

not assured the establishment had an effective grip on what was happening.

The number of perpetrators and victims on violence reduction or support measures was not consistent with the number of incidents, and data were not used effectively to identify and address patterns and trends. Investigations into some alleged bullying incidents were not sufficiently rigorous. The number of adjudications and lesser 'minor reports' were both much higher than we see elsewhere, with 1,800 adjudications in the first 10 months of 2012, and almost 3,000 minor reports in the same period. Some of these incidents could have been better dealt with more informally.

Use of force was also very high, although much did not involve full control and restraint. Staff sometimes put themselves in harm's way to prevent injury to young people. Governance of the use of force had improved after some young people had been badly hurt two years previously. The segregation unit was cramped and run-down, and although relationships with staff were generally good, the regime was inadequate, especially for the few young people held there for lengthy periods.

Like all juvenile prisons, Hindley held some very unhappy young people. There had been a very sad self-inflicted death at the beginning of 2012, and the establishment had taken early action as a result of the findings of an investigation into the incident. The number of self-harm incidents remained high (although relatively low level) and, despite the reduction in the population, the number of incidents each month had grown by 18% over the previous year. However, we were not assured that the drive to learn and implement lessons from the death in 2012 was being sustained, and some staff were not clear about their responsibilities in this area.

We were concerned that the sheer volume of violent and self-harm incidents threatened to be overwhelming. For the most part, individual incidents were dealt with well but there needed to be more complete strategic oversight of the entire picture that made the links between bullying and self-harm and kept responses to both perpetrators and victims under review. The safeguarding committee with its external membership appeared to be best placed to do this.

Even only one-third full, and despite very good work, HMYOI Hindley illustrates the difficulty such establishments have in discharging their most fundamental responsibility - keeping the young people they hold safe. There has been a suggestion that as the number of young people in custody declines, those who continue to be held will be a more concentrated mix of the most challenging and unhappy young people. Other recent inspections of YOIs have also identified establishments having much greater difficulty in keeping young people safe. The Y JB, ministers and other policymakers should consider this very carefully as they plan the future development of the youth custody estate.

Total Prison Population March 31st 2013, England/Wales/Scotland/N.Ireland: 93,797

Hostages: Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wootton, John Keelan, Mohammed Niaz Khan, Abid Ashiq Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James Cullinane, Stephen Marsh, Graham Coutts, Royston Moore, Duane King, Leon Chapman, Tony Marshall, Anthony Jackson, David Kent, Norman Grant, Ricardo Morrison, Alex Silva, Terry Smith, Hyrone Hart, Glen Cameron, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, Sam Hallam, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Romero Coleman, Neil Hurlley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan Thakrar, Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Frank Wilkinson, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Simon Hall, Paul Higginson, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert Knapp, William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Jamil Chowdhary, Jake Mawhinney, Peter Hannigan, Ihsan Ulhaque, Richard Roy Allan, Sam Cole, Carl Kenute Gowe, Eddie Hampton, Tony Hyland, Ray Gilbert, Ishtiaq Ahmed.

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 423 02/05/2013)

Craigavon Two Appeal Opened and Adjourned for 6 Months

The men's appeal against convictions for the murder of PSNI constable Stephen Carroll has been adjourned until October after prosecutors claimed that new evidence has emerged in the case. Crown barrister, Ciaran Murphy QC, told the court that police had only become aware of new potential evidence last Thursday 25th April.

Defence counsel for Brendan & John Paul claimed that police were attempting to sabotage the appeal, rather than obtain investigating new evidence in the case. Defence lawyers confirmed they are to lodge a complaint with the Police Ombudsman.

Lord Chief Justice Sir Declan Morgan agreeing to adjourn the case until October said. "There is such a high level of uncertainty as to the factual circumstances surrounding the position that we are faced with having no alternative but to adjourn this appeal."

Paddy Joe Hill and Gerry Conway both attended the appeal

Statement from the 'Justice for the Craigavon Two' campaign group.

Today Both Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton were returned to Maghaberry Jail on the first day of their appeal against the wrongful conviction for the killing of PSNI officer, Constable Carroll.

It was with a sense of disbelief in the opening moments of the hearing that the public prosecution service called for an immediate adjournment due to what they called fresh evidence coming forward from a covert intelligence operation.

This 'intelligence' is purporting to the arrest of a new defence witness. This defence witness is a close relation of the key prosecution witness (Witness M) who is central to the original prosecution case. The new witness had made a statement which discredited the original testimony of witness M and we believe that the arrest was used as a tool of intimidation as the new Witness was released unconditionally within 48 hours of being arrested.

This development indicates the lack of factual evidential information surrounding this case, rather it is a case built upon the dubious practices of covert agents and surveillance. This practice has now been extended to the defendants' legal team, family members and members of the Craigavon Two campaign committee, who it has now been revealed were subjected to a covert surveillance and recording operation.

What began as a call for Justice for the Craigavon Two has now clearly been shown to be a case of Justice for us all with the full implementation of the justice system in an open and transparent fashion, free from interference from unaccountable agents of the intelligence services.

In light of today's events, and the additional delay in hearing of this case, which means that the defendants will have already served nine year sentences we call for both Brendan and John Paul to be released immediately on bail pending the withdrawal of what has now become a farcical and unsustainable conviction.

Signed the Justice for the Craigavon Two Campaign Group

McConville Wootton <justice4thetwo@gmail.com> Monday 29th April 2013

Brendan McConville: HMP Maghaberry, Roe House Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, BT28 2PT

John Paul Wootton: HMP Maghaberry, Roe House Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, BT28 2PT

Prisoners: Indeterminate Sentences [Nine Years backlog] *Lords/23/0413/Column 1346*

Lord Lloyd of Berwick to ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they will take to release prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for the protection of the public in the light of the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *James, Wells and Lee v UK*.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My Lords, the European Court's judgment did not find sentences of imprisonment for public protection to be unlawful. Therefore, it remains for the Parole Board to determine whether to direct the release of an IPP prisoner once he has completed his tariff. The National Offender Management Service continues to improve opportunities for IPP prisoners to progress towards release.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick: The noble Lord will know that currently more than 3,500 IPP prisoners have passed their tariff date and are waiting to come before the Parole Board. Does he accept that, at the current rate of release on licence, which is running at about 400 a year, it will be nearly nine years before the backlog is cleared? If so, is there not an overwhelming case for the Lord Chancellor to exercise the powers he was given under Section 128 of the 2012 Act to vary the release test to make it easier for these prisoners to satisfy the Parole Board?

Lord McNally: My Lords, the noble and learned Lord's figure on the release of IPP prisoners is roughly correct; I do not think it is until Thursday that we release the full figures, but his estimate is not far out. That compares with 300 releases in 2011, 97 in 2010 and 53 in 2009. I hope he will acknowledge that the abolition of IPPs in LASPO and the greater flexibility that we are now employing in trying to manage the IPP sentences are going in the right direction. I acknowledge that it is a slow process. I will take back to my right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor the noble and learned Lord's point about the power that was given in the LASPO Act, but even if that power were exercised the Parole Board would have to take public safety into account in making its decisions.

Lord Thomas of Gresford: My Lords, at its conference in 2012 the Prison Governors Association passed a motion overwhelmingly welcoming the ending of what it described as the "iniquitous" IPP system. It also said that unless some action is taken either to resource appropriate interventions to reduce perceived risk or to review the Parole Board criteria on what constitutes risk to the public, existing prisoners will face disproportionately long sentences. What action have the Government taken?

Lord McNally: My Lords, I think the key word is "risk". The fact that these prisoners were given IPP sentences indicates that it must have been in the mind of the judge imposing the sentence that they posed a significant risk to society that had to be dealt with before they could be considered for release. That was the intention behind IPPs and that must remain uppermost in our minds when deciding the future of these prisoners. However, we are bringing in accredited courses, which may help to make the point that they are available for these prisoners. Other interventions such as work, education and employment may also provide evidence of reduced risk. NOMS is investing in interventions that have the most beneficial impact in reducing risk, and priority for those programmes is given to IPP prisoners.

Lord Wigley: Does the Minister accept that these prisoners are in a totally invidious position, a Catch-22 position, in that they have to undergo rehabilitative courses in order to be considered for eligibility for parole, yet the vast majority of them have not been offered such courses. Does what he said a moment ago about new courses mean that a substantial number of these prisoners will now be offered them?

Lord McNally: My Lords, within the constraints that we are having to operate in we are trying

Introduction from the report: HM Young Offender Institution Hindley is a large establishment just outside Wigan with the capacity to hold 440 boys and young people aged 15 to 18. At the time of this inspection it was only just over one-third full.

First impressions are of a pretty bleak, prison-like environment and the obvious youth of many of those held. However, the inspection found commendable efforts to soften the environment, and some determined efforts to address some of the damage that had been done to these young people before they arrived at Hindley and reduce the damage they do to others. The arrangements for a young person's first few days at Hindley were particularly good - although, as at other establishments, needlessly undermined by the NOMS requirement that every new arrival should be strip searched when they first arrived.

Many of the young people arriving at Hindley had poor previous experience of education - almost half told us they were 14 or younger when they last left school; nine out of 10 had been excluded; eight out of 10 had played truant. So it is a tribute to the establishment that the quality of education and activities was good, and that young people made good progress and obtained qualifications.

It was very welcome that speech and language therapy was available when required. Standards of behaviour were much better than that seen in some schools. More could have been done to enable young people to get real work experience in the community, and it was frustrating that half left Hindley without a confirmed education or training place - threatening to waste the progress they had made there.

In other respects, the work to prepare young people for release was good, and better than we normally see. Few young people left without suitable accommodation to go to, and there was good support with family relationships, substance misuse and health issues, and managing money. Effective work was carried out throughout the sentence to address young people's offending behaviour. The Willow unit provided necessary intensive support to a small number of young people with the most complex needs, although the effectiveness of the therapeutic approach adopted risked being undermined by the length of time these young people spent locked in their cells.

Although there had been efforts in some wings to make the environment more appropriate for young people, in others it remained bleak and austere. The establishment was generally clean and tidy and most cells were in reasonable condition. Most young people had about nine hours out of their cells each day and a decent amount of association time, although insufficient opportunity to work off energy exercising in the open air. There were concerns that imminent changes to the core day arising from a central directive might reduce time out of cell at Hindley - this would be very regrettable.

Relationships between staff and young people were generally good and some young people spoke very highly of the officers who dealt with them. I witnessed examples of some real kindness and effective care - one member of staff had somehow got a horse into the establishment for one very troubled and challenging boy from the Traveller community to care for. As he worked on the horse, she worked on the boy - to much greater effect than more conventional interventions might have achieved. However, we also heard persistent, consistent and credible complaints about the abusive behaviour of a small number of officers. The governor had taken robust action when inappropriate conduct by staff had been identified. These generally good relationships were underpinned by sound processes. Management of diversity and complaints was good, and health care and the chaplaincy both provided very good services.

Nevertheless, despite these real strengths, Hindley was not sufficiently safe. On average, there was a fight or assault almost every day, and some of these were very serious. We were

ily had been constantly racially abused and his vehicle being damaged with no action taking place against the perpetrators from either the police or Red Kite.

Indeed in this instance even though he was assaulted and a victim of racial violence and harassment he was charged with ABH and a possible eviction threatened by the Housing Association. 'Police officers collecting statements from the thugs that racially abused my family and attacked me but did not take any statements from myself my wife or children, the person who took to me to hospital and even the neighbours who witnessed the attack and the harassment'

Last week the case against Zulf was thrown out of court due to a lack of evidence and Zia in his role as a community advocate and Justice4Paps are supporting his campaign to get answers and justice. Key concerns/issues - Why NO statements were initially collected from other witnesses including Zulf's family? - Why were crime reference numbers NOT given when requested? - Why were the statements that the families eventually made NOT submitted to the court by the police? Suppression of evidence goes against the Human Rights Act and in a court situation is perjury - Why was Zulf Shah treated as a perpetrator rather than a victim when all the evidence pointed to this? - Why has NO action being taken against young people and their families who took part in the attack and the harassment against Zulf and his family and other Asian families by TVP and Red Kite? Zia and Zulf were subsequently contacted by other families including white ones about the high levels of anti-social behaviour but in particular racial violence and harassment. The Gull family alerted them of a whole series of incidents from 2009 onwards prior to Zulf moving.

Report on an Unannounced Inspection of HMYOI Hindley

Inspection 19 – 23 Nov 2012 by HMCIP, report compiled February 2013, published 25/04/13
“Even only one-third full, and despite very good work, HMYOI Hindley illustrates the difficulty such establishments have in discharging their more fundamental responsibility – keeping the young people they hold safe. There has been a suggestion that as the number of young people in custody declines, those who continue to be held will be a more concentrated mix of the most challenging and unhappy young people. Other recent inspections of YOIs have also identified establishments having much greater difficulty in keeping young people safe. The YJB, ministers and other policymakers should consider this very carefully as they plan the future development of the youth custody estate.”

Inspectors were concerned to find that: - persistent, consistent and credible complaints about the abusive behaviour of a small number of officers; - use of force was very high, although much did not involve full control and restraint; - on average there was a fight or assault almost every day, some of which were very serious; were concerned that the sheer volume of violent and self-harm incidents threatened to be overwhelming. - We were not assured the establishment had an effective grip on what was happening. - Investigations into some alleged bullying incidents were not sufficiently rigorous - segregation unit was cramped and run-down, and although relationships with staff were generally good, the regime was inadequate, especially for the few young people held there for lengthy periods. - good arrangements for young people's first few days undermined by the NOMS requirement that every new arrival should be strip searched; - half of young people left Hindley without a confirmed education or training place, threatening to waste the progress they had made there; - data were not used effectively to identify and address patterns and trends, and investigations into some alleged bullying incidents were not sufficiently rigorous;

to introduce new courses. I fully accept that one of the reasons we abolished IPP is that it contained that Catch-22 whereby you had to fulfil certain courses, which may not be available, to qualify for release. I believe that NOMS is doing its best to bring in new systems and that there is greater flexibility in qualifying for release. However, I go back to the point that we are dealing with men who were sent to prison because the judge who sentenced them judged that they posed a serious risk.

The Lord Bishop of Liverpool: My Lords, one of the problems is that when a prisoner is transferred to another prison, they find that there is no accredited course in that prison. Who has the specific responsibility for ensuring that when a prisoner is transferred, there is an accredited course in the prison to which that prisoner is transferred?

Lord McNally: I understand that almost all IPP prisoners now have a managed programme to help them prepare for release. That should be part of sentence planning. But, again, I freely acknowledge that in some cases prisoners have been moved for other reasons and then find that they cannot complete the relevant courses. We are trying as best we can to iron out of the system what the noble Lord referred to as a Catch-22 situation so that prisoners can qualify, but to leave with the Parole Board the overriding assessment of whether they are suitable for release or whether a risk remains.

Lord Beecham: My Lords, what is the Government's estimate of the number of prisoners to whom the judgment in the European Court of Human Rights case of James, Wells and Lee v UK applies? Have the Government estimated the cost of providing sufficient resources to comply with the requirement to ensure that prisoners have an opportunity to progress and to be properly assessed for release on licence?

Lord McNally: I am not sure of the number of prisoners to whom the judgment applies, but cases are being taken. It may be of interest to hear that two of the three prisoners involved in that case are now back in prison due to breaching their terms. We are being very careful to make sure that the system is flexible enough and effective enough to allow prisoners to earn that is the reality of it-their release. However, we have to consider this issue in the context of prisoners who were given this sentence, when it existed, because they posed a threat to the community. It is for the Parole Board to assess whether they are fit for release.

Report on an Unannounced full Follow-up Inspection of HMP Hewell

Inspection 5–9 Nov 2012 by HMCIP, report compiled February 2013, published 23/04/13

There are significant concerns about HMP Hewell whose performance has deteriorated sharply since our last inspection. Much of the prison provided an unsafe and degrading environment for staff and prisoners alike. In total Inspectors made 95 recommendations.

HMP Hewell has faced significant challenges in recent years. It was formed in 2008 following the amalgamation of three former prisons on the site, each holding a different category of prisoners and with a different function. At the time, this made it one of the largest prisons in the prison estate. In 2011, the category C site was closed. There has been a rapid turnover of governing governors during that period. In 2012, the prison was rocked by the escape of a category A prisoner John Anslow, who was being escorted from the prison. At the time of the inspection, the prison had no clear sense of direction, some staff appeared to lack motivation and in some areas, poor practice had been left to develop unchallenged. [Adnan Rafiq, 25, from Moseley, Birmingham, was murdered in the prison in late January].

Inspectors were concerned to find that:

- at the time of this inspection the prison had no clear sense of direction

- A lack of active, professional engagement by some officers with prisoners was apparent
- prisoners were routinely subject to a squat search when they first arrived, (governor was unaware this was happening). This very intrusive procedure should only be used exceptionally when there is intelligence to justify it
 - the prison was unacceptably dirty. Some communal areas were filthy even after they had been 'cleaned' by wing cleaners, and waste was thrown out of cells into the exercise yards below, which went unchallenged;
 - there were high levels of assaults, reflecting in part poor supervision and an unwillingness of some staff to challenge poor behaviour;
 - 35% of prisoners on the closed side and 42% on the open side said it was easy to get drugs in the prison, and 17% and 36% said it was easy to get alcohol, all much higher than inspectors see in comparable prisons;
 - managers often had poor quality information to identify areas of concern and address performance. Data about prisoner-on-prisoner violence and self-harm were particularly poor;
 - more than half the prisoners were locked in their cells during the working part of the day;
 - allocation to activities was inconsistent, and provision for vulnerable prisoners and remand prisoners who wanted to work was particularly poor.

Introduction from the report: HMP Hewell has faced significant challenges in recent years. It was formed in 2008 following the amalgamation of three former prisons on the site, each holding a different category of prisoner and with a different function. At the time, this made it one of the largest prisons in the prison estate. In 2011, the category C site was closed leaving the prison with a closed, local category B site and an open category D site. There has been a rapid turnover of governing governors during that period. In 2012, the prison was rocked by the escape of a category A prisoner John Anslow who was being escorted from the prison - the first such escape from any prison in many years.

It was perhaps not surprising, therefore, that at the time of this inspection the prison had no clear sense of direction, some staff appeared to lack motivation, and in some areas poor practice had been left to develop unchallenged. A common response to some of my questions was 'it's nothing to do with me', and concerns I had were explained with a shrug as 'Hewellisms' - 'the way things are done around here'. As a consequence, the inspection identified a number of significant concerns and the new governor faces a major challenge in reversing the slide in the prison's performance.

The prison was unacceptably dirty - appallingly so in some places. Some communal areas were filthy, and even after they had been 'cleaned' by underemployed and badly supervised wing cleaners, they remained so. All sorts of waste was thrown out of prisoners' cells into the exercise yards below - this went unchallenged even when happening in full view of staff, and the resulting mess was left untouched. Most prisoners wanted to keep themselves and their cells clean but were thwarted by a lack of cleaning materials. On one wing I visited, cleaning materials in a store room under staff control were missing - staff I spoke to accepted this was so but were unable to explain the discrepancy. Too many prisoners on the closed side were sharing cells in poor condition that were designed for one. Dormitories on the open side were cramped, dilapidated and lacked even the most basic privacy.

A lack of active, professional engagement by some officers with prisoners was apparent in other areas. There were high levels of assaults and in part this reflected poor supervision and an unwillingness of some staff to challenge poor behaviour. We saw cells for new arrivals that were dirty and covered in graffiti. Night staff did not systematically check on new arrivals. Prisoners were gen-

will be carried out. The IPCC had informed the coroner of our investigation and we will share our report in due course."

Neighbour Jack Fry and his friend Brett Griffiths saw the aftermath of the incident. Fry said: "There were three screams. Brett opened the curtains and at first he thought the house was on fire. But then we saw a man, fully on fire from top to bottom, like you see on a film, with his arms swaying around. We saw two police officers appear from the side of the house. One of them jumped on the burning man and put him on the floor. The officers were shouting to each other and the one who had put him to the ground got an old duvet or cover and started smacking the burning man with it. There was steam coming off him and he was groaning. The sight was sickening."

Death of Boniface Umale in HMP Durham

Boniface died in the early hours of 24th March. The Prison Service have refused to say whether he was on remand or convicted. His family/friends say the prison have failed to provide answers to pertinent question agitating the minds of friends and family members at such a difficult time. Boniface's family and friends need to know:

1. When and why was he arrested including access to legal representation?
 2. The level of care and support he received while in police custody prior to arriving at the HMP Durham prison.
 3. Why did the police and the authority of HMP Durham fail to notify any one in UK or Nigeria of his arrest and detention until his death?
 4. Was his death at HMP Durham prison racially motivated or due to gross negligence?
 5. Was he particularly in a solitary confinement and without appropriate monitoring and risk assessment?
 6. How was he treated in custody including any history of hospital attendance?
 7. Why is the authority of HMP Durham refusing to disclose his post mortem report and insisting on cremation despite strong protest from members of the Idoma community? While we expect the law to take its full course, the authority of HMP Durham must be held to account in keeping her obligation of duty of care and protection to all inmates in her custody. We press for transparency, justice and equity in this matter.
- *If anyone has hard data regarding the death of Boniface, please contact MOJUK*

Justice for Zulf Shah

Source: justiceforpaps@aim.com

'What we have here is a total failure to give me and my family the support and care that was needed, and for them to try and charge me with an offence a complete and utter travesty of justice. My 4 year old daughter watched her father get kicked in the head as he lay unconscious on the road. Had I have been a white father, I have no doubt but to believe the police and council would have applied maximum force to contain the anti-social and racist element' Zulf Shah

Monday 22nd April was the twentieth anniversary of Stephen's racist murder in Eltham. From figures from the Institute of Race Relations 106 people have lost their lives in (known or suspected) racist attacks – five per year on average since his death.

For our communities in different parts of the country racial violence has never gone away. Zia Ullah from the Justice4Paps campaign has been supporting a Housing Association resident in his fight not only against racial violence and harassment in Micklefield but the gross failure of the local Thames Valley Police team, staff at Red Kite Housing and local councillors.

Zulf Shah and his family moved to a house in the area in June 2011. In July last year he was assaulted by a two people on his road and hospitalised from his injuries after he challenged a group of young people who were kicking a ball against his car. He was he was punched and knocked unconscious and then repeatedly kicked in the head. Prior to this he and his fam-

In June 2011 I was arrested, went through a lengthy trial and was convicted for treason and sedition simply because I printed 100 T-shirts with messages saying 'End to Dictatorship Now' and 'Freedom'. I was sentenced to life imprisonment and taken to the security wing of Mile 2 Central Prison near The Gambia's capital city, Banjul, where death row inmates were incarcerated. Initially I thought this was just a way to intimidate me. I thought they would go through the motions and then set me free. The judge said the death penalty would have been the appropriate sentence but that [he could not sentence me to death as] his hands were tied under new constitutional provisions. It was all very traumatic. I remained very hopeful because since the first day I was picked up, protests were organized. I was held with death row inmates. We each had a cell to ourselves. It was 1m by 1.5m with very little ventilation.

In mid-August 2012, the President of the Gambia announced that he was going to execute all prisoners on death row. We all got very alarmed. I decided to go around and collect the names of all those on death row. They were 48 individuals, including one woman, two Senegalese nationals, two from Mali and one person from Guinea-Bissau. I put that information together and sent it out quickly and CGG published all the list of names and nationalities.

A flurry of activity started and we were hopeful, but at 9:00pm on August 23, a Thursday, a large number of security personnel entered the prison yard and took eight men and one woman and just executed them. Nobody figured out how they selected them out of the 48. There was no prior notification. They had no idea they were going to be executed. While they were being taken away, one of them screamed my name saying: "Amadou, I'm going to be executed tonight!". - Then the silence came.

After that, every night a security contingence would come in and make a lot of noise, saying they would execute some more people and then they would leave. This was torture. For four days after the execution the government denied that anything had taken place Family members are yet to see the bodies. Authorities have not given any information other than admitting that they've been executed.

Andrew Pimlott Dies After Police Taser Incident guardian.co.uk, 26/04/13

A man has died after suffering horrific burns in an incident when he was "Tasered" by a police officer while doused in a flammable liquid. Police were called to the home of 32-year-old Andrew Pimlott in Plymouth following a domestic disturbance and told that he was in the garden and had a can of flammable liquid with him. An officer discharged a Taser and, according to eye witnesses, Pimlott was seen "fully on fire from top to bottom". One of the police officers jumped on him to try to put out the flames. Pimlott was taken to the burns unit at Frenchay hospital but the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which is investigating, confirmed on Friday that he had died

The IPCC said police officers attended Pimlott's address on the evening of 18 April. The caller who had alerted the police advised officers that Pimlott was in the garden with a can of flammable liquid. IPCC commissioner Sarah Green said: "Our investigation will be looking at what information was known to the officers attending the scene; the officer's rationale for discharging a Taser on a person known to be doused in flammable liquid; whether the discharge of the Taser caused the fuel to ignite; and we will look at training and policies. My condolences go to Andrew's family and friends for their loss. This must be a very difficult time for them. Our investigators have already carried out a number of actions, including interviewing the two police officers who attended the incident and ensuring relevant evidence has been secured. A post-mortem was carried out and further forensic analysis

erally positive about relations with staff, which were usually polite but distant - but we witnessed some poor interactions. Black and minority ethnic and foreign national prisoners were significantly less positive about relationships with staff than the population as a whole.

Some important processes were applied inconsistently or without the necessary authorisation. For instance, prisoners were routinely subject to a squat search when they first arrived. This very intrusive procedure should only be used exceptionally when there is intelligence to justify it. The governor was unaware it was happening and stopped it when we brought it to her attention. Association and visits often started late. Prisoners lacked confidence in the complaints system. On top of all this, 35% of prisoners on the closed side and 42% on the open side told us it was easy to get drugs in the prison, and 17% and 36% said it was easy to get alcohol - all much higher than we see in comparable prisons. Use of force, disciplinary processes and the segregation unit were generally well managed, although the regime for the minority of prisoners who spent a long time in segregation was very limited.

A lack of staff engagement, some poor relationships, inconsistent treatment, little faith in the complaints system and the ready availability of drugs and alcohol is a toxic mix that needs sorting out quickly.

A running theme of the inspection was the poor quality of the information managers had to identify areas of concern and address performance. Data about prisoner-on-prisoner violence and self-harm were particularly poor and we were not confident that safety issues were identified and addressed. There had been little attempt to identify the reasons for an increase in the number of self-harm monitoring documents (ACCTs) opened. Follow-up of recommendations arising from deaths in custody was limited. Drug testing was inconsistent. Intelligence was not used or shared effectively.

The quality and outcomes of learning, skills and work activities were good. Ofsted inspectors praised the management of this area and described imaginative and effective provision, such as an excellent project training dogs for the hearing impaired. However, on the closed site, far too few prisoners were able to benefit from this. We found more than half the prisoners locked in the cells during the working part of the day - much more than we usually see. Despite the best efforts of learning and skills staff, attendance and punctuality were poor and residential staff failed to challenge non-attendance appropriately. Allocation to activities was ad hoc and inconsistent. Provision for vulnerable prisoners and remand prisoners who wanted to work was particularly poor. Prisoners on the open side were fully occupied.

Retired and disabled prisoners who were unable to work spent most of the day locked up. There was little specific provision for them, and some prisoners with disabilities were unable to access important parts of the prison. Staff were unaware of those prisoners who might need assistance if an emergency evacuation was required.

The most positive aspects of the prison concerned the preparation of prisoners for release. There was a comprehensive resettlement strategy that underpinned work to reduce the likelihood that prisoners would reoffend and provide practical resettlement help. The prison and a range of voluntary sector providers offered a range of services that were generally effective in ensuring prisoners had somewhere to live, work and training opportunities, money advice, and help to tackle health and substance misuse issues after release. Facilities for visits and work to support family life were very good. There was some excellent and innovative restorative justice work and support for veterans. The open site provided prisoners with some good opportunities to prepare for release and reintegrate into the community.

There are significant concerns about HMP Hewell whose performance has deteriorated

sharply since our last inspection. Much of the prison provided an unsafe and degrading environment for staff and prisoners alike. The prison now needs support and stability to halt and reverse this slide in performance. Some staff at HMP Hewell are doing excellent work; the performance of a minority is unacceptable, and too many of the others are disengaged or sitting on the fence. Managers at a local and national level need to be very clear that the current level of performance is not acceptable, and ensure that effective and robust action is taken to achieve improvement.

Expert Evidence - House of Commons / 23 Apr 2013 : Column 866W

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that expert witnesses are given sufficient time with prisoners to conduct interviews.

Jeremy Wright: Every effort will be made to accommodate the specific requirements of expert witnesses. The length of time allowed for visits is a discretionary matter for individual governors, taking into account operational constraints and security concerns.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that (a) psychiatric and (b) psychological interviews by expert witnesses with prisoners are conducted in the health care wing of prisons; and if he will make a statement. [151171]

Jeremy Wright: Prison staff will always try to accommodate the needs of expert witnesses, ensuring that interviews with prisoners take place in suitable surroundings; the physical layout of prison buildings, and considerations relating to the operational management of prisoners, mean that it may not always be possible to hold interviews in prison health care departments.

Did the Police Finally Get Their Man?

On Wednesday 24th April 2013 the IPCC notified the public of another Police Custody Death. IPCC said David Stokes, from Birmingham, was in a car travelling towards Chesterfield that was stopped by police near the A617 at about 12.40 pm on Friday 19, April.

The force has told the IPCC that the car was stopped close to the junction of Calow Lane, Cock Alley and Halfflash Lane as part of a pre-planned operation and that Mr Stokes was arrested at the scene. According to early police accounts, he became unwell as he was being taken to Chesterfield police station. Officers say they diverted to Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital arriving at 1:04 pm. Mr Stokes was pronounced dead at 1:37 pm. The incident was referred by Derbyshire police to the IPCC and an investigator was sent to the scene. Following an assessment of the referral, an independent IPCC investigation was launched.

Roll back to February 2011

David Stokes was on retrial for four weeks for the alleged involvement in the murder of Bernard Langton, (shot dead in Pilchergate, Nottingham, in the early hours of Bank Holiday Monday 25 May 2009). The jury was out for several days but failed to return a verdict, this was the second time a jury failed to reach a verdict, David was tried in June 2010 along with Anthony Tirado, and Dion Griffin who were jailed for 28 years after being found guilty of the murder of Mr. Langton. Andrew Pleasance, 34, of Cinderhill, was also sentenced to four years for assisting an offender after he arranged a taxi to help Tirado leave Nottingham.

On the discharge of David Stokes in February 2011, Detective Chief Inspector Kate Meynell said: "This has been a complex case which required in-depth analysis of CCTV and evidence from witnesses who saw what happened before, during and after Bernard was killed.

"Everyone involved in this investigation has been driven by a determination to find his killers and deliver the justice that he and his family deserve. Our evidence was presented to the

According to the NSPCC, which collected the data under the Freedom of Information Act, police forces in England and Wales recorded more than 28,000 individual incidents involving children who are recorded as having absconded more than once. The charity found that 7,885 children in total went missing, including those who only absconded once. Most were aged 13-17 years old and the youngest was only six.

Tom Rahilly, head of the NSPCC's Looked After Children programmes, said: "The state needs to be a parent for these children. If any other child went missing their parents would move heaven and earth to find them and to understand why they did it. It should be no different for young people in care "Repeatedly going missing should be a big warning sign as this kind of behaviour can put them at serious risk of harm such as grooming or sexual exploitation. But we have to understand why they are doing it. Children go missing for many reasons – they're being bullied, they've been put in a home miles from their family and they miss them and their friends, or they just don't trust staff enough to tell them where they are. Many will have been abused before being placed in care and they need a lot of attention and protection. Going missing for just an hour or two can be long enough for them to come to harm. Of course care staff have a difficult job but children tell us they are looking for someone to understand why they go missing and to help set boundaries for them. Children want a little love and to be able to speak to someone who understands the difficulties they face. Otherwise, in the words of one young boy in care, they are 'dead to the

Kevin Rawlinson, Independent, 24/04/13

USA: Kinship Care or Foster Care

Impact of kinship care on behavioral well-being for children in out-of-home care. Children placed into kinship care had fewer behavioral problems 3 years after placement than children who were placed into foster care. This finding supports efforts to maximize placement of children with willing and available kin when they enter out-of-home care. Growth in placement of children with kin has occurred despite conflicting evidence regarding its benefits compared with foster care.

Methodology: National Survey One thousand three hundred nine children entering out-of-home care following a maltreatment report.

Fifty percent of children started in kinship care and 17% of children who started in foster care later moved to kinship care. Children in kinship care were at lower risk at baseline and less likely to have unstable placements than children in foster care. Controlling for a child's baseline risk, placement stability, and attempted reunification to birth family, the estimate of behavioral problems at 36 months was 32% (95% confidence interval, 25%-38%) if children in the cohort were assigned to early kinship care and 46% (95% confidence interval, 41%-52%) if children were assigned to foster care only (P = .003). Children who moved to kinship care after a significant time in foster care were more likely to have behavioral problems than children in kinship care from the outset.

Life on Death Row in Gambia: 'They had no Idea They Were Going to be Executed'

Social activist and former Gambian Minister of Information, Amadou Janneh, was found guilty of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment in January 2012 for printing and distributing T-shirts made by the NGO 'Coalition for Change - The Gambia (CGG),' calling for an end to "dictatorship" in the country. While in prison, he met many people on death row, including the nine who were executed in August 2012 - the first executions in more than three decades in The Gambia. He shared his story with Amnesty International, from his new home in the USA:

shootings. Another witness, forensic expert Osvaldo Negrini Neto, said 90 percent of the shots were fired inside cells. No police officers died.

Defense lawyers argued that the police acted in self-defense when attacked by inmates trying to escape from the prison, Brazil's largest and most notorious penitentiary. Three of the 26 indicted officers were acquitted. They were originally accused of the killing of 15 prisoners, but two of the deaths were found to have been caused by fellow inmates. Another two trials of dozens more officers involved in the massacre are expected to follow. Most of the officers are retired now.

The officer who commanded the operation, Colonel Ubiratan Guimaraes, was sentenced to 632 years in jail for his role in the massacre, but the conviction was dropped when a mistrial was declared in 2006. Months later he was found dead in his apartment with a gunshot to the stomach. - The Carandiru prison was demolished in 2002.

Broadmoor Hospital

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the proposed redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital by West London Mental Health NHS Trust with (a) the NHS Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme and (b) the Nicholson Challenge; (2) what the current revenue costs per bed of Broadmoor Hospital are; and what the estimated future revenue costs per bed at that hospital are following its proposed redevelopment; [153319] (3) what the current costs per patient are at (a) Broadmoor Hospital, (b) Ashworth Hospital and (c) Rampton Hospital; [153320] (4) how many patients Ashworth NHS Foundation Trust could accommodate if all wards at that site were open; [153321] (5) how many beds will be commissioned from West London Mental Health NHS Trust as part of the proposed Broadmoor Hospital site development. [153322]

Norman Lamb: The Department is currently reviewing the full business case for the £286 million redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital. As part of this, West London Mental Health NHS Trust must demonstrate that the hospital is financially affordable and that the Trust can deliver the necessary savings plans. In addition, the Trust must provide confirmation from National High Secure Services commissioners of its continued support for the redevelopment before the approval for the scheme can be given. The National High Secure Services Strategic Commissioning Plan (2010-15) set out how high secure services will contribute to improving quality and achieving sustainable efficiency, and supports the proposed redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital.

The current average bed costs per annum for Broadmoor Hospital to commissioners is £325,000 (including non recurrent funding) £311,000 (excluding non recurrent funding) and the estimated cost per bed in 2020-21 is £335,000. Ashworth average bed costs are £290,000. Rampton average bed costs are £251,000 for same population as Broadmoor and Ashworth and £301,000 for National Learning Disability Service and £340,000 for National Women's Service. Ashworth could currently accommodate 266 patients and 329 patients if wards were refurbished. 210. beds will be commissioned from West London Mental Health NHS Trust as part of the proposed Broadmoor Hospital site development:

Thousands Of Children in Care fo Missing Every Year

Nearly 3,000 children placed in care were repeatedly running away last year, with one able to go missing a total of 67 times in twelve months, figures released today reveal. The news raises fears about the vulnerability of children to child sex grooming gangs preying on the care system, such as those which operated in Rotherham and Rochdale.

Crown Prosecution Service and as a result three men were charged with murder and one was charged with assisting an offender. The convictions of Anthony Tirado, Dion Griffin and Andrew Pleasance and the case against David Stokes being discharged brings an end to this investigation. Our thoughts, as always, are with Bernard's family at this difficult time. "Nottinghamshire Police Authority, Councillor Jon Collins, said: "Incidents like this are thankfully rare in Nottingham as we have cracked down on gun crime and seen a 71 per cent fall in incidents over the last seven years. Bringing people who use guns to justice is an important part of tackling the problem and we'll continue to prioritise all work that prevents and punishes the use of guns in our city."

IPCC Terms of independent investigation Into custody Death in South Shields

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has outlined the Terms of Reference for its investigation into a death in custody in South Shields, Tyneside. Martin Leck, 34, was arrested by Northumbria Police on Friday, 22 March for being drunk and disorderly and taken to South Shields police station around 8pm. At around 10.0pm Mr Leck was found in his cell with breathing difficulties and an ambulance was called, but he was pronounced dead at South Tyneside General Hospital at 11.44pm.

The IPCC was notified of the death by Northumbria Police in the early hours of Saturday, 23 March and an independent investigation began. IPCC investigators are in the process of examining CCTV footage from the custody suite and obtaining witness statements.

IPCC Commissioner Cindy Butts said: "Our investigation is examining the circumstances of Mr Leck's arrest and the decision to take him to a police station rather than a hospital. The IPCC is also investigating the care afforded to Mr Leck while he was in the custody of Northumbria Police. Any death in custody is a serious matter and it is important that the actions of all the officers and civilian staff who were responsible for Mr Leck's care when he was arrested and while he was in custody are fully examined to provide answers for Mr Leck's family. My thoughts go out to them at this difficult time and IPCC family liaison managers are continuing to provide support." A post mortem concluded that the cause of death was cardiac respiratory arrest. Results of toxicology and histology reports are still awaited. An inquest into Mr Leck's death was opened and adjourned on Tuesday, 26 March at South Tyneside Coroner's Court.

£675m Owed by UK's Richest Criminals

Independent, 22/04/13

Some of Britain's wealthiest convicted criminals, including major fraudsters, drug dealers and money launderers, have escaped paying more than half a billion pounds in fines, according to new figures from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The staggering sum of £675m represents the combined amount that 178 convicted men and women have been ordered to pay the courts. The total figure is likely to be far higher, as the CPS data only relates to outstanding confiscation orders of more than £1m. Most of the orders have been made under the Proceeds of Crime Act (Poca), legislation that came into effect in 2002 in an attempt to force convicted criminals to pay back money made from crime or face going back to prison. But, according to an investigation by the Evening Standard and Channel 4's Dispatches programme, only a fraction – 11 per cent - of the money owed has been collected.

The five biggest debtors are: VAT fraudster Emmanuel Hening, who owes £47m; Shakeel Ahmad and Syed Mubarak Ahmed, who owe £19m each, also for fraud; drug baron Khalid Malik, who owes £11m; and money launderer Noel Young, who owes £7m. Criminals can

hide their assets in a variety of ways, for example, by transferring them into the names of friends or relatives, or companies incorporated abroad. It can then take years of legal battles to establish ownership. After serving their original sentence, criminals can face another jail term of up to 10 years if they do not repay the money they owe – this is known as a default sentence. However, many of the 178 debtors have not served one.

Former Home Secretary David Blunkett, who brought in Poca, has admitted on the Channel 4 documentary being shown tonight that the legislation has been a “total failure.” He says: “The Act has not been implemented effectively ... We need much more joined-up thinking on policy.”

The fact that confiscation orders are not being enforced is “a real frustration”, says Mick Creedon, chief constable of Derbyshire Constabulary, and Association of Chief Police Officers lead on asset recovery. “If the court has imposed a sentence and a default sentence in lieu of the payment not being made, there is no reason on earth that shouldn’t be served. I find that quite staggering,” he says. But Gregor McGill, head of the CPS’s organised crime division, explains: “Criminals go to extraordinary lengths to conceal the proceeds of their crimes from the police ... The CPS is able to confiscate these assets only once the police have located them.” He adds: “The difficulties with enforcement are not an excuse for inaction. We are overcoming these challenges and the CPS is recovering more money every year.

Met Police Still Institutionally Racist Say Black And Asian Officers Guardian UK

The Metropolitan Black Police Association (BPA), the biggest group representing minority officers in the force, says despite the training and community initiatives put in place over the past two decades, Scotland Yard has failed to tackle the mindset at the heart of failures over Lawrence. The declaration will dismay senior officers who have fought hard to fight off the institutionally racist label. Before his fall at the height of the phone hacking controversy, the previous commissioner, Sir Paul Stephenson, declared in 2009 that after much hard work the force was no longer institutionally racist.

"The association still believe that the police service is institutionally racist," said the BPA statement. Its chairman, Bevan Powell, added: "Institutional racism is not about labelling individuals racists but rather police practice and procedures that bring about disproportionate outcomes for black and minority ethnic communities and police personnel." He said close examination of key statistics relating to the race and policing bears that out. "An examination of section 95 data (Criminal Justice Act) provides the supporting empirical evidence to support my assertion."

The harsh judgement will dismay the current commissioner, Bernard Hogan-Howe. Last week, asked on ITV Tonight if his force was institutionally racist, he said: "I hope not. I don't think it's for me to judge. It seems to me that the judgment of the public is the strongest judgment. If they think we are, then we are. "I think there is lots of evidence to say it isn't true and that we're actually doing a pretty good job and we are improving all the time."

The BPA, which has 500 members in London, says the Met has failed to recruit enough minorities to reflect the capital's population. "The 2011 census indicated that over 40% of Londoners were from BME backgrounds, whilst only 10% of MPS police officers were from BME communities. "These officers disproportionately hug the lower ranks, face significantly slower rates of career progression and are over-represented in disciplinary actions, in comparison to their white counterparts. This current position is unsustainable, as it severely impacts on police legitimacy and more importantly erodes trust and confidence in BME communities."

Superintendent Leroy Logan, chair of the Met BPA charitable trust, said before the force

could consider itself free of institutional racism, it must tackle the continuing disproportions in the treatment of minority Londoners. "The real litmus test is still the vexed issue of stop and search and its disproportionality in black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, because so many people perceive that the police are involved in racial profiling?" He acknowledged that Hogan-Howe, had tried to address the issues of racism within police culture, but said the problem was structural. "The association looks back with a certain amount of disappointment and concern at the lack of long-term commitment, leadership and desire to bring about radical change to significantly deal with institutional racism at the time of Stephen's death."

The issue of institutional racism has been a continually difficult one for Scotland Yard's top tier. At the Macpherson inquiry, Lord Condon, then Met commissioner, was visibly discomfited when Richard Stone, one of Macpherson's advisers, repeatedly pressured him to accept that his force was institutionally racist. Stephenson refused to do so, saying the tag would unfairly brand individual officers. In the years since, the Met has increased minority recruitment from 2.3% of the force in 1993 to 10.4%. But the minority population of the capital is more than 40%.

In January, the commissioner ordered a radical review of stop-and-search policing in London as figures suggest black youths are up to six times more likely to be stopped than white youths. In operations authorising localised stops under section 60 of the 1994 Public Order Act, minorities are said to be 28 times more likely to be stopped.

Responding on BBC Newsnight last week to criticisms of the force's record, the Met assistant commissioner Simon Byrne said the force was working successfully to address those disproportions but admitted there was a long way to go. He said: "The experience of Stephen's family has had a profound impact on policing in the UK. It has transformed the way we deal with murder, our family liaison and the investigation of hate crime. "The Metropolitan police is a very different organisation to the one it was at the time of Stephen's death but we know there is more work to be done to improve our service to Londoners from a black and minority ethnic background. The commissioner recently said he was an 'implacable enemy of racism' and the Met is committed to challenging and driving out any racism in its ranks."

Police Officers Get 156 Years For 1992 Brazilian Prison Massacre Alert Net: 21/04/13

A Brazilian court sentenced 23 police officers on Sunday to 156 years in jail each for killing 13 inmates in Brazil's bloodiest prison revolt in which 111 inmates died more than 20 years ago. Military police stormed Sao Paulo's Carandiru prison in 1992 to quell a riot sparked by a fight between two rival gangs that started with a quarrel during a soccer game. Prosecutors said police officers brutally repressed the uprising by shooting 102 prisoners, sometimes at point-blank range. Another nine inmates are believed to have been killed with knives in the fight between prisoners.

The conviction of police officers is unusual in Brazil and the tough sentences handed down to those involved in the prison massacre was a new sign of the judiciary holding authorities accountable for breaking the law. Last year, in an unprecedented case, the Supreme Court convicted several top ruling party politicians of corruption.

The Carandiru massacre shocked Brazilians and exposed the awful conditions in Brazilian prisons. It became the subject of a hit 2003 film. The prosecution's main witness was the former deputy director of the prison, Moacir dos Santos, who told the court that the military police "executed" the prisoners, many of them in their cells, even those who had surrendered and were naked. "I saw a carpet of bodies," Santos said during the six-day trial. He said police went in machine-gunning inmates and officers outside cheered after the first wave of