



## **IPP Committee In Action**

**Website:** [www.ippcommitteeinaction.com](http://www.ippcommitteeinaction.com)

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**4th October 2022**

**To Right Honorable Sir Bob Neill and the Justice select Committee,**

IPP Committee In Action's (I.C.I.A) Comments:

The Justice committee's report and recommendations regarding the IPP sentences.

Here is our open response to the Justice Committee's recommendations to resentence IPP prisoners ( published 28/09/2022) report here [PP sentences - Justice Committee - Parliament \(publications\)](#) .

Firstly we would like to say thanks to Sir Bob Neill and the rest of the Justice select committee for calling this inquiry into the inhumane IPP sentence and concluding that the IPP sentence is irredeemably flawed. We welcome these recommendations to resentence all IPP prisoners.. We are grateful that the Justice Committee recognised that the IPP sentence has caused acute harm. We appreciate the Justice Committee recognising and assessing the overdue urgent need for change to the IPP sentences.

It is well known throughout the establishment that IPP prisoners lacked trust in the system when the IPP sentence was abolished in 2012 and not abolished retrospectively, causing the feelings of hopelessness and despair for those left

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behind serving an abolished sentence. Since the IPP sentence was abolished in 2012 IPP prisoners developed mental health and physical illnesses that were preventable due to the ongoing psychological torture, seeing other prisoners coming into prison who committed the same crime or worse than them being freed while they are locked up indefinitely . Also some have suffered physical harm and injuries that have had delayed treatment or left without treatment and in some cases this has left them with disabilities and life changing injuries. And also the pressure of the threat of recall, intense appointments within the community after release has also had a massive impact on both their mental and physical health

[MPs condemn 'acute harm' caused to prisoners by IPP sentences](#)

The resentencing of IPP prisoners will lift the despair and misery from IPP prisoners and their families and is most welcomed. We trust that a small expert committee working in conjunction with the senior judiciary to advise on the practical implementation of resentencing all IPP prisoners will be an urgent priority for the Government and Ministry of Justice to establish as a matter of urgency.

We welcome your recommendations to prioritize after care and mental health care needs to reintegrate IPPs into society. IPP prisoners have suffered degrading treatment throughout their sentence and have been left behind and forgotten with untreated mental health care and physical needs and after care services required for the release of IPP prisoners to reintegrate back into the communities and rebuild their lives.

We have confidence that the legislation to resentence IPP prisoners can be implemented with urgency .How can this be done? The Government has been very effective at implementing urgent legislation as is evident when the Covid pandemic hit, the Government urgently without delay implemented urgent legislation for the whole of the UK within 4 days when the covid pandemic hit, see link below that shows how rapid, capable and efficient this Government can be to implement urgent legislation .

[Coronavirus Act 2020 - Legislation.gov.uk.](#)

All six members of IPP Committee In Action are family members of IPP prisoners living this inhumane, degrading, torturous IPP sentence and are urging the Government to respond to the Justice select committee's report and recommendations and that they use their power to legislate the resentencing of all IPP prisoners as a matter of urgency as this sentence has triggered trauma onto the families who are serving with their loved ones.

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Therefore the legislation can be changed effectively and immediately to  
resentance all IPP prisoners without delay .

We await in anticipation of the Government's response to implement these  
long overdue needed changes to the IPP sentence.

The contents of this response letter were composed by Shirley Debono and  
Bernadette Emerson.

Kind Regards,

IPP Committee In Action