



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

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

11 November 2025

Dear Lord Foster,

IMPRISONMENT FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION

I am writing following the IPP roundtable in September to provide an update on queries raised by Peers. I reiterate my commitment to working with you on these matters, and to delivering real improvements in the support to IPP offenders (set out in this letter) and look forward to further engagement in the next IPP Roundtable in December.

Statistics

As requested, please see below for the latest IPP statistics. Further data was published on 30 October so this is updated information from what I provided at the roundtable:

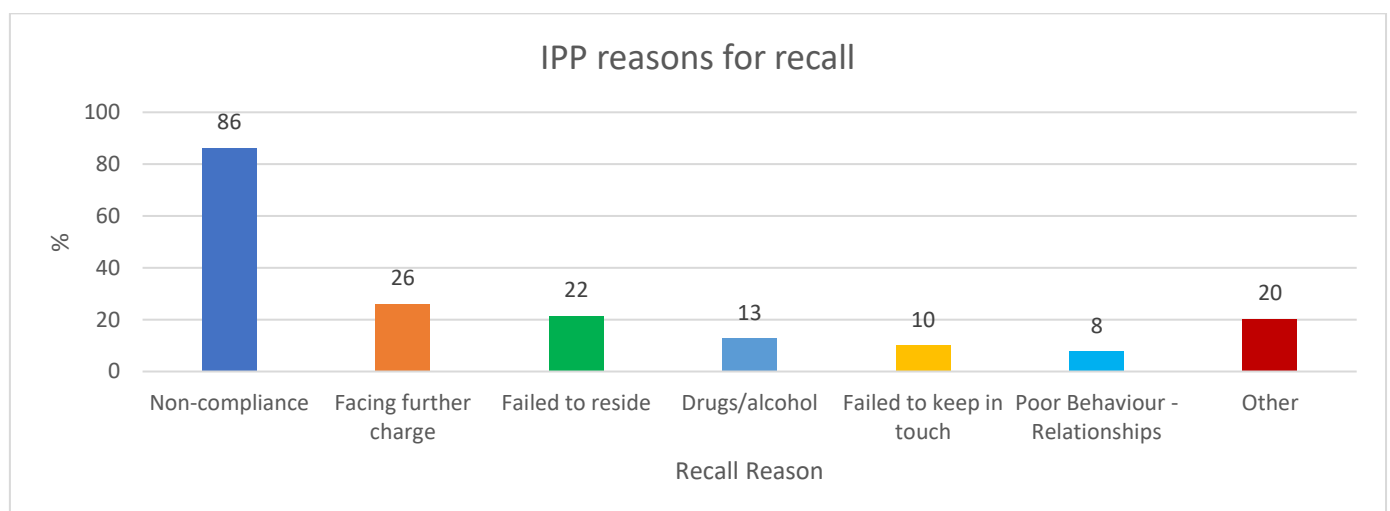
- At its peak in 2012, there were over **6,000** IPP offenders in custody.
- As of 30 September 2025, the total number of IPP offenders in custody was **2,422**, down from 2,694 the year before, a circa **10%** reduction. The recalled population was **1,476**, down from 1,599 the year before, a circa **8%** reduction. The unreleased population is now below 1000 (**946** – down **14%** on September 2024). There were **154** first time releases last year.
- Legislative changes we implemented in Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 have reduced the number of people serving IPP sentences in the community by around **65%**.
- In 2024 there were **619** recalls, which was the lowest since 2017. We can also expect fewer recalls because of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 reforms and as changes to the recall process bed in. By way of illustration, there were fewer recalls in April to June 2025 (**114**) compared to the corresponding quarter in 2024 (178).
- The mean time spent in prison following recall has broadly increased since 2021. We are exploring data with the Parole Board to identify any improvements that can be made. Risk Assessed Recall Review (**RARR**) continues to be used providing swifter release, where safe to do so.
- The highest number of IPP re-releases following recall were recorded in 2024 (**602**). Over a third more compared to 2023.
- As of 31 December 2024, there were **233** IPP offenders in secure hospitals, down from 241 the year before.
- An IPP sentence could only be given for a serious violent or sexual offence. Of the 978 unreleased IPP prisoners, as at 30 June 2025:

- **42%** were convicted of sexual offences;
- **31%** for violence against the person;
- **17%** for robbery.

Reasons for Recall

The graph below was previously shared with you and I provide further explanation of the data.

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, 26% of recalls were associated with a charge of a further offence. I wish to emphasise again that an offender can be recalled for multiple reasons so the figures for each category should not be interpreted as the only reason for a recall. Most recall reasons will involve non-compliance, which is a broad definition covering numerous specific reasons which we cannot breakdown further on data systems. 'Other' covers a wide range of bespoke licence breaches, for example entering an exclusion zone, contacting a known victim when prohibited from doing so or accessing a computer or internet enabled device without prior permission. It is vital to remember, whether the stated reason for recall is either in connection with being charged with a further offence or for non-compliance or for any other reason, that for an IPP offender to be recalled, policy requires two conditions to be met: a judgement that the offender can no longer be safely managed on licence; and there is evidence that the offender's current behaviour and actions were present in the offence(s) which attracted the IPP sentence.



Actions Taken

As a result of these productive IPP roundtables, the revised IPP Action Plan and the insights gained from Lord Thomas and Garnier's findings, we have taken the following actions on IPP recall:

- **Recall documentation** has been made more succinct, focused and the reason for recall clearer. HMPPS are working on further changes that can also be made.
- On 25 September Government Legal Department delivered **refresher training** to the Public Protection Casework Section on the causal link aspect of the recall test.
- **All recall requests** are now endorsed by senior Probation staff, with the decision to revoke the offender's licence taken by a **specific group of senior managers** within HMPPS Public Protection Group to provide further assurance and consistency on recall decisions.
- On 3 November, **HMPPS began a six month pilot extending the timeframe for IPP post-recall processes from 28 days to 42 days**, this will allow for more effective post-recall planning and decision-making.

- HMPPS is boosting support to those serving IPP sentences by holding multi-disciplinary **Progression Panels**. These panels, comprising of HMPPS staff and wider partner agencies, ensure that those serving IPP sentences are on the right progression pathway, with access to the right interventions, at the right time.
- Panels are held within 28 days of recall, to inform RARR decisions, particularly for those people who were out of touch or if there was alleged further offending. Convening a panel quickly allows full understanding of the individual's circumstances and supports their progression towards a re-release.
- We now consider **every newly recalled IPP and DPP offender for RARR**.
- HMPPS wrote to all Probation Delivery Units in August to ask that they **review all IPP cases for RARR consideration**, including those who were recalled prior to the introduction of the power.
- HMPPS are **expanding the Approved Premises (AP) pilot** to an additional 10 sites to improve resettlement support, extending the stays and providing an opportunity for return visits after leaving.
- At the end of September, HMPPS delivered **a series of sessions to improve HQ staff and practitioners' awareness and understanding of the IPP sentence**. This included:
 - Exploring the psychological and safety needs of those serving the sentence,
 - Looking at the tools and interventions available to support progression,
 - A focus on community support through Approved Premises and,
 - An examination of the recall process and RARR.

I also wish to explore efficiencies in the Parole Board and I am therefore hosting a roundtable with representatives from the Board and HMPPS in the near future. Officials in HMPPS are considering the issues raised on individual action plans and whether there are any additional benefits to using progression panels to provide further clarity to IPP offenders on the objectives set out in their sentence plans.

My office have sent you an invitation for the next IPP Roundtable on 10 December which I am planning to host at the Ministry of Justice from 10am-11am. However, I am sure that we will discuss these important matters once again in the coming weeks. As ever, thank you for your ongoing engagement with the IPP sentence.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending