

# UNGRIPP

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

## The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024

### What is the Victims and Prisoners Act?

The Victims and Prisoners Act is a set of changes that became law on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. It contains legal changes to the IPP sentence which will affect people serving IPP.

### What are the key changes to IPP?

1. A reduction in the qualifying period for an IPP licence review from ten years after first release to three years after first release. For those who were given a DPP sentence (people who received their IPP sentence as a child) the period is now two years after first release. IPP licence reviews will be automatic: you no longer have to apply for one.
2. At IPP licence hearings, the Parole Board must now make a presumption to terminate the licence, unless they believe there are good reasons to leave it in place.
3. The introduction of a 'sunset clause'. If the Parole Board decides to leave a person's IPP licence in place after the qualifying period has expired, a two year 'clock' starts. If the person avoids being recalled in that two-year period, their IPP sentence will automatically be terminated. If a person is recalled within those two years, the clock restarts upon re-release. The Act also gives the Secretary of State a new power to stop recalls counting against the sunset clause if they believe it is appropriate to do so.
4. People serving IPP who have been recalled will now 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.
5. HMPPS is now required to lay an annual report before Parliament detailing how they are supporting the progress of all people serving an IPP sentence.

### What happens next?

Due to an election being called, **these IPP amendments will NOT be enacted until a new Government** is formed. These changes will go ahead but it is likely to take until October or November before this happens. Therefore, **you will still need to comply with your licence conditions** until this point. We do not yet know when the next government will bring the Act into force, or how HMPPS will tell people their IPP sentence has formally ended. Our advice is to be cautious and do not risk a recall. Keep complying with your licence until you have confirmation from Probation that your IPP sentence has ended. We will update you once we know more.

The majority of these changes affect people who are serving IPP on recall or serving IPP on licence. However, we will ensure that our future campaigning efforts will focus specifically on people serving IPP in prison. We plan to build on the momentum that has already been made in the following ways:

- Build on the cross-party approach to addressing the injustice of IPP. We will work with parliamentarians to be ready to take advantage of the next relevant parliamentary bill, or any other opportunities that arise for further legislative change.
- Build on the political support for change to IPP. We will attempt to secure meetings with the incoming Justice Secretary and their team, and ask for a commitment to continue addressing the problem of IPP.
- Continue to build media support for change to IPP.
- Challenge HMPPS with regards to the IPP action plan, and to implement the Victims and Prisoners Act changes as swiftly as possible.
- Encourage key professional bodies to continue to speak out against IPP.