

## Key statistics: What happened to people serving an IPP sentence in 2023

### People serving an IPP in prison<sup>1</sup>

Almost all key indicators are showing no meaningful change

#### ➡ Prison population stalled

**2,852 people are still in prison.**

The number of people serving IPP in prison is **not meaningfully reducing**. It has oscillated between 2,800 and 3,000 over the last two years despite the Government's claims that the problem of IPP can be 'managed out.'

#### ➡ First releases stalled

**1,227 people have never been released from prison, 98% are now over tariff. Only 15 people are pre-tariff.**

The number of first releases from prison (50 releases) has remained steady since last quarter (51 releases) and the same quarter last year (50 releases). But the number is down 61% compared to five years ago.. The average time served by someone released for the first time on an IPP in 2022 was 13 years.

#### ↓ People over tariff down (but have served longer)

**1,210 people are over tariff.**

The number of people over tariff has decreased since last quarter, but people who are 10 or more years over tariff have increased and now comprise **over half (58%) of people serving IPP who have never been released**. 84% of people who have served 10+ years beyond their tariff have an original tariff length of less than 4 years.

#### ↓ People on recall down for first time since 2021

**1,625 people are in prison on recall.**

The number of people in prison on recall is down 2% from the last quarter (27 fewer people), but up 8% on last year. The average time that someone recalled on an IPP spends in prison is 28 months. Since this data started being recorded in 2019, the average time spent on recall has increased by 10 months.

#### ↑ Recall incidents up

**175 recalls triggered.**

The number of recall incidents is up 4% on last quarter (seven more incidents), and 22% on last year. Two thirds of recall incidents last quarter (67%) did not involve further charges.

### Self-harm and deaths in prison

#### ↑ Suicides up

**86 people have taken their own lives while in prison.**

There were nine self-inflicted deaths of people serving IPP in 2023. This is the highest number of self-inflicted deaths in a single year since IPP was introduced. Previously the highest number was in 2022 (eight deaths). People serving IPP accounted for 10% of all self-inflicted deaths in prison in 2023.

#### ↓ Self-harm down

**Self-harm incidents down in 2022 compared to 2021. 2023 data not yet available.**

There were 1,629 incidents of self-harm by *unreleased* people serving IPP in 2022. A decrease of 15% from 2021. A major weakness in this information is that it does not include those who are in prison on recall. The IPP self-harm rate still remains steadily at around double the self-harm rate of those on any other sentence.

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly figures from July-September 2023 quarter. Population as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Data taken from [Offender Management Statistics Quarterly](#) and [Safety in Custody](#) statistics.

## Key points

**The IPP action plan has not yet delivered meaningful changes in key areas of IPP. Changes in either direction are minimal, leaving people serving IPP stuck.** See below for the action plans targets set against the latest data.

**The number of suicides is completely shameful and unacceptable. Multiple organisations, including us, raised concerns about suicide risk last year,** following the Government's February 2023 rejection of the Justice Committee recommendation to resentence people serving IPP. IPP continues to inflict enormous mental suffering.

**The most consistent changes people becoming ever further over tariff, and the time spent in prison on recall getting longer.** As people remain stuck, the scale of the injustice they are suffering only increases with the passage of time and delays.

### Key IPP metrics plotted against Ministry of Justice IPP action plan success measures

Metric	IPP action plan target	Key points
Unreleased IPP population.	The number of those serving an IPP sentence who have never been released reduces.	Down 9% since action plan published (128 fewer people). (Reduction in equivalent pre-action plan period was 10%)
Recalled IPP population.	The number of those in custody having been recalled stabilises, and then begins to reduce.	Up 4% since action plan published (64 more people)
Population on supervision suspension.	The proportion of those in the community on an IPP licence whose supervision has been suspended increases.	Not currently published.
Licence terminations.	The number and proportion of those who have had their IPP licence terminated increases.	Not currently published.
Time spent on recall.	No commitment in the action plan.	Up by 2 months since action plan published (from 26 to 28 months).
Recall incidents.	No commitment in the action plan.	Down 3% since action plan published (from 181 to 175 recalls per quarter).
First releases.	No commitment in the action plan.	Up 14% since action plan published (from 44 to 50 releases per quarter).
ROTLs	No commitment in the action plan.	Down 21% since action plan published (from 153 to 121 ROTLs per quarter).
Re-releases.	No commitment in the action plan.	Up 5% since action plan published (from 95 to 100 releases per quarter).
Self-harm.	No commitment in the action plan.	Down 15% in 2022 compared to 2021 (2023 data not yet available).
Suicide.	No commitment in the action plan.	2023 highest number in a single year since IPP was introduced (9).