AVID

Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

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

In Touch

121 (Oct 2013)

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

News from AVID

Update on the Verne

We reported last month that HMP The Verne would be re-rolled to a detention centre. AVID visited the Verne this month to meet staff and discuss the importance of visitors for immigration detainees who will be held at this new facility.

IRC The Verne will be run by the prison service when it opens in February. Detainees will arrive in a phased programme, and it is anticipated that it will be at full capacity by August. The centre will hold 580 single male detainees in various wings- including 80 places in an induction wing. The facility is currently being refurbished including 'heightened security'.

We are extremely concerned about access to the centre, which is very difficult without a car. We've begun the process of making local links with a view to setting up a visitors group and there will be an awareness-raising event for interested local groups in January. For more information please contact the office.

Volunteer Opportunities!

We have two vacancies for volunteers in our office- a newsletter volunteer and trusts fundraiser. Further information can be found at www.aviddetention.org.uk or call the office for an informal chat about what is involved.

Call to Action: Postcards for Justice!

The Save Justice campaign is recruiting Justice Ambassadors as part of their postcard campaign which will, it hopes, result in thousands of postcards being delivered to Nick Clegg in November. The postcards, signed by people from all walks of life including celebrities like Emma Thompson, urge Nick Clegg to re-think the Government's changes to legal aid.

As all visitors groups will be aware, these proposals will have a severe impact on those in detention, although the government has confirmed that legal aid will still be available for bail applications and judicial reviews challenging detention. Detainees will be affected in the following ways:

- detainees will no longer be able to bring claims for compensation and redress for unlawful detention, which is one of the most effective ways of making the Home Office understand that the practice of detention is unjust and a false economy;
- the government's proposals to change the way lawyers are paid for legally aided judicial reviews (making payment discretionary if a case finishes before a certain stage) will mean that providers are likely to be reluctant to start such cases challenging the lawfulness of someone's detention and government policy in relation to detention
- detainees will no longer be able to bring claims for redress if they suffer abuse or ill treatment while detained, meaning that cases such as the recently unearthed serious sexual abuse by staff at Yarls Wood are less likely to come to light

- many detainees suffer from mental health problems and need community care services when they are released. The introduction of a residence test will mean that many detainees who do not have leave to remain (or who do, but haven't had leave for at least 12 months) will be excluded from all civil legal aid so will be unable to challenge the decision of a wrongful decision of a local authority to refuse to provide them with accommodation or support.

We would encourage all visitors groups to encourage joining the campaign by acting as **Justice Ambassadors,** taking to others about this campaign, and signing the specially designed postcards. Further details of the campaign are available here.

Do you have any items for next month's newsletter? If so contact newsletter@aviddetention.org.uk by November 15th

News from Members

Zimbabwe Association AGM

The Zimbabwe Association annual AGM on **Saturday 16th November 2013.** It promises to be a great event, with guest speakers McDonald Lewanika (Director, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition) and Clare Miller, Turpin Miller LLP. Guest Speakers at 2.30, registration from 11am.

Venue: Oxford House, Bethnal Green, London E2 6HG

Dover Detainee Visitors Group/Samphire is on the move

Samphire (formerly DDVG) have secured new office space and will be moving. From 4th November, please update your contact information for the team:

SAMPHIRE
1st Floor, 54/56 Castle Street
Dover, Kent
CT16 1PJ

Good luck with the move!

Detention Update

Fire at Campsfield House detention centre

Many of us were shocked to learn of a fire in Campsfield House detention centre earlier this month, and the subsequent hospitalisation of 2 detainees. Following the fire, around 100 detainees were moved to other detention centres, and there were reports from detainees that the fire evacuation procedures were lacking. The fire was started on one of the wings, and at the time of writing a man has appeared in court in Oxford charged with arson.

This follows other serious fires in recent years in Yarl's Wood and Harmondsworth. A statement was released by the Chief Fire Officers Association which outlines that they had previously recommended to the Home Office that sprinklers be installed at Campsfield. These calls were ignored, leaving many at risk. As part of the Detention Forum, we urge the Home Office to take their duty of care seriously: read the blog here.

HMIP Inspection of Brook House IRC: high levels of self harm

HMIP inspected Brook House IRC, near Gatwick, in May/June 2013 and published the report on 1st October.

The inspectorate noted a huge change in the population since their last inspection in 2011. Now, the average stay for detainees is around a month. There were also far fewer former prisoners. Amongst the concerns raised by HMIP were:

- Long waits for legal advice and 'overwhelmed' on site Home Office contact management team
- Night time transfers continued

- High levels of self harm
- Detainees locked up too early at night
- Inadequate preparation for removal or release
- Failure to assess individual needs on arrival and lack of systematic preparation before discharge
- Some escort behaviour during removals heavy handed and disproportionate
- Unacceptable use of 'reserves' (standbys) continued

HMIP also commented that most former detainees were now being held 'inappropriately' in prisons, which explained the changed demographic in Brook House. Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group was praised in the report for providing useful input. You can read the report in full on the HMIP website here.

HMIP Inspection of Yarl's Wood IRC: "a sad place"

'Circumstances of those held at Yarl's Wood make it a sad place. At best it represents the failure of hopes and ambitions, at worst it is a place where some detainees look to the future with real fear and concern.'

HMIP inspected Yarl's Wood IRC in June 2013, and following the recent allegations of sexual abuse in the centre conducted further research in September 2013. The report highlights the plight of women held there. Nick Hardwick commented on the distressing and difficult experience of being held, and suggested that *"more thought needs to be given to meeting their emotional and practical needs".* He also commented that *"for the most vulnerable of the women held, the decision to detain itself appears much too casual".*
Among the findings of the report, Inspectors were concerned to find:

- Insufficient female staff for a women's centre
- Concerns about how the cases of some very vulnerable women were handled
- Women's histories of victimisation were not sufficiently acknowledged by the authorities
- Lack of progress on immigration cases caused most women distress
- Length of detention: one woman was held for almost four years
- several obviously mentally ill women had been detained before being sectioned and released to a medical facility; it was difficult to understand why they had been detained in the first place
- pregnant women had been detained without evidence of the exceptional circumstances required to justify this
- One of these women had been hospitalised twice because of pregnancy related complications
- detainees who had clear trafficking indicators had not been referred to the national trafficking referral mechanism as required
- Rule 35 reports, which notified the Home Office if a detainee's health might be adversely affected by detention, in particular because the detainee alleged they had been tortured, were poorly completed.
- Use of force and segregation had decreased since the last inspection (although the latter was still sometimes inappropriately used as punishment)
- two staff had engaged in sexual activity with a female detainee, which can never be less than abusive given the vulnerability of the detained population, and these staff had been rightly dismissed

Many of these echo concerns which AVID and Yarl's Wood Befrienders have been raising for many years, particularly around the staffing ratios in Yarl's Wood which do not mirror standard practice in prisons. We were pleased to see the Independent pick this up: you can read the article here.

Following the horrendous revelations of sexual abuse at Yarl's Wood, there has been an understandable flurry of concern and comment. For example, see Women for Refugee Women's blog here or Open Democracy coverage here.

The full report from HMIP is available here.

BID: Latest survey of legal advice in detention

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) has published their latest survey of legal advice in detention. You can access it here. They outline their concern at the waiting times for many people in detention to get an appointment under the Detention Duty Advice Scheme. 69% of the people BID spoke to for this survey had waited more than a week for an appointment and of these 38% had waited two weeks (or two weeks at the point of survey, and were still waiting). 21% had waited for three weeks to see a solicitor. Detainees told BID they were 'frustrated and uncertain' – the anxiety of waiting times combined with the uncertainty of not knowing whether the solicitor will take their case.

Home Office statistics on children in detention released for September 2013

Statistics were released for child detention for September 2013. A total of 27 children were held this month, including 14 at Cedars and 12 at Tinsley family unit. You can find the statistics on the Home Office website here.

FOI on removals to Iraq

The Home Office has published data on the number of forced removals to Iraq between 2010 and 2013. A total of 451 people were removed in this time. The full details are available here, including information on the travel documents used.

News, Publications, Reports

Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law publishes report on detention

The Bingham Centre, with a grant from the Nuffield Foundation in July 2012, undertook a study on **The Rule of Law and Immigration Detention in Europe.** They found evidence – in the UK and beyond- that detainees are 'deprived of their liberty in accordance with procedures and under criteria and conditions which fall short of rule of law standards'. They highlight that this is a matter of 'great concern' – as those who are subject to immigration control are entitled to a presumption of liberty and freedom of movement. Considering the problems and challenges of immigration detention and the question of appropriate rule of law standards, the final report sets out clear, practical and effective guidelines (Safeguarding Principles). The section on the UK is informative and will be useful for anyone involved in detention advocacy. There is an excellent overview of recent case law, and a summary of issues around vulnerability. You can read more about the project here and download the UK report here.

Bromley Briefing Prison Factfile published

The Autumn 2013 edition of the Bromley Briefing by the Prison Reform Trust reveals that almost half of those in prison in England and Wales could be warehoused in 1,000-plus 'supersized jails' under new government plans. You can read the full briefing here.

Private Firms 'price tag' on migrant suicide (Euobserver)

An article by Euobserver this month caught the interest of many of us interested in immigration detention- the headline alone was sufficiently shocking to garner interest. The article describes formulas used by private security companies running UK based detention centres to "calculate the profit loss incurred by detainees who commit suicide". There are also, according to this article, figures for self harm, loss of keys, etc. The profit formula is based on a performance point system that attributes numerical figures to a list of possible 'infractions' based on a self auditing process. According to Eurobserver *"the points are tallied every month - run through a separate formula - attributed a monetary value, and then deducted from the operational fees paid out by the UK government".* You can access the article here.

Law and Policy

Giwa, R (on the application of) v SSHD [2013] EWHC 3189 (Admin)

With thanks to Garden Court Chambers

In dismissing an application for unlawful detention of a Sierra Leonean national who had been detained for 53 months, His Honour Judge Keyser Q.C. held that his detention had now been pushed to the limit of what is capable of being considered reasonable. However, his detention continued to be lawful, pending a further interview with the High Commission that may produce a travel document that would facilitate the claimant's return. For the full judgment, click here.

Muhammad & Ors, R (application of) v SSHD [2013] EWHC 3157 (Admin)

With thanks to Garden Court Chambers

Mr Justice Stewart refused an application for interim relief, in the form of release from detention, of three detainees who were currently refusing to either take food or water, as he held that it was in their power to make the decision to receive the appropriate medical treatment. For the full judgment, click here.

Nnamdi Onuekwere v Secretary of State for the Home Department, 3 October 2013, CJEU-109/12

With thanks to Garden Court Chambers

The Upper Tribunal invited the Court to clarify whether a period of residence in prison could be regarded as legal residence within the meaning of Article 16(2) of Directive 2004/38. The Court found that imprisonment did not count as legal residence. Consequently, any period of imprisonment could not be taken into account in the calculation of the five years required for the acquisition of permanent residence. Secondly, periods of legal residence before and after imprisonment cannot be aggregated for the purposes of calculating that five year residence. For the full judgment, click here.

Parliamentary Monitoring

Home Affairs Committee publishes 7th report on asylum: Critical of Detained Fast Track

The seventh HASC report on asylum has been published. You can read the full report here. Of interest to our community will be the criticisms made of the Detained Fast Track process: *"We are concerned about the operation of the Detained Fast Track. It appears that a third of those allocated to the detained fast track are wrongly allocated and that many of those wrongly allocated are victims of torture. Such a high number of incorrect allocations should be addressed and we recommend that the Home Office implement a service standard which reflects a substantial reduction in the number of incorrect allocations per year and that annual audits be carried out and published***".**

Lord Hylton (Crossbench): Detention of Pregnant Women

HL Deb, 23 September 2013, c432W

Lord Hylton (crossbench) asked what assessment had been made of (1) the effectiveness of detaining pregnant women and (2) the views on that matter of the organisations that signed the Asylum Aid Women's Charter. Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State replied that *"Detention is a vital and effective tool in supporting the enforced return of persons with no lawful basis of stay in the UK who choose not to leave voluntarily. This applies equally to pregnant women".* He added that pregnant women are held only in 'limited circumstances' and that the recommendations in the Women's Charter (that women who are at any stage of pregnancy or who were breastfeeding should not be detained) were *"not accepted. That remains our position".*

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) Detention of Pregnant Women

HL Deb, 23 September 2013, c436W

Lord Hylton also asked what the response was to the recent Medical Justice report *Expecting Change* and whether they have received any representations from NHS trusts in the areas where detention centres exist. He also asked what response there was to the Royal College of Obsetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives to the report, and whether pregnant asylum applicants are always treated as complex cases for maternity care. Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Quality,

Health) said that they have not responded to the MJ report and have "no plans to do so". He said that Home Office Immigration Enforcement would be happy to engage directly with the two colleges. He noted that *"Asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers who are receiving support from the Home Office, and victims of human trafficking can access and are fully entitled to the NHS without charge',* and that as with all pregnancy care this was governed by NICE guidelines. He outlined that from 2013-14, the Department will also be introducing a maternity and children dataset which will provide details of the number of women who are asylum seekers and refugees receiving maternity care and will provide outcome data for mothers and babies to support commissioning and provision of care.

Lord Boateng (Labour): Workforce involved in voluntary returns

Citation: HL Deb, 23 September 2013, c421W

Lord Boateng asked how many employees (civil servants or others) had been deployed in the last 5 years in securing the voluntary or involuntary return of illegal immigrants and what plans they have to increase this number. Lord Taylor of Holbeach replied that it was not possible to break down the Immigration Enforcement Directorate's workforce as requested. He did note that the IED (Immigration Enforcement Directorate) had a total of 4,150 full time equivalent staff at 30 June 2013 and that they were currently recruiting full time posts to 'secure the removal of immigration offenders'.

Sarah Teather MP (Lib Dem): Series of questions on Yarl's Wood allegations

HC Deb, 15 October 2013, c653W

Following the very serious allegations of sexual abuse at Yarl's Wood, Sarah Teather MP asked a series of questions:

1. If SSHD will ensure that any reports into allegations of sexual assault at YW that have previously been or will in the future be produced by Serco are made available to the public
2. if her Department will investigate allegations of sexual assault at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre
3. what procedures are in place to *(a)* ensure women detained for immigration purposes are protected from sexual assault and harassment and *(b)* facilitate immigration detainees to report incidences of sexual assault and harassment on the immigration detention estate;
4. what assessment she has made of the suitability of detaining women for immigration purposes following the allegations of sexual assault at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre

Mr Harper responded that *"Detention plays a key role in the maintenance of an effective immigration control. We are committed to ensuring that ail detained persons are held safely and that they are treated with dignity and respect. This applies equally to women and men. The allegations relating to Yarl's Wood do not alter that position".*

He noted that Bedfordshire police are investigating the allegations that have been made and the IED (immigration and enforcement directorate) were cooperating fully. He outlined that security checks and training is given to all DCOs before they can work with detainees, and that there are 'strict rules' governing interaction with detainees: *"Any member of staff who contravenes any of the rules governing interaction, whether inside or outside centres, will face disciplinary action, which may lead to dismissal. The use of CCTV cameras in the majority of public areas in IRCs and in all vans used for escorting detainees provides an additional safeguard".* He outlined the complaints mechanism system in detention, such as complaining to the IMB. He said that the fact that detainees had mobile phones and access to the internet meant that they could report directly to the police.

"All serious misconduct allegations are passed by the Professional Standards Unit of the Home Office to the appropriate authorities, such as the police or other oversight bodies, where appropriate. The police will take forward their own investigations separately to but in parallel with Home Office internal inquiries. Detainees who are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled may ask for it to be reviewed by the independent prisons and probation ombudsman. Reports relating to allegations made by individuals contain personal

information and are not published in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998".

Lord Hylton (Cross bench): detention of Pregnant Women

HL Deb, 9 October 2013, c35W

Lord Hylton asked how many pregnant women were held under immigration act powers in England and Scotland in 2011, 2012 and 2013 to date. The figures, he was told by Lord Taylor of Holbeach were not available centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Lord Ramsbotham (crossbench): impact of legal aid changes

HL Deb, 9 October 2013, c36W

Lord Ramsbotham asked '*how parents who are unlawfully detained under the Immigration Act 1971 will be able to apply for bail or access to justice if the proposals in the Transforming Legal Aid consultation are implemented*'. **Lord Popat (Con)** replied that the consultation on the Legal Aid Changes included the 'residence test' and that under the proposals asylum seekers would be excepted from the residence test. *"People who did not meet the residence test would be entitled to apply for exceptional funding under the power set out in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012".* He added that the results of the consultation would be published in the autumn.

Lord Greaves (Lib Dem): Go Home campaign

HL Deb, 9 October 2013, c35W

Lord Greaves asked, in relation to the posters displayed in Glasgow UKBA offices "Is life here hard? Going home is simple" and the stickers on the seats with the text "Ask about going home" – who published them? At what level their display was authorized? And if so which Minister authorized them? And whether it is intended that their use will be extended to other places. Lord Taylor of Holbeach replied that *"Voluntary departures are the most cost-effective way of removing illegal immigrants and we are committed to ensuring those with no right to remain in the UK should leave voluntarily".* He added that the pilot projects described were implemented in Glasgow and Hounslow reporting centres between 29 July and 4 October. The materials were part of this pilot and were "designed to assure people that we can provide sensitive advice and assistance to help them return home easily and with dignity". The display was authorized by the Director General of Immigration Enforcement (with Lord Holbeach's knowledge). The results of the pilot *"will be evaluated following its conclusion".*

Andrew Smith MP: Detention of Syrian nationals

HC Deb, 24 October 2013, c225W

Andrew Smith asked how many people with Syrian nationality were being held in each detention centre. The following table was produced by Mark Harper (information as at 30 June 2013)

Place of detention	Number of detainees
Brook House	4
Campsfield	1
Colnbrook	1
Dover	11
Dungavel	2
Harmondsworth	0
Haslar	1
Morton Hall	2
Tinsley	3
Yarl's Wood	1
Colnbrook STHF	0
Larne STHF	0
Pennine STHF	0
Cedars PDA	0
TOTAL	26

Jonathan Ashworth (Lab): Age Disputed cases in detention

HC Deb, 24 October 2013, c223W

Jonathan Ashworth: How many people have been detained by the UKBA from 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013 who were subsequently found to be under 18. The government were not able to provide the information, claiming it would involve 'the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost'

Jeremy Corbyn (Lab): Deportation of Tamils

HC Deb, 28 October 2013, c337W

Jeremy Corbyn asked how many people have been removed to Sri Lanka under immigration law in each year since 2010-11, and what the

policy is on the safety of Tamil people who are returned. Mark Harper gave a holding answer in the form of a table showing the total numbers of enforced removals, refusals at port and voluntary departures. You can view the table here.

He added that the Home Office Policy on the considerations of applications for protection from nationals of Sri Lanka was contained in the OGN for Sri Lanka. The guidance, he said, reflected findings of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber Upper Tribunal in the Sri Lanka country guidance case of GJ and others, and the UNHCR *Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum Seekers from Sri Lanka.* The Tribunal identified new 'at risk' categories for Sri Lankan nationals, but found that Tamils are not per se at risk. *"Each application for protection is considered on its individual merits against country information obtained from a wide range of sources. Returns are only undertaken when the Home Office and the courts have judged it safe to do so."*

Julian Huppert (Lib Dem): Enforced Removals/Jimmy Mubenga

HC Deb, 28 October 2013, c343W

Dr Huppert asked if the three recommendations put forward by Citizens UK on enforced removals in the wake of Jimmy Mubenga's unlawful killing will be adopted. Mr Harper replied that the Home Office Immigration Enforcement has established the *Complex and Scheduled Removals Team* to consolidate the necessary skills to review complex cases and determine the most effective, humane and low risk method of return. He added that the "*requirements stipulated by Home Office Immigration Enforcement for Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) are higher than those of the Security Industry Authority for accreditation (SIA). There are therefore no plans to seek accreditation for DCOs from the SIA*". He added that HMIP and IMB already monitor a number of removal flights from the UK, although it is not clear about future arrangements for IMB observers. *"Restraint is used only as a last resort. All escorting staff are trained in the use of control and restraint techniques which are accredited by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). We wish to retain the ability to use these techniques, in line with other law enforcement organisations, such as the police and prison service. We have asked NOMS to design a bespoke Home Office training package for overseas escorts. The Independent Advisory Panel on Non-Compliance Management were appointed to provide support in the development of this package and to provide independent advice to the Home Office on the quality and safety of the new package, in particular the use of restraint techniques".*

Lord Hylton: EHRC recommendations on women

HL Deb, 30 October 2013, c249W

Lord Hylton asked what assessment has been made of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in its submission to the Seventh Periodic Report of the UK to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women suggesting (1) that the United Kingdom is failing to recognise the needs of asylum-seeking women fleeing gender-based violence, and (2) that there is a lack of adequate provision in detention centres for pregnant or lactating women. Lord Taylor of Holbeach said that the government had noted the recommendations and that they were committed to improving levels of gender sensitivity in the asylum system and has made progress in recent years *"including putting in place new enhanced guidance, supported by high quality training for all decision-makers".* He added that the EHRC submission did not appear to make direct criticism of the provision in detention centres for pregnant or lactating women: *"In any case, all immigration removal centres (IRCs) and pre-departure accommodation (PDA) have primary healthcare facilities equivalent to those available to women in the community. Where it becomes apparent that a woman is pregnant or lactating, the on-site healthcare team will make appropriate arrangements for her care. Secondary and tertiary healthcare services are provided by the local Primary Care Trust (PCT). IRC and PDA healthcare facilities make referrals to the local PCT in the same way in which a GP surgery in the community would, including for midwifery services".*

Lord Ramsbotham (Crossbench): Short Term Holding Facilities

HL Deb, 30 October 2013, c261W

In response to a question put by Lord Ramsbotham on the timeframe for producing the rules governing short term holding facilities, Lord

Taylor of Holbeach said that *"The draft Short-Term Holding Facility Rules have yet to be finalised and, as such, there is at present no fixed date for when they will be made".*

Emily Thornberry (Lab): Conditional Cautions/FNPs and Deportation

HC Deb, 29 October 2013, c422W

Emily Thornberry asked how many conditional cautions have been issued by police forces and prosecutors in England and Wales for foreign offenders to facilitate their removal from the UK since 2013; and for what offences each such caution was issued. Mark Harper replied: *'The provisions for issuing conditional cautions to facilitate the removal of low-level foreign offenders came into force on 8 April 2013'*. The figures are as follows (full table available online):

	No.	
Total conditional cautions issued	10	
Of which, successful removals	6	Case 1: Seeking leave to remain in the United Kingdom by means of deception
		Case 2: Fraud
		Case 3: Fraud
		Case 4: Fraud by false representation
		Case 5: Possession of a counterfeit ID card with intent to deceive
		Case 6: Fraud by false representation
Pending	1	Fraud by false representation. Removal directions have been set.
Unsuccessful	3	Case1: Two counts of seeking leave to remain in the United Kingdom by means of deception, possession of an identity document with intent to deceive, fraud by false representation The offender has since been prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to 6 months in prison
		Case 2: possession of a counterfeit identity document. The conditional caution was discontinued, but the individual has been administratively removed from the United Kingdom.
		Case 3: Possession of false instrument. Prosecution proceedings are under way.

"We are working with the national policing lead and the Crown Prosecution Service to increase the use of conditional cautions with foreign offender conditions in appropriate cases".

Michael Dugher (Lab): Post sentence detainees

HC Deb, 31 October 2013, c545W

Michael Dugher asked how many foreign national prisoners who have completed their sentences are resident in prisons in the UK. Mark Harper replied that for the week commencing 9/9/13, there were 979 immigration detainees in prison. He added *"Please note that the data includes a small number of individuals who have never served a custodial sentence. These individuals present specific risk factors that indicate they pose a serious risk of harm to the public or to the good order of an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), including the safety of staff and other detainees, which cannot be managed within the regime applied in IRCs. In-order to extract the small number of cases who have not served a custodial sentence would incur a disproportionate cost as this would involve looking at individual records".*

Sarah Teather (Lib Dem): Annual Cost of detention

HC Deb, 31 October 2013, c538W

Sarah Teather asked what estimate has been made of the cost of detaining an individual in an immigration detention centre for one year. Mark Harper replied that the "estimated average" direct annual cost for 2013-14 is £37,230.

Jobs and Training

Detention Action: Advocacy Coordinator, maternity cover

Detention Action is currently recruiting a full time maternity cover post for 6 months. The full details of this Advocacy Coordinator post are available here.

The Advocacy Coordinator will undertake complex casework for vulnerable detainees 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.

The job is based in north London, with regular visits to the detention centres near Heathrow. The closing date for applications is Monday 18th November at 9am. Interviews are on Tuesday 26th November.

Events

Student Action for Refugees: Conference

STAR is holding its annual national student conference *Refugees Welcome Here!* 9th and 10th November. Speakers include Jeremy Seabrook, Guardian journalist and author. There will be workshops on campaigning and volunteering. To book click here

Features: BORDER CRIMINOLOGIES
With thanks to Mary Bosworth

In this feature article, Dr Mary Bosworth tells us about the new online research centre 'Border Criminologies' which has already posted several articles on immigration detention across the globe. It will be of interest to visitors and all those interested in detention issues.

Border Criminologies is a new online research centre based at the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford. Directed by Mary Bosworth, Ines Hasselberg and Sarah Turnbull it brings together academics, practitioners and those who have experienced border control from around the world to understand the effect of border control and to explore alternatives. The network of contributors stretches from Oxford to Australia, including other academics and research students, as well as practitioners and migrants.

Border Criminologies facilitates the exchange of ideas in a variety of ways:

(a) **the Border Criminologies website**: Our website offers a portal to applied academic research on border control within criminology and related disciplines, in Oxford and elsewhere. As the site develops it will make available data and open access publications.

(b) **the Border Criminologies blog**: Situated in our website, the blog showcases original research and first hand accounts of border control.

(c) **Social media**: Border Criminologies is on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

(d) **Discussion group**: Border Criminologies hosts an informal monthly discussion group at the Centre for Criminology to discuss research in this field. If you would like to participate, please email us.

(e) **Seminars and conferences**: Border Criminologies organises regular seminars and conferences which are advertised on our website.

Get involved

We strongly encourage you to participate either by contributing posts (please see the Join In page) or by commenting on published posts. Please note that comments to posts are moderated before publication to ensure that those with offensive or discriminatory content are not published.

Mary Bosworth

AVID, October 2013