



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

The Rt Hon the Lord Foster of Bath
Chair, Justice and Home Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref:

17 July 2025

Dear Lord Foster,

IMPRISONMENT FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION (IPP) ANNUAL REPORT

The Lord Chancellor has today laid before Parliament His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Annual Report on the IPP Sentence 2024/25, pursuant to Section 67 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.

This Report sets out the action taken across HMPPS for the financial year of 2024/25 to support those serving the IPP sentence in prison to work towards a safe release and those in the community towards the termination of their licence. The Report also contains a refreshed IPP Action Plan which HMPPS will deliver in the current financial year.

The previous Government published an IPP Action Plan in April 2023, following the important Justice Select Committee report on the IPP sentence published in September 2022. On 15 November 2024, the Lord Chancellor published the first IPP Annual Report which reported on action taken across HMPPS for the financial year of 2023/24 to support those serving IPP sentences; that Report included an updated Action Plan. (The publication of the first Report was delayed on account of the dissolution of Parliament ahead of the General Election in 2024.)

I am pleased to report that HMPPS has continued to make further progress against the IPP Action Plan over the last year. The actions we have taken have resulted in tangible change, notably, the release of more IPP prisoners, including the release of 602 recalled prisoners in 2024, the highest ever in a single year. We have also delivered the legislative changes in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which ended the IPP sentence for 1,742 people on 1 November 2024. Since then, the IPP population in the community has more than halved from 3,018 in December 2023 to 1,376 in December 2024. The latest published statistics show that as at 31 March 2025, there were 1,012 unreleased and 1,532 recalled IPP prisoners, compared to 1,180 unreleased and 1,616 recalled IPP prisoners on the corresponding date in 2024.

It is important to recognise that HMPPS has faced a number of operational challenges in light of ongoing prison population pressures; however, in facing those challenges, we remain committed to doing all we can to support those serving IPP sentences to make progress towards a prospective release, a sustainable life in the community and, ultimately, the end of their IPP sentence through successful licence termination.

Whilst we have made progress over the last year, I recognise that we must do more. That is why we are incorporating several measurable targets within this year's Action Plan, so that I can continue to hold Senior Leaders in HMPPS to account on delivery. We believe that these targets are sufficiently ambitious to push HMPPS even further and we will report on them in future editions of the Annual Report.

We have restructured this year's Action Plan to make clearer our priorities, and the actions we are taking to enact meaningful change for offenders serving the sentence, as well as how we will increase transparency for our external stakeholders. We have continued to adopt a more operational approach with this Action Plan and have therefore placed less focus on policy actions. We have also removed the workstream on parole improvement as this work will be taken forward by wider parts of MoJ and the Parole Board. We have; however, retained an action to ensure that HMPPS delivers timely and high-quality preparation for parole by ensuring parole reports are completed and submitted within the required timeframe set by the Parole Board, as well as identifying and developing processes for meeting specialist assessment needs for Parole hearings. The efficiency of the Parole Board remains key to the experience of those serving IPP sentences, and HMPPS will continue to engage with the Parole Board and work closely with their IPP Taskforce to drive improvements for this cohort.

The Report and refreshed Action Plan can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmpps-annual-report-on-the-ipp-sentence-2024-to-25>

I hope that you are assured by the findings in the Annual Report and the progress made on the Action Plan. I look forward to continuing engaging with you on this important matter in the year ahead whilst delivering our latest Action Plan.

Yours sincerely

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending