

prison system or some of those enforcing it believe I should be detained indefinitely because of my activities during the 1980s and 1990s in organising prisoner resistance and creating struggle in prisons.

They demand that I now surrender my political integrity completely and unquestioningly comply with their power and authority. When reviewing my continued imprisonment last year the Parole Board said there was no question that I had changed fundamentally as a human being during my long imprisonment and now embraced the cause of prisoner's rights, but it refused to order my release because I continued to question and challenge the authority of the prison system, which it nevertheless conceded was often characterised by a clear abuse of power. The board refused to order my release because it considered my defiance of prison system abuse an inappropriate response from someone who should, on the contrary, be completely broken and compliant to official authority, no matter how corruptly it is administered. It also condemned my use of the internet through radical groups on the outside to expose and highlight abuses of power against prisoners and publicly name some of those responsible for it.

I remain in prison therefore exactly because of what the Parole Board described as my "impasse" with the prison system, or my refusal to remain silent in the face of it's abuse of power. I am told by those responsible for my continued detention that unless I acknowledge and accept the total authority of the prison system over me then I will remain here until death. So the price for my release is total and abject surrender of the very thing that has provided me with the strength to survive the last three decades of my imprisonment – my personal and political integrity. I must effectively die as a principled and thinking human being before I am granted physical freedom. That I cannot and will not do.

Solidarity is the only effective weapon that prisoners possess in their struggle against a system that treats them as something less than human, and the solidarity of those who while not sharing their physical captivity nevertheless share a common desire for freedom is absolutely crucial if the state violence that prison represents is ever to be significantly resisted and overcome. I therefore ask all those who identify with the prison struggle to add their names to the petition supporting me; by doing so they are making a statement to the prison system that it's authority is by no means universally recognised and that I am not completely alone and isolated. By isolating prisoners and surrounding it's treatment of them with secrecy as well as walls and bars those operating the prison system believe they possess an almost omnipotent degree of power that is accountable to no one. By publicly supporting those prisoners targeted by the prison system and victimised by it, groups and individuals on the outside can significantly challenge that power. Just by adding their name to this petition supporters are making a significant contribution both to my own struggle and that of prisoners everywhere whose isolation and powerlessness is significantly diminished when solidarity is extended from those beyond the belly of the beast. *John Bowden, HMP Shots, March 2014*

Hostages: Jamie Green, Dan Payne, Zoran Dresic, Scott Birtwistle, Jon Beere, Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wooton, 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, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Romero Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Frank Wilkinson, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, 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, Carl Kenute Gowe, Eddie Hampton, Tony Hyland,

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 468 (13/03/2014)

3,500 Prisoners Behind Bars Longer Than Necessary theguardian.com, 05/03/14

Justice secretary, Chris Grayling, has been accused by a former law lord of failing to free thousands of prisoners serving indefinite sentences – a punishment that has been abolished. More than 3,500 inmates are being held behind bars long after their recommended tariff expired, according to lord Lloyd of Berwick, who is pressing for them to be released. More than 5,000 prisoners are serving indefinite sentences for the protection of the public (IPPs) under section 225 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, a section that was repealed two years ago. Speaking at the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, the former law lord said indefinite sentences had been scrapped because they "completely swamped" the prison system. Lloyd said: "We have five times as many prisoners serving life and indeterminate sentences per 100,000 of the population as Germany, seven times as many as Sweden, eight times as many as Holland and 14 times as many as France ... Can anything be done to speed up their release?"

There is a legal provision that gives Grayling, who is also lord chancellor, the power to put an order before parliament requiring the Parole Board to direct releases as long as certain conditions are met, Lloyd explained. "Currently IPP prisoners coming before the Parole Board are being released at the rate of about 400 a year. At that rate it will be nine years before the 3,500 who have already passed their tariff will be released," he said. "This is bad news for all of them, but especially for the 773 prisoners who were given a tariff of two years or less before 2008. Of these, 275 are already five years over tariff, including 26 whose tariff was only six months or even less. How much longer do they have to wait?" "I would suggest the time has now come for the lord chancellor to exercise that power. He was given the power for a purpose."

Responding to the request, the justice minister lord Faulks said: "The release of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences is entirely a matter for the independent Parole Board, who must be satisfied that an offender can be managed safely in the community. "We have no intention of retrospectively altering sentences that had been lawfully imposed before IPP sentences were abolished, especially as they were imposed to ensure adequate public protection. Much has been done to improve the efficiency of the Parole Board, including the recruitment of panel members, more monthly hearings and better use of video link technology," said Faulks. Prisons provide a range of courses to address the root causes of offending behaviour and help prisoners turn their backs on crime for good. This government has replaced the widely criticised and complex IPP scheme with a new regime of tough, determinate sentences."

Police Mugshot Beauty Sues Over Adverts

Source Police Oracle

An official police portrait of Meagan Simmons (28) went viral after she was pulled in on drink-drive charges in 2010. Admirers reposted the image on Twitter and Instagram adding their own captions like "Guilty - of taking my breath away". Ms Simmons claims the web info company, which performs criminal background checks, used the picture in an advert without permission. Ads featured her famous mugshot alongside messages with the theme that "looks can be deceptive." Ms Simmons claims use of the image invaded her privacy and disturbed her peace of mind. Her attorney, Matthew Crist said: "At the end of the day, this is actually about intellectual property. "If someone is going to use your image, they need to pay you for it."

Crime Scene: Maps, Plans, Satellite Images, and Aerial Photography

[Extract from, Blackstone's, 'Senior Investigating Officers' Handbook' - Again a must for all MOJ campaigns as often as in the case of Norman Grant, evidence appeared at crime scene some seven days after the crime scene had been forensically examined and closed.]

Producing a detailed plan drawing or map of the scene is something normally considered useful for the SIO and their investigation teams. The exact position, scale, proximity, and dimensions of locations and objects of interest can prove invaluable. This complements any scene photographs or visual recordings that are good at recording 'close-ups', etc, but a detailed plan produced by an expert or map can be used to show context and precise locations, particularly at complex crime scenes. These may also be used to facilitate the effective communication of information, which may be helpful if several multi-disciplinary specialists are involved with the investigation. Maps may also be - used to delineate possible search areas if there is evidence or suspicion that an object, items, or further scene may require to be located, or proven otherwise absent from a particular location.

Key point: Any crime scene plan or map must always have a relevant title, key, date, time (if necessary), and orientation, usually given by the inclusion of a north (N) arrow. The SIO can also produce their own rough sketches or plans of scenes when they attend to act as a visual aide memoir for considering cordon and search parameters, early hypotheses, conducting

- briefings, etc. It may of course be some time before they receive an official map or plan from the expert who has been allocated the task.

Maps and plans can also be considered not just at major crime scenes where the offence has occurred but also at other possible crime scenes such as during house searches to show the exact location of where exhibits have been found. Worthy of consideration is a fly-over of an outdoor scene by an aircraft (eg police helicopter). This will help record the exact location of, for example, a body deposition site and may also - help make other significant discoveries. The resulting photography will provide a valuable tool for later briefings and decision-making processes. The SIO may also wish to take advantage of some of the satellite imagery that is now available on the internet such as Google earth. These types of satellite images can be invaluable for helping to get a good appreciation of the layout of scenes and their proximity to other significant geographical locations, including buildings and roads, although the date the imagery was taken must always be borne in mind. Maps obtained from the internet should not, however, be used or relied upon for evidential purposes.

Computerised scene reproduction: Depending on the nature of the case there may be opportunities to produce a computerized reproduction and/or a reconstruction of the crime scene to help gain a better understanding of what took place, in what sequence, and how it happened. This will help in: - the formation of hypotheses; - testing individual hypotheses by additional analysis; - producing the most probable reconstruction theory.

Sophisticated computer enhancements, animated reconstructions, 3D models, and 360-degree camera shots can now be used to recreate a crime scene and examine witness accounts, timings, - distance, etc. This is a developing area of investigation, which can be used in court to show a jury the exact sequence of events, positions, and importance of exhibits and forensic samples, or how the evidence combines, making a clearer picture of fragmented or complex evidence. It can make a big impact on juries, however a cautionary note is that the process can be very time consuming to complete which may make the examination process of scenes take a lot longer.

Perhaps, rather than pointing an accusatory finger at overworked defence solicitors, the appeal court should suggest to parliament the simple legislative solution of inserting the statutory defence into each enactment containing the offences to which it applies, to prevent further miscarriages of justice. If, once this was done, prosecutors were still prosecuting, lawyers still advising clients to plead guilty and magistrates still convicting, then the much deeper problem of undoing the false equation between refugees and illegality would have to be tackled.

Early Day Motion 1150: Use Of Tasers On Children

That this House is appalled that the use of Tasers on children by the Metropolitan Police has risen six-fold over four years; notes that according to the Children's Rights Alliance for England, and based on a Freedom of Information request, stun guns were used on 53 young people in the city in 2013 compared to nine in 2008; further notes that 70 per cent of the incidents occurred in four London boroughs, Croydon, Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark; believes that children should never be subject to Taser assault; and calls on the Home Secretary to invoke an immediate ban on their use.

Solidarity the Only Effective Weapon That Prisoners Possess

Imprisonment as a human experience probably has it's closest parallel in slavery. People in prison are systematically stripped of basic human dignity and bodily integrity and reduced to the condition of caged animals. In terms of their relationship with the state and those who directly oversee and enforce their captivity prisoners are disempowered to the extent where even their most elemental of human rights are frequently treated with contempt and are in reality non-existent.

By it's very nature and intrinsic purpose imprisonment denies the imprisoned their very humanity. As a system and institution prison is incapable of being reformed and it most definitely doesn't "rehabilitate" those held within it, and neither is it intended to; how can degrading and humiliating a human being improve the condition of their minds and characters. How can imprisoning and de-socialising someone make them more able and inclined to integrate back into "normal" society when they've emerged from such a brutalising and alienating experience? Prisons prime purpose is to punish and suppress and enforce social and political control – it is nothing more than a weapon of the state.

It derives it's legitimacy as an instrument of "law and order" or "public protection", when in fact it manufactures anti-social behaviour as evidenced by high rates of re-offending and the transformation of young petty offenders into seriously alienated, angry and violent criminals. In that regard, prisons are actually a danger to public safety, and in any case only imprison working class people, leaving untouched and unpunished the behaviour of corporate criminals that has a far more socially and economically damaging effect on society and the lives of ordinary people.

Like slavery, prison is an inhuman and anti-human system, and in any genuinely civilised society would be relegated to a museum piece, an example of man's inhumanity to man. Instead neo-liberal capitalism has created a prison industrial complex that feeds on the suffering of prisoners as a source of profit and corrupts any basic notion of prison as a "public service".

I have been imprisoned for 34 years. Originally I was sent here as a violent and extremely damaged young man from the slums of South London, who with two other men brutally killed a fourth man. All existed on the margins of society and on the edge of existence. I remain imprisoned long beyond the length of time stipulated by the judiciary and twenty years after the release of the two men imprisoned with me, not because I continue to represent a risk to society but because the

involved through its remit to remedy miscarriages of justice. It instigated appeals to the Court of Appeal and tried to educate lawyers through articles in legal journals on the defences available for asylum seekers arrested for travelling on a false document or none. In July 2013, five more refugees had their convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal following referral of their cases by the CCRC. Once again, the judges chastised defence lawyers for advising their clients to plead guilty, finding it 'surprising and disturbing' that they were unaware of the correct legal position; once again, they referred to the 'clear injustice' that had been done. All the appellants had served sentences of between six and twelve months, and one had additionally been recommended for deportation. All had been recognised as refugees.

Following Syrian refugee Roudi Chikho's Guardian account in February 2014 of his arrival in the UK, which consisted of arrest, conviction and a 12-month prison sentence for travelling on false documents, Richard Foster, Chair of the CCRC, wrote a letter to the paper saying that the CCRC has referred twenty-one cases to the Court of Appeal, all successfully, and has sixty more cases under consideration. He and his colleagues at the CCRC believe that there may be hundreds more refugees who have been wrongly convicted and imprisoned. 'We should not add unnecessarily', the letter said, 'to the misery of the genuinely persecuted by wrongfully prosecuting them for an offence of which they are not guilty and for which charges should never have been brought.'

Continuing impact: The psychological impact on vulnerable, frequently traumatised people of spending months in prison in the country which is supposed to offer protection is well documented and thoroughly attested to by experts. Chikho commented that although he had seen terrible things in Syria, the first time he cried was in Lewes prison. But conviction of a criminal offence has longer-term impacts too. Being in prison may adversely affect an asylum seeker's ability to prepare and present his or her asylum claim and any appeal. For those who are recognised and granted refugee status, the existence of a criminal record precludes employment in many fields, such as teaching (the profession of one of those who had his conviction quashed in August 2013) – and a twelve-month sentence triggers mandatory deportation proceedings.

The costs of misconceived legal proceedings and of incarceration, of investigation, getting convictions quashed and perhaps re-opening deportation cases (if it's not too late) and of compensation for victims of wrongful convictions, are not negligible either, as Foster points out in his letter.

Racist Equation, Laziness or Bad Drafting? Why the massive, continuing ignorance on the part of immigration officials, prosecutors, defence lawyers, magistrates and judges? This ignorance is at first sight quite extraordinary, given in particular the length of time that the statutory defence has been available and that its terms are set out in legal textbooks such as Archbold and Blackstone and on the website of the Crown Prosecution Service, in addition to the work of the CCRC to educate lawyers, and the appeal cases, which have attracted publicity in the legal world. It is unlikely that such ignorance of a widely publicised defence would persist in other areas of criminal law. Could it be that the taint of illegality with which politicians and media have besmirched the seeking of asylum has permeated the legal profession so deeply that lawyers and magistrates simply cannot conceive of asylum seekers as innocent? Or is it simply that busy prosecutors and solicitors see asylum seekers undoubtedly in possession of a false document and look no further? They are certainly not helped by the fact that the statutory defence is not set out in the same law as the offence to which it relates. If you look at the Acts of Parliament containing the offences – the Identity Documents Act, the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act, the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act etc, there is no reference to a defence for bona fide refugees and asylum seekers.

Syed Talha Ahsan & Babar Ahmad -Sentencing Hearing Begins

New Haven Register

Both men who (allegedly under duress) pleaded guilty in Connecticut to supporting terrorists say a witness against them has an incentive to lie because he's benefiting from cooperation with authorities. The witness is expected to testify during sentencing that one of the men, Babar Ahmad, sent him to Afghanistan to train for violent jihad and that he moved on from Ahmad and was trained by al-Qaida members for a failed 2001 plot to bring down an airplane with a shoe bomb, according to prosecutors. They say the man fears arrest in the United States and want him to testify from Britain by a videotaped deposition. They also say false testimony would violate his cooperation agreement. Ahmad and Ahsan pleaded guilty in December to supporting terrorists in Afghanistan through websites that sought to raise cash, recruit fighters and solicit items such as gas masks. The two men, who were living in Britain at the time, faced charges in Connecticut because authorities said they used an Internet service provider in the state to run one of the websites. Ahmad faces up to 25 years in prison and Ahsan faces up to 15 when they are sentenced in July.

Prosecutors didn't name the man they want to testify, but his description matches that of Saajid Badat, a British citizen whose videotaped testimony was shown at the 2012 trial of a man convicted in a foiled 2009 plot to attack the New York City subway system.

Ahmad and his co-defendant, Syed Talha Ahsan, say the witness should testify in person or the government should bring them to the deposition. "Of all the possible witnesses from whom the government could seek to elicit testimony, the witness has perhaps the greatest incentive to lie and the greatest need for effective confrontation," the attorneys wrote in court papers Monday, saying he served less than seven years in prison and has not been extradited to face charges in the United States. "The benefits he is receiving for his cooperation are vast."

The man also is expected to testify that he saw nearly two dozen others Ahmad sent from the United Kingdom to train in Afghanistan, and that he would describe camping trips and training exercises that Ahmad organized in England to groom recruits for violent jihad abroad, prosecutors said. The testimony reflects an effort by prosecutors to show that Ahmad had an active role in sending recruits to terrorism training camps beyond appealing for support on the websites. But attorneys for the men say the witness' testimony goes beyond the charges against them.

Badat was himself convicted in London in a plot to down an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes. He has said that he refused a request to testify in person in the U.S. because he remains under indictment in Boston on charges he conspired with failed shoe bomber Richard Reid and has been told he'd be arrested if he set foot in the United States. Reid was caught aboard a plane with explosives; Badat backed out. Badat was sentenced to 13 years in prison. But British authorities later said that in 2009, a judge secretly reduced his sentence to 11 years to reward him for his cooperation in terrorism investigations.

Will Prison Video Chat One Day Replace Family Visits?

We've all heard about making a phone call from jail, but what about a video call? Similar to Skype, video visitation allows inmates to see their friends and family while they talk. Prisons and jails in the United States are increasingly adopting the technology, but there are significant concerns about the cost to inmates' families and fears video chat will eventually lead to the elimination of in-person visits. Which would probably suit prison officers in the UK, by bureaucratic obduracy they have cut the number of visitors to prisons by 60% over the last 15 years. Booking a visit by phone, waiting time for a prison officer to answer, average time, infinity!

Can You Find a Honest Cop When You Want One?

Source Police Oracle

Two West Midlands Police officers have pleaded guilty to stealing money and cigarettes from a property they were searching as part of an integrity test. PCs Mark David (30) and Neil Samuels (33), who are both suspended, admitted theft when they appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court. Concerns about the officers' behaviour were raised with the force's Professional Standards Department in April 2013. They were subjected to an integrity test - the property search in Oldbury - in July of that year.

The officers are both response officers in Sandwell. PC Davis has six years service, while PC Samuels has 11. They have been bailed until their sentencing on March 26. Supt Tim Godwin, from the force's PSD, said: "Police officers take a vow to serve the public and uphold the law with fairness, integrity and impartiality. Any that fall short of those standards, or who abuse their position, will face disciplinary action, the prospect of criminal prosecution and potential dismissal. "As soon as the pair were suspected of acting improperly an investigation was launched culminating in the dedicated integrity test and their arrests and suspensions."

Victim Policy and the Victims Services Commissioning Framework

As a representative of FASO, supported in this instance by other Voluntary organisations and academia, coming under the generic heading of Miscarriage of Justice carrying out support work for the falsely accused FASO wish to highlight the different ways in which those who use our voluntary services are coming to us for support in both finding the way ahead and in being given phone emotional support when accused of an allegations of sex impropriety, rape and child protection issues. All who speak with us are happy for investigations if it involves a child. But investigations that bear an equality of arms with those presumed victims.

Given that those accused are called victims it pre-supposed those accused are perpetrators. In law however one is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, which suggests investigations are even handed. That all witnesses mentioned to the police investigator by both parties are robustly checked. Unfortunately from information from our callers that does not happen. From all the calls we received the individuals whom are accused and either have their cases dropped due to insufficient information (known as the ones that got away with it as told to individuals) or found not guilty in a court of law, are all now victims.

They have now become victims, but the assumption in society is that 'they got away with it' - they have been put through traumatic times having lost anonymity and respect in the community, financially constrained, their jobs, if in an enhanced environment, their families become disjointed and they may never be allowed a family again through social services interventions. We would like everyone to look at our specific issues listed; so that they can understand the issue of the hidden victim.

1. They should be supported in being treated on a par with how those 'victims' were treated up to the conclusion of the case:- i.e. robust investigations, and having the burden of proof properly applied. 2. The individuals should then be entitled to make applications to the CICA for monetary/health support. Having had the burden of proof properly applied it would hopefully lead to fewer genuine innocent people being charged and going through the court procedures thus saving money from the police and CPS pocket, and not needing support from the CICA. 3. Be entitled to legal aid to bring a prosecution claim against that individual. Or the CICA giving advice on how to sue the other party or 4. The police to take automatic legal action and investigation against the accuser. To ensure their claim was vindictive or without foun-

Report on an Unannounced Inspection of HMYOI Werrington

Inspection 23 Sept/4 Oct 2013 by HMCIP, report published 05/03/14

HMYOI Werrington holds up to 160 boys under the age of 18. During the inspection about two-thirds were sentenced and one-third on remand. The significant risks and accountability of institutions holding children and young people means they are now inspected more frequently. This inspection followed an inspection in 2012 where inspectors found a reasonably caring institution, but one that had slipped back, where expectations were too low, poor behaviour not sufficiently challenged and where young people had little to do. This inspection found some improvements, but with significant shortcomings remaining.

Inspectors were concerned to find that: - although anti-bullying measures were more robust, levels of violence remained high; - the quality of respect was critically undermined by some very poor environmental conditions: some cells were filthy and a few were not in a fit state to house young people; and - some teaching required improvement and the range of vocational training was limited. - Inspectors made 69 recommendations

Law Overridden to Penalise Refugees *Written by Frances Webber for IRR, March 6, 2014*

Fifteen years after the High Court condemned the prosecution of refugees for using false documents in their quest for a place of safety and parliament provided a statutory defence, they are still being wrongly convicted and sent to prison. The 1951 Refugee Convention is quite clear: penalties must not be imposed on refugees (including asylum seekers not yet recognised as refugees) found illegally on the territory, if their mode of entry is related to their quest for asylum. Article 31 was drafted specifically because genuine refugees with no valid travel documents may have reason to fear border guards, who might return them to the country they have fled. Although Article 31 has been interpreted in a way which does not prevent the short-term administrative detention of asylum seekers, its ban on penalties is supposed to prohibit their prosecution and conviction for illegal entry, including their use of false documents to enter the country of asylum.

Despite this clarity, in the late 1990s it became apparent that refugees were being prosecuted and sent to prison for coming in to the UK on false documents. In 1999, several refugees for the first time made a legal challenge to their prosecution and conviction on false document offences, pointing out that the practice 'penalised' them in breach of Article 31. The High Court accepted that they should not have been convicted. Their convictions were quashed and they received compensation. Others, wrongly convicted before them, were encouraged to apply to have their convictions quashed, and quite a few did. The government inserted a clause into the Immigration and Asylum Bill then going through parliament, which as section 31 of the Act, gave asylum seekers a legal defence to charges related to unlawful entry through the use of false documents, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) drafted guidance for prosecutors on when to prosecute and when not to. Problem solved - or so it seemed.

But in 2010, it became apparent that all was not well. Two Iranian dissidents - one a torture victim - and a Somali woman who had been shot and threatened with rape because of her ethnicity, had been arrested on arrival, processed through the magistrates' courts on guilty pleas on the advice of their solicitors and sent to prison. They had their convictions overturned by the Court of Appeal in a test case which revealed that immigration officers, prosecutors, duty solicitors and magistrates were blissfully unaware of the legal exemption. The judges concentrated their ire on the defence lawyers, who had 'no excuse' for failure to advise their clients properly.

Prosecutions continued. The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) became

able given she was arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly. She did not tell custody staff she was a police officer and said she was employed by "Redcar and Cleveland Unitary". She was held in a cell to sober up, during which she said to the detention officer "I want to speak to the organ grinder not the monkey" and "get me the duty solicitor now, you monkey", the IPCC report said. She was allowed to ring her partner, referring to him as Sean Smith and the chief constable was called. Around an hour later she was released without charge, and he picked her up.

Neither she nor then chief constable Price reported the arrest to Cleveland Police, which employed her, or alerted his employer, Cleveland Police Authority. She told investigators she received a head injury when she intervened in a domestic argument in the pub and that explained her lack of memory of the day's events. She told them: "Even upon leaving the police station I genuinely did not appreciate that I had been arrested." Responding to the investigators, she said the behaviour was totally out of character and she had an unblemished 16-year career. Mr Price told the inquiry team he did not know she had been arrested, and he believed he was rung from the hospital, not the police station, when he was called that evening. Mr Price said his partner told him she had been injured when a man on a bike knocked her down.

Ms Eastwood was allowed to resign from Cleveland Police before a disciplinary hearing into her behaviour was held. The IPCC inquiry had recommended she should face a gross misconduct charge. Her husband would also have a case to answer, the report found, for gross misconduct, but he had already been dismissed for a separate matter. In a statement, the former detective denied any wrongdoing.

Cleveland Police Akin To 'Medieval Fiefdom'

The police watchdog has described the Cleveland force under the leadership of two now sacked officers as "reminiscent of a medieval fiefdom". Chief Constable Sean Price and his deputy Derek Bonnard were sacked after separate conduct investigations. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) comments come after a three-year corruption probe. The £4m Operation Sacristy investigation resulted in 10 arrests, but no criminal charges. In a scathing attack on the culture of the force under Mr Price and Mr Bonnard, IPCC commissioner Cindy Butts said senior officers "sought to gain personal benefit from the public purse". She said Mr Price, who was one of those arrested, lied to the IPCC during a conduct investigation, which saw him sacked for gross misconduct. Mr Bonnard, who was also sacked for gross misconduct, both maintained their innocence throughout the investigations and are planning appeals.

A disciplinary hearing found Mr Price had asked a member of staff to inquire about a job for the former police authority chairman Dave McLuckie's daughter, then denied doing so when he was investigated by the commission. Ms Butts said: "The decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to bring charges following the Operation Sacristy criminal investigation brings a sorry chapter in the history of Cleveland Police to an end. This investigation exposed a culture at the top of Cleveland Police which was reminiscent of a medieval fiefdom. Senior officers sought to gain personal benefit from the public purse, showing a complete disregard for the public they had been appointed to serve. The fact Mr Price and Mr Bonnard are no longer serving police officers shows the worth of the investigations that have been carried out. Their shameful behaviour has damaged the reputation of Cleveland Police and the police service generally. These officers sought to further their own selfish agendas. The investigative work by the IPCC and Operation Sacristy has put an end to that." Documents relating to the case have been released as part of the Operation Sacristy Publication Scheme and by the IPCC.

ation and then take legal action as appropriate. This may have been found at para 1, through robust investigations. Those found guilty are given a sentence determinate of that which the accused would have received if found guilty. That government set rape targets be done away with and full accountability of cases should be logged to fall whichever way they do. 5. Their CRB remain clear when processing it for applications for work. When individuals in this category are found innocent - all allegations although they remain on file should not be forwarded to employers - thus allowing them to work., nor held against them by social services. 6. Support to those who have lost their home and family because of the false allegations. Mental health and loss of family can be debilitating - through CICA. And those penalised who are found 'not be a witness to truth' 7. Legislation between police and social services to allow the accused a presumption of innocence by Social services in order that the accused may live back at home with their family, or having lost their family a stop on advising any new family of the false allegation made and any further social services action on the new family. 8. Keep records for statistical purposes to compare efficiently allegations of rape v reasons for cases being deferred (this would highlight the false allegations issue and how many cannot be identified either way. This will acknowledge those who are hidden and silent and go through the system alone. - False Allegations Support Organisation (FASO) a voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting anyone affected by a false allegation of abuse You can also write to: FASO c/o 176 Risca Road, Crosskeys, Newport, NP11 7DH

Fail and Prosper: How Privatisation Really Works Clare Sambrook

Want to make £10 million and more? Become an accountant. Learn how to make austerity pay. Ruby earns more than maybe anybody you have ever met. She is not an Oscar-winning movie star. She hasn't won Wimbledon. Ruby McGregor-Smith is an accountant who runs a company called Mitie (pronounced Mighty). She pays herself £1.4 million a year. Her Mitie shares, worth £2 million, bring another £60K in annual dividends. On the side, as a part-time director, she picks up £60K more. Last September she 'bought' more shares. They cost her absolutely nothing. She sold them straightaway, making £730,000 in a moment. And now, thanks to British taxpayers, Ruby is about to get richer. On the eve of her 51st birthday last month, the Home Office gave her a gigantic contract: eight years' work, worth £180 million, running two immigration lock-ups in West London. Mitie got the job — holding 1,000 men at Colnbrook and Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centres — only three years after entering what Ruby calls the "market".

What's Mitie's experience? They run buildings for Lloyds Bank, clean Odeon cinemas, print and distribute documents, and maintain school buildings under Private Finance Initiative contracts. For almost three years they have run Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, near Oxford. It isn't going well. Last October one suicidal inmate set fire to his cell. The blaze spread quickly — there was no sprinkler system. Ten fire engines rushed to the scene; 180 people had to be evacuated. Seven years ago, after a similar fire in the same Campsfield block, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Services strongly recommended sprinklers. It didn't happen. Mitie are experts in fire prevention. They tell potential clients: "our fire and security team can integrate fire prevention, detection, and suppression with your security equipment, including fire detectors, fire alarms, extinguishers, sprinkler systems . . ." Why didn't Mitie heed the Fire Service's warning and install sprinklers when they got the Campsfield contract? Phil Miller, a Corporate Watch researcher, asked Mitie. They wouldn't say.

How does this 'market' work? Less than three years' experience of guarding immigration

detainees. One massive fire. And then a gigantic government contract to run two more detention centres. Why didn't the work go to a company more experienced than Mitie?

The competition: The UK's most experienced immigration detention companies are G4S (the London Olympics security bunglers) and Serco (where Ruby spent nine years; it's a small world). G4S guards killed asylum seeker Jimmy Mubenga (on a British Airways plane at Heathrow Airport) while trying to deport him. Serco guards have subjected vulnerable women to sexual abuse at Yarl's Wood detention centre in Bedfordshire. These things didn't stop G4S and Serco winning more government contracts.

Home Office ministers and their civil servants have gone to extraordinary lengths to protect their 'commercial partners'. They buried medical evidence that children were being harmed at Yarl's Wood, and rebuked doctors and lawyers who published evidence of assault. Border Agency chief executive Lin Homer four years ago complained that doctors who expressed concerns about dangerous restraint techniques were "trying to damage the reputation of our contractors". But then last year G4S and Serco were caught doing dodgy accounting. They'd charged the Ministry of Justice for tagging ex-offenders who hadn't been tagged, they'd even charged for tagging dead people. Now all their government contracts are under scrutiny and the Serious Fraud Office is investigating. G4S's failures don't stop in the UK. In South Africa last year the government had to take command at G4S-run Mangaung Prison after the company lost control. The Australian government is trying to find out how one detainee died from multiple head injuries and many more were badly injured at G4S-run Manus Island detention centre.

Who else could the British government have chosen to run Harmondsworth and Colnbrook? There's the American prisons company GEO Group — a spin-off from the sinister old Wackenhut Corporation. They've run Harmondsworth since 2009. Why weren't they given the new contract? When the Chief Inspector of Prisons paid a surprise visit to Harmondsworth last Summer, he found that one wheelchair-bound low-risk detainee who'd suffered a stroke had been handcuffed on a hospital visit. Another man was handcuffed while sedated and undergoing surgery. For five hours in hospital GEO guards kept a frail 84 year old Canadian handcuffed. Then he died. Unhelpful headlines and questions in Parliament landed, just as GEO's contract came up for review.

Why didn't the Home Office choose an experienced contractor with a proven record of providing secure and safe accommodation and good value to the taxpayer? Because no such private contractor exists. Privatisation hurtles on in the UK, regardless of the damage. Even David Cameron and George Osborne acknowledge that we have been badly served by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), under which companies build hospitals, schools and prisons, then lease them back to the state, locking taxpayers into decades long maintenance contracts.

In Yorkshire, to take one modest example, the cost of rebuilding Calderdale Royal Hospital is £65 million. The public will end up paying £773 million. For providing one extra grit bin (value £200) outsourcer Amey charges Birmingham Council £4,500, the BBC reported the other day. PFI will ultimately cost the taxpayer £300 billion, a Guardian investigation has revealed. "The irony is that we privatised the buildings but nationalised the debts. It's crazy," said Labour MP Margaret Hodge, who chairs the Public Accounts Committee that is supposed to guard taxpayers' interests. The outsourcers are making a mess of things. There's the contracting out of court translation services (Applied Language Solutions and then Capita), the army recruitment fiasco (Capita again), the degradation of asylum housing (Serco, G4S and Capita), the dangerous experiment that is Birmingham's Oakwood Prison (by G4S).

Last week disability minister Mike Penning had to make an 'unreserved apology' after news

a "brave victim" and the accused person – normally a man – is automatically believed by the police and the CPS to be thoroughly and entirely guilty...even before anything has been investigated or proven. With such pressure be put on officers by the CPS, ministers and every chief constable in the country, it is hardly surprising that ordinary policeman are becoming disillusioned arrogant and increasingly dishonest. Many people believe that police officers can now do what they like, to whom they want, whenever they want.

TheOpinionSite.org must make the point however that for all the pressure, policeman are not victims. Any decent policeman worth his salt, upon discovering dishonesty of a senior officer or on being pressurised by the CPS, would report it to a higher, independent authority such as the IPCC. Instead, most officers are far more likely to submit to bribery, bullying or advancing their own career progression. To make matters worse for the public, when police corruption is discovered or when police officers break the law or misbehave, instead of being prosecuted they are often given the option to resign, retire or take indefinite sick leave.

Figures show that in just one year alone, the City of London police lost 1,200 officers under such circumstances – and that's a relatively tiny force to begin with. In the end of course, it's self-serving politicians who are really to blame. By piling more and more political pressure on the police and by giving police officers more and more powers that should be reserved for ministers (who give it away because they don't want to accept responsibility when things go wrong), the police have become more and more arrogant, detached, vindictive and, just like their political masters, self-serving. When did a policeman or CPS spokesman ever appear on television or radio and honestly and unequivocally apologise for police corruption or official manipulation of our justice system?

Cleveland Detective Told Medics To "Fuck Off" Before 'D & D' Arrest

A senior detective and partner of a chief constable at a scandal-hit police force swore at medics and officers before she was arrested for being drunk and disorderly then failed to tell her employers, an investigation by the police watchdog said. Detective Chief Inspector Heather Eastwood had been the staff officer for Cleveland Police Chief Constable Sean Price, who has since been sacked for gross misconduct. They are now married. The information about the senior officers' behaviour has been released to the public by the Independent Police Complaints Commission after the long-running £4.6m Operation Sacristy into alleged corruption at the force came to an end with the announcement no one would face criminal charges.

Included were details of Ms Eastwood's arrest for being drunk and disorderly in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, on a Monday afternoon in April 2011. Members of the public were concerned for her welfare when she seen to stagger and fall in the street so an ambulance was called. She had been drinking wine in a local pub and smelled of alcohol. Two people who helped her before the ambulance arrived were subjected to a stream of four-letter-words, the IPCC report said. She also abused a paramedic and did not co-operate when a second crew arrived. She was taken to the Friarage Hospital because she had banged her head and there she was abusive towards security staff, trying to hit and kick them.

The IPCC report said she asked the security guards "Do you know who I am?" She was discharged and the police were called as she did not provide a name of someone who could look after her. A North Yorkshire officer and a PCSO visited the hospital and she was arrested when she "levelled a volley of abuse at them", the IPCC said. It appeared she had wet her trousers, the officer said. When she was brought to the custody office, her manner was "objectionable" but unremark-

in to weakness and end up being nothing more than liars in uniform, has nothing to do with intended abuse of power or self-interest.

TheOpinionSite.org believes that one of the principal reasons for the inherent dishonesty that is now so prevalent in Britain's police officers (not just in the Metropolitan Police but also in forces such as Cleveland – and there are plenty of others) is the fact that the police have become too involved in the prosecutorial process.

Although technically it is the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) that is responsible for bringing forward prosecutions, it is the police who gather the evidence. In today's Britain, the police no longer gather evidence fairly. Police frequently fail to disclose to defence counsel (as the Law requires them to do) evidence that could damage the prosecution case; hardly surprising given that it is the investigating officer in the case who is usually responsible for such disclosure being made. Detectives, having decided that the suspect must be guilty (which is not the job of the police) often misinform, bluff and mislead suspects during interviews in the hope that the suspect will incriminate themselves. Worst of all, investigating officers frequently only look for evidence that will support the prosecution case, rather than looking for evidence on an impartial basis, which is what they are supposed to do.

For those who missed it, the new Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, recently made the comment that, "If we took to court only cases where, on the papers, we were certain of a conviction, we would rightly be accused of being over-cautious." That statement from the DPP goes completely against the principle of the Code for Crown Prosecutors which lays down strict guidelines on when a case should or should not go forward.

The purpose of the Code however is clear: If, on the papers, the evidential and public interest tests are not met, the case should not proceed, regardless of what the public or politicians might think. In the case of high-profile and often sensitive cases however, the only statement that we ever hear from the collective mouth of the CPS is, "Having examined the evidence, we are satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to support the realistic prospect of a conviction and that it is in the public interest to proceed with the case." What this actually means is that regardless of the fact that there is often no corroborative evidence available, or the fact that the alleged offences may have supposedly taken place half a century ago and regardless of the fact that witness statements based on memory are unreliable at the best of times, the case will still be allowed to proceed if it is politically expedient to do so.

Where does such a policy leave a bunch of policemen anxious to advance their careers? Given that in such cases there is so little real evidence available, it is hardly surprising that the police are encouraged by the CPS – albeit unofficially – to agree to search out only evidence supportive to the prosecution and to do so by any means possible.

TheOpinionSite.org would suggest that this sad state of affairs has been brought about by the intense politicisation of criminal justice matters over the last 20 years or so. In Britain, unlike the rest of Europe, it has always been the case that criminal justice is inexorably connected with politics, every successive government wanting to be seen to be tougher on crime than the last. The new mantra of both the police and the CPS, especially – though not exclusively - in cases where sex is involved, is to encourage anybody and everybody to come forward with any complaint they can think of (true or not), "...safe in the knowledge that they will be believed."

In other words, the accuser is now immediately deemed to be telling the truth, even before any evidence has been gathered or tested. The end result is that the accuser becomes

got out that the government's back-to-work assessors Atos had relentlessly pursued a woman in a coma. Having made what's known in the jargon as a total bollocks of the task, Atos is trying to negotiate an early release from its obligations, blaming death threats. Regardless of all that, the government has invited Atos to manage the extraction of our personal health data for commercial exploitation and medical research. Is there no better candidate than Atos? Apparently not.

The Winners: When contractors' failures come to light, privatisation's defenders step forward to say that we shouldn't let the odd slip up blind us to the benefits of outsourcing. Here's economist DeAnne Julius, given a 700 word advertising opportunity by the Financial Times: "It would be wrong to use the cases of G4S and Serco, and their contracts with the Ministry of Justice, to condemn the industry, especially before an investigation of the circumstances has concluded." "Using a specialist provider whose reputation and share price are on the line, commissioned and monitored by an in-house procurement team, results in higher reliability, better quality and cost savings – it is better than doing it yourself. It's a hat-trick too good for the public sector to pass up, especially when money is tight," she said.

Where's the Evidence?: The FT describes Julius as "a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee" who "led the Public Services Industry Review (2008) for the department for business". They neglected to mention her part-time directorships – at Serco (the outsourcer), at Roche Holdings (healthcare and pharmaceuticals), at Jones Lang LaSalle (global real estate), at Deloitte (the Big Swinging Dicks of PFI).

Ruby McGregor-Smith became chair of the CBI's Public Services Strategy Board last year, not long after she'd scooped that £730,000 windfall. "UK business plays a hugely important role in delivering many public services around the country," she said. "It is crucial, at a time when private provision is under intense scrutiny, that we demonstrate the positive impact that the private sector can make in transforming services and generating value for taxpayers through greater competition." Four years ago she was one of 35 business leaders invited to sign a letter in the Daily Telegraph, urging Chancellor George Osborne to cut public services. Reducing the budget deficit quickly, they claimed, would "deliver a healthier and more stable economy". They said: "everyone knows that when you have a debt problem, delaying the necessary action will make it worse not better." The BBC's Robert Peston noted: "there is a whole school of economists . . . who would describe that statement as laughable."

Austerity politics creates work for outsourcers regardless of whether they do things more efficiently than the public sector, or not. The PFI model that accountants have dreamed up keeps capital spending off the government's balance sheet, making the official budget deficit smaller. Pushing public money into private hands shrinks the state and weakens organised labour.

Who gains?: 1. The big accountancy firms who frame the contracts that serve taxpayers so badly are reckoned to have made £1 billion in fees from PFI alone. The winners include management consultants like McKinsey. And politicians who have taken fees, donations or directorships – like Michael Gove, (Christofferson Robb & Company), Lord Reid (G4S), Alan Milburn (PricewaterhouseCoopers), Virginia Bottomley (Bupa), Lord Darzi (GE Healthcare), Capita's founder, Rod Aldridge, lent the Labour Party £1 million.

Who gains?: 2. Civil servants like David Griffiths. He led the government's review of "probation efficiency", developed the commissioning policy, then jumped ship, becoming director of probation and community services at G4S. Financier David Metter has made more than £80 million for himself. He owns or co-owns 28 NHS hospitals, 269 schools, the Ministry of Defence HQ, a Scottish motorway and a Welsh jail, according to the Daily Telegraph. (The chief apologist

for PFI, here he is running rings around flatfooted MPs on the Public Accounts Committee).

Who gains? 3. The accountants who run the outsource companies: G4S's chief executive Nick Buckles built a fortune of more than £20 million before the fraud scandal forced him out last year. Serco's departed multimillionaire chief executive Chris Hyman (Ruby's former boss) races Ferraris for fun. Capita's chief executive Paul Pindar trousered £8.5 million last year after cashing in £6 million worth of shares to fund his divorce. He retired last week, to "establish a portfolio of private equity opportunities".

Austerity Pays: Ruby McGregor-Smith's £730,000 windfall is unlikely to be her last. On top of her £1.5 million-a-year, and assuming Mitie's share price keeps rising, this year she is due another mighty windfall. Next year, same again . . .

Theresa Riggi, Mother Who Killed Her Children, Found Dead *Independent, 11/03/14*

50-year-old Riggi was jailed for 16 years for killing her eight-year-old twins Austin and Luke and her five-year-old daughter Cecilia at their Scotland home in August 2010. Riggi then tried to cover up the way they died with a gas explosion. She then leaped from the balcony of their second-floor flat in Edinburgh. The children's bloodstained bodies were discovered lying side by side on the bedroom floor following the explosion. The bodies each carried eight stab wounds. The murders took place following a marriage split with the children's father; the both of them had been involved in a legal proceeding over the children's custody at the time. Riggi used a separate knife for each of the children. Riggi was initially charged with murder but admitted three counts of the lesser charge of culpable homicide on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Lord Bracadale, who judged the case, said at the time "The number and nature of the stab wounds to each child is indicative of a truly disturbing degree of violence which, in order to bring about the deaths of three children, must have been sustained over a significant period of time. It is difficult to envisage the physical commission of such acts."

A court heard that a report into her mental state identified narcissistic, paranoid and hysterical personality disorders. She was sentenced in April 2011 at the High Court in Glasgow. She was moved from the all-female Cornton Vale Prison, near Stirling, after a string of alleged attacks in 2011. The US-born Riggi was found dead at Rampton Secure Hospital in Nottinghamshire on Monday. Rampton Hospital is a high security psychiatric hospital near the village of Woodbeck. A Nottinghamshire Police spokeswoman said: "We can confirm that we were called to Rampton in the early hours of this morning to the death of a woman. It's not being treated as suspicious and we are preparing a file for the coroner."

Day Release For Prisoners to be Scaled Back *theguardian.com, 09/03/14*

Following a series of serious crimes committed by offenders temporarily out of jail, such as the murderer Ian McLoughlin. Tighter rules about who is eligible for the scheme are to be introduced, while prisoners will only be allowed out for a specific purpose, such as gaining work experience, the Ministry of Justice said. Day-release prisoners will also have to wear electronic tags, once technology is made available, the department added.

The Ministry of Justice cited three serious failures as being behind the move, including the conviction of McLoughlin for murdering Graham Buck in the village of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, in July last year, while on day release. McLoughlin, who had killed twice before, was sentenced to a whole-life order. Another incident, which led to an offender being convicted of attempted robbery, also prompted the change, the department said.

Met is "institutionally racist", but finds there was no evidence of corruption. During the public inquiry, the Met had a spy close to the Lawrence family informing police about the state of the couple's marriage. 1998: Rogue ex-police officer Neil Putnam turns supergrass and claims Davidson was corruptly involved with the father of David Norris, one of the racist gang who killed Lawrence. Then deputy commissioner John Stevens releases barest details of Putnam's claims to Macpherson and tells the Met's legal team nothing of new intelligence.

1999: Scotland Yard covert bugs monitoring the Morgan murder suspects pick up references to Davidson. Authorisations for the intrusive listening devices signed off by John Stevens, now Lord Stevens. 2003: Met Police intelligence report concludes Davidson worked on the original Morgan murder investigation. 2003: Mass shredding of all Operation Othona evidence by the Met. 2011: Latest attempt to secure convictions for the murder of Daniel Morgan collapses after the Met fails to disclose key information to the defendants, one of whom is Fillery. 2012: David Norris and Gary Dobson David Norris and Gary Dobson After years of pressure from the media, the Met and CPS secure convictions for the murder of Lawrence. David Norris and Gary Dobson sentenced to life in prison. 2012: Lord Leveson concludes that police whistleblowers should be banned from speaking to newspapers and should address all concerns internally to the Met. 2013: Police whistleblower Peter Francis, who worked in the undercover unit that targeted the Lawrences, reveals to a newspaper that Stephen Lawrence's family had been targeted. Home Secretary Theresa May asks Mark Ellison QC to investigate. 2014: Theresa May speaking in the House of Commons Theresa May speaking in the House of Commons Scotland Yard tells Ellison Review that Davidson was not involved with the original Morgan murder investigation. Ellison concludes that he was, and also finds the Met withheld details of Davidson's corruption from the Macpherson inquiry. Theresa May announces new judge-led public inquiry. Tom Harper, *Independent*, 09/03/14

Police Corruption Driven by CPS and Ministers *Raymond Peytors - March 9, 2014*

Recent revelations regarding the murder 20 years ago of Stephen Lawrence have demonstrated further police corruption at the highest level, adding to the long list of dishonest activities by police officers who are supposedly there to uphold the law. However, the reason for so much police corruption can be laid directly at the door of 10 Downing Street and government ministers who do not care about justice and are only interested in pursuing their own political ideals. Theresa May and her posse of ministers, notably the policing minister, Damian Green have all said that they believe, "... The majority of police officers across the UK to a good job, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances."

The personal experiences of individuals however tell a different story. Whatever ministers may believe, it is becoming increasingly apparent to TheOpinionSite.org and other interested organisations that an increasing number of the general public now distrust the police almost as a matter of course. Given Hillsborough, the phone hacking scandal, Plebgate and numerous other incidences in which police officers have found to be lying (including cheating and misinforming those suspected of offences), one would be forgiven for believing that actually most police officers in Britain today are only interested in their own well-being.

A cynic might say that the need for career advancement and the power that their position gives them over their fellow citizens is almost bound to create the opportunity for police officers to become corrupt, should they wish to misuse their power and position. Actually, one reason why so many police officers, many of whom go into the service with good intentions, give

park 27 years ago amid claims he was about to blow the whistle on police corruption. However, a Met intelligence report from 2003, seen by The IoS, states that "Davidson was attached to the initial investigation of the murder of Daniel Morgan in 1987". On Friday, the BBC broadcast details of another police file that allegedly mentioned DS Davidson's name nine times in connection with the botched original inquiry into Morgan's murder.

The victim's brother, Alastair, said: "The crossovers between Daniel's case and the Lawrence murder are getting worse and worse. There is so much more to come out... These repeated cover-ups by the Met are surely criminal acts." Imran Khan, the Lawrence family's long-time lawyer, said the "shocking revelations... further undermine the already battered reputation of the Met. There is an urgent need for honesty and transparency". Keith Vaz, chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "I am astonished by these alleged links. Bernard Hogan-Howe stated that the Ellison Review led to the worst day of his career, but without establishing the full extent of any previous corruption it is likely things will only get worse."

Last week, a review of the Stephen Lawrence case by Mr Ellison concluded that DS Davidson could be linked to the original Met investigation into the Daniel Morgan case. This was despite Scotland Yard telling the Ellison Review just last month that the link was false. However, the QC cast doubt on current police assurances, concluding: "We have some reservations about accepting this assertion."

Now it can be revealed that covert police bugs that monitored one of the Morgan suspects picked up multiple references to DS Davidson in May 1999. The individual was caught discussing the alleged corrupt officer on the phone, and referred to him by his nickname "OJ" – which stands for "Obnoxious Jock". He also expressed sympathy for DS Davidson, and was concerned that police were trying to "make him a patsy".

The sensitive use of bugs was authorised by then deputy commissioner John Stevens, now Lord Stevens. One year earlier, DS Davidson had been named by Met supergrass Neil Putnam as having a corrupt relationship with gangland boss Clifford Norris, the father of one of the racists who killed Lawrence. At the time, Sir William Macpherson was leading a public inquiry into the murder and later concluded the Met was "institutionally racist", but he ruled out corruption as a factor in the botched initial investigation. However, last week the Ellison Review concluded that Scotland Yard withheld full details of Putnam's claims from the Macpherson Inquiry. The QC told Parliament that then-deputy commissioner John Stevens released scant detail on the Davidson corruption allegations to Sir William in 1998, and failed to inform the Met's legal department of the new Lawrence-related intelligence. The Ellison Review also found the Met under John Stevens' stewardship authorised the "mass-shredding" of documents from Operation Othona, an unprecedented four-year police investigation into police corruption during the 1990s.

Meanwhile, in the same year, a Met police intelligence report prepared by a policeman acting as a liaison officer with the Morgan family analysed Davidson's links to the case. The report "states Davidson was attached to the initial investigation of the murder of Daniel Morgan in 1987", and is "known to associate" with some of the suspects. Despite this report, the Met told the Ellison Review that Davidson did not work on the original inquiry. A Met spokesperson said: "We have co-operated fully with the Ellison Review." A spokesman for Lord Stevens did not respond to requests for comment last night.

Timeline; 1998: Sir William Macpherson Public Inquiry led by Sir William Macpherson into the botched investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence concludes the

Prisons minister, Jeremy Wright, said: "We're not prepared to see the failures of last summer repeated and public safety compromised. Temporary release can be an important tool in helping offenders reintegrate but it should not be an automatic right and we must do all we can to ensure it does not lead to a permanent blight on innocent members of society. The system has been too lax up to now and that must change. In future when prisoners are let out on licence I want to be sure they are tagged and strictly risk-assessed so we know where they have been and can be sure that they have been tested in the community under strict conditions before being released." The department said from now on, prisoners eligible for release on temporary licence would have to earn it by demonstrating the "right behaviour and a commitment to change". It will no longer be considered an automatic right which is given when inmates are deemed suitable for open conditions. There will also be a more thorough assessment of risks before temporary release is authorised. For prisoners with a history of serious crimes, there will be a new "restricted" level where they will undergo stringent risk assessments by probation and other professionals.

Prisoners: Temporary Release *House of Lords / 10 Mar 2014 : Column WS161*

Chris Grayling has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

'Carefully managing prisoners into the community on temporary licence toward the end of their sentence is a key part of efforts to rehabilitate them back into society. But this should never be at the expense of public safety which remains our absolute priority.

In the summer of 2013, in separate incidents, three prisoners failed to comply with the conditions on which they were temporarily released from prison with terrible consequences. One of these prisoners has since been convicted of murder and another of attempted armed robbery. The case in respect of the third prisoner is still subject to the legal process.

Such failures should not happen and, as a result, I immediately commissioned two reviews. We have undertaken an internal review of the policy and practice of the temporary release of prisoners. I also asked Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons to examine circumstances around these three serious incidents. I have accepted the recommendations of the Chief Inspector's report, which cannot yet be published due to those outstanding legal proceedings. The Chief Inspector's report and recommendation was focused on the three specific incidents and I have incorporated these recommendations into a fundamental and wider reform of the policy and its procedures.

Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) describes the arrangements under which prisoners can be released into the community towards the end of their sentences for rehabilitative purposes. It will continue to play an important role in public protection by ensuring that offenders are tested in the community under strict conditions before being released. It also provides a valuable means of helping prisoners prepare for their resettlement in the community by, for example, finding work or rebuilding links with their families, which helps to reduce reoffending.

In the vast majority of cases ROTL is used effectively and successfully. Prisoners fail to comply with licence conditions in less than one per cent of cases. In 2012, around five in every 100,000 releases were recorded as resulting in failure due to arrest on suspicion of a further offence. However, the failures of last summer have highlighted a number of weaknesses in current arrangements which I am determined to address.

I am making changes to all ROTL releases to improve the decision making across the system. ROTL is not a right. At all times during their sentence a prisoner will have to demonstrate the right behaviour and commitment to change. For ROTL to be granted, there will need to be a very clear benefit to how it will aid rehabilitation and increase the chances of an offender

leading a crime free life on release. There will also be a more thorough assessment of the risks before temporary release is authorised and a more consistent and robust response for prisoners who fail to comply with their licence.

I am also introducing a new scheme of Restricted Release on Temporary Licence for those prisoners who have committed serious crimes in the past. This new process will feature:

- More stringent risk assessment procedures carried out by highly trained probation professionals.
- In addition to tagging, more robust monitoring arrangements when an offender is on temporary licence in the community

In the future, all prisoners who are allowed release on temporary licence will be tagged, regardless of the nature of their previous offences. The next generation of tagging contracts, which is due to come into operation next year, will improve the way we monitor prisoners' whereabouts while they are in the community.

The use of this new technology will also serve as a strong deterrent as prisoners will know that their location can be accurately checked.

These changes will be implemented in the coming months. The new Restricted ROTL scheme will be operational by the autumn. We will introduce Electronic Location Monitoring as the technology becomes available

Taken together, this package of measures will improve the consistency, risk assessment and monitoring of releases on temporary licence, ensuring we make more effective use of this tool in safely preparing prisoners for permanent release and better protecting the public'.

Robert Hamill Murder: Charges Linked to Case to be Reinstated *BBC News, 10/03/14*

Charges linked to the Robert Hamill murder investigation will be reinstated against three people, including an ex-policeman, following a court ruling. Mr Hamill was killed by loyalists in Portadown, County Armagh, 17 years ago. The High Court has quashed a decision to halt criminal proceedings against the trio in connection with the case.

Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice charges will now proceed against the three people, who include a former RUC officer and his wife. The outcome follows a legal challenge by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). Mr Hamill, a 25-year-old Catholic, was attacked and beaten by a loyalist mob in Portadown in April 1997. He never regained consciousness and died in hospital 12 days later.

Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers who were in the area at the time have been accused of failing to intervene in the assault. One of the RUC officers who was in an armoured police vehicle at the scene was Robert Cecil Atkinson. The 59-year-old and his wife Eleanor Atkinson, with an address at Brownstown Road, Portadown, had both been accused of conspiring to pervert the course of justice in connection with the investigation into the killing. Similar allegations were made against another man, Kenneth Hanvey, 62, of Derryanvil Road in the town. All three defendants denied the claims against them.

At a hearing in July last year, a district judge halted their cases over an alleged abuse of process. He ruled that the evidence from a woman who was the central witness was so unreliable that a jury could not convict on it. His verdict led to the PPS seeking a judicial review.

At the High Court on Monday, a barrister for the PPS argued that there was no abuse of process. Following a brief hearing, a panel of three High Court judges confirmed that the decision to stay the prosecution was being quashed. The case will now be remitted back for hearing in front of a different district judge.

Prisoner Wins Damages for Detention Beyond his HDC Release Date

1) This is a claim for damages by Kenneth McCreaner a former prisoner. He contends that following the Supreme Court judgment in Noone [2010] UKSC 30; [2010] 1 WLR 1743, he was not released under home detention curfew ("HDC") as he should have been, through the fault of the Ministry of Justice. HDC is a scheme whereby prisoners are released early on curfew, which is monitored by the prisoner wearing an electronic device (a tag). He contends that he spent almost 4 months longer in prison than he should have and that he should be compensated for this. The claimant has pleaded his case as false imprisonment, negligence, misfeasance in public office and breach of the Human Rights Act 1998. In my view the claims in false imprisonment, misfeasance and breach of Convention rights go nowhere. Nor does the attempt to make the Ministry of Justice liable in negligence for the development and adoption of policy in the light of Noone and for the process of identifying him as a beneficiary of the Supreme Court judgment. However, there was a subsequent period of 6 weeks where in my view he was unlawfully detained as the result of the negligence of the prison in failing to ensure that his case received the priority required by the Ministry of Justice's policy.

63) Conclusion: The claimant remained in prison well after his HDC eligibility date on 1 July as calculated pursuant to the Supreme Court's judgment in Noone, handed down on 30 June 2010. He fails on his claims for false imprisonment and misfeasance in public office and under the Human Rights Act 1998. He also fails to establish negligence against the Ministry of Justice in its development and adoption of policy on HDC eligibility, and also against HMP Wayland before the prison identified him as having passed his eligibility date for HDC.

However, after the prison calculated in late August 2010 that the claimant was long past his eligibility date for HDC of 1 July 2010, it owed him a duty of care. It fell well short of that duty in not according his HDC application the priority which Ministry of Justice policy demanded that such applications should be given. As a result the claimant is entitled to damages for 6 weeks detention until his final release on HDC in late October 2010.

Kenneth McCreaner v Ministry of Justice [2014] EWHC 569 (QB)
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/QB/2014/569.html>

Stephen Lawrence Murder Linked to Murder of Daniel Morgan

Explosive new evidence linking the two darkest chapters in Scotland Yard's modern history can be revealed by The Independent on Sunday, heaping fresh pressure on the position of the current Met Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe. Leaked documents reveal a police officer accused of corruption in the Stephen Lawrence case has also been closely linked to one of the prime suspects in the unsolved murder of Daniel Morgan, a private investigator found with an axe embedded in his skull in 1987. Use of covert police listening devices suggests that a suspect in Morgan's murder knew John Davidson, a detective sergeant who is alleged to have confessed to a corrupt relationship with the father of David Norris, one of the racist gang who stabbed Lawrence to death in 1993.

Under Sir Bernard's leadership, the Metropolitan Police appears to be playing down links between the Morgan case and the murder of the aspiring black architect in 1993 – a position that has been called into question by both the Home Secretary, Theresa May, and Mark Ellison QC, who published a withering review of the Lawrence police investigation last week. Only last month, Scotland Yard insisted to Mr Ellison's team that the then DS Davidson did not work on the original investigation into the murder of Morgan, who was killed in a south London car