



## Immigration Detention in the UK: "Residential" Detention Capacity

Last updated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

These tables detail the capacity of the Home Office to hold people for more than 24 hours under immigration powers. It therefore includes **residential spaces** only i.e. immigration removal centres and short term holding facilities where detainees may be held for more than 24 hours. It does not include holding rooms at ports and airports or police custody suites, where detainees may also be held under immigration act powers, but for which figures are not published. Home Office statistics<sup>1</sup> don't include these facilities, and therefore give a false impression of the scale of detention in the UK. As at the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 there are nine IRCs and three STHFs in the UK.

### Changes in 2016:

In 2015, Dover IRC and Haslar IRCs were closed, and a proposed expansion of Campsfield House was put on hold. In the latter part of 2016, expansions of Tinsley House and Brook House IRCs began, increasing those centres by 40 and 60 beds respectively. These expansions are underway but not yet complete, and therefore the figures are not included here. Also in 2016 it was announced that Cedars pre-departure accommodation would close, and that families would once again be held at Tinsley House. The closure of Dungavel IRC was announced in September 2016, with a proposal to open a residential STHF at Glasgow airport. However in November 2016 the planning application for the Glasgow STHF was rejected, leaving the status of Dungavel and any replacement, uncertain. At the time of publication, Cedars and Dungavel remain open.

### Detention in Prisons:

The number of immigration detainees held in mainstream prisons declined in 2015 but has risen again in 2016. As at the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 there were 547 immigration detainees in prison. The overall figure is now included in the Home Office statistics, but this doesn't give a breakdown of location. AVID regularly submits FOI requests to find this out where detainees are held in prison, [you can access them on our website here](#).

**As at November 2016 the detention capacity in the UK is 3,661. Including the figures for those held in prisons, which is around 500 a month, takes the total to around 4,161.**

### Residential Detention Spaces:

Facility	Location	Contractor	Type <sup>2</sup>	Detainees	Capacity	Total Capacity
Brook House	Gatwick	G4S	IRC	Men	448	448
Campsfield House	Kidlington, Oxfordshire	Mitie PLC	IRC	Men	282	282
Cedars	Near Crawley, Sussex	G4S and Barnardos	PDA/STHF	Families with children	9 apartments	44

<sup>1</sup> The Home Office's detention statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016>

<sup>2</sup> IRC = Immigration Removal Centre (no time limit) STHF = Short Term Holding Facility (up to 7 days)

PDA = Pre departure accommodation (up to 7 days, operates as a STHF)

<b>Colnbrook</b>	Heathrow	Mitie PLC	IRC	Men and Women <sup>3</sup>	364 men	391
					27 women	
<b>Dungavel</b>	Strathaven, Lanarkshire	GEO Group	IRC	Men and Women	235 men	249
					14 women	
<b>Harmondsworth</b>	Heathrow	Mitie PLC	IRC	Men	661	661
<b>Larne House</b>	Outside Belfast, Northern Ireland	Tascor	STHF	Men and Women	19	19
<b>Morton Hall</b>	Lincolnshire	HM Prison Service	IRC	Men	392	392
<b>Pennine House</b>	Manchester Airport	Tascor	STHF	Men and Women	32	32
<b>Tinsley House</b>	Gatwick	G4S	IRC	Men and Families with children (border cases)	119 men	153
					34 family spaces	
<b>Verne</b>	Isle of Portland, Dorset	HM Prison Service	IRC	Men	580	580
<b>Yarl's Wood</b>	Bedfordshire	Serco	IRC	Women, families with adult children	304 women	410
			STHF		Men	
<b>TOTAL DETENTION SPACES</b>						<b>3,661</b>

Total Residential Detention Spaces: **3,661**

Total Residential Detention Spaces including prisons: **around 4,161**

<sup>3</sup> Colnbrook holds mainly men, but there is a separate unit (Sahara Unit) which holds up to 27 women. While this is not a STHF, it "operates along the statutory principles of a STHF" according to a Freedom of Information response to AVID (9.11.2016)