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Disclosure & Library Team
Ministry of Justice
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13 May 2024

Dear Dr Janes

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 240421009

Thank you for your request dated 21 April 2024 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ):

1) How many people serving a) IPP sentences and b) DPP sentences have had their sentences terminated?

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MOJ holds the information that you have requested, and I have provided it below.

Please be aware that the figures show the number of terminations up to 31 December 2023, which is the last related publication date.

Sentence Type	Number of Terminations
IPP	271
DPP	10
Total	281

1) These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The issue of IPP sentences remains a top priority for the Lord Chancellor and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). The Government believes that the Justice Select Committee (JSC) report into the IPP sentence provided a valuable opportunity to take stock and identify areas for improvement which will make a genuine difference to the way that those serving an IPP sentence are rehabilitated and supported through to safe release, or termination of the licence, where appropriate.

To that end, we are making changes to the termination of IPP licences via the Victims and Prisoners Bill. Our reforms will:

a) Reduce the qualifying period which triggers the duty of the Secretary of State to refer an IPP licence to the Parole Board for termination from ten years to three years;

- b) Include a clear statutory presumption that the IPP licence will be terminated by the Parole Board at the end of the three-year qualifying period;
- c) Introduce a provision that will automatically terminate the IPP licence two years after the three-year qualifying period, in cases where the Parole Board has not terminated the licence and where the offender has not been recalled in those two years.

These amendments will restore greater proportionality to IPP sentences by reducing the qualifying period and providing a clear pathway to a definitive end to the licence and therefore, the sentence. By changing the qualifying period to three years and introducing an automatic provision thereafter, we have gone further than the JSC's recommendation to reduce the qualifying period from ten years to five years.

In addition to these changes, the actions this Government is taking are working; the number of prisoners serving the IPP sentence, including those serving DPP sentences, who have never been released now stands at 1,180 as of March 2024, down from more than 6000 in 2012.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within 40 working days of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure & Library Team, Ministry of Justice, Postal Point 5.22, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

Public Protection, Operational Policy, and Support (PPOPS)
Public Protection Group