

Four IPP prisoners to bring legal case to challenge lawfulness of their continued imprisonment

If you are an IPP prisoner or know someone who is and want to be included, then contact me at Karentodner@karentodner.com or 07587107277

Four individuals who are imprisoned under controversial Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) jail terms, Leroy Douglas, Abdullahi Suleman, Wayne Williams, Shaun Anton Lloyd, are looking to apply to the Courts to have their continued detention declared unlawful. A High Court application for a number of prisoners is expected to be filed in the next two weeks by Alun Jones KC and Muin Boase of Great James Street Chambers, instructed by Karen Todner.

Karen Todner said:

"The damage caused by these sentences is internationally recognised and has been rightly condemned. While it is clearly right for the Government to seek to review the sentences of all those impacted by the cruel and inhumane IPP sentences, these cases have gone on for too long for those impacted to wait for the state to resolve a two-decade-old injustice that it itself caused."

"We will therefore be applying to the High Court on behalf of our clients to have their ongoing detention declared unlawful, in line with the United Nation's Working Group's scathing criticism of both the individual sentences and wider ongoing IPP detentions. This barbaric regime must finally cease."

The application is to follow findings of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which found that the ongoing imprisonment of the four is "arbitrary detention", in breach of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The report, [here](#), called on the UK Government to:

"ensure a full and independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of the five individuals and to take appropriate measures against those responsible for the violation of their rights"

The report also found that the sentence of Joshua McRae, who died in prison in September 2024, was arbitrary.

The five were successful on all three grounds advanced to the UN. The Working Group found post-tariff detention to be arbitrary, there being no legal basis in international law for their continued detention (Category I), that the parole system failed adequately to provide a means of testing the lawfulness of their continued detention (Category III), and, in the case of Mr Suleman, that the suspension of Parole Board hearings for psychiatric patients was discriminatory (Category V).

More broadly, the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights ([here](#)) called for IPP sentences to be reviewed urgently, stating that ““The continued existence of this discredited sentencing regime cannot be allowed to drift indefinitely”, and that it may amount to “psychological torture”.

This week, Prime Minister Andy Burnham asked Justice Secretary Alex Norris to review IPP sentences as part of a broader push to reform the country’s prisoner release systems.

The application for habeas corpus, a relief from unlawful detention, will be filed with the High Court in an effort to secure the release of the individuals.

The Imprisonment for Public Protection scheme was started in 2005 and was later abolished in 2012. Those sentenced under the scheme prior to 2012 remain trapped in the system

Leroy Douglas, born 27 August 1981, has spent 19 years in custody without release for the street robbery of a mobile phone. He was sentenced to two years and six months imprisonment in January 2007.

Abdullahi Suleman, born 25 October 1982, has spent over 18 years in custody after being sentenced to three years, nine months and four days’ imprisonment in September 2005.

Shaun Anton Lloyd, born 21 August 1987, was sentenced to five years and six months’ imprisonment in January 2006. He has served a total of 12 years in prison for two street robberies, having been recalled to prison four times.

Wayne Williams, born 11 May 1988, was convicted for attempting to injure a police officer during an arrest. He was sentenced to one year, 11 months and 20 days. He has never been released, serving over 19 years in prison.

Joshua McRae, born 15 October 1989, was sentenced to a four-year tariff in November 2006 for grievous bodily harm. He served over 16 years in prison prior to his death in custody in September 2024. Aside from seven months, he spent his entire adult life in prison.