



British  
Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

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## **Information Pack for British Nationals detained or imprisoned in Macao**

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# Chapter 1: Key Points

## Overview

If you are a British national, and are arrested or detained in another country, consular staff will do what they can to help you, but they cannot interfere with the local justice system, get you out of jail, or pay for services such as a lawyer. Information about who we can help, including the circumstances in which we can assist dual nationals, is available at: [Support for British nationals abroad](#).

This detention information pack is designed to give you, and your family and friends, information about the local system in Macao and who can help. A printed copy is provided to those in prison or in custody, and an online version is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/macao-prisoner-pack>. We welcome feedback to help us improve the information we can provide to others.

## Contacting us

If you are arrested or detained in another country:

- **The authorities should ask whether you want them to contact the British Consulate (and must do so if you want them to).**
- **Even if they do not ask, you can make the request yourself, and should do so, particularly if you are charged with a serious offence or need any kind of assistance.**
- **Friends or family can also contact the local British Consulate or the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London on +44 (0)20 7008 1500.**

In some countries, the authorities might notify the British Consulate even if you don't want anyone to know that you have been arrested. This is because there may be an agreement in place with the British Government which requires a mandatory notification to be made.

## Who we are

Consular staff work in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London, and in British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas.

The British Consulate in Hong Kong: -

<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-hong-kong>

1 Supreme Court Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2901 3000

Fax: (852) 2901 3204

Consular enquiries: [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-hong-kong](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-hong-kong)

24/7 support is available by telephone for all routine enquiries and emergencies.

Please call + (852) 2901 3000.

You can also contact us by phone 24/7 for help or advice from anywhere in the world by calling the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on +44 (0)20 7008 1500.

## What we can do

The FCDO can offer you impartial and non-judgemental help. Once notified of your arrest or detention, consular staff will aim to contact you as soon as possible so that we can assess how we can help you. We then aim to provide assistance according to your individual circumstances and local conditions: our priority is to provide assistance to those British nationals overseas that need our help the most.

In Macao, notification by the authorities to the Consulate normally takes place within 24 hours after arrest. Once we are notified, we aim to contact you as soon as possible. Please note you can request to make a call to the Consulate to make sure we know of your arrest.

We can also:

- > provide a list of local English-speaking lawyers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/macao-list-of-lawyers>, and interpreters <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/macao-list-of-translators-and-interpreters>. See also page 14 - what kind of legal assistance is available?
- > provide general information about the country, detention conditions, and the local legal system (including if legal aid is available)
- > provide general information about the local prison or remand system, including visiting arrangements, mail and censorship, privileges, and welfare services.
- > keep in regular contact with you, either by visiting or by telephone/letter. The frequency of contact will depend on local conditions and your personal circumstances.
- > tell the police or prison doctor, with your permission, about any medical or dental problems including medication.
- > put you, or your family, in touch with a prisoners' welfare charity called [Prisoners Abroad](#).
- > in some circumstances we may be able to help take up complaints with the police or prison authorities about ill treatment, personal safety, or discrimination, if you are not treated in line with internationally recognised standards.
- > help to transfer money to you from your friends or family. In places where phone or postal services aren't available, we can also pass on messages and deliver letters to the prison.
- > in some circumstances we may be able to help you apply for a transfer to a prison in the UK.

## What we can't do

- > get you out of prison or detention
- > help you get special treatment
- > offer legal advice, start legal proceedings or investigate a crime
- > pay for any costs as a result of being arrested
- > forward you packages sent by friends or family
- > prevent authorities from deporting you after release

## **First Steps**

### **Can you / will you tell my family?**

If you want us to, we can tell your family or friends that you have been detained and can provide them with information about how to contact you in prison or detention. With your consent, we can also keep them updated on your well-being.

If you are not sure about informing your family, we can help you consider the impact that not doing so might have. For example, it may cause them distress if they do not know where you are, or cannot contact you. It can also be a disadvantage to you if you need someone to send you money or act on your behalf while you are detained.

### **Will the UK Police be informed?**

If you are accused of certain serious offences, such as sexual assault or drugs trafficking, we are obliged to share information about your arrest with UK police. It is therefore possible that information about this may appear if a Criminal Records Bureau check were carried out by a prospective employer. There may be other circumstances in which information about you may need to be shared by ourselves or authorities in Macao.

### **Do I need a lawyer? / How can I find a lawyer?**

Although we cannot give legal advice, start legal proceedings, or investigate a crime, we can offer basic information about the local legal system, including whether a legal aid scheme is available. We can give you a list of local interpreters and a list of local English-speaking lawyers is attached to this pack. See also page 14 – what kind of legal assistance is available? You will want to consider the benefits of local legal representation and to discuss all the costs beforehand with the legal representative. In no circumstances can we pay your legal or interpretation costs.

### **Can you get me out?**

We cannot get you out of prison or detention, nor can we get special treatment for you because you are British. However if you are not treated in line with internationally accepted standards we will consider whether to approach local authorities. This may include if your trial does not follow internationally recognised standards for fair trial or is unreasonably delayed compared to local cases.

### **Who else can help me?**

We can put you, or your family, in touch with Prisoners Abroad, a UK charity which supports British citizens detained overseas and their families: [www.prisonersabroad.org.uk](http://www.prisonersabroad.org.uk)

## **Chapter 2: Detention conditions in Macao**

### **Visits – friends and family**

#### **Can my family and friends visit me? How can I arrange a visit?**

New inmates are entitled to the right of a first visit from family and friends within 15 days of imprisonment. Arrangement for first visit is made via the Social Assistance, Education and Training Division at +853 2888 1211.

For regular visit, permit for visiting an inmate can be made either at the Coloane Prison – Registration Team at Rua de S. Francisco Xavier, s/n Coloane, telephone no. +853 2888 1211; or at the Correctional Services Bureau, Service and Information Centre at Avenida da Praia Grande no 730-804, China Plaza, 8/F Block A, telephone no. +853 2871 5800. All visits must be conducted according to the schedule designated by Coloane Prison. <http://www.dsc.gov.mo/siteen/visit.aspx?id=7>.

Once the permit is issued, visitors must bring their valid identification with the permit to visit the inmate within a prison-designated schedule. The visit schedule for each inmate is arranged according to the cell area to which he /she belongs. Inmates are entitled to no less than one hour per week visiting time. Six persons are allowed for the weekly visit schedule, but only 3 persons can be accommodated at the same time.

#### **What can visitors expect?**

Valid identification document and visiting permit have to be presented to the registration window for verification. All visitors entering the Prison have to receive a security check, store all personal belongings in the locker, and wait at the waiting area. Visit will take place in partition visitation area behind glass and guarded by prison officers.

#### **What can visitors bring?**

Visitors are allowed to bring certain items to the detainees upon visit. The list of approved items can be found at [https://www.dsc.gov.mo/userfiles/page\\_content/files/List\\_of\\_Deliverable\\_Items\\_en.pdf](https://www.dsc.gov.mo/userfiles/page_content/files/List_of_Deliverable_Items_en.pdf)

For certain items, i.e. radio, handheld games console; advanced approval from the prison management must be obtained prior to the visit.

### **Visits – Consular staff**

We will visit you every 6 months; during our visit, when we can discuss any issues you may have. With your permission we will raise with the prison authorities any concerns you may have regarding your health, welfare and treatment. We can also relay any messages you have to your family.

If you have urgent matter to discuss, you can request to call the Consulate. If we are concerned about health or mistreatment, we will visit earlier.

You can write to us at any time on matters of concern to Consular Section, British Consulate-General, 1 Supreme Court Road, Hong Kong, but if it is urgent it may be quicker to ask prison authorities to contact us on your behalf or request to call the Consulate and speak to us directly.

## **Emergency trips outside of prison**

It is possible to apply for emergency trip outside prison under supervision, especially for strong reasons related to family or career that do not affect public order and safety. Application will be considered by prison director based on individual circumstance and weight upon its security aspect.

## **Police custody and initial arrival at prison**

### **Arrival at the police station & basic rights**

There are police officers who speak English to inform detainee the reason of the arrest and to take statement. You can request to make local phone call to your friend or family to inform them of you arrest or you can request to call the Consulate. There are no free legal representatives at the police station, though you can instruct a private lawyer and he/she can be present during statement taking.

Food and water can be accessed in the police station. There are usually plastic benches in the holding cell. A detainee in need of medical attention will be taken to a public hospital.

Personal belongings are kept by police while in custody. Items that are evidence will be kept by police for further investigation. The rest of the belongings will be given back to you if bail is granted or sent to remand centre with you if bail is denied.

The police will notify the Public Prosecution Office immediately after they are informed of a crime, and request from them an authorisation of investigation. The police have the right to detain a person for 48 hours. If it is impossible to conduct a trial of the suspect by summary proceedings within 48 hours, the suspect must be transferred to the judge of criminal preliminary hearings for the first judicial inquiry. At the first judicial inquiry, the judge will decide whether or not to keep the suspect in custody or grant bail.

If you do not have enough funds to pay for bail, we can contact friends on your behalf or ask the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London to contact relatives or friends in the United Kingdom (or elsewhere overseas). It can take several days to arrange to transfer funds via the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, or a British Embassy or Consulate in a third country. Please note to transfer funds via the British Consulate-General Hong Kong carries a fee.

If the charges are serious, e.g. drug trafficking, bail may be refused and you will be detained and brought before the first judicial inquiry, usually within 48 hours, and the prosecution may request for you to remain in custody. If you do remain in custody, you will be detained at the Remand Section of the Macao Prison while waiting for your case to go for trial.

If you have any grievances about the actions of the police, you have the right to make a complaint to the Public Security Police Force (Corpo de Policia de Seguranca Publica). The address is Praceta de 1 de Outubro, Macao. Tel: +853 2878 7373, Fax: +853 8790 5467. Email: [psp-info@fsm.gov.mo](mailto:psp-info@fsm.gov.mo) or make an online submission at <http://www.fsm.gov.mo/psp>

## Appearance at court

You can request to the judge to appoint a defender for you if you do not have a private lawyer. More information about the Macao judicial system can be found in Chapter 3.

## Initial arrival at the prison

If you plead guilty or are found guilty by the court and sentenced to a period of imprisonment, you will be sent to Macao Prison, [www.epm.gov.mo/](http://www.epm.gov.mo/). The address is Rua de S. Francisco Xavier s/n Coloane, Macao. Tel: +853 2888 1211.

On admission, all prisoners will be searched and gone through registration procedure, then medical examination by a prison doctor will be carried out. Inmates will be given a leaflet entitled 'Important Notice to Inmates' which is available in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

The Social Assistance, Education and Training Division of Macao Prison provides counselling services, education programmes and social activities to inmates.

A parole system is in force in Macao and inmates who have served two-thirds of their sentences in good behaviour are eligible to be considered for parole. Prison officials will compile a report to send to the court for decision.

Prison guards, social and counselling worker and medical staff can basically use English to communicate with inmates. The prison's information, notices and application forms for inmates are provided with English version.

Inmates have the right to communicate and can call to their families and friends by applying to the prison when necessary.

Remand inmates can wear their own clothing in the prison, while convicted inmates are required to put on prisoner uniforms.

Your belongings including your private clothing that are not part of the evidence will be itemised, recorded and kept at prison.

## Prison: conditions and daily life

Macao has one prison, it consist of 9 buildings and it called Macao Prison or Coloane Prison. There are different zones for male and female and different zones for remand and sentenced. There is a separate Youth Correctional Institution for young offenders.

The construction of the Macao Prison was completed and put into service in 1990 and the conditions generally meet international standards. However, overcrowding has been a problem in recent years. A new prison is under construction since 2010.

Contact visits have been temporarily suspended due to covid, non-contact visits by communicating through a handset remain as usual. Inmates must wear masks when leaving their cells except for open exercise. They have strengthen the cleaning procedure by disinfecting the institutions daily at specific times. Visitors have to wear masks, make health declaration and temperature taken for the visit. Macao Prison offer Covid-19 vaccine injections to all voluntary inmates.



## Accommodation

Sentenced prisoners and those on remand are held separately. Single cells are rare and inmates have to share dormitories. General necessities, such as clothes, bedding, towel, toothpaste, toothbrush and soap are provided by the prison. No air-conditioning in the cells or dormitories, but electric fans are installed. Washbasins, toilets and running water are installed in cells, also, there is natural light to the dormitories and workshops.

Inmates are required to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and tidiness in their cells or dormitories. Officers will inspect regularly and failure to maintain may be subject to disciplinary action.

## Food and Diet

Meals provided to inmates in prison are set by the nutritionist and approved by the Prison Dietary Committee, so the nutritional balance is ensured.

Prison provides 3 meals a day. Breakfasts include bread, coffee, milk and oatmeal. Lunch and dinner are provided with four types of meals: - regular meals, vegetarian meals, religious meals without beef and religious meals without pork. Soup and rice can be taken by inmates freely according to their need. Inmates can make their selection in accordance with their religious beliefs. In addition, prison doctors will make necessary dietary adjustment in accordance with the health condition of inmates. In addition, bread is provided for each inmates as late night supper.

Should an inmate require special diet due to health issue, the prison will make special arrangement in accordance with the prison doctor's

## Hygiene

Inmates can shower every day and can take hot shower at any seasons in accordance to their own needs. Toiletries such as soap, comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper and towel will be provided. Inmates can purchase hygiene products monthly in prison or they may ask for extra supplies from prison under special situation or emergency needs.

## Work and Study

There are vocational training workshops in Macao Prison, providing different types of vocational training including tailoring, carpentry, printing, car maintenance, arts and craft etc. Inmates can apply to attend training according to their interests and future career plans. Work is not compulsory and a small subsidy between MOP\$220 to MOP\$550 will be paid for the work.

Primary, junior secondary level education programs and a variety of professional certificate courses are organised in prison premises. Inmates can apply to participate in those programmes according to their academic levels or interests. Prison will also provide assistance to inmates who wish to apply for university and higher diploma level courses.

There is a library in the Prison for inmates to borrow books and magazines. The Prison will also provide newspapers in Chinese, Portuguese and English for inmates on a daily basis.

## Contact and Languages

Inmates are allowed to speak to each other's in day rooms or in dorms. They are likely to put in a dorm with similar background. English speaking officers is available whenever it is needed.

No internet access for inmates. Inmates can receive information and news from TV, newspaper, magazines and books. All inmates are allowed to send and receive letters from relatives and close friends.

Inmates have the right to communicate and can call to their families and friends by applying to the prison when necessary.

There are cultural and social activities including religious gatherings on offer at the prison, and the correctional services view the activities as part of the rehabilitation programmes.

There is the possibility to request local language materials through the post from Prisoners Abroad (including language textbooks and dictionaries).

## Exercise

Inmates have access to indoor or outdoor exercises. Indoor exercises include table-tennis, stationary bike and treadmill. Outdoor exercises include basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton and jogging. Based on the actual situation of each detention zone, the prison arranges for inmates to exercise in the activity area group by group at different times every day.

Moreover, on a weekly basis inmates are also sent group by group at different times to the gymnasium and playground for exercise at their own preference.

## Climate

Macao has a sub-tropical climate with distinct seasons, spring is humid. Temperature in summer can excel 31°C but high humidity levels can make it feel hotter. Typhoon season begins in May and ends in November. Winter is cold and dry. Temperature can drop to 10°C in some area.

Appropriate clothing is provided by the correctional services, extra blankets can be requested for the winter.

## Religion

Religious gatherings and activities are held on prison premises regularly. Inmates can apply to possess religious items in the prison.

## Rules and regulations (including drugs)

On admission, all prisoners will go through registration procedure and be given a leaflet entitled 'Important Notice to Inmates' which is available in Chinese, Portuguese and English. Medical examination by a prison doctor will be carried out.

The Social Assistance, Education and Training Division of Macao Prison provides counselling services, education programmes and social activities to inmates. The system of the Macao Correctional Services is strict disciplinary based with elements of correction, rehabilitation and community education.

Inmates are expected to conduct themselves in orderly and disciplined manner at all times. Any misconduct may lead to disciplinary action. Disrespecting officer, using abusive language, committing any assault, fighting with any person are considered as serious misconduct.

There is remission of one-third of the sentence for good behaviour. Forfeiture of remission, separate confinement are some types of punishments for misconduct.

Drugs trafficking in prison are rare in Macao. If you are caught with any kind of illegal drugs, you will be charged and an additional sentence will be imposed.

## Prison: access to help and services

### How can I receive money?

**The British Government does not provide financial assistance to prisoners.**

#### Private funds

While the FCDO does not provide financial assistance to prisoners, we may be able, within certain limits, to send you money from your family.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) operates a "Prison Comfort" system for money transfers to prisoners. Friends or family can contact the local British Consulate or the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London on +44 (0)20 7008 1500.

We are unable to receive payment by credit or debit card, or by cash.

### Can I receive medical and dental treatment?

Primary medical care (including dental services) are provided in the prison. If necessary, prison doctors will refer inmates to specialists at hospital for treatment and medical follow-up. Those in a serious condition will be hospitalised to receive treatment.

The Social Assistance, Education and Training Division of Macao Prison provides counselling services, education programmes and social activities to inmates.

Inmate requires glasses have to apply to the welfare officer, and arrange for family or friend to deposit glasses during visit.

With your permission, we can make sure that any medical or dental problems you might have are brought to the attention of any police or prison doctor. We can also liaise with your GP in the UK, if the police or prison doctor requests previous medical records and this is in your vital interests.

## **Mail/Parcels**

All inmates are allowed to send and receive letters from relatives and close friends. Parcels can be sent to inmates, applications have to be sent to prison for approval first before items can be sent. [http://www.dsc.gov.mo/download/SendingItemsByPost\\_EN\\_AF.pdf](http://www.dsc.gov.mo/download/SendingItemsByPost_EN_AF.pdf).

## **Can I make telephone calls?**

Inmates have the right to communicate and can call to their families and friends by applying to the prison when necessary.

## **How can I make a complaint about mistreatment?**

If you have been tortured or mistreated, please inform Consular staff as soon as it is safe for you to do so. We will then do our best to visit you; to check on your welfare; discuss the allegations; and inform you of any local complaints procedures and supportive organisations that you may wish to consider. With your permission, and where appropriate, we may also be able to raise your allegations of torture and/or mistreatment with the authorities.

In Macao Prison, inmates have the rights to make complaints to the personnel of judicial authorities, management and personnel of the prison. In addition, the court assigns a judge and a prosecutor to visit the Prison at least once a month to listen to the grievances from inmates.

## Chapter 3: the Macao judicial system

### Overview and first steps

Macao's legal system is founded on a strong tradition of adherence to the rule of law and judicial independence. Its Basic Law gives the government independent judicial power, including the power of final adjudication

### Is the system the same as the UK?

The system maintains Continental European law as the foundation of its legal system. The Courts of Macao exercise independent judicial power and comprise of the Court of Final Appeal, the Court of Second Instance, the Primary Court and the Administrative Court. In addition, Macao's legal system also embraces the possibility of resolving disputes by arbitration.

- **The FCDO cannot interfere with the judicial system. We cannot ask for your case to be judged more quickly just because you are British, or ask the authorities to waive any penalties.**

### What should happen when I am arrested?

Detainee will be informed the reason of the arrest. English speaking officer will attend the statement taking. You can request to make phone call to your family or friend to inform of the arrest, or to call the Consulate. Detainee can insist on seeing legal representative before answering questions / making statement. However, private lawyer has to be appointed as legal aid is not available at this stage.

The police have the right to detain you for 48 hours before they formally lay a charge and if the charge is serious, bail will be refused and you will be brought before the court for summary trial or presented to a competent judge for preliminary judicial examination. If bail is refused, you will be further detained at Remand Section of the Macao Prison while awaiting investigation and trial.

- **Should you have any questions concerning the legal aspects of your arrest, contact your lawyer. A list of local English-speaking lawyers is provided at the end of this pack.**

### For how long can I be remanded in custody?

The time limit for investigation is mainly divided into two categories: six and eight months. The time limit is usually six months for cases that the suspect is detained, but for some serious cases such as murder, the time limit can be extended to eight months. At that time, the Public Prosecution Office will decide whether to close the file or initiate the prosecution. According to Macao Law, the maximum period for custody in remand is three years and six months.

Detainees on remand are kept at the Remand Detention Zone of the Macao prison. They are allowed to wear sporty style clothing brought in by family.

## What happens when I am charged?

Once formal charges have been laid, detainees are informed of their rights. If charges are serious, bail will be refused and you will be brought before the court for summary trial or presented to a competent judge for preliminary judicial examination. You will be further detained at Remand Section of the Macao Prison while awaiting investigation and trial.

## What provision is there for bail?

For offences punishable with imprisonment such as drug trafficking and money laundering, bail will usually be refused. For minor offences such as theft or disturbance of public order, bail might be granted

The amount of the bail depends on the nature of the crime, the financial situation of the detainees and likelihood of the accused leaving the country.

Bail is rarely offered to those without close connection with Macao, with no surety or no permanent Macao address. Failing to adhere to bail condition will result in warrant being issued for their arrest and being kept in custody at remand centre.

- **The FCDO is not able to facilitate the transfer of bail funds.**

## Trial and legal assistance

### What kind of legal assistance is available?

If you wish to hire a private lawyer, a list of English-speaking lawyers is provided at the end of this pack. Prisoners Abroad can also supply information on legal aid, court proceedings and can advise on appointing a lawyer.

Private lawyers usually ask for a cash advance for their estimated legal fees before taking on a case. Depending on the verdict of the case and the case nature, the judge will decide who will pay for the court fees.

Suspects can request the judge to appoint a defender for them if they do not have a lawyer. The law stipulates that under some circumstances, there must be a defender during the entire proceedings. Therefore, even if suspects do not make such request, the judge will appoint a defender to participate in the proceedings in order to protect their right of defence.

All residents of Macao, including temporary residents, can apply for legal aid if they meet certain legal requirements. Legal aid can be applied for at any stage of a legal action. The Legal Aid Commission is at Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpcao, 398, Edf CNAC, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Macao. Tel: +853 2853 3540, email: - [info@caj.gov.mo](mailto:info@caj.gov.mo) and website: <http://www.caj.gov.mo/en/>.

### What happens at the trial?

Macao has a three-level court system namely, the Court of First Instance, the Court of Second Instance and the Court of Final Appeal. For minor criminal cases, they will be heard at the Criminal Court of the Court of First Instance. In more serious cases, the trial will

normally take place at the Court of Second Instance. Appointed defender or legal aid lawyer will represent you at the trial.

Under the law, defendants enjoy a presumption of innocence, have access to government-held evidence relevant to their cases and have a right to appeal.

## **Sentences**

Sentences will depend on the seriousness of the crime. You should seek advice from your lawyer. There is no death penalty or corporal punishment in Macao. Imprisonment is therefore the heaviest penalty.

Application can be made for deportation to a third country if UK is not the place of residence prior to imprisonment. Macao Immigration will liaise with the authority of the third country to establish their immigration status there.

## **How can appeals be made?**

Generally, appeals must be filed within 10 days after receiving the notification of ruling. The law also stipulates that there must be grounds to file an appeal, otherwise, the appeal may be rejected. In principle, if someone does not agree with the adjudication, they can appeal to the upper judicial organs.

It is important that you consult your lawyer and consider carefully whether you have proper grounds before you decide whether or not to lodge appeal. It must be noted that an appeal can lead to an increased sentence.

## **Reaching the end of your sentence**

### **What provision is there for reduction of sentence (remission) e.g. for good behaviour?**

Reduction of sentence is not automatic, it is in the form of parole. The prison will submit a report for parole to the court when a prisoner has served two-thirds of their sentence.

### **What provision is there for early release e.g. on parole?**

After serving two-thirds of their sentence, the prison will submit a report based on inmates' behaviour in custody, support from family, employment prospect and the chance of re-offence for the court to consider parole.

### **What provision is there for clemency or pardon?**

Prisoner can write to the Chief Executive for clemency or pardon.

### **What about any financial penalties?**

It depends on individual cases. Financial compensation to victims or confiscation of proceedings from illegal means may be ordered by the court.

### **Is transfer to another prison within Macao possible?**

There is only one prison in Macao.

### **Is transfer to the UK a possibility?**

There is no Prison Transfer Agreement between the UK and Macao.

### **What are the procedures for release and deportation?**

Prisoners with a deportation order will be interviewed by a social worker in prison near the time of their release to discuss the deportation and to apply for Macao prison funds to pay for the air ticket. Upon release, they will be transferred to the Dorpo de Policia de Seguranca Publica and arrangements will be made for a flight back to the UK. Appeal against deportation will only be considered on compassionate and humanitarian grounds (e.g. close link with Macao).

Sometimes people find that they face difficulties adjusting to life in the UK once they have left prison. You may find yourself ready for life on the outside but not prepared for living in the UK. Possibly you have never lived in the UK and have no connections there, or perhaps you have lost touch with friends and family. You may simply want to talk to another person who understands what you have been through, to help you consider what to do next.

If you are registered with Prisoners Abroad you can visit Prisoners Abroad when you first arrive back in UK for advice, to take a shower, use their temporary luggage store, make essential phone calls or use a computer. If you have no belongings Prisoners Abroad may be able to help with basic toiletries and finding suitable clothing. If you know your release date in advance it is best to write and tell your caseworker when you are likely to arrive and what help you think you might need. If you have no money and nowhere to go, Prisoners Abroad's Aftercare Service can help with:

- advice on finding emergency accommodation in the London area
- claiming welfare benefits, including emergency benefit payments if you are destitute
- making appointments with doctors and dentists
- putting you in touch with local agencies if you are not returning to the London area.

Later on you may want advice on housing, looking for work, applying for training or getting counselling. Prisoners Abroad can refer you to the right agency.

Other sources of practical help back in the UK are The Salvation Army – UK Helpline 020 7367 4888, Monday to Friday 8 AM to 4 PM, or contact your local Salvation Army branch – and The Prison Fellowship, UK Helpline 020 7799 2500, Monday to Friday 9 AM to 5 PM.



## **Would I have a criminal record in the UK?**

We will not normally pass on information about your case to a third party without your consent. However, if you're arrested for certain serious offences, such as child sex abuse or drugs crimes, our staff must tell other relevant UK authorities. It is therefore possible that information about this may appear if a Criminal Records Bureau check were carried out by a prospective employer.

## Chapter 4: Additional Information

### Additional Information

#### Prisoners Abroad

Since 1978 the charity Prisoners Abroad has offered practical support and advice to British citizens imprisoned overseas. It is the only UK charity providing this service and it is available to all, whether guilty or innocent, convicted or awaiting charge or trial. Prisoners Abroad is concerned with your health and welfare, both during your imprisonment and also on your return to the UK, through their resettlement service (if you have registered whilst in prison). They can also provide support and advice to your family during your imprisonment. In order to access any services, prisoners must first register with Prisoners Abroad by signing and returning their authorisation form.

Once you seek help from Prisoners Abroad, the Prisoner & Family Support Service will be your point of contact for advice and information. The type of assistance they can offer will vary from country to country, but generally they can provide you with information, in English, on:

- your rights as a prisoner and issues that may affect you such as health or transfer to the UK
- obtaining magazines, newspapers, books and the regular Prisoners Abroad newsletter
- learning the language of your country of imprisonment
- translation of documents
- grants for food if you are in a developing country and don't have funds from other sources
- grants for essential medicines and toiletries if you don't have funds from other sources
- preparing for release
- help for your loved ones, including information, family support groups and, in a few cases, assistance with the cost of visiting

Prisoners Abroad  
89 – 93 Fonthill Road  
London N4 3JH  
UK

**Telephone:** 00 44 (0)20 7561 6820 or, for your relatives in the UK, Freephone: 0808 172 0098

(Mondays and Tuesdays 9.30 am to 6pm, and Wednesdays to Fridays 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, UK time)

**Email:** [info@prisonersabroad.org.uk](mailto:info@prisonersabroad.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.prisonersabroad.org.uk](http://www.prisonersabroad.org.uk)

## Annex

1. List of English-Speaking Lawyers
2. List of Private Translators/Interpreters
3. FCO leaflet: Support for British Nationals Abroad: Summary  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-a-guide/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-summary>.
4. FCO leaflet: In Prison Abroad: Transfer to a UK Prison  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-prison-abroad/in-prison-abroad-transfer-to-a-uk-prison>
5. Prisoners Abroad Authorisation Form
6. Prisoners Abroad Family Contact Form
7. Useful phrases and vocabulary (English to Chinese)