

## Summary report of the Prisoners Abroad project

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Prisoners Abroad supports Britons who have been imprisoned overseas, and their families, providing practical and emotional support throughout their incarceration, and assisting in resettlement on their return to Britain.

The charity approached Pro Bono Economics to evaluate their work with the aim of better demonstrating the impact they have, in order to both help secure funding and improve the targeting of their work to maximise their impact on their client's lives.

We matched the charity with James Edgar at the Department for Transport, who worked with Prisoners Abroad to understand their current approaches, and the data available, and provided a range of recommendations.

The recommendations focus on data collection to allow future analysis. For Prisoners Abroad this means developing the evaluation processes they already have in place, including supplementing this with existing recognised wellbeing tools, data on longer-term outcomes, and some new measures.

Our economist also suggested some possible approaches to establishing a counterfactual, once there is data available for analysis, given that a randomised controlled trial and other commonly used counterfactuals are unlikely to be possible.

James said "Working with Prisoners Abroad was fascinating and useful from two perspectives: I gained a better appreciation of the challenges charities face, and how government funding rules and initiatives look from the perspective of a small charity doing excellent work but without the resources of large organisations; also, considering how to tackle a problem outside my daily expertise widened my knowledge of impact evaluation tools such as well-being measures"

Pauline Crowe, Chief Executive of Prisoners Abroad: "James was very helpful and supportive and to have an expert help us focus on a complex area of work, was hugely beneficial. As a small charity we

wouldn't have been able to negotiate this alone. It has helped us to contextualise the development of our monitoring and evaluation processes and we look forward to taking it forward shortly."