

Foreign criminal prisoners get £500,000 in compensation within 1 year

Foreign criminal prisoners awaiting deportation have been paid about £500,000 in compensation for not being released on time.

The convicts were handed the money after being kept in custody beyond the end of their sentence while the authorities considered ejecting them. Prison chiefs kept the criminals beyond their sentence while authorities decided whether or not they should be deported from the country.

Courts then ruled they were entitled to compensation as they had been in custody after the end of their sentences.

Immigration Minister Phil Woolas said: "We are bound to accept their decision."