

Simon Scott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 9 April 2023 9:09 PM
To: CSJS
Subject: Submission
Attachments: Screenshot_20230409-105838.png; Screenshot_20230409-200522.png;
Screenshot_20230409-200601.png; Screenshot_20230409-200441.png;
Screenshot_20230409-200649.png; Screenshot_20230409-200623.png

Attn:
Simon Scott
Committee Secretary
Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B'

Submission

9/4/2023

My name is Jessica Bell, my partner is currently serving a period of time in Risdon Prison, I am writing this submission as a voice for those incarcerated but my partner and myself aswell!!

I have had many dealings with Risdon prison in the past but I would like to outline my dealings in the last 3 months I've never had to write anything like this before so I'm not entirely sure if this will be correctly written or formatted but I do hope this finds where it needs to go and is heard!! Firstly I would like to bring to your attention the current situation where prisoners are deprived of their liberty my partner is currently situated in medium security at Risdon since moving there early January I have noticed a major increase in all day lockdowns these lockdowns occur for not just 1 day but multiple days on end infact at this current time on average lockdowns are occuring 3 days a week may also note that these lockdowns mostly occur over weekends, this been said I believe weekends are a time where prisoners families are less busy and more available to answer phone calls but medium and maximum security don't have access to phones in their units or cells like minimum security or the southern remand centre! Could it be a stupid proposal to put forward that a phone system be installed to these areas to give prisoners that right to still contact family and loved ones in locked down periods? I think this could potentially give some relief to prisoners and those that they contact which also helps with maintaining a steady rehabilitation and mental health!!

I would also like to bring up some more personal matters of my partner and I where we feel targeted or as If security have a vendetta against us, January prior to attending a "box visit" I was kept in the waiting room whilst everyone else proceeded to their visits I stood in the waiting room where I was asked to pull my pants away from my waist so security could shine their torch down my pants front and back then sent on my way to my visit not only did I find this unprofessional and belittling but also embarrassing, in February I received a temp ban for a minor breach where I took a screenshot of my partner whilst on zoom I agreed I had made an error and appealed the decision and all my visiting rights reinstated, the following visit early March I received a letter the next day saying I was again on a temp ban, this time for alleged trafficking I again appealed this ban and due to 2 temp bans In quick succession I was banned for 3 months which is current until the 13th of June, I would like to make it clear that I did not traffick into that jail, I am always punctual, polite respectful to staff and their rules when visiting the jail, I had no idea about the ban and allegations until the next day I never received a phone call just the email I will attach, may I also bring to your attention that my partner was searched orally abd stripped a number of times and questioned after the visit, in this time a security member stated he wasn't sure or couldn't prove if something was trafficked this been said my partner requested he be sent to the "dry unit" so he could prove the allegations were false but his request was turned down!! Yet these allegations are clearly stated on my ban letter and also on the file of my partner! Which brings me to my next concern, my partner is serving a 4.5 year sentence his full sentence will be completed September 2024, he has been eligible for parole for close to 12 months we have had 6 attempts at parole each and every attempt has failed due to suitable accommodation, firstly it was due to

children been at the address this happened at multiple attempts, then Bethlehem house turned down before he could even try due to a face tattoo, then our last attempt at his grandparents it was alleged they were too old? Now excuse me if I am wrong but should a person attempting to be released on parole be with a supportive network his mother and step father lived next door for support, I have a license to make sure all his appointments were able to be attended, but once again after the parole officer remaining silent for 6 weeks, 2 days prior to the parole hearing his parole officer calls him to say the address is not suitable and he wouldn't be sitting for parole, may I also make note coincidentally that parole officer went on leave long term days later from this phone call and failed to inform his grandmother that parole would not be happening not only was she upset but also disrespected in the manner that she was told she would be contacted and updated!! The mental and emotional drain on someone who is constantly let down time after time is huge, trying to make substantial changes in their life and aren't given the chance to show they are ready to be let in society!!

Finally today is Easter day my partner and I have 5 children between us that look forward to our zoom visits, not only was our Friday zoom 40 minutes late it was also shortened to 10 minutes then today's zoom cancelled due to operational issues, I also recall prisoners only allowed 1 phone call Christmas day!

This submission is based wholly on personal dealings me and my partner have had, I support it with attached emails, in closing this submission I believe that prisoners do have the right to fresh air daily, a phone call to a loved one daily, a fair chance at rehabilitation, for officers to be fair and follow rules, their mental health a priority and finally a fair chance at entering society! I also believe visitors should also be shown and treated with respect!

I thank you for your time
Yours sincerely

Jessica bell

J.k.Bell
09/04/2023



Canceled: RPC Prison Video Visit



09 Apr 2023 2:30PM - 3:00PM

Inbox



TPS Visits 8:22 am
to me



APR

9

Canceled: RPC Prison Video Visit - LOUN...
This event has been cancelled.



Today
2:30 - 3:00 pm



All day Easter Sunday (regional holiday)
All day Easter Sunday (regional holiday)
2:30 pm Canceled: RPC Prison Video Visit - LO...

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← Visits with [REDACTED]



Department of Justice
TASMANIA PRISON SERVICE

672 East Derwent Highway, Risdon Vale 7016
PO Box 24, Lindisfarne Tas 7015
www.justice.tas.gov.au



15 March 2023

Ms Jessica Bell
[REDACTED]

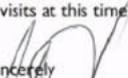
Dear Ms Bell,

In correspondence sent to you dated 3 March 2023, it was advised that due to an incident where you have trafficked an item to [REDACTED] during a contact visit session a temporary ban was imposed resulting in you not being able to have contact visits with [REDACTED]. I also refer to your temporary ban of 15 January 2023 where your misuse of zoom visits also incurred a temporary ban which was ultimately upheld on appeal from yourself.

Due to you engaging in activities that threaten the health and safety of prisoners and staff, I am not willing to support contact visits at this time. In accordance with my authority under Section 15 of the Corrections Act 1997, I have deemed it appropriate to offer you zoom visits only for a period of three (3) months to ensure the safety, security and good order of the prison is not compromised.

I understand that contact with friends is important for all prisoners therefore I encourage you to maintain positive behaviour in zoom visits and refrain from any activity that may negatively impact your opportunity for contact visits in the future.

I will reconsider this decision after 15 June 2023. You will be required to re-apply for contact visits at this time.

Yours sincerely


[REDACTED]
Andrew Gallagher
Assistant Director of Prisons

cc Visitor Receptions Prison
cc Security & Intelligence Unit





Visits with [REDACTED].pdf



Jessica Bell 17 Mar

to [REDACTED]



Attn: Andrew Gallagher,
I'm writing in response to your previous letter, I'm willing to accept your ban of 3 months only due to the fact that fighting your response may lead to a ban restarting if the same response is received! I will however make it quite clear that I never trafficked anything into that **prison** as stated in my last letter and am quite offended by the fact it states I did, these were only alleged allegations that are false, may also make it clear that like I also stated I always willingly participate in all directions by security including the time I was standing in VRC waiting room and was asked to pull my pants out so a female officer could look inside my pants whilst a male security officer stood by this was not done in private nor was it professional by any means if anything it was embarrassing and belittling Hence why I assume we are targeted and quite frankly been harassed hopefully after these 3 months we can carry on back into a normal visitation routine without any more drama! Once again I thankyou for your response and despite me been not satisfied with the out come I appreciate the fact that you have still allowed zoom visits!
Thankyou again
Jessica bell

[Show quoted text](#)



Department of Justice
TASMANIA PRISON SERVICE

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www.justice.tas.gov.au



20 February 2023

Jessica Bell
[Redacted]

Dear Jessica,

I acknowledge receipt of an appeal letter received by my office on 16 February 2023, in relation to your temporary contact visit ban imposed on 15 February 2023.

I have reviewed all evidence available to me and the information contained in your letter. Due to the allegations that resulted in your zoom visit privileges being withdrawn, the safety, security and good order of the prison had the potential to be compromised, therefore the Tasmania Prison Service takes these matters very seriously.

However, I consider zoom visits important in the rehabilitation of prisoners and have taken into consideration the effect this may have on yourself, [Redacted] and therefore I have decided to reinstate your access to zoom visits.

I encourage you to maintain positive behaviour in zoom visits and refrain from any activity that may negatively impact your opportunity for visits in the future. You can contact the Visitor Reception Centre on [Redacted] to book a visit.

I trust this addresses your concerns.

[Redacted]
Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Andrew Gallagher
A/Assistant Director of Prisons

cc Visitor Reception Centre
cc Security and Intelligence Unit





Jessica Bell 6 Mar

to Executive ▾



To whom it may concern,

I have just received a phone call from my partner [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I stated that I wouldn't reply to the attached letter until I had spoken to him because quite frankly I had no idea of what was going on it's a huge allegation to throw at someone, especially when you are innocent of the allegation! This once again has taken major affects on our lives after just having a ban lifted for the screenshot innocent, I would not jeopardise in any way the visits with my partner, I quite willingly co-operate with staff and the guidelines when visiting the prison and will continue to each and every visit, if need be I will be strip searched and orally searched each and every visit but I promise you now I do not traffick anything into that prison! [REDACTED] mentioned that [REDACTED] was not a 100% sure or confident that anything was trafficked and when [REDACTED] requested he be put in the CSU unit for a week his request was denied and he was sent back to his unit!! I'm starting to think some form of harrasment against me and [REDACTED] is happening, because I can't think of any other explanation! Whilst [REDACTED] is incarcerated I do the co parenting with [REDACTED] so last weekend [REDACTED] missed out on a visit for [REDACTED] birthday due to a ban, this weekend the weekend [REDACTED] stays with me I booked a zoom visit so they could atleast see and speak to each other only to have my visits taken away on false allegations!! This is becoming mentally draining, I treat your prison with respect and one would think we would be treated the same but it appears for me doing everything right I'm treated like I'm doing everything wrong I now have to explain to my [REDACTED] why [REDACTED] can't visit [REDACTED] so they can meet each other face to face before [REDACTED] sits parole in a couple of weeks I'm hoping you can have some consideration and have some belief that these allegations are false and have absolutely no truth to them whatsoever and that you could kindly reinstate my visiting privileges once again not just for myself and [REDACTED] but our children as well!

Jessica bell

[REDACTED]
0191771000



← BELL, Jessica Temp ban...



Department of Justice
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TASMANIA PRISON SERVICE

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3rd March 2023

Ms Jessica Bell
[REDACTED]

Dear Jessica,

I have been provided with a report in regards to an incident where you have trafficked an item to [REDACTED] during a contact visit session on [REDACTED]. The TPS has a strict policy regarding introduction of unauthorised items or contraband into prison facilities.

That said, I ask that you provide in writing good reason as to why a period of withdrawal of your visiting privileges should not be imposed resulting in you not being able to visit inmate [REDACTED] or any other inmate.

This office should receive the above response within fourteen (14) days from the date of this letter.

Until that time and dependant of the outcome for which you will be advised of in writing, I now advise you that in accordance with my authority under Section 15 of the Corrections Act 1997 I have temporarily withdrawn in total your prison visiting privileges.

You are not permitted to enter any Prison in Tasmania or any such administrative / office area until the outcome of this matter has been resolved.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jesse Webster
Correctional Supervisor
Security & Intelligence Unit

cc Visitor Reception Centre
cc Risdon Administration Records

