

UNGRIPP

ungripp.com / ungripp@gmail.com / @UNGRIPP

UNGRIPP gave an update on the current situation

Victims and Prisoners Act

- The Act has passed but the Government has not enacted the IPP amendments in the Act yet.
- There is currently no date on when the IPP changes will be implemented.
- There is no legal requirement for the Government to implement the changes, however we feel that it is unlikely that the Government would decide not to implement them. The Secretary of State for Justice, Shabana Mahmood, spoke in Parliament on 18th July 2024, she highlighted that Labour had supported the changes.

Adding pressure to get the changes enacted

- There has been an increase in mainstream media and social media to do this. This will continue.
- We have sent a number of emails to the relevant people in Parliament to draw their attention to this issue.
- We will begin asking people to contact their local MPs to raise this issue. We have shared updated template letters on our website.

Questions answered by Solicitor Laura Janes

Probation

- Q. What can you do when your probation officer invents obstructions?
- A. [Ask that this is discussed at the parole hearing and the honesty of it interrogated. You could also make a formal complaint, which would eventually go to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman. But you will always need to weigh up whether or not it is in the person's interest given the importance of a positive relationship with probation where possible.](#)

Recall

- Q. What happens if you're over your 10 year licence period, but currently on recall for licence breach (poor behaviour), but had previously spent more than 2 years on licence in the community, will the new legislation for licence apply?
- A. [At this stage you should still have a licence review at the 10 year point. This is likely to happen at your parole hearing. However, you can request for the licence review to be deferred \(the parole board can say no to this\) so that you can show a period of stability in the community.](#)
- [When the changes are enacted and in place, the Secretary of State will have a new power to stop recalls counting against the sunset clause if they believe it is appropriate to do so. However, the details of what will be considered and how this will work are yet to be shared.](#)

- Q. Will IPP recalls gain executive release, especially those who have been recalled for no further offences, how will it take place?
- A. When the changes are enacted and in place, people serving IPP who have been recalled will be eligible for Risk Assessed Recall Review (RARR - formerly called executive release). This is a power of the Secretary of State to re-release people who have been recalled without them having to be referred to the Parole Board. Previously this power only applied to people serving determinate sentences.

Secure Hospitals

- Q. If you have never had a recall back to prison but have had two short stays in a secure hospital on a section 2. Will this go against a licence termination?
- A. As long as your licence is not revoked the licence period will not be affected. It also means the two year sunset period (once enacted) will not be affected.
- Q. If you have overnight leave from a secure hospital, is this viewed as being released, therefore starting the 10 year (soon to be three year) licence termination time frame?
- A. Overnight leave from a secure hospital **does not** start the process. It will only begin once you have been released from the secure hospital following a parole hearing.

Support

- Q. Why are people not being better supported on pre-release?
- A. There has been a push for better support upon release. There were some amendments that did not make it through Parliament in the Victims and Prisoners Bill that asked for people affected by IPP to be offered the same level of support as those who receive "aftercare" under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983, which involves an entitlement to a package of support funded by health and/or social care. This type of support is still being discussed.