

## Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

Patrons: Colin Firth, Lord David Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE and John Scampton, CBE  
Registered Charity No. 1063784

# In Touch

132 (Mar 2015)

### AVID:

Archway Resource Centre  
1b Waterlow Road  
London  
N19 5NJ  
enquiries@aviddetention.org.uk  
0207 281 0533  
Twitter: @AVIDdetention

Do you have any items for next month's newsletter? If so contact Anna De Mutiis at [avidnews321@gmail.com](mailto:avidnews321@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> April

### News from AVID

#### Haslar Detention Centre to close!

We were delighted, if surprised, to hear the sudden news that Haslar Detention Centre, near Portsmouth, is to close. Haslar, one of the oldest detention centres in the UK, was expanded to 197 places last year. Located on Gosport, a ferry journey from Portsmouth, the building is a former army barracks that has held immigration detainees for over 20 years. The news was welcome, and we hope is indicative of plans to reduce the capacity of the detention estate, particularly in light of the halt in plans to expand Campsfield. But there is no evidence that this is the case – we hope this doesn't mean more bed spaces will be allocated elsewhere.

AVID member Friends Without Borders, formerly Haslar Visitors Group, have visited detainees held at Haslar since 1994. Indeed, Haslar Visitors and AVID share a history, with AVID being formed by visitors originally involved with Haslar. We hear that the centre will close as soon as this weekend (11<sup>th</sup> April).

AVID Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees | In Touch 132  
[www.aviddetention.org.uk](http://www.aviddetention.org.uk)

#### Calling all running enthusiasts: AVID needs YOU!

Join us in this year's British 10K Run and help raise funds to support AVID's work with visitors groups and detainees across the UK!



Following the enormous success of the 6 brilliant runners who took part in the British 10k Run in London last July to raise funds to support AVID's work, we're really keen to bring together another great running team this year!

It's a fantastic course which takes in many of the highlights of central London, and there's always a huge crowd cheering you on around the course. You can find out more here: <http://www.thebritish10klondon.co.uk/>

The run is on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July** so there's still plenty of time to train! Places are strictly limited, so if you're interested in running please get in touch as soon as possible and we'll send you a registration form. We'll also help you set up a fundraising page so that raising funds is as easy as possible.

It's really important that we raise the funds to help continue our work supporting volunteer visitors and immigration detainees across the UK, and as a small charity every little helps! **If you're interested in taking part on July 12<sup>th</sup> please contact:** [jessica.lousley@aviddetention.org.uk](mailto:jessica.lousley@aviddetention.org.uk) - and feel free to circulate this to any other runners or potential runners you think might be interested!

## Co-ordinators Conference in June

We are preparing for our annual Coordinators Conference to take place in June in the peaceful setting of Woodbrooke Conference centre. We are delighted that this year we will welcome many new faces, including volunteers from new groups at the Verne and Larne. Thanks to those of you who have been in touch with Jessica about sessions that you would like to see, or to deliver. As always the conference is **your event** and the only chance for visitors groups to come together for two days of reflection and learning. We look forward to seeing you in June!

## The Business of Immigration Detention

In January this year, AVID attended *'The Business of Immigration Detention: Activisms, Resistances, Critical Interventions'* organised by the [Centre for Mobilities Research \(CeMoRe\)](#) at Lancaster University. Bringing together academics, post-graduate researchers, former detainees, artists, activists and from the UK, Canada, Australia and the US, the conference explored the ways in which the UK experience of detention reflects and re-produces broader contemporary global detention practices: the massive growth in its use since the 1990s, its positioning by successive governments as an essential facet of immigration control and security - and the enormous industry it is becoming.

Funded by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council of the UK), the conference formed part of a broader series of seminars exploring *"Everyday Practice and Resistance in Immigration Detention."* More information about the seminar series can be found here: <http://immigration-detention-seminar-series.org/>

## News from Members

### Members' responses to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention

Many of us have warmly welcomed the publication of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention which we reported on last month, in particular its recommendations

for total overhaul of the detention system as we know it. The report recommends a time limit on detention, as well as the considered use of community alternatives. Many of us, including AVID, have published responses to the report, to ensure it remains in the public eye: it is vital that we make a concerted effort to ensure the recommendations become a reality. You can read the AVID response [here](#). Other AVID members also responded, detailed below:

- [Samphire](#)
- [Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group](#)
- [Scottish Detainee Visitors](#)
- [Detention Action](#)
- [Friends Without Borders \(Haslar\)](#)

You can add your support to the recommendations of the Inquiry by joining the online twitter campaign: simply use and follow the hashtag **#time4atimelimit**

Find out more at [www.detentionforum.org.uk](http://www.detentionforum.org.uk)

### Scottish Detainee Visitors are seeking Management Committee Members

Scottish Detainee Visitors are looking for people to join their management committee. They are seeking people who have an interest in immigration and asylum, and are committed to supporting people in immigration detention. If selected, they will play a key role in the strategic and operational decisions. Committee members are required to attend 6-weekly committee and sub committee meetings on weekday evenings and to attend our AGM. Applicants must be able to commit to a minimum of one year. SDV are particularly interested to hear from people with the following skills: financial planning/accounting, fundraising and funding development, knowledge of immigration, charity and/or employment law, knowledge of voluntary organisation governance, HR skills. Visit [www.sdv.org.uk](http://www.sdv.org.uk) for more information or send a CV and note of interest by the 1<sup>st</sup> May to [chair@sdv.org.uk](mailto:chair@sdv.org.uk)

## Detention Update

### **The week that changed everything! Parliamentary Inquiry and Channel Four Footage: the aftermath**

It's been quite a few weeks for those of us working on detention. Having waited in anticipation for the [report of the Parliamentary Inquiry on detention](#), launched in a week in which mainstream media pounced on secret footage of horrendous conditions and treatment in both [Harmondsworth](#) and [Yarl's Wood](#), it soon became apparent that the context in which we work has changed dramatically.

Following the report's publication, members of the Panel, NGOs and others became much more [vocal in their call for a time limit](#) to be introduced. It was encouraging, then, to see Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Nick Hardwick, [join the call](#) for a time limit. But when, soon after, the Labour party announced that a [time limit on detention would be part of its manifesto](#), we knew things had changed forever. The Labour commitment does not include everyone- it excludes, for example, those who have served a criminal sentence, but is a starting point; Labour joins the Greens and SNP in speaking out against indefinite detention.

In parliament, questions were asked about the government's proposed response to the inquiry and the hidden footage (see below). The Home Office quickly deflected attention by announcing a [review of the welfare of vulnerable](#) people in detention, which unfortunately does not even come close to answering the many different issues raised in the Inquiry Report. A full round up of the parliamentary commentary is below, and you can read an excellent round up of the government's response on the [Detention Forum website here](#).

Attention on Yarl's Wood was maintained, with [Richard Fuller MP calling for the closure](#) of the controversial detention centre which holds women. His letter to the Guardian was co-signed by Medical Justice and calls for an [end to the detention of pregnant women](#) at Yarl's Wood. Bedfordshire County Council also accepted a motion calling for change: [advocating the use of alternatives and a time limit at Yarl's Wood](#).

Detainees themselves added their voices to the growing momentum for change, with reports of peaceful protests and hunger strikes in the [Verne](#), [Dungavel](#), [Harmondsworth](#) and Morton Hall.

And for all of us, we need to keep up the attention and pressure for change. Now is the time to ensure we make the most of this opportunity. Find out more at [www.detentionforum.org.uk](#) and **don't forget to use the hashtag #time4atimelimit!!**

### **Success for #stopcampsfieldexpansion as plans to expand the Oxfordshire detention centre are put on hold**

We were pleased to hear that the proposed expansion plans at Campsfield detention centre in Oxfordshire [were being put on hold](#). AVID, along with others working under the banner #stopcampsfieldexpansion had expressed concerns about this expansion, which would almost double the size of the facility and make it the second largest in the UK. In a letter from James Brokenshire MP to Nicola Blackwood MP, it is suggested that the expansion plans are on hold pending a review of the detention estate. It is recognised that local opposition to the plans had a monumental impact on this: well done and huge congratulations to our friends at Asylum Welcome and Campaign to Close Campsfield!

### **Harmondsworth IMB publishes critical annual report**

In the wake of secret footage revealing disturbing treatment at Harmondsworth detention centre (see below), the Independent Monitoring Board at Harmondsworth have produced their latest annual report which paints a similarly bleak picture. The IMB describe conditions as 'depressing' and 'dirty', and include a horrific example of a detainee sewing his lips together, in protest at his treatment. The report also highlights the length of detention and the impact this has on individuals. You can read the report in [full here](#) and coverage of the report in the Independent [here](#).

## Colnbrook IMB report

The IMB for Colnbrook has also published its annual report for 2014, also highlighting concerns about the lengths people are held. In 2014, 25 people were held for over a year. There was one person held for over three years. The IMB report the detrimental impact this has on the mental health of detainees and calls, again, for an independent mechanism to review administrative detention of over a year. You can read the report in full [here](#).

## Consultations! Have your say

### Shaw Review: review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons

Some of you will be aware that in the days preceding the publication of the Parliamentary Inquiry into detention, the government announced a review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons (the 'Shaw Review'). Detention in this case means IRCs, STHF and prisons, as well as holding rooms. The review team are inviting submissions from any organisation or individual but seem particularly keen to hear from visitors groups. [The terms are available here](#). The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

There has been much controversy around the terms of this review, not least as they exclude looking at decisions to detain. The review will, therefore, be limited in its focus on conditions for those already detained. You may wish to draw attention to the restrictions of the terms in your submissions: any consideration of the welfare of the most vulnerable which doesn't include screening or decisions to detain will have a limited impact.

### Care Quality commission are consulting on their plans to inspect immigration detention

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are consulting on their plans to inspect immigration detention. The CQC inspects healthcare and social care, but the consultation does not include social care in detention, only health care. They AVID Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees | In Touch 132 [www.aviddetention.org.uk](http://www.aviddetention.org.uk)

are proposing a new scheme of inspections jointly with HMIP. The consultation can be [accessed here](#) and the closing date is 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## News, Publications, Reports

### New resources from BID

BID has updated their website with several new resources. There is a [FAQ sheet on Section 4 accommodation](#), a [discussion paper on a time limit](#) for detention, and a conference paper on [alternatives to detention](#). They have also made their self-help notebooks available in a range of languages including Mandarin, Arabic, Polish and Russian. [Find out more here](#).

### Institute for Race Relations: Dying for Justice

The Institute for Race Relations has released a new report on deaths in custody which includes a chapter on deaths in immigration detention. Critically, it highlights that the privatisation of the government's immigration and asylum functions has made accountability almost impossible. Read [more here](#).

### CPT to visit UK in 2016

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have announced they will [visit the UK](#) in 2016. They will visit places of detention during their visit. AVID will be writing to recommend that they visit immigration detention, not least in the light of the six breaches of Article 3 in the last couple of years.

### Migration Observatory publish their latest Immigration Detention briefing

The Oxford based Migration Observatory has published their latest briefing on immigration detention, which [you can access here](#).

### A new Database on Detention issues: *DETENTION FOCUS*

DETENTION FOCUS is a database grouping the most relevant issues related to prison worldwide.

Produced by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), it takes a detention monitoring and human rights perspective; it offers users an in-depth analysis on key issues such as solitary confinement, body searches, family visits, staff working conditions or access to a lawyer.

The database is intended primarily for people working for independent monitoring bodies but will also be useful for members of parliament, judges and other stakeholders involved in monitoring activities in penitentiary institutions, as well as any other person interested in detention from a human rights perspective. Whilst not explicitly including immigration detention it is relevant from a custodial perspective. Have a look [here](#).

## Law and Policy

### Home Office Detention Service Orders (DSO)

There are several revised or new Detention Service Orders on the gov.uk site this month. Detention Service Orders are the guidance documents given to the Home Office contractors who run the detention centres. You can find out more by following the links below:

#### Brand new DSOs:

- **NEW:** DSO 01/2015 [Extremism and Radicalisation](#)
- NEW DSO 02/2015 [Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 \(RIPA\) this related to surveillance in detention centres](#)

#### Revised DSOs:

- DSO 08/20017 (updated 30 March 2015) [Representations to DEPMU \(transfer of detainees\)](#)
- DSO 11/2012 (updated 5 Feb 2015) [Care and Management of Transsexual Detainees](#)
- DSO 13/2011 (updated 17 March 2015) [Detention Officer Wearing Identity Badges](#)
- DSO 05/2011 (updated 17 March 2015) [Managing Detainees Cash exceeding £1,000 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#)

- DSO 14/2012 (updated 30 March 2015) [Care and Management of age dispute cases in the Detention Estate](#)
- DSO 04/2012 (Updated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015) [Visits and Visiting Procedures for Detainees](#)
- DSO 10/2007 (updated 13<sup>th</sup> Feb) [Travel Warrants for detainees attending AIT](#)
- DSO 10/2012 (Updated 17<sup>th</sup> March) [Removal of Blades from Detainees](#)
- DSO 02/2006 (Updated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005) [Release of Detainees with IS106 orders](#)
- DSO 09/2007 (updated 17<sup>th</sup> March) [Procedure when escorting detainees with cash](#)

### ILPA latest legal updates

ILPA has published their latest immigration update (66) and new information sheets.

- [Update 66](#)
- [Legal Aid 20 – Finding a Lawyer](#)

### Unlawful Detention: High Court finds lengthy detention of vulnerable woman unlawful (Xue v SSHD)

*With thanks to Deighton Peirce Glynn*

The High Court has found that the detention of a vulnerable woman with significant physical and mental health problems was unlawful. The claimant, a client of Deighton Peirce Glynn, was detained for over two years. She was suffering severe depression and PTSD caused by her experiences in China and in the UK. During her detention in Yarl's Wood had injured her back in a fall. The Home Office had been sent five different medical reports evidencing serious health problems, and that she was deteriorating in detention, but still they refused to release her.

The judgment rejected the Home Office's submissions that the medical reports were 'medical advocacy' and that they were always entitled to rely on what healthcare staff told them even when this directly contradicted what other medical professionals were saying. The court held that detention had been unlawful from 13 July 2013 to her release in June 2014,

and that she was entitled to damages. You can read the judgment [here](#).

## Parliamentary Monitoring

### Commons debate: Yarl's Wood

[HC Deb, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, c823](#)

In the aftermath of the Channel Four footage of Yarl's Wood, **Keith Vaz MP (Leicester East, Lab)** asked the Home Secretary to make a statement on Yarl's Wood. The ensuing debate makes an interesting read. While **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley)** acknowledges how serious the footage is, she reiterates several times the government's commitment to detention and also tries to distance itself from its contractor, Serco, stating that the government is now 'breathing down its neck'. Access the debate in full at the link above.

### Training and Qualifications of Staff at Yarl's Wood

[HL Deb, 9 March 2015, cW](#) HL5390

**Lord Hylton** asked what qualifications and quality standards are required of contractors' staff in contact with detainees at Yarl's Wood and other detention centres. **Lord Bates** replied that those undertaking custodial functions in immigration removal centres must be certified by the Secretary of State as Detainee Custody Officers (DCO) or, in the case of prison officers undertaking such duties, have the functions of DCOs conferred on them by the Secretary of State. Under section 154 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 SSHD may not certify anyone unless s/he is satisfied that the "applicant is a fit and proper person to perform those functions and has received training to such standard as the Secretary of State considers appropriate for the performance of those functions". Detention Service Order 10/2014 sets out requirements for DCO certification.

Lord Hylton then asked what training is provided to contractors' staff at Yarl's Wood and elsewhere; how long such training lasts; and whether it is provided before or during their deployment at Yarl's Wood, to which

**Lord Bates** replied: "*Requirements for training under different contracts for Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) in immigration removal centres (IRCs) will vary in their detail but service providers are required by their contract to provide an initial training programme that contains a number of elements including: Interpersonal skills, First aid training to approved standards, Race relations and cultural awareness., Managing the stress and anxiety of detainees and of service providers' staff Identification of and procedures for dealing with vulnerable detainees Security procedures and practice Control and restraint training accredited by the National Offender Management Service Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (prevention of self harm)*

*While there are no specific requirements for the duration of training courses in the contracts for IRCs these are generally between 6 and 8 weeks. For Yarl's Wood, Serco has advised that their initial training course is 7 weeks long. DCOs cannot be deployed at any centre unless they have successfully completed their initial training course.*

*For prison officers working at The Verne, Dover, Haslar and Morton Hall the National Offender Management Service is responsible for ensuring that all prison officer grades are appropriately cleared, trained and authorised to carry out their functions.*

### Risks to LGBTI detainees

[HL Deb, 9 March 2015, HL5404](#)

**Lord Scriven** asked what urgent action they will take to include reference in enforcement instructions and guidance to the assessment of risks relating to detaining lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals in immigration detention centres. **Lord Bates** replied that "*When a decision has been taken to detain someone who has no right to be in the UK, the Home Office has specific procedures in place in detention centres to identify those who may be vulnerable and require extra support, which could include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. Additionally the Home Secretary recently announced an independent review of welfare in detention led by Stephen Shaw CBE. This review, which is expected to report within 6 months, will focus on vulnerable detainees. Once the review has made its*

*recommendations the Home Office will consider what changes to guidance are required"*

### **Response to Parliamentary Inquiry**

[HC Deb, 18 March 2015, c227497](#)

**Sarah Teather MP (Brent Central, Lib Dem)** asked the government what plans they have to review the use of detention for immigration purposes. **James Brokenshire MP (Minister of State, Home Office, Security and Immigration)** replied that *"Detention plays a key role in maintaining an effective immigration control and protecting our borders. We keep periods of detention to a minimum, consistent with the need to detain in order to remove from the UK those with no right to be here and who do not leave voluntarily. There are no plans to review the use of detention overall but on 9 February the Home Secretary announced that Stephen Shaw, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, is to lead an independent review of the policies and procedures relating to the welfare of immigration detainees"*.

[HC Deb, 23 March 2015, c1116](#)

**Paul Blomfield (Sheffield Central) (Lab)** asked *"The Home Secretary will know that one of her former Cabinet colleagues and a former chief inspector of prisons were among those of us from all parties and both Houses on the recent inquiry into immigration detention which recommended that the Government learn from best practice abroad where alternatives to detention not only allow individuals to live in the community, but are more effective in securing compliance, and at a much lower cost to the public purse. Will she respond positively to our recommendations?"* **James Brokenshire replied that** *"I have already indicated that we are examining the points made in the recent all-party parliamentary group report, but I have to say to the hon. Gentleman that there is a need for detention in terms of managing immigration and ensuring that we can remove people safely and appropriately. It is also worth underlining that we cannot detain people indefinitely. This is about the perspective of ensuring that there is the ability to remove, and that is the way in which the Government operate the rules"*.

### **Expansion of the detention estate**

[HC Deb, 24 March 2015, c228234](#)

**Sarah Teather MP (Brent Central, Lib Dem)** asked whether there were plans were to expand the immigration detention estate. **James Brokenshire** replied that *"Detaining and removing people with no right to be in the country, with dignity and respect, is an essential part of effective immigration controls. The future requirements of the detention estate, including its capacity and location, is kept under constant review"*.

### **Consideration of a time limit**

[HC Deb, 23 March 2015, c908247](#)

**Paul Blomfield (Sheffield Central) (Lab)** asked the SSHD if she will make an assessment of the potential implications for her policies of the introduction of a 28-day time limit on immigration detention. **James Brokenshire** replied that *"it is Government policy that there is a presumption in favour of liberty when exercising detention powers under immigration legislation. Parliament voted on introducing a limit on detention of 60 days during the passage of the Immigration Act. This amendment was rejected with a majority of over 300"*

### **Detention of pregnant women and the elderly**

[HC Deb, 24 March 2015, c224944 and 227955](#)

**Richard Fuller MP (Bedford)** asked if the government would take steps to end the detention of pregnant women and those over 65. **James Brokenshire** replied that *"It is not normally considered appropriate to detain pregnant women for immigration offences unless there is either a clear prospect of their early removal, and medical advice does not suggest that the baby is due before the planned removal date; or as part of the asylum fast-track process in the case of women who are less than 24 weeks pregnant."*

*Older people are only considered suitable for detention in exceptional circumstances, especially where constant or significant supervision is required which cannot be satisfactorily managed in detention"*.

## **Internet Access in Detention** [HC Deb, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, c228448](#)

**Sarah Teather MP (Brent Central, Lib Dem)** asked if the government would take steps to ensure that people held in immigration removal centres have access to the websites of organisations that provide advice and support services for those people. **James Brokenshire** replied that *“The provision of internet access in immigration removal centres helps detainees to remain in contact with family, friends and legal representatives and to prepare for removal. It is a contractual requirement that all immigration removal centres provide detainees with reasonable and regulated access to the internet and IT facilities. It is important that detainees can access legitimate websites including news, education, employment and legal sites, and we are taking steps to standardise internet access across the detention estate. This includes consultation with the voluntary sector on website access and the development of a new Detention Services Order to set out requirements for access and monitoring”*.

## **Review the Parliamentary Inquiry recommendations**

[HL Deb, 24 March 2015, H5515](#)

**Lord Hester of Herne Hill** asked whether the Government plans to plan to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom. **Lord Bates** replied that *“We will issue a response to the All Party Parliamentary Group’s report of their Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention and will ask Stephen Shaw to consider any aspects of the Inquiry’s report that fall within the terms of reference for his independent review of the welfare of those held in immigration detention”*

## **Lords Debate: Parliamentary Inquiry into Immigration Detention**

[HL Deb, 26 March 2015, c1565](#)

In **Lord Lloyd of Berwick’s** last speech in parliament, he eloquently opened a debate in

the Lords on the Parliamentary Inquiry findings. He outlined that the UK is the only country in Europe to detain indefinitely. There followed a lively exchange, with Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group Patron **Baroness Williams**, Haslar Visitors Group Patron the **Earl of Sandwich**, and AVID Patron **Lord Ramsbotham** all taking part. You can read the debate in full at the link above.

## **Statistics**

### **Home Office statistics on children in detention released: January and February 2015**

The statistics for the detention of children in Jan and Feb 2015 have been released. In January, 17 children were detained including three at Yarl’s Wood. In February 11 children were detained. You can find the statistics on the Home Office website [here](#).

### **Quarterly statistics on detention: Oct – Dec 2014 and annual figures**

*(figures analysed and rounded by AVID)*

The Home Office has released its statistics on immigration detention in the fourth quarter of 2014, giving the figures for the full year. During the year 2014, 30,365 people entered detention.

Other statistics of note include:

- Between October and December 2014, 7,997 people entered detention and 7,886 left. Of those leaving in that quarter, 49% (3,869) were removed from the UK. 40% (3,155) were granted temporary admission or release, 1% (86) were given leave to enter/remain and 8% (684) were bailed, and less than 2% (92) left for ‘other’ reasons
- In the full year January – December 2014, 29,655 people left detention. Of these, 15,658 (53%) were removed from the UK. 47% were therefore released from detention back in to the UK community (38% were given TA or release, 1% leave to enter or remain, 1% other, and 7% bail).
- 47% of those leaving detention in 2014 were asylum detainees.



- Of those leaving detention in 2014, 80% (23,928) were detained for less than two months, 16% (4,870) for between two and six months and 2% (696) for between six and 12 months. Of the 4% remaining (161 held over a year), 93 people had been in detention for between one year and 18 months, 41 people for 18 months to two years, 21 people for between two and three years, 5 for three to four years and one person for over four years.

You can view the full statistics on the Home Office website [here](#).

### No Deportation gets real figures and an apology on wrong figures on self harm after 4 years

The website NoDeportations has recently received a letter from the Home Office apologizing for providing wrong figures about the information requested on the number of incidents of self harm between April 2011 and February 2012 in Yarl's Wood. Apparently the initial figure of one incident was incorrect and the correct figure for 2011 was sixty. It took four years to rectify the information.

### 20 Longest Recorded Lengths of Detention Q4 Oct/Nov/December 2014

*With thanks to NoDeportations*

On 31 December 2014, the ten longest recorded lengths of detention were as follows:

- 1,793 days / 4.9 Years
- 1,699 days / 4.6 Years
- 1,357 days / 3.7 Years
- 1,210 days / 3.3 Years
- 1,183 days / 3.2 Years
- 1,177 days / 3.2 Years
- 1,075 days / 2.9 Years
- 1,031 days / 2.8 Years
- 995 days / 2.7 Years
- 957 days / 2.6 Years

### Self-Harm in Immigration Detention 2014

*With thanks to NoDeportations*

NoDeportations regular FOI request on figures for self-harm in detention have been released, enabling figures for the full year in 2014 to be gauged. There was a sharp rise in the number of all incidents in the last quarter of 2014. Overall in 2014 there were 353 instances of self-harm requiring medical treatment: 28 more than 2013. 2,335 detainees were put on suicide watch (ACDT) 44 less than in 2013.

Self Harm Figures for year 2014 (Jan – Dec) Centre	Numbers of self harm attempts requiring medical treatment	Numbers on formal 'at risk' register (ACDT)
Brook	64	342
Campsfield	14	128
Colnbrook	26	261
Dover	24	120
Dungavel	6	110
H/Worth	68	390
Haslar	1	50
Morton Hall	55	285
Verne	9	46
Tinsley	20	139
Yarl's Wood	61	427
Larne	4	11
Pennine	0	19
Cedars	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>2335</b>

More detailed stats on the topic [here](#).

### Number of Rule 35 reports received by UKBA during Q3 2014

*With thanks to NoDeportations*

The FOI request by 'No Deportations' revealed that during July – September 2014, 21 Rule 35 reports were submitted, 7 of which resulted in release from detention

Quarter	Rule 35(i) reports	Number of detainees	releases from detention

Jul – Sep 2014	21	21	7
----------------------	----	----	---

## Jobs and Volunteering

### Detention Action is recruiting!

Detention Action is recruiting for an Advocacy Coordinator. This is a chance to join a small, dynamic team supporting people held without time limit in immigration detention in the UK. Detention Action gives support and advice to people in detention and lobbies for improvements to national detention policy.

The Advocacy Coordinator will undertake complex casework for vulnerable asylum-seekers and other migrants in detention and manage a large pool of volunteers who provide emotional and practical support. The successful candidate will have substantial experience of providing casework and advocacy to asylum-seekers or other undocumented migrants and knowledge and experience of good practice in volunteer management. The ability to work in a team in a pressurised environment is essential.

This is a full-time, permanent position based in London. **For more details and an application pack, please go to <http://detentionaction.org.uk/aboutus/vacancies>.**

The closing date for applications is 9am on Monday 13th April, interviews on Tuesday 21st April.

## Events and Training

### Evening for Medical Justice Volunteers: Doughty Street Chambers, 6pm Monday 13th April 2015

Every day Medical Justice assists a vulnerable immigration detainee to get the healthcare they require - this is only made possible by our amazing volunteers. This is an event for

interpreters and clinicians who volunteer with Medical Justice or are interested in doing so. Come and hear how the work of clinicians (doctors, psychologists, nurses and midwives), and interpreters as well as lawyers fits together in support of immigration detainees. Places must be booked. [For details click here.](#)

### Volunteer Medics Training Day - Saturday 18th April 2015

Please forward to any medics that may be interested. Medical Justice training is for medics who are visiting or intend to visit immigration detainees, or assist detainees in other ways, at our request. The training is open to doctors (from FY2 onwards), nurses, midwives and psychologists who would like to volunteer with Medical Justice [For more details and to book a place.](#)

## AVID, March 2015