

A case dogged by claims of police corruption: Scotland Yard has spent more than £50m on its four investigations into the murder of Daniel Morgan, a private investigator who was killed in 1987. The unsolved case has been plagued from the outset with devastating claims of police corruption – and repeated alleged attempts to cover-up historic malpractice by a Metropolitan Police force too embarrassed to admit to its own failings. Suspects have been charged with the murder twice but prosecutions have collapsed before the trial and evidence have been heard in open court. Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service blame their failures on incompetence. The family claim they were ignored by several police commissioners and successive Labour Home Secretaries.

The acute sensitivities around the case emerged again last month when a review of the Stephen Lawrence murder – which happened a few miles from where Daniel Morgan was found with an axe in his head – found evidence that allegedly corrupt police officers bridge both cases. The Met continued to deny this to Mark Ellison QC despite its own intelligence. The review also found that a “lorry-load” of sensitive material from Operation Othona – that may have been relevant to both cases – had been inexplicably destroyed in 2001 when Lord Stevens was Commissioner. In his conclusions, Mark Ellison QC, who led the inquiry on behalf of Home Secretary Theresa May, also cast doubt on current Met assurances that the Lawrence and Morgan cases were not linked, raising fresh questions over whether Scotland Yard can ever be trusted in investigations over either murder.

Inside America's \$2bn Immigrant Detention Industry

Under President Barack Obama, the US has deported almost two million undocumented immigrants, more than any of his predecessors. Before being kicked out of the US, most of these people will spend time locked up in a detention centre. Some have criminal convictions, but the majority are detained on immigration charges. A little-known federal law enacted in 2006 ensures that a minimum of 34,000 undocumented immigrants must be held on every single day. Private companies run most of the centres. Critics claim the congressional mandate forces law enforcement agencies to arrest and detain immigrants to meet an arbitrary bed number rather than act on the merits of each individual case. Facing a backlash from Hispanic leaders angry at the impact deportations are having on families and communities, the White House has promised a “more humane” approach. Now, the administration is pushing to lower the minimum number of daily detainees. But backers of the law say the number detained each day is a tiny proportion of the estimated 12 million immigrants currently living in the US without official papers. And the bed mandate serves as a check on the administration's enforcement efforts.

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, Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Frank Wilkinson, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Paul Higginson, Thomas Petch, 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, Ray Gilbert, Ishtiaq Ahmed.

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MOJUK: Newsletter ‘Inside Out’ No 472 (10/04/2014)

EDM 1254: Release Of Prisoners Serving Indeterminate Sentences

That this House notes that at the end of January 2014, 5,335 prisoners in the UK were still serving indeterminate sentences for public protection, which were abolished by the Government in 2012; further notes that 3,561 of these prisoners had already passed their tariff and that, since the Parole Board releases roughly 400 inmates every year, it will take nine years for the Board to clear this backlog of cases; further notes with dismay that many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences fail to gain places on appropriate courses which would progress their rehabilitation and that as a result such prisoners have little hope of release; recognises that 24 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences have committed suicide whilst in custody; further notes that each prison place costs £40,000 every year, making indeterminate sentences highly costly; and calls on the Government to increase funding to the Parole Board to clear the backlog of indeterminate prisoners, starting with those given initial tariffs of two years or less.

Prisons: Education and Training & Purposeless Activity

Lords / 3 Apr: Column 1030

Lord Ramsbotham to ask Her Majesty's Government what impact prison staff cuts have had on the provision of education, job training and substance abuse programmes in Her Majesty's prisons.

Minister of State, Lord Faulks: My Lords, staff reductions have been made as part of the benchmarking reforms of public sector prisons. Benchmarking is the best means of delivering value for money for the public purse. It either increases purposeful activity or sustains current levels, and refocuses work and job training to enhance prisoners' employment prospects on release. The Prison Service works closely with commissioners of substance misuse services and education to optimise the provision of these services to meet prisoners' needs.

Lord Ramsbotham: I thank the noble Lord for that rather disappointing reply. Provision of and access to education and training are two key factors in any meaningful attempt to prevent reoffending. I cannot imagine that anyone responsible for the conduct of imprisonment could be happy about an Ofsted report which finds that, despite some prisons having state-of-the-art facilities: “Training and education in prisons are very poor and are failing to support offenders into employment... In many prisons, training and education comes too far down the list of priorities for prison governors and other senior staff.”

Nor could anyone be happy about a London University Institute of Education survey which found that 62% of prison educators criticised the negative effect of payment by results on prisoners as learners, and on the overall quality of education. When prison educators are complaining and prison staff are speaking openly about the difficulties of getting prisoners to education due to cuts in staffing, I hope that Ministers are suitably concerned. Will the Minister please tell the House what steps are being taken to rectify the situation?

Lord Faulks: Many steps are being taken. Work is progressing on introducing a new mandatory assessment for all newly received prisoners by OLASS, the Offender Learning and Skills Service providers. This will ensure that all offenders receive a learning assessment focused on English and maths, rather than those who simply go on to learning. NOMS and its partners are working towards implementing better data about sharing arrangements. I should say

that intensive maths and English courses are being piloted in prisons, based on a model adopted in the Army, particularly to address prisoners serving short sentences.

Baroness Corston: The Minister just referred to purposeful activity for those who are in our prisons. I know of one women's prison where this activity is filling sandwiches for Pret A Manger. Is this the kind of purposeful activity to which he refers?

Lord Faulks: Purposeful activity covers a number of different areas: work, training, education, PE and programmes designed to tackle the causes of prisoners' offending. Quite a lot of the emphasis on purposeful activity is to try to allow prisoners to engage in activities where they will have some prospects of work outside, particularly in the catering business. With great respect to the noble Baroness, who I know has great knowledge of these issues, that is in fact not out of step with where they might be able to find employment afterwards.

Lord Dholakia: Does the Minister accept that prisons are overcrowded, and that controls and discipline are difficult to maintain? In fact, there has been an increase of 72% in calls on riot squads, and we have reached a high point in the level of deaths in custody. Under these circumstances, in order to ensure that prison's objectives of education, training and jobs are not affected by cuts in government expenditure, would the Minister not agree that it is time for automatic inspections by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons?

Lord Faulks: Any violence or instability in prisons is clearly to be regretted. However, the noble Lord will be aware that assaults in prisons are at their lowest level since 2008, and the number of cases of escaping or absconding has reduced by more than 85% of what it was 10 years ago. I am afraid that I cannot accept that there are problems as a result of overcrowding. At the moment, although there is no room for complacency, matters are stable in the Prison Service.

Lord Wigley: Does the Minister recall the debate last Thursday in which it was mentioned that more than 5,000 IPP prisoners are being held in prison, two-thirds of whom are beyond their tariff, and that the main reason for this is the lack of training for rehabilitation? Given that this is costing more than £200 million a year, is it not penny wise, pound foolish to cut back on courses of that sort? Can the Minister give some assurance that these prisoners can have the hope of getting rehabilitation courses?

Lord Faulks: I well remember the debate and the prominent part which the noble Lord played in it. He will also recall the response that I gave him, which was that there was a considerable, co-ordinated effort to ensure that those IPP prisoners were enabled to engage in appropriate activities which would increase the likelihood of, although not guarantee, their release after hearing before the Parole Board. That is happening, and the Prison Service is well aware of the problem.

Lord Woolf: On 1 April 24 years ago, if my recollection is correct, the British prison system was subject to a series of riots. A Conservative Home Secretary, now the noble Lord, Lord Waddington, asked me to make a report. Another Conservative Home Secretary, the noble Lord, Lord Baker, received that report and the House of Commons, with one exception, indicated that it accepted the recommendations, limited to 12, in that report. I am very pleased that a Government of whom the Conservatives are part have now focused on the importance of rehabilitation. Does the Minister agree that if you are going to have rehabilitation, it is very important, first, to control the numbers in prison and, secondly, to have the staff needed to cope with that number of prisons, for the reasons identified by the noble Lord, Lord Ramsbotham?

Lord Faulks: The noble and learned Lord is referring to the Strangeways report. I entirely accept that rehabilitation should be a key part of prison. The noble and learned Lord will recall that the transforming rehabilitation reforms mean that those serving short sentences for

spent 28 years as a Met detective on the anti-corruption, organised crime and terrorist financing divisions, refused to speak when contacted by The Independent. However, a friend said: "There were a number of things from that time that Kinley and his colleagues found unsavoury. There were other things going on that seemed to overlap with the Morgan murder."

Keith Vaz, chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "I am concerned that in this important investigation vital evidence may have been lost. The Commissioner rightly promised a ruthless pursuit of truth in issues of corruption and ministers have always made it clear that they will have zero tolerance of it. The Committee will be questioning the Home Secretary on these issues when she comes before us on Tuesday." When Roy Clark, the police chief in charge of Operation Othona, was recently told about the disposal of the highly sensitive intelligence, he said: "There would be no good reason to get rid of it... It was gold dust stuff."

Meanwhile, Daniel's brother Alastair, who has led a 27-year campaign for justice, hit out last night at Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe after the Met Commissioner told MPs last week that he was considering reopening an investigation into the murder. Mr Morgan said: "I am very worried about this because the Met's handling of this case has been so appalling. It needs public scrutiny; it does not need the Met to put its hands on this case." Asked if he thought that was a "device" by the Met to "take hold" of the case, Mr Morgan said: "It could be. We have written to him [Sir Bernard] and we have had no reply to our letters. We want independent scrutiny."

Last May, the Home Secretary Theresa May granted the Morgan family an independent judge-led panel to investigate the Daniel Morgan case following years of pressure from the family. But progress has been painfully slow. Sir Stanley Burnton, the judge appointed to lead the panel, stepped down for "personal reasons" in November and, five months on, has yet to be replaced. The scale of its task was brought into sharp focus last week when Craig Mackey, the Deputy Commissioner of the Met, revealed there were one million pieces of paper relating to the Morgan case in Scotland Yard's vaults. Last month – almost one year since the Home Secretary announced the panel – ministers revealed it had obtained just 700 documents relating to its inquiries – 0.0007 per cent of the total.

The Daniel Morgan Panel is modelled on the Hillsborough Independent Panel, the inquiry into the deaths of 96 football fans at Sheffield Wednesday stadium in 1989. The Hillsborough inquiry was appointed in 2010 and reported in 2012. Asked whether some in the Met were still trying to cover up the corruption from 27 years ago, Mr Morgan said: "I believe that is the case... I believe certain aspects of what happened to do with my brother's murder are still being covered up... They will put their reputation before the public interest." A Home Office spokesperson said: "The panel continues to carry out its work and the Home Secretary is planning to appoint a new chairman as soon as possible." A Metropolitan Police spokesperson said: "The MPS continues to review this case and is currently co-operating fully with the independent panel established by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to review the Met's handling of the Daniel Morgan murder investigation."

In evidence: Investigating officer's statement: Statement taken from DC Kinley Davies by Hampshire Police, 23 June 1989 On confronting the murder suspect: "When Mr X opened the front door his face was like wax and he was starting to get beads of sweat across his brow, even though it was a winter's night. "There was no doubt that he was expecting a visit from the police." On peculiarities that emerged during the original murder investigation: "Morgan had uncovered major police corruption and he was going to sell it to the national newspapers. DC Davies had fed this into the incident room but the document had disappeared and was not actioned. Nevertheless, DC Davies (and two other officers) continued to investigate the corruption allegations but were suddenly removed from the squad without any reason given by the SIO (senior investigating officer). This was particularly strange."

aged 18 to 21 and there had been little thought about their specific needs; - young adult women were more likely to be involved in self-harm and assaults and less likely to make progress in education; - the mother and baby unit was a good resource but was underused; - women needed to be allocated to activities more quickly, as many of them stayed in the prison for such a short time; and - custody planning for short-sentenced women was underdeveloped. - there was a high number of women with substance misuse problems - There were insufficient and missed opportunities to provide accredited learning and the needs of some groups, such as young adults, higher achievers and those with basic skills issues were not being adequately addressed. - A large, closed institution, far from home, cannot be the best place to meet the needs we found among the women at Eastwood Park – Inspectors made 72 recommendations

More Evidence of Police Corruption Relating to Daniel Morgan Case

Tom Harper, Independent, 05/04/14: Evidence of police corruption relating to Britain's most notorious unsolved murder mysteriously "disappeared" from Scotland Yard during the initial investigation, according to a leaked file. A police statement taken from an officer on the first inquiry into the brutal death of Daniel Morgan suggests the victim was about to blow the whistle on a case of "major police corruption" – but internal police documents detailing the claim were removed from the incident room. Detective Constable Kinley Davies also claimed that he and two of his colleagues tried to investigate the emerging allegations of Metropolitan Police malpractice but were "suddenly removed from the squad" by senior officers. The claims are contained in a witness statement submitted to Hampshire Police, an outside force brought in to investigate police corruption in the murder of Mr Morgan, who was found in a south London car park with an axe embedded in his skull in 1987. They reveal for the first time how early the inquiry into the private investigator's death appears to have been compromised and raise new questions over the extent of criminality in Scotland Yard.

The destruction of embarrassing evidence in the Daniel Morgan murder echoes the "mass-shredding" of Operation Othona, a top-secret anti-corruption inquiry during the Nineties, which was uncovered last month by a review of the Stephen Lawrence murder – another deeply uncomfortable chapter in the modern history of the Met. The statement by the anonymous officer from Hampshire Police details an interview he conducted with DC Kinley Davies. Davies paid a visit to the home of one of the suspects – called Mr X for legal reasons – on the night of the murder. He said: "When Mr X opened the front door his face was like wax and he was starting to get beads of sweat across his brow, even though it was a winter's night. There was no doubt that he was expecting a visit from the police." The officer then cryptically says he would have arrested Mr X "then and there" had another detective inspector "not been in charge". When Mr X was finally arrested, the officer recalls him "dropping names of senior officers and solicitors" throughout his interview.

However, the most shocking disclosure is yet more claims of the destruction of embarrassing police corruption files. DC Davies told Hampshire Police that he had been to interview a witness, who cannot be named for legal reasons. The witness told them "Morgan had uncovered major police corruption and he was going to sell it to the national newspapers". "DC Davies had fed this into the incident room but the document had disappeared and was not actioned." The statement continues: "Nevertheless, DC Davies [and two other officers] continued to investigate the corruption allegations but were suddenly removed from the squad without any reason given by the SIO [senior investigating officer]. It concludes: "This was particularly strange." Mr Davies, 61, who

the first time will now be able to obtain support after leaving prison and will be enabled by means of resettlement prisons to have some continuity in the support that they receive inside and outside. I accept his general observations. It is a matter very much to be borne in mind.

Lord Howarth of Newport: Whatever the Justice Secretary is now saying, is not the reality of the situation that his policy is preventing family and friends sending books to prisoners? Does not a state which treats its prisoners with gratuitous harshness and which seeks to suppress the life of the mind put itself and society to shame?

Lord Faulks: That is not strictly within the Question but entirely predictable. The Secretary of State has not banned books. Each prisoner is entitled to 12 books in their cell. The libraries in prisons are impressive. If the noble Lord would like to visit one of the prison libraries, that can be arranged with my department. It is a matter of great disappointment to the librarians that so many people have criticised the provision of books. What the Secretary of State is trying to do is prevent people sending in parcels that do not always contain books, or not exclusively books, to try to stem the real problem there is in prisons of drugs and other

The Heir, the Judge & The Homeless Mom: America's Prison Bias for the 1%

In 2009, when Robert H Richard IV, an unemployed heir to the DuPont family fortune, pled guilty to fourth-degree rape of his three-year-old daughter, a judge spared him a justifiable sentence – indeed, only put Richard on probation – because she figured this 1-percenter would "not fare well" in a prison setting. Details of the case were kept quiet until just the other day, as Richard's ex-wife filed a new lawsuit accusing him of also sexually abusing their son. Since then, the original verdict has been fueling some angry speculation – shock, horror - that the defendant's wealth and status may have played a role in his lenient sentencing.

I hate to shatter anyone's illusions, but inequality defines our criminal justice system just as it defines our society. It always has and it always will until we do something about it, beyond just getting upset at local news stories. America incarcerates more people than any other country on the planet, with over 2m currently in prison and more than 7m under some form of correctional supervision. The people who make up this outsize correctional population do not typically come from the Delaware trust-fund-creep demographic: more than 60% are racial and ethnic minorities, and the vast majority are poor.

Who's to say whether that Superior Court judge thought this ongoing disparity – that Robert Richard would have been incarcerated among the anti-Robert Richard - was reason to spare this convicted rapist a prison term. There is an abundance of evidence, however, that both conscious and unconscious bias permeate every aspect of the criminal justice system, from arrests to sentencing and beyond. Unsurprisingly, this bias works in favor of wealthy (and white) defendants, while poor minorities routinely suffer.

In August of last year the Sentencing Project, a non-profit devoted to criminal justice reform, released a comprehensive report on bias in the system (pdf). This is the sentence you need to remember: The United States in effect operates two distinct criminal justice systems: one for wealthy people and another for poor people and minorities. At every level, from arrest to trial to sentencing, the report found that poor minorities were treated more harshly than their wealthier counterparts. Minorities are more likely to be stopped by the police, more likely to be arrested when they're stopped and more likely to face more severe charges than white defendants in similar situations. Because minority defendants are often poor, they are less likely to be able to afford adequate counsel and frequently end up with unduly harsh sentences. If

Robert H Richard IV had been poor and black when he was convicted of raping his toddler, just how long would his long prison term have been? Would he have "fared well" then?

I spoke with Sentencing Project executive director Marc Mauer about Richard and whether the fare-thee-well excuse should have had any influence on a prison term. "A lot of people suffer in prison," Mauer told me, "but we would like to see decision-makers consider the consequences of their sentencing actions on all defendants, not just on the privileged. If we gave the same consideration about harmful consequences to defendants across the board, it could lead to very different sentencing outcomes."

Far too often, we give far too little consideration to the consequences of a prison term on the life of a poor defendant. At least the public is starting to pay attention to cases like that of Shanessa Taylor, who has been charged with felony child abuse in Scottsdale, Arizona, because she left her two small children alone in a car for a little over an hour to attend a job interview. Taylor was taken straight to jail, where she languished for over a week. Her children were put in the custody of Child Protective Services, where they remain. Obviously leaving two small children unattended in a car was an ill-advised thing to do, but under the circumstances Taylor may simply have exercised the least bad option available to her.

The law enforcement officials who chose to arrest this 35-year-old mother and charge her with a felony may have had little sympathy for the homeless woman's plight, but ordinary Americans who can relate to Taylor's struggles are not willing to let this woman become yet another statistic in an unforgiving justice system. Since Taylor was taken to jail, an online fundraising effort has raised nearly \$80,000 from over 2000 small donors to help defray her legal expenses. A church group reportedly posted bail on her behalf, and an online petition to have all charges dropped has already garnered over 5,000 signatures. I'm not sure why Taylor's case has attracted this kind of support in particular. It might have been the apple-sized tears spilling down both cheeks in her mug shot, or just that she was trying to dig herself out of some pretty terrible circumstances and Americans love someone who tries. Whatever the reason, it's encouraging to see the inequality that defines our criminal justice system is getting this kind of attention.

In its devastating report, the Sentencing Project lists 10 concrete measures that would help eliminate some of the more obvious inequalities in the system, from scaling back the war on drugs to eliminating mandatory minimum sentences to abolishing the death penalty. But until we recognize that bias permeates the system at every level – however unconscious or unintended – meaningful change will elude us. Media attention and Kickstarters aren't everything, but recognition of a deeper problem isn't nothing. *Sadhbh Walsh On society and justice, Guardian*

Texas Executions Stayed by Federal Judge Over State's Lethal Drug Source

A federal judge in Houston has stopped two imminent Texas executions because state officials refused to reveal key details about the drugs to be used to put the inmates to death. District judge Vanessa Gilmore issued a temporary injunction on Wednesday ordering Texas to provide the lawyers representing inmates Tommy Sells and Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas with information about the supplier and quality of a new batch of pentobarbital, a barbiturate that is to be used in the lethal injections. In her ruling, Gilmore agreed, and instructed Texas not to execute the men until it has disclosed to the lawyers "all information regarding the procurement of the drugs Defendants intend to use to carry out Plaintiffs' executions, including information about the supplier or suppliers, any testing that has been conducted, what kind, by whom, and the unredacted results of such testing." Gilmore noted in her ruling that the state withheld this information until

will be left in a secure state afterwards - Force bailiffs to give seven days' notice before taking possessions, unless they have specific permission from a court - Introduce fixed fees, ending the ability of bailiffs to add excessive charges to the amount debtors had to pay

Commenting on the changes, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said: "Aggressive bailiff activity is unacceptable and it is high time that the cowboys out there are stopped from giving the rest of this important industry a bad name. People will still have to face up to their debts, but they will no longer need to fear their home being raided at night, the threat of violence or having their vital household equipment seized." Some bailiffs' organisations have previously welcomed the legal changes, saying reforms were overdue and the problem of aggressive bailiffs needed to be tackled.

Citizens Advice chief executive, Gillian Guy, said: "It's important bailiffs seize this opportunity to transform into a responsible industry that understands the difference between people who can't pay and people who won't pay. We'll be watching to see if that really does happen." But she added: "What is missing from these changes is accountability for bailiff firms. We'd like to see a licensing system that means firms are struck off if bailiffs break the rules."

Drugs Mule Melissa Reid May Return to Scottish Prison

BBC News, 06/04/14

The Scottish Prison Service has said it is considering an application from drugs mule Melissa Reid to serve her sentence in Scotland. The 20-year-old, from Lenzie near Glasgow, was convicted along with Michaela McCollum, 20, from County Tyrone of smuggling cocaine into Peru. They were jailed for eight years each, but the sentences were reduced because of their guilty pleas. They are expected to remain in prison until 5 April 2020.

Ms Reid's father has met Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill to discuss her case. A Scottish government spokesman said: "The Justice Secretary had a private meeting with Mr Reid. "Prisoner transfers are a matter for the Scottish Prison Service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has responsibility for UK citizens imprisoned abroad. We have been in touch with them regarding Melissa Reid and have asked to be kept informed of developments."

The women had reportedly told the Peruvian authorities they were working in Ibiza and did not meet before they were both kidnapped at gunpoint and forced to travel to Majorca. They claimed they were then sent to Peru and forced to carry the drugs in their luggage. But after they admitted the offences in September 2013, their sentencing was delayed because prosecutors were not satisfied with the details of their confessions.

Report on an Unannounced Inspection of HMP Eastwood Park

Inspection 11/22 November 2013 by HMCIP, published 03/04/14: HMP Eastwood Park holds a needy and transient population from a wide geographical area, taking women from Cornwall in the South West to Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, across Wales and along the south coast. Many women were a long way from home, a particular problem for the large number who also had dependent children. A significant number of women had disabilities, half the population were in touch with mental health services at the prison, almost three-quarters were having treatment for drug and alcohol misuse and there were about 10 self-harm incidents every week. Many of the women had histories of abuse, rape, domestic violence and involvement in prostitution. The prison also held a small number of young adults who presented particular challenges. Few women stayed at the prison for longer than a few weeks with most staying less than three months.

Inspectors were concerned to find that: support provided to women when they first arrived at the prison needed to be better.- around 10% of the population were young adult women

Early Day Motion 1240: Criminalising Emotional Abuse

House of Commons: 01/04/14

That this House notes the Government's suggestion of legislation to criminalise emotional abuse; further notes that the vast majority of emotional abuse cited in care proceedings relates to domestic violence between the parents; accepts that this does at times cause emotional trauma for children; further notes, however, that domestic violence is already criminal; further notes that it is already the case that some rape victims do have their children removed from them as a result of the rape; recognises that criminalising the emotional abuse that results from domestic violence would at times also criminalise the victims; and calls on the Government to be very careful not to criminalise the victim of domestic abuse if it decides to continue with proposals to criminalise emotional abuse.

Early Day Motion 1262: Death Sentences In Egypt

House of Commons: 03/04/14

That this House condemns the mass death sentences handed down to 529 people by an Egyptian court; notes that this is part of a wider issue of instability within Egypt as a result of a military coup against the democratically elected government; expresses deep concern that the military regime in power is actively repressing dissent and has detained and harassed over 16,000 activists since 2013; calls on the Government to denounce the military regime controlling Egypt in the strongest possible terms; and requests that the Government immediately interrupts all military assistance to the regime of Egypt, including financial aid not directed to civil society or under threat of diversion by the regime.

John Anslow Escape: Prison Officer Sacked Others Disciplined

BBC News, 05/04/14

A prison officer has been sacked and others disciplined after an internal investigation into how drug dealer John Anslow was sprung from a prison van. The 33-year-old from the West Midlands was on his way to court when he was freed by a masked gang near HMP Hewell, Redditch, in January 2012. He was arrested in Cyprus two months later and tried in the UK. Security at the prison has since improved and the jail given a positive rating, the Prison Service said. "Following a thorough internal investigation, appropriate disciplinary action was taken against a small number of staff, a spokesman said, "Security measures have since been strengthened and security at HMP Hewell has been given a positive rating by independent assessors."

New Law Targets Aggressive Bailiffs

BBC News, 04/04/14

Sweeping changes to the way bailiffs can enforce the repayment of debts are now in force. The new laws include a ban on bailiffs entering homes at night and from using physical force against debtors. Bailiffs will also be prevented from entering properties when only children are present, and from taking household essentials such as cookers and washing machines. Bailiffs are estimated to collect four million debts a year in the UK.

The changes come into effect on 6 April and follow a Ministry of Justice consultation on the debt collection industry last year. They are part of a wider package of reforms to the Tribunals, Courts & Enforcement Act 2007. The new rules will also:

Ban landlords from using bailiffs to seize property for residential rent debts without going to court first - Introduce mandatory training and certification for bailiffs - Ensure vulnerable people get assistance and that bailiffs are trained to recognise them - Introduce clearer rules detailing when a bailiff can enter a property and what goods they can take - Bring in restrictions on when bailiffs can sell goods - Require bailiffs to tell the court the likely means of entry, goods involved and amount of force required before a warrant is granted to force entry, as well as provide details of how the premises

the last minute. "Even though the report is dated March 20, 2014, Defendants have delayed the production of the report until just two days before the first scheduled execution," she wrote. "That copy, however, has been redacted to exclude important information, presumably including the source of the drugs, who performed the testing, and where it was performed."

Sells was scheduled to die in the Texas state penitentiary on Thursday, and Hernandez-Llanas six days later. Texas's previous supply of compounded pentobarbital expired on 1 April, and the state has repeatedly refused to reveal the source of its new drugs, claiming that secrecy is needed in order to protect suppliers from threats of violence and intimidation. Lawyers for the convicted killers argued that Texas's attorney general had previously ruled on several occasions that such information must be made public, and also said that failing to provide details about the origin, purity and efficiency of the drugs harmed the inmates' ability to mount a legal challenge over the possibility that they could experience an excessively painful death in violation of their constitutional right not to suffer a "cruel and unusual" punishment.

In recent years an EU-led boycott has made it harder for states to source their execution drugs of choice, resulting in some states turning to experimental drugs and procedures to replace the sequence of three substances that was commonly used before the boycott. In its executions, Texas now employs only pentobarbital, which is often used to euthanize animals. Last year, it bought a supply of the drug from a compounding pharmacy in suburban Houston.

Death penalty opponents argue that, because compounding pharmacies are not subject to federal oversight, there is a risk of impurities and inconsistencies that could make their products unreliable and cause undue, unconstitutional, of suffering. In a court filing, Texas officials argued that prior executions using pentobarbital have taken place apparently without the inmates enduring obvious pain and cited a report which says that their latest supply has been "tested by an independent laboratory and found to be 108% potent and free from contaminants". Maurie Levin and Jonathan Ross, attorneys for the two inmates, said in a statement that the order "honours and reflects the crucial importance of transparency in the execution process. We hope that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice will finally decide to comply with the law, and cease attempting to shroud in secrecy one aspect of their job that, above all others, should be conducted in the light of day." Source: Guardian

No Prosecutions After Family Given Wrong Body

Relatives of Christopher Alder are furious after being told no cops will be prosecuted for giving them the wrong body to bury. Christopher died in police custody in Hull in 1998. In November 2011 the Alder family was told his body had been discovered in a mortuary—11 years after they thought they had buried him. Instead authorities had given them the body of 77 year old Grace Kamara. In October last year, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) claimed there was "insufficient evidence" to prosecute anyone. Christopher's sister Janet, who has spent 16 years fighting for justice, launched an appeal. But last week the CPS told her that still no one would face prosecution. "I feel sickened," Janet told Socialist Worker. "The way my family and Christopher have been treated is inhumane. I'm not surprised, but it's disgusting, they've got no compassion." The latest insult from the CPS comes despite their review of the case raising worrying new questions.

"Why have I been told 59 police officers went to look at Christopher's frozen body?" asked Janet. "How could they not know?" She pointed to doubts over which mortuary Christopher was taken to, and the claim that his body was discovered the day after Grace Kamara's friend

Christine Omorogie asked to see her remains. "It's supposed to take four days to thaw a body" Janet said. "It doesn't add up. I don't think he ever was there." Like the family of murdered south London teenager Stephen Lawrence, Janet may have been spied on by police while she campaigned for the truth. Allegations emerged last year that cops spied on her while she attended the 2000 inquest into Christopher's death. The Independent Police Complaints Commission is also investigating whether police accessed social service records belonging to Janet and Christopher. "This has happened because we stood up as a family," she said. "We got the police into court. This is a backlash against me. It's a proper racist system we've got. I grew up with it and suffered within it. Grace and Christopher were two black people—is it a coincidence it happened to them? "Hull's meant to be the city of culture, but it's the city of cover-up.

Early Day Motion 1246: Raising Literacy Levels In Prisons *House of Commons: 01.04.2014*

That this House recognises the significant percentage of prisoners who have a basic literacy problem and for whom reading and writing are a massive barrier to rehabilitation and to future employment; believes that raising literacy levels and rehabilitation are linked and are enhanced by regular reading; and calls on the Government to reconsider its ban on books for prisoners.

Shocking Failures Led to Preventable Death of Jake Hardy *INQUEST Friday 4 April 2014*

A jury has concluded that a series of 12 individual failures more than minimally contributed to the death of a 17 year old child in prison. After three days of deliberation, the jury unanimously concluded that Jake Hardy's death could have been prevented. Jake Hardy hanged himself in his cell at HMYOI Hindley on 20 January 2012 and died in hospital four days later. A vulnerable boy with a history of self-harm, Jake had repeatedly told officers he was being bullied, yet insufficient steps were taken to protect him. Prior to entering Hindley on 6 December 2011 Jake had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Conduct Disorder, had been given a statement of special educational needs, and was under the care of the local mental health team. Hindley was informed of all of this information, together with the fact that he had been bullied at school.

Jake's mother Elizabeth Hardy said: "While we finally have some answers, as a family we have been shocked by the attitude of some of the officers who clearly just didn't care that my son was being bullied. Other officers took such small steps and never followed it through to the end. If they had done their job properly they could have prevented Jake's death. I feel distraught that Jake could have been moved to a safer cell the night he hung himself. Every day we have to wake up to this nightmare that Jake died and some officers could have helped him. Jake was too vulnerable and should never have gone to a place like Hindley to start with. I kept my son safe for 17 years yet Hindley couldn't keep him safe for two months."

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST said: "Jake Hardy was utterly failed by prison officers and a prison system supposed to protect him. Every warning sign about his vulnerability was starkly evident but systematically ignored. The decision to ignore the heartbreaking pleas for help from a scared child, alone in his cell resulting in his desperate act should shame us all. How many more times do inquests have to report on children dying in prisons that are rife with bullying, physical restraint and self harm, and where there are failures to protect the lives of children in its care. The imprisonment of children is simply wrong. The preventable death of a child in the custody of the state should be a national scandal, prompting the government into decisive action. Instead we are met with a calculated institutional indifference, with a

Third Bomb That Could Have Cleared Birmingham Six was Hidden *Don Hale, 06/04/14*

A Retired policeman who found a bomb that could have cleared the Birmingham Six says its existence was kept secret by his bosses. Eric Francis discovered the explosive on the night two blasts killed 21 people. He says the device, which failed to explode, would have cleared the six early in the investigation. The 86-year-old was last week interviewed by West Midlands Police as part of a new inquiry. Mr Francis, a former detective inspector, said he was ordered to investigate the suspect package. He told the Daily Star Sunday: "The detonator went off after it was prodded with a policeman's truncheon but fortunately the bomb failed to explode. "The timing of the explosion, fixed for around 11pm, proved the Birmingham Six could not have set off the pub bombs." Mr Francis claims he reported the incident to the head of West Midlands CID but was ignored. He said: "The timing of this bomb should have told police that they had been pursuing the wrong suspects. "I believe that if my report of the third bomb had been properly investigated at the time, the real bombers may have been brought to justice."

Justice4the21 To Quiz Police Chiefs Over Birmingham Pub Bombings *Birmingham Mail*

Campaigners seeking justice for the 21 people killed in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings are set to quiz top West Midlands officers about claims the police know who the murderers were. Julie Hambleton, lead member of the Justice4the21 group has been told the allegations by Midland journalist Chris Youett who said he had close contact with the force at the time of the atrocity, attributed to the IRA. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has set up a meeting with the campaigners and Chief Constable Chris Sims, his deputy Marcus Beale and chief superintendent Kenny Bell for tomorrow. Julie said she wants to know if officers knew the identity of the bombers and whether they have received letters of immunity which have been issued to 'On the Run' (OTR) terror suspects.

She said she also has evidence of a third bomb that was planted on the night of terror on November 21. Julie said: "We are hoping they are going to tell us what they have or haven't discovered after re-assessing all the old pub bombing papers, and whether they are going to re-investigate. "We have received new information from a number of sources, including Chris Youett." Chris, aged 62, a former reporter for the Coventry Journal, said: "A four-man IRA cell and their quartermaster were responsible but following the bombings they quickly escaped from a safe house in the Midlands. "It is no secret that they dispersed to continental destinations before boarding direct Aer Lingus flights back to Dublin." Chris further recalled: "I was walking past the police headquarters when I was told by a group of uniformed officers who were just coming off at duty at 2.15pm – just after the sixth man had been arrested – that the police had got the wrong people. The coppers in question knew that I was a working journalist and risked being disciplined by telling me that without clearance. There is no secret as to the identities of the four-man IRA cell and their quartermaster. Special Branch were within 24-hours of making arrests when the bombs went off. For some reason the case was taken off Special Branch and given to the Serious Crimes Squad. The accused were still at their Birmingham safe house when the Birmingham Six were arrested. The five people mentioned however, can't be brought to justice because the Irish Republic will never allow them to be extradited as their crimes are deemed to be 'political'." Paddy Hill has asked his QC to give Julie all his case files relating to the third bomb. He said: "We knew about the third bomb before trial but it was all covered up. We were told it was in Hagley Road."

Milly Dowler's Killer Levi Bellfield Awarded £4,500 Over Prison Attack *Telegraph, 04/04/14*

The triple murderer received the taxpayer funded payout despite the fact that he only suffered minor cuts during an assault in Wakefield Prison in 2009. The Ministry of Justice says that it is "hugely disappointed" in the decision of the county court judge, while Labour MP Ian Austin described the payout as "a complete and utter disgrace". Bellfield was attacked by a fellow prisoner with a makeshift weapon outside one of the prison's bathrooms in 2009, before he went on trial for the murder of the 13-year-old schoolgirl. He launched legal action claiming that the prison staff should have protected him, the Mirror reported. It is believed that he argued he should not have been placed within the prison's main population because his murders made him a target. Ministry of Justice lawyers fought against his case for three years, but they were finally forced to admit full liability at Durham County Court on Wednesday.

Sources close to the case say that the decision was made as legal costs were adding up. The £4,500 adds to the £4 million legal aid bill Bellfield racked up trying to escape justice. Sources close to the killer have claimed he will transfer the compensation to his family to spend on a caravan. Bellfield was jailed for life in June 2011 after being convicted of abducting and murdering the Miss Dowler in March 2002. The former wheelclamber and bouncer was already serving a whole life term, imposed in 2008 for the 2003 murder of Marsha McDonnell, 19, and the 2004 murder of Amelie Delagrang, 22, and attempted murder of Kate Sheedy, 18.

The news of the payout is likely to add to the distress of the Dowler family. Speaking after his conviction Miss Dowler's mother Sally said: "The length the system goes to to protect his human rights seems so unfair compared to what we as a family have had to endure." A Ministry of Justice spokesperson said: "We are hugely disappointed that Levi Bellfield was awarded £4,500 by a judge following an assault by a prisoner in 2009 at HMP Wakefield."

Prison Officer 'Tried To Sleep' as Prisoner Killed Himself *BBC News, 4 April 2014*

A prison officer was making food, watching TV and trying to sleep while a prisoner he was meant to be watching made repeated attempts to kill himself. Daniel Barclay even used a mattress as a makeshift bed on the floor of the CCTV suite in Maghaberry Prison, Craigavon Crown Court was told. The prisoner, Colin Bell, did eventually take his own life. His body lay slumped against his cell door for more than half an hour before being discovered by another officer.

Barclay, a father of three, has already pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office. It was revealed in court that he also held down a day job in McDonald's. He was responsible for monitoring the CCTV images from a so-called "safer" cell used to house vulnerable prisoners. On 31 July 2008, the cell contained 34-year-old Bell, who was serving a minimum of eight years for manslaughter. The court heard how, in April of 2008, Bell had started to show signs of paranoia, began to self-harm and tried to kill himself. As a result, he was transferred to a "safer" cell that should have been monitored 24 hours a day. Barclay's job was to watch the CCTV from this cell. A prosecuting lawyer said investigators had cross-referenced images from various CCTV cameras in the prison and had been able to prove that Barclay had moved to the end of the suite furthest away from the cameras, put his feet up, watched TV and tried to sleep. A defence lawyer argued that the incident came against a backdrop of "serious systemic failure" and said his client was "filled with genuine remorse and sorrow". Barclay will be sentenced at a date yet to be set. [It is understood that video footage examined as part of the investigation showed prison staff lying in bed watching television when they were supposed to be on duty. Eight night custody officers who were recommended for dismissal have since been reinstated.]

refusal to acknowledge what is being done to our most vulnerable children in our name. No doubt we will hear the repeated and empty words that lessons will be learned. As a starting point, the decision to exclude children from the review recently announced into prison deaths of young people must be reversed. And the scope of the review must include whether these children should ever have been in prison in the first place."

Helen Stone, solicitor representing Jake's family said: "The jury have delivered a devastatingly critical verdict identifying a range of serious failings from the moment Jake entered Hindley until the time he hanged himself. He constantly asked staff to protect him from bullying, they failed to do so and this caused to him take his own life. As Jake said in the complaints form he wrote, all Jake wanted was for staff to do their job properly, they failed to do so, they failed him, and materially contributed to this child's death."

The inquest heard evidence that: - A report was sent to Hindley on 6 December flagging up that Jake had recently self-harmed but this was not noted in Jake's records by staff at Hindley. - As early as Jake's first week in custody he reported that boys on the wing were trying to intimidate him. No action was taken in respect of this. - There was almost a complete failure of supervision and support by Jake's Personal Officer. - In late December the prison was informed by Jake's Youth Offending Team worker that Jake was "getting grief" off a named young person on his landing. Jake had stated he may harm himself and would be better off dead and that officers "took the piss out of him". The prison did not investigate this. - On 17 January 2012 Jake damaged furniture in his cell and cut his wrist; he told a senior officer that this was a direct result of other young people on his wing "constantly verbally abusing him over a prolonged period of time". - On 18 January Jake's mother told a Senior Officer that the week before Jake had "thought of ending it". This was not reported to the Safeguarding Department and Jake's level of risk was not reviewed in light of this new information. - The same day Jake's Keyworker witnessed the named bully shouting at Jake through his cell door but did not report this behaviour. - On 19 January Jake told a Governor that he was receiving verbal abuse and that staff were "taking the piss out of him". The Governor expressed serious concerns about his state of mind and well-being. That day Jake named a second young person as verbally abusing him but no action was taken to challenge that young person. - While Jake was in his cell during evening association on 20 January, young people were shouting at him and were hitting and kicking his door. Staff admitted failing properly to supervise this association period. - Shortly afterwards Jake again damaged furniture in his cell and told a Senior Officer that he would continue to do this.

There was evidence Jake said he had done this because of verbal abuse from young persons. The Senior Officer locked Jake back in his damaged cell, saying he was going home. There was no review of Jake's risk of self-harm. Less than an hour later Jake was found hanging from a ligature made from a bed sheet. - A note found in Jake's cell dated 20 January stated "so mum if you are reading this I not alive cos I can not cope in prison people giveing [sic] me shit even staff." - A complaint form found in his cell stated that young people were threatening to beat him up and put him in hospital, that he told staff and they had done nothing. In the section asking what remedy he would like, Jake had written "To see the staff do their job properly."

INQUEST has been working with Jake Hardy's family since his death in January 2012. Jake's family are represented by INQUEST Lawyers Helen Stone of Hickman and Rose solicitors, and Dexter Dias QC and Richard Reynolds, Garden Court Chambers.

The Ballad of Not Reading in Gaol - Shades of Oscar Wilde

Poets protest outside Pentonville: Carol Ann Duffy, the poet laureate, lead a protest outside Pentonville prison against the restrictions on sending books and essential items to prisoners. Writers and actors gathered last Friday afternoon to protest against the ban on sending books and other essentials to prisoners. Iconic figures Vanessa Redgrave and Sir David Hare were among those present. Sam West read a poem entitled '50 Shades of Grayling' and Kathy Lette, Tracy Chevalier and AL Kennedy also read poetry in protest at the ban.

Another Preventable Death in Immigration Detention?

On Sunday 30 March, Christine Case a 40-year-old Jamaican woman died at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre near Bedford. According to reports in the press, Christine Case was heard calling for help and had complained of chest pains shortly before she suffered a heart attack. The emergency services were called around 8am but she was pronounced dead at Yarl's Wood at 8.47am. The centre, run by Serco on behalf of the UK Border Agency holds up to 405 women and their families and its healthcare is contracted out to Serco Healthcare.

Government Response: The authorities have been sparse with their details about the death. On 31 March, the Home Office press office told IRR News: 'There is due to be a question answered on this by a Home Office minister in the Commons shortly. We do not have a press release on this. If you watch BBC Parliament, you can see the question being answered.'

And immigration minister James Brokenshire didn't tell parliament very much either. He offered his 'very sincere condolences to the family of the woman who died', and added that: 'Once police inquiries are concluded, the established process is that the prisons and probation ombudsman will begin an investigation.'

Yarl's Wood has had a somewhat chequered history. It was the scene of a major fire on Valentine's Day 2002, which resulted in half of the centre being burnt down after a disturbance, which was triggered by G4S guards who restrained a 52-year-old Nigerian woman on her way to church. In September 2005, Manuel Bravo took his own life at the centre on the day he was due to be deported after he was detained with his young son.

Concerns Over Health Provision in Detention: Although we cannot know for a while the exact circumstances surrounding Christine Case's death, we do know that there have been repeated concerns about deaths in immigration detention. Just a few weeks ago the Prisons and Probation Service Ombudsman (PPO) for England and Wales published a Learning Lessons Bulletin on the investigation of fatal incidents in removal centres and complaints from detainees. He reported that: 'Thankfully there have been relatively few deaths in IRCs since my office began investigating fatal incidents in 2004, but unfortunately some of the same issues continue to emerge.'

In particular, it is disappointing that we have frequently had to highlight the lack of clear and effective systems to ensure that the nature of an emergency is correctly communicated, and that healthcare and detention staff working in IRCs are sufficiently trained and equipped to deal with medical emergencies.' [2] The PPO found the lack of progress unacceptable as recommendations for improved emergency responses had been made in 2004 and again more recently in 2011 following deaths. Furthermore the PPO also raised concerns that three current investigations (not covered by the bulletin) had similar issues around the 'inadequate emergency response ... the lack of an emergency code system, delays in calling an ambulance and healthcare staff not accessing emergency equipment quickly enough.'

One of the deaths covered by the Learning Lessons Bulletin is that of Muhammad Shukat, a 47-year-old Pakistani man who died after suffering a heart attack in Colnbrook on 2 July 2011. In May 2012, an inquest jury recorded a highly critical verdict that found that neglect contributed to his death. He was held at Harmondsworth for nearly a month, during which time he withdrew his claim for asylum and had asked for assisted voluntary return. He was transferred to Colnbrook on 29 June (at 1am in the morning) and died just a few days later.

While he was held at Harmondsworth he made a complaint about healthcare at the centre that was not followed up. Staff at the healthcare unit also failed to obtain his medical records despite him signing a release form. These records 'could have provided significant information that could have assisted healthcare staff [at Colnbrook] on the morning he died.' The PPO made thirteen recommendations following its investigation into Muhammad Shukat's care at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, commenting: 'These are intended to ensure that lessons are learned from his death and, although these are directed at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, I hope that the UK Border Agency (UKBA) will take the opportunity to share the learning across their detention estate. In particular, recommendations are made covering responses to emergencies and treatment of possible heart attacks...'

Other Detainee Deaths: There have been fourteen deaths in the last ten years in immigration removal centres, and twenty since 1989[4]. Eliud Nguli Nyenze a 40-year-old Kenyan man died at Oakington removal centre in Cambridge after suffering heart problems in April 2010. On the night of his death he was refused paracetamol after complaining of feeling unwell – G4S staff were unable to prescribe medicines during the night. The inquest was also told that an ambulance took twenty minutes to reach the centre and the nurse who went to treat him did not take a defibrillator with her.

The Home Office pathologist could find no cause of death but suggested sudden adult death syndrome. The coroner recorded a verdict that he died of natural causes. And a year ago, on 30 March 2013, Khalid Shahzad, a 52-year-old Pakistani man died (unaccompanied) on a train to the north-west hours after he was released on medical grounds from Colnbrook. Of course it will probably be a few years before we actually find out what happened to Christine Case as full inquests in to deaths in custody usually tend to take years to hold.

Extra 6 Months For Callum Foster for Prison Injury Claim Lies *MailOnline, 03/04/14*

Drug dealer, Callum Foster, 22, launched a bid for up to £6,000 in damages saying he had suffered head injuries at the Category A prison in Manchester. But the hapless convict was convicted of fraud and handed an extra nine months on his original sentence. Foster will serve the sentence on top of the three years he is already serving for peddling heroin. Yesterday a prison insider said: 'The stupidity of some people really knows no bounds. It begs belief that while serving a sentence for one crime he would try to commit another of such crass idiocy - he quite clearly hasn't learned the lesson yet.'

Callum was jailed last year after being convicted of dealing heroin on the streets of Manchester. But days after being incarcerated he read a lawyer's advertisement in a prison newspaper and hatched on a plan to sue the authorities for up to £6,000. He claimed he had suffered a nasty bump to his head after he accidentally rolled out of his top bunk bed while asleep and fell five feet to the floor of his cell. Foster even told prison wardens he had carried on sleeping and had not woken up despite the fall. But his cunning plan came unstitched when medical records revealed he already had a bump on his head before the accident was supposed to have happened.