on remand and then serving her sentence, unable to persuade the Parole Board to release her. Her original tariff had expired in 2010.

Prisoner A's case was difficult on several levels. She had both language and learning difficulties. Despite the time she had spent in the UK, her English was minimal. Although she had been assessed multiple times by psychologists and psychiatrists, no diagnosis of mental illness had been made, nor was the exact nature of her learning difficulties clear. However, her IQ was low. As a result of these issues, it had proven impossible to enrol her on offending behaviour courses to demonstrate reduced risk, and any work done individually with her was largely forgotten about shortly thereafter.

The main issue, however, was the fact that, although the offender managers and psychologists who had worked with Prisoner A in jail were supportive of her release, her probation officer on the outside had repeatedly, and in PAS' view, unreasonably, disagreed with their recommendations, refusing to endorse her release. Prisoner A's case had been reviewed several times by the Parole Board, which is extremely risk averse. Each panel found in favour of her probation officer's negative recommendations and declined to direct release.

Our Caseworker instructed an independent psychologist to reassess Prisoner A and represented her before the Parole Board, which finally decided to disregard the probation officer's unhelpful assessment and direct her release. PAS also sourced an Approved Premises to which she could safely go upon discharge.



PAS Team Tackles London Legal Walk

On Tuesday 17 June, PAS once again took part in the [London Legal Support Trust](#) (LLST) annual [London Legal Walk](#), welcoming back some familiar faces to our team of walkers, which included PAS Director, Lubia Begum-Rob.

The London Legal Walk is the largest fundraising event in the legal calendar, bringing together over 15,000 walkers in support of frontline free legal advice charities. In June, members of advice agencies, chambers, judiciary, law firms, colleagues and law schools walked shoulder to shoulder, combating discrimination and injustice.

Every year over 100 specialist free legal advice charities – including PAS – are supported by the Walk. The event this year raised a whopping £963,000!

LLST stated that, “These charities make a huge difference to people’s lives, reducing debt, poverty and homelessness... Every step we take and every penny we raise brings us closer to a community where justice and support are accessible to all.”

Number of IPP Releases Hits ‘All Time Low’ As Prisoners Serving Longer After Recall

As new data from The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) show that the number of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) prisoners being released for the first time has hit an all-time low of just 172 over the past year, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has published its [second annual report](#) on the IPP sentence, including the third iteration of its Action Plan. This details action taken, 'to support those serving the IPP sentence in prison to work towards a safe release, and those in the community towards the termination of their licence'.

The infamous IPP sentence was abolished in 2012, although not retrospectively. It allowed for prisoners convicted of relatively minor crimes to be held indefinitely. Tragically, 94 prisoners serving an IPP sentence have now [taken their own life](#).

The MOJ warns that it could take a decade to free the remaining 2,544 IPP prisoners still in custody – some of whom have served up to 22 times longer than their original sentence, and 233 of whom are now held in [secure hospitals](#). As of 31st March 2025, there were 1,012 unreleased IPP prisoners, 1,532 recalled IPP prisoners and a further 1,376 people serving an IPP sentence in the community.

The HMPPS report advises that the average time spent in prison by IPP prisoners following recall has now increased, with prisoners spending an average of 25 further months in jail. It states that it is 'committed to ensuring a reduction in this number through increased focus on recall decisions and community support.'

Those still serving IPP sentences include, [Leroy Douglas](#), who has served almost 20 years for robbery of a mobile phone, [Abdullahi Suleman](#), who is still inside 19 years after he was jailed for a laptop robbery and [Thomas White](#), who has served 13 years for stealing a phone and set himself on fire in his cell.

The campaign group '[IPP Committee in Action](#)' has now called for a Judicial Review of the IPP Action Plan, which it calls ineffective, failing to have had any meaningful impact in ending the sentence and perpetuating unlawful, arbitrary detention.

For further information, [click here](#).

PAS Welcomes Three New Trustees

PAS is very happy to welcome three new trustees to our board. Gift Nyoni, Julie Chiu and Farah Nadia Ibrahim were confirmed by our Management Committee

at their meeting on 10 July.

Gift has built a diverse career in tax, public law, and human rights. He began as a support worker in a secure mental health hospital for prisoners before transitioning into advice and advocacy roles at a number of charities. He has worked for a variety of leading human rights firms, specialising in public and private law claims against detaining authorities and public bodies. Now, as a consultant, he represents people seeking international protection, survivors of trafficking and modern slavery, with a special interest in assisting those with serious health or mental health concerns.

Julie is a Senior Counsel in the Patents team at Taylor Wessing LLP, based in London. Julie qualified as a lawyer in 2013 in Australia, and has more than 10 years experience as a patent litigator, primarily working in the life sciences and pharmaceuticals sector. Julie was a corporate volunteer in the Letters Clinics at PAS for a number of years, and has a broad interest in access to justice.

Farah is a dedicated and passionate caseworker with extensive experience across custody, community, and hospital settings. She has worked on specialised casework supporting individuals affected by youth violence, and has delivered holistic, wrap-around care for those navigating the criminal justice system. Her professional practice includes significant partnership work with both the NHS and the Criminal Justice System, supporting individuals during custody and when transitioning back into the community.

PAS is delighted by the new appointments and wishes all three the very best in their new capacity.



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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