

RESETTLEMENT

Needs Assessment Notes

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You have indicated that you would like some help with resettlement on your return to the UK. Prisoners Abroad's Resettlement Service aims to help you prepare for your release and also offer you some support and advice during the first few weeks of your release.

In order for us to find out a little more about your needs could you please fill in and return the enclosed Initial Needs Assessment Form. **This form is intended for prisoners who are to be released in the next 12 months and would like to use the Prisoners Abroad Resettlement Service.**

You may wonder why we ask some of the questions on the form, so what follows is a brief explanation:

Sections 1 & 2 - Personal Details and Ethnic Monitoring

We ask you for your basic details and to describe your ethnic origin to us. This is for our monitoring purposes. It enables us to build a picture of who our clients are and what their particular issues may be.

Section 3 - Identification

Identification is very important for your resettlement, especially for accessing welfare benefits. Don't worry if you do not have or cannot remember your National Insurance Number. This can be dealt with when you arrive. If you have one already this will be traced by the Department of Social Security. If you do not already have one, you will be issued with one as part of the process of claiming benefits, although this will mean that the claim process takes longer.

Section 4 – Previous residence in the UK

This section enables us to get an idea of how long you have been out of the country and where in the UK you may want to settle. We can then look for any other organisations in a particular area which could assist you with your resettlement.

Section 5 – Current sentence and history of imprisonment

When you return we will go through this form with you and ask you more about your sentence and conviction. It is Prisoners Abroad's Policy to verify what people tell us about their conviction once they arrive back and request help with resettlement; this is usually done through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Very often we need to be able to make referrals for you for accommodation or to obtain other help. If people receive referrals from our organisation, then it is obvious you have been in prison and people may want to know why. For example, some hostels will not accept those who have committed very serious offences or arson offences. **If you have committed a very serious violent offence or a sexual offence please make sure you tell us. We will need to discuss our confidentiality policy with you further.**

Section 6 - Employment

This section enables us to get a picture of what you may do in terms of work when you arrive in the UK. We can then advise on how to start looking for employment or for suitable organisations which provide assistance in training.

Section 7, 8 & 9 – Physical and Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol

Please tell us as much as possible about any health and /or addiction problems you may have or have had in the past. If you need support with these problems we can check out what is available. Please also try to get together any official documentation about your problem, including diagnosis, treatment and history. This is really useful for doctors/other health workers assisting you when you come back and also for housing applications.

Please let us know if you have a disability and if you need any special help because of it. Any disability you have can also be a significant factor in applying for help with housing.

Section 10 - Other Issues

Please tell us about anything else you would like us to know about you and let us know how you would like us to help. If you have any other questions write them in this section.

We would also like to know what you are planning to do to help yourself with your resettlement. Prisoners Abroad will help you as much as possible, but there several areas you need to start looking into now in order to make the process easier for yourself.

Once you have completed this form send it back to the casework team in the freepost envelope provided.

We appreciate that trying to plan for and think about your release or deportation can be very difficult and stressful; Prisoners Abroad's Resettlement Service will try and help as much as we can.

We look forward to meeting or speaking with you on your return.

Best Wishes,

The Service Delivery Team

If you require this leaflet in a large print format, please contact us. Our details are below.

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