



Justice Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 8196/8198 Email justicecom@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/justicecttee

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Update on the Justice Committee's Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences inquiry

In September last year we launched an inquiry into IPP sentences. The aim of the inquiry has been to examine the operation and legacy of the sentence, abolished nearly 10 years ago in 2012, with the aim of identifying possible legislative and policy solutions.

At the time of launching our inquiry there were over 3000 people still serving IPP sentences in prison, with over 1700 having never been released. 96% of unreleased IPP prisoners are "post-tariff" (they have served longer than their minimum required sentence length); 570 prisoners have been held in prison for over 10 years longer than the tariff they were given.

We issued a public call for evidence and invited written evidence submissions from serving prisoners as well as the wider public. The terms of reference for the inquiry is available on the Committee's website.

Since our call for written evidence, we have met privately and publicly with stakeholders affected by the continued existence and operation of the sentence. We have also held three public evidence sessions, including with families of those serving IPP sentences, policy and legal experts, clinical professionals, former ministers, former judges, the Parole Board and the Government, including officials from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). The transcripts of our public evidence sessions are available on the Committee's website. You can also watch the sessions back on parliamentive.tv.

We have received over 500 written submissions to the inquiry, many of which are handwritten from prisoners serving IPP sentences. We have also received written evidence from victims of crimes committed by people serving IPP sentences. Due to the volume of responses to the inquiry we have not been able to confirm receipt of submissions in the manner that we would usually like to. Having completed our planned programme of oral evidence the Committee is now reviewing all of the evidence submitted. Published evidence will be made available on the Committee's website. Our next step will then be to agree and publish a final report later in the spring including conclusions and recommendations to put to Government, which the Government will respond to.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their experiences with the Committee, submitted evidence to our inquiry and engaged with the Committee. We are now working hard to review the evidence and to publish our report in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Robert Neill MP

Chair

Justice Committee