**HASLAR IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE – FACTSHEET**

**Haslar IRC**

* The Home Office is planning the development of a new IRC at the former Haslar IRC at Gosport in Hampshire. The plans are at an early stage and a final decision to proceed will be taken on the basis of a feasibility study and planning investigation.
* This new IRC will be a mixture of refurbished and new-build accommodation, built to the latest standards, and will provide safe, secure and fit for purpose accommodation – in line with the Home Office commitments following the [Shaw](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welfare-in-detention-of-vulnerable-persons-review-progress-report) recommendations - for up to 600 men in detention.
* The Home Office are not simply re-opening the former Haslar IRC.
* As part of the planning for the development of this IRC, The Home Office will hold discussions with local councillors, other local stakeholders such as the police, fire and health services and detention-related non-governmental organisations.
* The site will be a secure immigration removal centre. People will be detained under immigration powers and will not be free to leave the centre.
* The IRC will hold a mixture of time-served foreign national offenders and immigration offenders while The Home Office prepare to remove them from the UK. An individual may be detained under immigration powers under certain circumstances, for example, whilst their identity is being established, where there is a risk of absconding, or in support of the return of an individual with no legal right to be in the UK. Where an individual is being detained in support of a return, detention may continue lawfully only for as long as there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable time period.
* More information on the people The Home Office detain can be found here: How many people are detained or returned? - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
* A full range of recreational, educational and healthcare facilities will mirror those currently operated at other IRCs holding men and will include a cultural kitchen, barbers, the ability to purchase items from a shop, access to a computer suite, education, well-being services, welfare and access to legal services. Multi faith/prayer rooms will also be available to detained individuals.
* Visits will be facilitated in line with those in other centres. Visitors arriving at the nearest main train station will be transported to the centre.

**Detention**

* The Home Office is committed to a fair and humane immigration policy that welcomes those here who use legal routes, but tackles abuse and makes our streets safer. This is what the public expects.
* The Home Office will always help individuals with no lawful basis of stay who wish to leave voluntarily, but will enforce the removal of those who refuse.
* Immigration detention is an essential part of this system. Immigration removal centres (IRCs) provide safe, secure and fit for purpose detained accommodation. An individual can only be detained to establish identity and nationality or where there is a realistic prospect of their removal within a reasonable timescale.
* Decisions to detain are taken on a case-by-case basis. Published Home Office detention policy is clear that detention must only ever be used sparingly and for the shortest period necessary.
* The Home Office currently operates seven immigration removal centres (IRCs), four residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHF) and one pre-departure accommodation for families (PDA).
* Current immigration detention capacity is around 2,600 beds, including 450 beds in the prison estate.
* In the year ending June 2022, data shows that the overwhelming majority of people (98%) who left detention were detained for less than 6 months, and 82% were detained for 28 days or less.
* There were 2,038 people detained as at the end of June 2022, 128% more than the 895 people who were detained as at the end of March 2020 (at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic).
* 95% of individuals with no leave to remain in the UK are managed within the community rather than detained.

**Safeguards for people in detention**

* Once a person is in detention, regular reviews are undertaken to ensure that their detention remains lawful, appropriate and proportionate.
* Every 28 days, those detained receive a report from their case owner to inform them of progress and the steps being taken to affect their removal.
* Case Progression Panels provide additional assurance and challenge on the progress of cases of individuals in detention. They review the continuing appropriateness of detention and adherence to detention policies, including the Adults at Risk policy.
* Detention Engagement Teams are present in all IRCs. They engage with those detained to help with issues or queries regarding their immigration case.

**Services and facilities in immigration removal centres**

* The rights of all detained individuals are safeguarded by the Detention Centre Rules, published Operating Standards for immigration removal centres (IRCs) and individuals under escort and [Detention Services Orders (DSOs)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/detention-service-orders). Haslar will be operated in line with these regulations.
* Healthcare in immigration detention facilities in England is commissioned by NHS England. At Dungavel House IRC in Scotland, and Larne House Short-Term Holding Facility in Northern Ireland, healthcare is commissioned by the service providers.
* All IRCs have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival and offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours.
* Individuals also have access to a complete range of medical care whilst they are in an IRC, including primary care, dentistry, substance misuse treatment services and mental health care.
* Welfare teams at each IRC support detained individuals in accessing other means of support specific to their needs.
* Detained individuals are advised of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an IRC. The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in IRCs in England.
* All individuals in IRCs are also provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones on request, fax machines, email and video calling facilities, which can be used to contact legal advisers, family and friends.

**Releases from detention**

* People may be released from detention on immigration bail, granted by either the Secretary of State or the Courts. The majority of decisions to release individuals from detention are based on a change of circumstances which mean that the prospect of removal is no longer realistic or can no longer be achieved within a reasonable timescale. This does not mean that the original decision to detain was inappropriate or wrong.