

Key statistics: What happened to people serving an Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence¹- Update August 2025

People serving an IPP in prison²



Prison population down but declining at a slow pace

2,486 people are still in prison (down from 2,544 in the last quarter). This includes those that are unreleased and those that have been recalled.

The number of people serving an IPP sentence in prison has decreased but remains significant. Although the IPP prison population is gradually declining, the reduction is minimal. Over the past four quarters, the rate of decrease has remained consistently low, averaging 2%. Based on historical release and recall trends, at the very earliest **we anticipate that it will be a minimum of 11 years before all people serving an IPP sentence in prison are released.**



First releases down and almost all people serving IPP who have never been released have now served beyond their tariff

The number of those serving an IPP who have never been released has declined. **Of the 978 individuals who have never been released, 99.2% are now over tariff³, with only 6 remaining pre-tariff and 2 where the tariff has not been recorded.**



Number of people over tariff is down, but the proportion who have served 10 years over their tariff has increased

There are currently **970 people serving an IPP sentence beyond their tariff who have never been released.** While this number has decreased since last quarter, **those who are 10 or more years over tariff now make up 71% of those never- released, serving an IPP sentence (compared with 69% in the last quarter).**

Of the 691 individuals who have served 10 to 19 years beyond their tariff:

- 168 (24%) had a tariff of less than 2 years
- 394 (57%) had a tariff of 2–4 years
- 114 (16%) had a tariff of 4–6 years
- 15 (2%) had a tariff of 6–10 years

People on recall down



Of the current IPP prison population, 1,508 individuals have been recalled, representing 61% of all people in prison serving an IPP sentence.

During this quarter, 115 individuals were recalled, reflecting a 22% decrease compared to the previous quarter. The average time spent in custody following recall on an IPP sentence is 25 months. **71% (1,075 people) of those on recall have not committed a further offence.**

Self-harm and deaths in prison



Suicides down

94 people have taken their own lives while in prison.

In 2024, four people serving an IPP sentence died by suicide. In 2024 IPP suicides accounted for 4% of all suicides in prison. The highest recorded number of suicides among people serving IPP in prison in a single year was nine, which occurred in 2023.

Self-harm incidents down for those who are unreleased but up for those recalled



In 2024, there were 3,245 incidents of self-harm among individuals serving IPP sentences (both unreleased and recalled), representing a 4% decrease compared to 2023. However, **self-harm incidents among recalled individuals rose by 288 cases, marking a 17% increase over the same period.**

¹ The final IPP sentence was issued in 2012.

² Quarterly figures from January - March 2025.. Population as of 31st March 2025. Data taken from [Offender Management Statistics Quarterly](#) and [Safety in Custody](#) statistics.

³ Tariff refers to the minimum time people must serve before being eligible to apply for parole.