

# PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

As the sun finally appears after what seemed like months of rain, PAS welcomes you to its Spring Newsletter.

Below you will find a brief update on the 520 people still serving IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentences and news of an astonishing study that shows Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is a significant factor affecting most of the women who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System.

We also publish a new case study illustrating a different side to the work of our Women Prisoners' Caseworker, in which she secures compensation for unlawful imprisonment.

Finally, as ever, if you would like to come aboard as a supporter of our work, you can make a one off donation or set up a recurring payment [here](#). All support received with thanks.

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## PAS Secures Compensation for Unlawfully Imprisoned Female Prisoner

PAS' Women Prisoners' Caseworker recently represented Prisoner A, a woman suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, affecting her mobility and necessitating her use of a wheelchair. She required the daily support of carers whilst in jail.

Though Prisoner A had repeatedly queried her release date with prison staff, no further action had ever been taken. In the run up to her eventual release, however, Prisoner A was informed that she should, indeed, have been released one week earlier. Staff immediately instructed her to pack up her belongings and, without the support of her carers, discharged her.

When Prisoner A was released, it was dark outside. She found herself stranded, without accommodation or transportation having been arranged - and without access to a wheelchair. Fortunately, the Adult Social Care team became aware of Prisoner A's predicament, alerted by a concerned member of staff.

When they found her, she was still at the gates of the prison. They were able to arrange emergency accommodation and transportation and provide access to a wheelchair.

However, the accommodation was found not to be conducive to Prisoner A's needs as a wheelchair user. The Local Authority Housing Department then initially refused to provide her with any alternative, citing that she had already been found a placement.

Though Prisoner A was unlawfully detained for just seven days, she suffered considerably as a result of the traumatic nature of her release, which failed to take into account her complex, pre-existing health conditions. And upon discharge, Prisoner A was informed that her daughter had committed suicide whilst she was in custody. Though the prison had been informed, they failed to pass the information on. Prisoner A's mental health deteriorated dramatically, and she was admitted to a psychiatric facility.

Prisoner A's Adult Social Care Social Worker then contacted PAS to seek assistance in claiming compensation for her unlawful imprisonment. Our Caseworker took on her case, liaising with the sentence calculation team at HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), the Local Authority and Prisoner A's doctor to demonstrate the injurious impact upon her of the unlawful imprisonment and sudden release. As a result, PAS was able to enter into pre litigation negotiations with the HMPPS, successfully suing for compensation and winning Prisoner A an award £14,000.00 in damages.

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### **MOJ Expects Over 500 IPP Prisoners Will Still Be Imprisoned In 2030**

New figures from the Ministry of Justice reveal that 520 people serving IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentences will still be imprisoned in 2030 – without ever having been released.

Despite recent changes which have made it easier for IPP prisoners released from prison to have their lifelong licences terminated, there has been little change for those still incarcerated.

Described by the UN as 'inhuman' and 'amounting to psychological torture', various efforts have been made to improve the plight of IPP prisoners languishing in jail. In 2022, the Justice Select Committee proposed that all IPP prisoners should be resentenced, however both the previous Conservative government and current Labour Government declined to accept the recommendation. Additionally, The Howard League

for Penal Reform last year published a [report](#) which called for a fixed date for release for all IPP prisoners still in jail. This, too, was rejected by the current Government.

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

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## **New Research Reveals That Acquired Brain Injury Affects the Majority of Women in Prison**

Research now indicates that *'almost all women in contact with the justice system have experienced domestic abuse, and that Acquired Brain Injury is a significant consequence – affecting the majority of justice-involved women.'*

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) - an often hidden and poorly understood consequence of domestic abuse - typically occurs when physical assaults are targeted at the head, face, and neck or in instances of non-fatal strangulation. The resulting brain injuries can impact survivor's memory, attention and concentration, speech and language skills, impulsivity, and vulnerability to mental health difficulties including suicidality and substance use. These difficulties are often misattributed or misunderstood in prisons, instead categorised as behavioural issues, non-compliance, or mental health difficulties.

Prison staff rarely receive training on ABI, and many have misconceptions about what an ABI is and how it might affect the women that they are working with. The research also highlights that those with ABI are more likely to have substance use difficulties, diagnoses of mental health difficulties, significant histories of trauma, to have attempted suicide and that they are at greater risk of reoffending.

Currently, 25% of women in prison have symptoms indicative of psychosis, 49% identify as suffering from both anxiety and depression and 46% have previously attempted suicide. (PRT, February 2026)

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

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**A New Website For 2026**



PAS is delighted to reveal that our updated website went live just before Christmas last year. Funded by [The Clothworkers' Foundation](#), the site was redesigned and implemented by PAS' IT support team, [The Blue Lizard](#).

The site again features the insightful and sympathetic work of prison photographer Andy Aitchison as a means of illustrating the site, and our services.

The new site has proven popular with visitors. Historically, average monthly visits to our site numbered around 7,000. In February 2026, we welcomed 8714 visitors to the site.

If you haven't yet had a look through the new site, you can do so by clicking on the image above.



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**

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

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