

proportionately likely to have force used against them compared with older prisoners, nothing had been done to address this; - the standard of many cells was unacceptably poor; - relationships between staff and prisoners were mixed, with many officers appearing stretched; - time out of cell was too limited and inspectors found up to 40% of prisoners locked up during the working day; - learning and skills provision was inadequate; and - there were delays and backlogs in undertaking risk of harm assessments and sentence plans. - Inspectors made 114 recommendations - Inspection 6/16th May 2014 by HMCIP, published 03/09/14:

"This is a very disappointing report. Major structural changes in late 2013 had led to a significant reduction of resources. We were told that one consequence of this was that a large tranche of experienced staff had left very quickly and that this had been destabilising, not least because the prison had found it difficult to recruit replacements. There was some recent evidence that important steps had been taken to arrest the decline, but there was still much to be done. We highlight many concerns in this report, not least the safety of prisoners, especially those at risk of self-harm, environmental standards and the need for better access to activities". Nick Hardwick

HMYOI Parc Juvenile Unit - Safe, Decent And Purposeful

The juvenile unit at Parc managed by G4S, was working well with the young people it held, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the young people's unit at the prison and young offender institution in South Wales. The juvenile unit at Parc is a separate part of the much larger Parc prison. It holds boys under 18 from an area that has increased to include not only South Wales but also parts of south west England. Its last inspection in 2012 found generally very positive outcomes. This inspection found that the young people held were well cared for.

Inspectors were pleased to find that: - Parc was a safe institution, with robust and efficient child protection arrangements and staff who understood their responsibilities well; - there was prompt support for those at risk of intimidation; - security was very good and levels of violence were nearly all very minor; - behaviour management strategies were in place and young people were clear about the standards expected of them; - levels of self-harm were very low and structures to support those that might be at risk were well integrated; - supervision was thorough and use of force was only applied as a last resort; - evidence found suggested hardly any use of illicit substances, but there were good support services for boys who needed them; - relationships between staff and young people were excellent; - access to outside areas and general amenities, such as showers and telephones, was good; - young people had good access to time out of their cells and prompt access to a range of learning and skills activities; and - work to support the resettlement of young people was reasonably good. - Inspectors had no worrying concerns.

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.

Miscarriages of JusticeUK (MOJUK)

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 493 (04/09/2014)

Maintaining Innocence - FASO Info leaflet P33 - Dean Kingham Swain & Co Solicitors

We are all familiar with the maintaining innocence/denial problem. It always frustrates me when I hear the term "denial". History shows that there have been gross miscarriages of Justice, most recently Victor Nealon. Those who maintain their innocence are routinely penalised within the system. Even more so given the new PSI covering Incentive and Earned Privileges PSI 20/13 expiring 4 Sep 2017. A number of my clients are stuck in the system and have been detained in high security establishment's way beyond their tariff's. We operate generally in a risk adverse culture, which permeates across the Parole Board, Ministry of Justice, Probation, Prison Psychologists and risk assessments. Factors such as denial of guilt, attitudes to treatment and absence of risk reduction work are all therefore added into the mix of risk assessment despite their neither being reliable or valid. The Parole Board openly accepts that they tend to be risk averse. A key point for the Parole Board is given there will always be a risk, to what extent is that level of risk acceptable? It poses a real problem as how do prisoners whom maintain their innocence progress through the system and ultimately secure release?

Every prisoner who maintains his or her innocence, must accept that the Parole Board have to treat you as being properly convicted. This is very different to them viewing maintaining innocence/denial as elevating any risk you pose. In R v the Parole Board and Secretary of State for the Home Department ex part Oyston (unreported, 1st March 2000), when considering the impact of any denial; "Such denial will always be a factor and may be a very significant factor in the board's assessment of risk, but it will only be one factor and must be considered in the light of all other relevant factors. In almost any case the Board would be quite wrong to treat the prisoner's denial as necessarily conclusive against the grant of parole". From experience, Parole panels routinely refer to this very point. It is an issue for risk assessment purposes, but steps can be taken to address this.

Firstly, is this the only conviction? It could be that the individual has previous convictions for similar offences. In those instances it is possible to undertake courses/work based upon previous offences. This will assist provide evidence of risk reduction.

Secondly, if you have no previous convictions look for ways you can evidence a reduction in risk. This need not be through offending behaviour programmes. However, I am a realist, we are in a system whereby it has become the norm for offending behaviour programme to be completed and progression is judged based on the conclusion. It is settled law that offending behaviour programmes are not the be all and end all. There are other ways to reduce risk; Gill vs Secretary of State for Justice [2010] EWHC 364 (Admin) Justice Cranston at paragraph 80 "that Offending behaviour programmes are neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for release from prison. There are other recognised pathways to reduce re-offending and to achieve release". Think about how you can evidence such a reduction, this could be through trusted roles, education, vocational work, employment etc. Be sure to rely on the case of Gill if arguing for re-categorisation and/or Parole.

Thirdly, engage with your Offender Manager (OM) and Offender Supervisor (OS) including any sentence planning meetings, but make it clear whilst you would be willing to engage in programmes you cannot due to not being eligible. You can attempt to have courses

removed from your sentence plan on the basis they are not SMART* - See PSI 41/2012 expires 16th Dec 2016 on sentence planning for more information

Fourthly, routinely issues are elevated due to input from prison psychologists. These risk assessments commonly penalise those whom maintain their innocence. If in a position to do so always seek an independent psychological report. In most cases from my experience these assist any argument to the Parole Board.

If you are an Indeterminate sentence prisoner the Government has a public law duty to provide you with risk reduction work to enable you to evidence to the Parole Board around the time of tariff expiry that risk has reduced. Do not be afraid to remind the prison of that duty if you wish to pursue 1:1 work etc. Again, I recognise 1:1 work is not widely available, but this can serve assist risk reduction as it can be tailored to the individual needs.

It is clear that individuals whom maintain their innocence and are serving for sexual offences are the most worst off. From experience they are the most heavily penalised as the SARN* reports generally apply each and every risk factor to the individual. SARN* reports can be highly prejudicial and poorly reasoned, which is another reason to ensure Independent Psychological input is required. Whilst maintaining innocence/denial makes it difficult to obtain a clear understanding of any risk it does not alone serve to increase risk.

The Parole Board has no mechanism to allow the Board to look behind the court's verdict and this is not going to change, but do not be afraid to coherently set out to the Parole Board why you maintain your innocence. I am not advocating serving a wealth of case papers, but rather identifying the key grounds as to why you maintain your innocence. I have had a number of cases where we have taken this approach and it has clearly been considered by panels. They have it in their mind. Apply it to you, once you have considered something it is difficult to keep it out of your mind when thinking about the topic. Some may have had poor previous experiences of solicitors for those whom maintain their innocence. My firm advice is to always ensure you are represented especially for Parole matters and hearings. There are many firms of solicitors whom say they specialise in prison law, but do they truly have experience of dealing with those who maintain their innocence. Do not be afraid to ask and seek out that information. I say that as often the risk assessments in these types of cases are complex.

SMART = **S**pecific – target a specific area for improvement. **M**easurable – quantify or at least suggest an indicator of progress. **A**ssignable – specify who will do it. **R**ealistic – state what results can realistically be achieved, given available resources. **T**ime-related – specify when the result(s) can be achieved. SARN- **S**tructured **A**ssessment of **R**isk and **N**eed for sexual offender - It is the report undertaken by prison psychologists following sexual offending behaviour work.

Extradition to Poland to Face Accusation Warrant of Fraud Ruled Disproportionate

On 27 August 2014, District Judge Snow ruled that the extradition of GS to Poland to face an accusation warrant of fraudulently obtaining a bank loan using false documents and a forged signature would breach GS's right to a private life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as offend against section 21A of the Extradition Act 2003 and Part 17A of the Criminal Practice Direction, both of which recently came into force. GS first came to the UK in 2004. He has worked since his arrival and has one conviction for shoplifting dating from 2005. He has no family in the UK and is not in a relationship. It is thought that this is the first time challenges brought under section 21A and CPD 17A have been considered. GS was represented by Graeme L. Hall, who was instructed by Lansbury Worthington Solicitors.

dence in its office from the time of the boys' trial in 1984 right up to last month. The existence of the evidence, gathered at the crime scene, was never disclosed either to the boys' defence teams or to the district attorney prosecuting the case. The current district attorney for Robeson County, Johnson Britt, agreed on Tuesday that the two men are innocent and consented to their unconditional release. No further charges will be brought against them.

IRA Terror Suspects to Lose Immunity From Prosecution!

Telegraph

Hundreds of IRA terrorism suspects will learn they no longer have immunity from prosecution as the Government announces that hundreds of controversial "comfort letters" are to be rescinded. Theresa Villiers, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will tell MPs the letters, issued to individuals suspected of terrorist offences committed before the signing of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, are worthless. Suspects are to be told that the letters, which informed them they were unlikely to face prosecution unless new evidence against them came to light, have been annulled and are "not worth the paper they are written on". New letters are now likely to be issued telling terrorist suspects that police will be prepared to mount a prosecution should officers believe there is already enough evidence against them to do so. It is understood that the Historical Enquiries branch of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is also to conduct a review of all the cases as part of the process of issuing the new letters.

Met Police Must Pay Olympic Poster Girl £37,000

Telegraph

'Malicious and vindictive' Metropolitan Police must pay Carol Howard after she was 'bullied and victimised' for being black - A female firearms officer featured in Scotland Yard's Olympics poster campaign has been awarded £37,000 damages by an employment tribunal after being "bullied and victimised" for being black. The tribunal branded Scotland Yard "malicious and vindictive" for its treatment of Ms Howard, and told the Met to review all internal complaints of discrimination made since 2009. The 35 year old, one of just two black officers in the 700 strong Diplomatic Protection Group, brought a claim of discrimination against the Met which was upheld earlier this year. She told the London hearing that she was subjected to sexual and racial discrimination, for which she was awarded aggravated damages.

Report on an Unannounced inspection of HMP Wormwood Scrubs

Wormwood Scrubs holds nearly 1,300 remand and convicted adult prisoners. It receives prisoners from the streets of the capital and faces a tough operational challenge. About 2,500 prisoners move in and out of the prison each month. Its last inspection in 2011 found that the prison had many of the basics right and was improving. This inspection found that the prison had declined significantly in almost every aspect.

Inspectors were concerned to find that: - too few prisoners felt safe on their first night and although induction was good on paper, a significant backlog suggested it was not coping with demand; - nearly half of prisoners surveyed said they had felt unsafe at some point during their time at the prison; - work to reduce violence was poorly resourced and too limited when measured against the challenge; - since the last inspection in 2011, six prisoners had taken their own lives, five in 2013; - the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman had made repeated recommendations concerning suicide and self-harm which had yet to be implemented; - too many prisoners tested positive for illicit drug use and work to address the problem of drugs was not well coordinated; - use of force had doubled and although young adults were dis-

do not want to see any other family go through the terrible ordeal that we suffered during the morning of Saturday 16 August, a day that we will never forget. In addition we would like to see changes in police policy and practice that prevents the police or the NHS dealing with bereaved families in the same manner that we were treated, race and colour should not be a factor. We would like to thank all those who have supported us; they have been both generous and kind."

The M.E.N. understands Rhyan's parents went to the scene of the stabbing on Flixton Road where police directed them to Salford Royal hospital - with the family having to drive themselves. They waited there several hours before going home where they called GMP again. It was only after eight hours police confirmed Rhyan had died - by which point they had already found out through social media and news websites. Det Con Paul Bailey, chair of GMP's BAPA, said: "Full transparency is needed and a full review of officers' actions should be published. There are similarities here between what happened here and in the Stephen Lawrence case, such as when he was fatally stabbed in the street and witnesses were treated poorly. Rhyan Wilson's family were also treated very poorly." A 35-year-old man, Dannel Dunkley, of Gorton, has appeared in court charged with murder and attempted murder.

DNA Clears North Carolina Brothers After 30 Years in Prison *Ed Pilkington, Guardian*

North Carolina's longest-serving death row inmate and his half-brother serving a life sentence have been exonerated and released from prison after spending more than 30 years behind bars for a rape and murder they did not commit. Robeson County superior court acted with lightning speed to free the two men, Leon Brown and Henry McCollum, who were 15 and 19 at the time of their arrest in 1983. It was testimony to the overwhelming strength of the evidence that was presented to the court that judge Douglas Sasser cleared them of the murder of 11-year-old Sabrina Buie on the first day of a hearing to consider new DNA evidence in the case. The evidence absolved McCollum and Brown, now 46 and 50, of any link to biological material collected at the crime scene. It also found a positive match with a known sex offender from the same small town who was living just feet away from the field in which Buie's body was found.

McCollum was held on death row throughout his three decades in prison as an innocent man. His lawyer, Ken Rose of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham, who has fought the case for the past 20 years, pointed out that both his client and Brown are diagnosed as having intellectual disabilities. "It's terrifying that our justice system allowed two intellectually disabled children to go to prison for a crime they had nothing to do with, and then to suffer there for 30 years. Henry watched dozens of people be hauled away for execution. He would become so distraught he had to be put in isolation. It's impossible to put into words what these men have been through and how much they have lost." Co-counsel for Brown, Ann Kirby, said: "This case is a tragedy which has profoundly affected not only the lives of the people involved, but which profoundly affects our system of justice in North Carolina. This case highlights in a most dramatic manner the importance of finding the truth. Today truth has prevailed, but it comes 30 years too late for Sabrina Buie and her family, and for Leon, Henry, and their families. Their sadness, grief, and loss will remain with them forever."

The dramatic release of the two prisoners now puts the spotlight on the police department in Red Springs, a small town in the south of the state of just 3,000 people. In court documents filed by lawyers for McCollum and Brown the police department is accused of having framed false confessions for the duo which they made the arrested teenagers sign after hours of interrogations. The town's police force is also accused of having hidden boxes of crucial evi-

Uncut Protesters Secure Apology/Compensation From Met Police *Rob Evans, Guardian*

Britain's most senior police officer has been compelled to apologise to a group of protesters after admitting that one of his officers used excessive force when he unlawfully sprayed CS gas into their faces at close range. Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the commissioner of the Metropolitan police, admitted that the CS spray caused the protesters intense pain, fear and panic. Hogan-Howe also apologised for preventing the campaigners against tax avoidance from "exercising their fundamental right to protest". The Met twice failed to properly investigate the use of the CS spray in a crowded area. The commissioner issued the apology, coupled with compensation, after the six protesters sued the Met over use of CS spray during a UK Uncut protest in Oxford Street, London. The protesters' lawyer, Lochlinn Parker of Deighton Pierce Glynn, criticised the force for taking more than three years to concede that "this shameful episode of excessive policing should never have happened".

In January 2011, the six took part in a protest against Boots over tax avoidance. During the protest police officers arrested a woman after she pushed a leaflet through a gap in the closed door of a Boots store. They took her to an alley as protesters followed shouting "shame on you" at the officers, when one of them suddenly sprayed them with CS. Mike Firth, one of the six, has described how he fell to the ground blinded and could not breathe. "I was in shock, I didn't know what had happened ... It was really painful and no amount of coughing or crying could get rid of it." He said that he later felt "really depressed" that "something so peaceful and happy had turned into something so ridiculously nightmarish". Another protester, Stephen Reid, heard screaming before his eyes started to burn. Later that day, he gave his girlfriend "a hug as I told her what had happened and her cheek started burning".

Officer, PC James Kiddie, had said that he had used the CS spray to drive back the protesters as he feared for the safety of himself and other officers: "The crowd surge was terrifying and we were heavily outnumbered." However, an investigation by the police watchdog, the IPCC, found that apart from some protesters pulling at the arrested woman, there was no evidence from footage of the incident that "any of the protesters had attempted to physically attack any of the officers". The watchdog ruled that Kiddie had broken police rules that recommend that CS should not be sprayed within one metre of targets as it can damage the eyes. The IPCC also found that the police failed to monitor the health of the protesters after they had been sprayed, as they were required to do under police rules.

In settling the legal action, Hogan-Howe said he apologised to the protesters for the actions of Kiddie and for the delay in the resolution of their complaints. "We accept that PC Kiddie's actions amount to excessive force and as such were unnecessary and unlawful. We also acknowledge that his use of CS spray caused you, variously, intense pain, momentary loss of sight, and feelings of panic and fear." He added that in March, an internal disciplinary hearing had found that Kiddie had used unlawful force against the protesters. Hogan-Howe apologised that this verdict had only been reached after the protesters had lodged their complaint with the IPCC after it had been dismissed by two internal Met inquiries.

The commissioner admitted to the protesters that this "delay ... exacerbated your distress arising from these events. We acknowledge ... that these events should never have happened. The Met, and other police forces, will only be trusted by protesters if they are transparent and accountable, and we hope that this case will be part of the process that changes how the Met reacts when things go wrong." A Met spokesman confirmed that the force had "agreed a claim for damages from six members of the public in connection with the use of CS spray by an officer, PC James Kiddie, at a demonstration in Oxford Street in January 2011. A letter of apology from the commissioner will be sent to each of the claimants."

Police Were Spying on me Rather Than Looking for Ricky's Killers' *Rachel Williams*

In 1997, Sukhdev Reel's son Ricky died in what she believes was a racist attack. Last month, she discovered that while she was campaigning for justice, she was being spied on by undercover police. As she petitions for a public apology, she talks about how those dark days have returned: Sukhdev Reel puts her hand to her chest and pulls her blouse tight around her. "I don't want to use the word naked, but I just sort of feel ..." Across the desk, her daughter Tish watches her carefully. "Stripped of your dignity a bit?" she suggests. Sukhdev nods. "Who was watching me? All I can see is eyes. I can't get rid of them," she says, her voice rising to a high, shaky hiccup.

It's been that way since last month, when the Reel family were summoned to a meeting with Derbyshire police officers working on Operation Herne, the internal inquiry set up to investigate allegations surrounding the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS), the now disbanded Scotland Yard undercover unit. There, Sukhdev was told that her name appeared in 10 secret reports – five of them "appropriate" and five "not appropriate" – gathered in the period when she was campaigning for a better investigation into her son Ricky's death, and criticising the police vocally. Another 17 families running "justice campaigns", including the relatives of Stephen Lawrence and Jean Charles de Menezes, have also been told that they were reported on by SDS officers who had infiltrated political groups. "The words keep on ringing in my ears," Sukhdev says. "I heard that but the room started spinning. Most of the meeting just went in a blur."

Ricky Reel was 20 when he disappeared on a night out with friends in Kingston-upon-Thames in October 1997, after two of the group had been attacked by two white youths who had shouted: "Pakis go home." A week later, his body was found in the Thames. The Reels have always believed he was the victim of a racist murder, and claim the police, who have maintained he was likely to have drowned after falling in the river while going to urinate, didn't take his death seriously because he was Asian – a charge the police deny. A report by the then Police Complaints Authority (PCA) concluded there had been "weaknesses and flaws" in the initial investigation and criticised three officers for neglect of duty. In 1999, an inquest jury recorded an open verdict on Ricky's death. A reinvestigation later that year came to the same conclusion as the original inquiry.

After Ricky failed to come home in the small hours of 15 October, the family went straight to the police, but were so frustrated by the slow response that they began their own search. They spent hours walking the streets, showing pictures of Ricky to strangers, scouring derelict buildings and pasting up homemade posters. For Sukhdev, the spying revelations have brought that agonising period back to life with a jolt. "I feel I'm living in hell again," she says, sitting in the Southall branch of solicitor Imran Khan's firm, where Tish is a specialist family lawyer. "I remember being back in Kingston, doing the things I was doing and pleading for people to help me. In one second, the 17 years have been wiped out and I've gone back to 1997.

"The thing that kept on coming into my mind [during the meeting] was: 'Now I know why Ricky's killers are still at large.' They were out spying on me rather than looking for Ricky's killers. For them, the fact that the family stood up and started asking questions made it more important for them to spy on us than to carry out a proper investigation. "I can't get over the fact that it was the time when we were all broken up. We were pleading with them to carry out a proper investigation and they must have been laughing behind our backs."

Sukhdev pulls a wad of shiny reprinted family photos from a plastic wallet "to give an idea who we're talking about", and suddenly the desk is covered with variants of Ricky's wide, delighted grin and glossy black mop of hair. "That's when I brought him home from the hospital," she says. She's crouching down to put her arm round her eldest daughter, with Ricky,

he had committed any criminal offence". The report found that PC Gillian Weatherley, the officer who initially declined to allow Mitchell to ride his bike through the Downing Street gates, texted a colleague two days after the incident to declare that she could topple the government. Weatherley witnessed, but did not overhear, the disputed exchanges when Rowland instructed Mitchell to wheel his bike through the side gates.

In the text, sent on 21 September to a colleague known as Officer 18, Weatherley wrote: "This will make you feel better, I'm the officer that stopped the chief whip leaving Downing St in Wednesday. He didn't swear at me but Toby that let him out the side gate. I could topple the Tory government x." In her disciplinary hearing Weatherley explained that she had known the recipient of her text for 20 years and the message was office banter. But a month later, on 21 October 2012, a text message was sent from her phone number to a neighbour called Nick. It read: "Not today but I'm at the front gates tomorrow so I still have time to bring the government down thanks for no graffiti." The report said that Weatherley said the text was part of a friendly conversation. "PC Weatherley denied that these texts showed any sinister motive on her part in relation to her conduct under investigation," it said. Weatherley lost her job after she failed to provide an honest account of her role in the handling of an email by Rowland that described the incident. She denied having passed on Rowland's email when she had in fact sent a picture of it to a colleague. This was passed to the Daily Telegraph.

Gallan said of the report: "At the heart of this investigation were very serious allegations that police officers had conspired together to lie and falsify statements against a cabinet minister. I have no doubt these allegations have damaged public trust and confidence in us. The police service is here to serve the public, without fear or favour, with honesty and integrity. Where our staff fall short of those standards, they must be held to account. We wanted these discipline boards to be held in public, but legally we were unable to direct that this happened. Ultimately, four police officers have been dismissed from the MPS, one of whom was sent to prison. Every serving police officer has cause to feel let down by those colleagues who fall below the standards we all strive to uphold." The report confirmed that Mitchell had been involved in previous confrontations with police officers when he was refused entry to the back of Downing Street on his bike during his time as international development secretary between March and May 2011. The report said a civil servant claimed Mitchell had said: "They should have fucking known who I am."

Rhyan Wilson's Family Not Told of his Death for Eight Hours *Manchester Evening News*

The family of murdered teenager Rhyan Wilson have called for a 'full and transparent review' of police actions - after they were not told for eight hours that their son had died. Rhyan, 18, was stabbed to death in Urmston last weekend - but police and hospital staff didn't tell his parents of his death despite them going to the scene and the hospital, leaving them to find out online. Rhyan's devastated parents are now calling for a full review of police actions - believing they were treated differently because they are black. They are backed by the chair of GMP's Black and Asian Police Association - who says the police treatment of the family bears huge similarity to that of murdered London teenager Stephen Lawrence's family. GMP has recorded its own officers' actions as a hate crime on race grounds and admitted they failed 'at the worst possible moment'.

In a statement, Rhyan's family told the M.E.N.: "We are devastated by the loss of Rhyan who was taken from us a little over a week ago. Rhyan was deeply loved and sorely missed. "The police have apologised for their failings and are conducting a review of what happened and more importantly why it happened. It is our desire to see a full and transparent review of the police actions as we

Charles Bronson Gets Two Years Jail For Attacking Prison Governor

Sitting dressed in his trademark dark glasses and handlebar moustache, in a secure dock flanked by six prison guards and with scores of police dressed in riot gear stationed outside Amersham Crown Court, the 61-year-old now known as Charles Salvador was found guilty of actual bodily harm. Asked how he would plead, he told the court: "I plead guilty, but I don't want to." The attack occurred in a TV room in Woodhill Prison, Milton Keynes, on 28 April. The governor sustained bruising to his torso, arms and legs from the outburst. He is believed to have been angered after he had learned that prison staff had withheld "enormous amounts" of mail from him. His reaction was taken into account as mitigating circumstances, and the judge called for the jail to launch an investigation into the incident. Although his injuries were not severe, the judge said that Bronson's history made the crime all the more terrifying. He is currently serving a life sentence for holding a prison art teacher hostage in 1999.

Plebgate Report - MET Colluded to Conceal Truth *Nicholas Watt/Josh Halliday, Guardian*

A group of Metropolitan police officers who were sacked over their conduct in the Plebgate affair were involved in a collusion that made it difficult to uncover the truth about the incident in Downing Street, the former attorney general Dominic Grieve has said. As the Met released a lengthy report into Operation Alice, its investigation into the incident in Downing Street on 19 September 2012, Grieve warned that the conduct of some of the officers had challenged the workings of the justice system. He told the Guardian: "I think the report is a very worrying document, because it reveals collusion between police officers in a way that makes the truth impossible to ascertain, when police officers should be witnesses of the truth at all times. When one sees officers behaving in this fashion, in whatever circumstances, it leaves one with a sense that if you can't trust them to tell the truth, then the justice system generally, and law enforcement in particular, becomes very difficult. It is a pretty depressing read."

Grieve spoke out after Deputy Assistant Commissioner Patricia Gallan, who was in charge of Operation Alice, said that allegations that officers had conspired to falsify statements had "damaged public trust and confidence in us". Gallan confirmed that four officers, including one who has been sent to prison, had lost their jobs as a result of their conduct after the incident. Andrew Mitchell was forced to stand down as Conservative chief whip after armed officers on duty in Downing Street claimed he described them as "fucking plebs" when they declined to allow him to ride his bicycle through the Downing Street gates. The former cabinet minister admitted swearing in the presence of the officers, but insisted that he did not call them plebs.

David Davis, the former shadow home secretary, said: "Industrial levels of dishonesty by police working in Downing Street." The Met also released previously unseen CCTV footage showing four police officers surrounding Mitchell during the incident. The footage, filmed from a camera opposite the gates, also shows three passersby close to Mitchell as he is shown out of the side gate by PC Toby Rowland. It was at this moment, according to Rowland, that Mitchell made the "fucking plebs" comment. The report says that Rowland, who is suing Mitchell for libel after the former minister questioned his account, was shown CCTV footage during a police interview and asked to point out which passerby had prompted him to describe onlookers as "visibly shocked". Rowland said he had made eye contact with a man and was aware of two women even though the footage showed the two were looking away from the incident.

The report said: "He maintained that this was his perception of the events as they happened in real time." The Met said of Rowland that there was "insufficient evidence to show that

wrapped in a white knitted blanket, balanced in the other. "And that's the cheeky boy, look. There, we had a family celebration – look, he's cooking, helping me. Everybody else was out having fun. There's my cheeky boy again in junior school. That's in the nursery, that's as a young man. That's what he turned out to be."

Cheeky is a word Sukhdev uses a lot to describe Ricky, but he was quiet, too, and loved helping his father, a carpenter, with DIY jobs around the house. "He was more interested in that than going out with friends, and it's a tragedy, really, that he decided to go and he never came back," she says. When her husband and brother reported Ricky missing to Kingston police the officer suggested he might be missing because the family had arranged a marriage for him and he'd run away with a girlfriend, Sukhdev says. Then he winked, she adds, and said: "You never know, it may be a boyfriend." "From day one," she says, "stereotyping, racism." A week later, a family liaison officer told a 17-year-old Tish and her 11-year-old brother about Ricky's death, in the absence of their parents, with the words: "We've found your brother's body at the bottom of the river."

The family complained to the PCA the following month. The redacted version of its report given to the family revealed that CCTV footage they believe could have provided vital clues about what happened was destroyed, while other tapes were not seized in time. His friends were never shown pictures of known racists to see if any matched the youths who had abused them, and no forensic analysis was made of the scene where police assumed Ricky fell in the river. The family has always insisted that Ricky's phobia of open water would have made this an impossibility. In the weeks after his death, they commissioned a second postmortem, which indicated that Ricky fell in backwards – not forwards as you would expect of someone urinating – and that he had blunt-impact bruising to his back.

When they met the Herne officers, the family pushed for more information: what was in the reports? Who made them? How were they gathered? Little information was forthcoming. Sukhdev was told she had been recorded taking part in a vigil, presenting a petition and making a submission to the Macpherson inquiry into the Lawrence case. "They couldn't give us the definition of what they mean by appropriate or not appropriate," she says. "None of it really made any sense. They also said their definition of appropriate is not necessarily the Met's definition." They are angry, too, about the way the police described what happened; "collateral intrusion" is the favoured terminology.

Derbyshire's chief constable, Mick Creedon, who is leading the investigation into the SDS, said in his report last month that families were not the target of the operations, but that information on them was gathered by officers who had infiltrated political groups believed to be capable of violence, who then aligned or associated themselves with justice campaigns. None of that makes the family feel any better, Tish says. "[The idea] that the intrusion into our privacy was collateral, it was 'one of those things' – it's not good enough for us. It's not acceptable." They fear there must be more than 10 reports, and asked officers how they could be sure there weren't. The answer was familiarly un reassuring. "They said they were confident but couldn't tell us how they could be confident," Tish says.

Operation Herne officers are meeting the families affected one by one; two weeks ago it was the turn of the cousins of De Menezes, the Brazilian electrician shot dead in 2005 by police who thought he was a suicide bomber. Their experience, described as "deeply unsatisfactory" by a spokeswoman for their justice campaign, sounds strikingly similar to the Reel family's. "They confirmed there was information found on SDS files about the Menezes family campaign, but did not tell us what that was, or how the material was collected," the spokeswoman says in a statement. "When pressed they insisted they couldn't confirm or deny many of our questions as it would put undercover officers at risk."

The group also raised concerns about the “malicious lies” spread in the public domain about De Menezes after his death, including false claims that he jumped over the barrier into Stockwell tube station before he was shot, and had been in the UK illegally. “There were also attempts in the press to smear members of the family’s support team,” the spokeswoman says. “We know that some of this information could only have come from the police. We want to know what covert tactics the SDS and the Metropolitan police were using to gather information on us and if they played a part in the repeated drip of misinformation spread about Jean after his killing. “The key issue for us is why were the police spying on this democratic campaign for justice, which was engaged in completely legitimate civic activity? What information were they trying to collect and why? Given the context, we can only assume they were trying to gather information on the campaign that they could use to deflect from their own wrongdoing.”

One person who is prepared to offer greater insight is whistleblower Peter Francis, a member of the SDS between 1993 and 1997 whose revelations about the unit have shed light on the way officers adopted the identities of dead children and routinely developed long-term sexual relationships with their targets. While the reports defined as “appropriate” are likely to contain information that could possibly be found in the public domain, such as the fact that a family member had spoken at a public meeting, or been seen on a demonstration, it is the ones judged as inappropriate that the families will struggle to get their hands on, he predicts – and should fight to do so. “That’s when you get into the area of what they really were doing there, which is spying,” he says. Those reports would be likely to contain details the public wouldn’t know, and might have been gleaned by an undercover officer meeting the family as part of a group from the political group he or she had infiltrated.

What does he make of Creedon’s description of the reports found as “collateral intrusion”, gathered without the justice campaigns being targets themselves? “It’s a half-truth,” he says. A single SDS operative would never have been assigned to a single-issue campaign such as one family’s fight for justice, but only because there weren’t enough officers and because infiltrating the bigger political groups did the job well enough, Francis claims. “From being in two groups, Youth Against Racism in Europe and the Movement for Justice, I – along with help from other SDS Officers, via their groups – managed to monitor about 12 different well-known black justice campaigns when I was deployed from 1993 to 1997. I monitored them predominantly for public order intelligence purposes, but also for other evidence or knowledge that came up about the family and/or justice groups and campaigners as well. The only reason groups weren’t monitored individually is manpower. We just didn’t have enough officers.”

Any claim that reports can’t be shared to protect the identity of former undercover officers is “just rubbish”, Francis says. “There’s no such thing as a document that will give away the SDS officer’s identity. You always made sure that no one could ever determine who wrote it.” He believes many more families than have so far been identified will have been affected. “Eighteen families is the absolute tip of the iceberg. They’ve gone through more than enough. They have every single right to see all the documents.”

The Reels were told by the Herne officers that as the reports were the property of the Met, it was its decision whether to release them to the family. “Where does that leave us?” Tish asks. “You drop this bombshell and now you’re leaving us to the mercy of the Met, who were the ones that carried this out in the first place.” They find the fact that yet again it’s the police investigating the police hard to swallow. Both women say they felt a sense they were supposed to be grateful for being told the reports existed, even though their requests for more detail couldn’t be answered. In June, a new witness came for-

pance, The Independent can disclose. Less than half of the £501.4m criminals owe in “confiscation orders” is “realistically recoverable”, according to the Crown Prosecution Service – just £159.4m. The Serious Fraud Office also admits it expects to reclaim just £10m of the £106m convicted criminals should currently be paying back. Emily Thornberry, the Shadow Attorney General, is calling for criminals who fail to pay up to be kept in prison and not be eligible for early release. Labour is also demanding new measures to stop criminals transferring assets to their partners through “sham divorces”, and stronger court powers against criminals who dispose of property overseas.

The scale of the problem facing the CPS and SFO has been revealed in Freedom of Information requests and Parliamentary Questions. Confiscation orders were introduced under the last government in an attempt to recover the ill-gotten gains of criminals following their conviction by the courts. But flaws in the legislation mean that it is too easy for assets to be moved abroad where they are harder to access, or be transferred to third parties. Ms Thornberry is expected to set out how further reform of the proceeds of crime system is needed, particularly when it comes to international co-operation. She will also say that law enforcement agencies should be allowed to keep more of the assets they confiscate to replenish their budgets and ensure that asset confiscation is a priority. “I appreciate how difficult it is to go after money that has been hidden by sophisticated criminals,” she said. “That is why we need to end early release for criminals who don’t pay, tougher measures to stop criminals transferring assets to their partners and stronger court powers against criminals who dispose of property overseas. We also need to go much further in enlisting the help of foreign jurisdictions to get back money hidden abroad and to be more reciprocal when other countries ask us for help to do the same.” Failed recovery: Previous cases

Julian de Vere Whiteway-Wilkinson, boasted of laundering “briefcases of cash” from supplying cocaine to celebrities and City workers. He was jailed for 12 years in 2004 and was later ordered to hand over the £2.1m profit he made from the drugs operation. Amount recovered: £262,000

Nasir Khan, jailed for nine years in 2011 for a £250m VAT scam. Prosecutors said Khan “enjoyed the lifestyle of an international playboy”, using criminal profits to buy luxury apartments in London, Marbella and Gibraltar. Ordered to repay: £14m/ Amount recovered: £0

Charles Scarrott, former property developer used his businesses to make false VAT claims of £25m. He bought a £1m penthouse in Teddington, south-west London, as well as flats for his children. Ordered to repay: £8.4m/ Amount recovered: £3.6m

Burglar Arrested After Winning Police Doughnut Eating Contest

It's rife in American folklore that their police force has a penchant obsession with doughnuts, so when a civilian beat them at speed-eating the circular snack, their second most popular skill was invoked as he was arrested. Bradley Hardison (24) took part in the competition as part of the Camden County Sherriff departments' "national night out against crime" and fought off competition from both officers and firefighters by wolfing down a mammoth eight doughnuts in two minutes. But as Hardison was triumphant in the speedy consumption of confectionary, his nine month evasion from the force in relation to burglary offences was not so. He was recognised by police who sought him for a spate of recent grocery shop burglaries.

Lt. Max Robeson of Camden County Sherriff's department then paid a follow up visit to arrest and charge him with breaking and entering and causing criminal damage. When asked whether he congratulated him on his previous win, Lt. Robeson told the Mail Online: "I did congratulate him, good for him, he can eat a lot of doughnuts" he said, "it's like he had the audacity to do something like that knowing that he had broken into these places."

which it was “necessary” for the father to have legal representation, and accordingly that the absence of legal aid was in breach of his rights under the right to a fair trial under Article 6 and the right to respect for family life under Article 8.

According to the court, the absence of public funding for those too impoverished to pay for their own representation potentially created at least three major problems: - 1 *the denial of legal advice and of assistance in drafting documents*; - 2 *the denial of professional advocacy in the court room*; - 3 *the denial of the ability to bring to court a professional witness whose fees for attending are beyond the ability of the litigant to pay*.

The Court’s decision: Since the issues of immediate concern in Re B had been resolved, only the other two cases required further consideration. As far as Q v Q was concerned, Munby J concluded that, if there was no other properly available public purse, the cost of dealing with the case justly had to be borne by the Courts and Tribunals Service: It is, after all, the court which, in accordance with the Family Proceedings Rules, has imposed on it the duty of dealing with the case justly. And, in the final analysis, it is the court which has the duty of ensuring compliance with Articles 6 and 8 in relation to the proceedings before it.

Re C raised difficult concerns in that the father was being prosecuted for the offence of rape. The father would therefore need legal advice on a number of complex questions: Is the father a compellable witness in the Family Court? Can the father take advantage in the Family Court of the privilege against self-incrimination? Can any evidence he gives in the Family Court be used in support of any criminal proceedings? And, what advice should he be given as to whether or not to give evidence (assuming he is not compellable) and as to whether or not to plead privilege (assuming it is open to him to do so)?

If these were public law proceedings, the answers to the first three questions would be reasonably clear. The father would be compellable: Re Y and K (Split Hearing: Evidence) [2003] EWCA Civ 669, [2003] 2 FLR 273. He would not be able to plead the privilege against self-incrimination: section 98(1) of the Children Act 1989. His evidence would not be “admissible in evidence against” him in any criminal proceedings other than for perjury: section 98(2). Nevertheless, there is no definitive answer for private law proceedings and therefore it seemed that none of these issues were ones which the judge could determine without the benefit of legal argument on both sides.

For these reasons, both the absence of adversarial argument and lack of legal advice and representation meant that there had to be a “very real risk” of the Convention rights under both Articles 6 and 8 being breached. The father’s costs in Re C would therefore have to be borne by the Courts and Tribunals Service. Munby J was at pains to emphasise that – the provision of interpreters and translators apart – an order directing that the cost of certain activities should be borne by the Courts and Tribunals Service was an order of last resort. No direction of this sort should be made except by or having first consulted a High Court Judge or a Designated Family Judge. He concluded that “The Ministry of Justice, the LAA and HMCTS may wish to consider the implications. That is a matter for them”.

Drive to Claw Back Millions From Wealthy Criminals Failing *Oliver Wright, Independent*

When the former leader of the notorious “Adams Family” gang was told to hand hundreds of thousands of pounds in ill-gotten gains over to the courts, the convicted North London crime boss said he couldn’t afford to pay up, claiming he was so poor that he felt “like a ponce” living off his wife. Terry and Ruth Adams failed to convince the authorities, who discovered the couple were leading a luxurious life. Yet many other rich criminals are succeeding in avoiding their financial comeup-

ward “detailing alleged events surrounding Ricky’s death”, Suresh Grover, the family’s longtime supporter and friend, says. The information has been passed on to the Met’s specialist cold-case team. Meanwhile, a family petition on change.org calling for a public apology from the Met for all families affected by police spying has gained more than 75,000 signatures in less than a month. But 17 years is a long time to fight. Sukhdev, now 65, still sheds tears frequently as she speaks. Have there ever been times when she has thought it would be easier to just decide that he wasn’t murdered, and stop fighting? “No,” she says, quietly but firmly. “Because I know he was murdered, 100%.” Not pursuing it “doesn’t feel like an option”, Tish says, not just for Ricky’s sake but for other families. “We hear of other families scarily regularly where something similar is still happening to them – other cases where there’s been a death or murder, or something that’s not been fatal, and the family have been treated really badly by the police.” Sukhdev thinks race still plays a role in how police treat families.

She has kept Ricky’s mobile phone number to use as her own, and still listens to the answering machine message he recorded for the family landline, now transferred to a CD. (“I said I’d do it,” she remembers, “and he said: ‘No mum, it has to be a man.’”) “For years, when I laid the table I used to put his plate there. I’ve got his shirts and jumpers, everyone’s got his clothes in their homes. “We miss him so much ... There’s a big picture of Ricky at home and when Tish was getting married and we were leaving, I stood in front of it and said: ‘Come on Ricky, time to go to the church.’” She and her husband still live in the family home in West Drayton where Ricky spent much of his childhood. “I just feel I’m unable to get out of there,” she says. “It’s like my safe haven. I remember him all the time, but when I’m there it’s just like he’s very close to me. I can touch him.” Now the idea that someone may have penetrated that safe haven, watching her and her children, keeps her awake at night, and her voice cracks every time she mentions it. “I’m angry because at that time we were vulnerable, very vulnerable,” she says. “We never closed our door, because people were in and out all the time. I only get about two or three hours’ sleep a night, and I get up and wander the house. What were they trying to do, what were the kicks they were getting seeing the family destroyed like that? Who do you trust?”

Bristol Bus Boycott Marked With Commemorative Plaque

A campaign which was key to gaining equality for Bristol’s black and ethnic minorities has been remembered with a new plaque. The 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott led the Bristol Omnibus Company to change its racist policies that stopped black people from working on the buses. Original campaigners Paul Stephenson, Guy Bailey and Roy Hackett attended the unveiling ceremony. In 1965, the Race Relations Act banned all discrimination in the workplace. The boycott came about after Guy Bailey, a Jamaican new to the UK, was openly refused a job by a manager at the bus company because “we don’t employ black people”. A group, led by Stephenson, and inspired by the equality campaigns of Martin Luther King and the actions of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus, urged a boycott of the service until the policy of discrimination was ended.

Starting in April 1963, pickets of bus depots and routes were part of the strategy, with blockades and sit-down protests organised on routes throughout the city centre. On 28 August 1963, the same day that Martin Luther King delivered his momentous ‘I have a dream’ speech in Washington DC, the Bristol Omnibus Company declared a change in policy that there would now be “complete integration” on the buses “without regard to race, colour or creed”. By September, the company had its first non-white bus conductor. Stephenson said the boycott has become “a watershed” on how the city comes to terms with its ethnic minority make-up. “As Martin Luther King once said: ‘We face chaos or community; the choice is ours.’”. Bristol’s mayor, George Ferguson, who attended the ceremony in the bus station said the campaigners are “etched into Bristol’s history and should be celebrated as heroes of our time”.

Religious Discrimination Claim Successfully Settled For Prisoner

A prisoner has settled his claim for religious discrimination against the presence of female officers whilst attending hospital. The prisoner, known as “Mr D”, has strong religious beliefs, which include strict rules on modesty and, specifically, the strict maintenance of dignity and privacy between the sexes. Mr D suffers from serious gastric problems. These problems require his regular attendance at hospital. At hospital, he has medical examinations and discussions. These are often very intimate in nature. The prison is required to assess and determine security arrangements when in Mr D’s case, on some occasions, those arrangements included being escorted by a female officer. This meant that female officers were sometimes present whilst Mr D was having his intimate medical examinations and discussions.

Because of his religious beliefs, the presence of female officers caused to feel acute distress and humiliation. Despite alerting the prison of these feelings, he continued to be escorted by female officers whilst attending hospital. Mr D approached Benjamin Burrows, a solicitor in the prison law team at A letter of claim was then sent to the Ministry of Justice alleging that their practice of allowing female officers to escort any prisoner whilst attending hospital regardless of their religious beliefs amounted to unlawful discrimination under both the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Following the letter of claim, the Ministry of Justice agreed to change their practice in Mr D’s case so that, save in genuine emergencies, he would only be escorted by male officers for his future hospital attendances. They also agreed that the presence of female officers for his past hospital attendance was inappropriate and agreed an appropriate level of compensation.

Commenting on the settlement, Mr Burrows stated: “Sadly, Mr D’s case is another example of where a prisoner’s religious beliefs have been ignored by a prison for no good reason and despite him first trying to resolve his concerns without resorting to legal action. It was clear that Mr D had religious beliefs and that those beliefs meant that the presence of a female officer would cause him distress. It was also clear that there was a straightforward and easy solution to ending this distress: only allowing male officers. However, this solution, whether by indifference or not, was ignored. Hopefully, Mr D’s case will highlight to prisons that a prisoner’s religious beliefs are something that warrants sufficient consideration in the future”. Mr D was represented in his claim by Jude Bunting of Doughty Street Chambers, a recognised expert in prison and discrimination law.

Inquest Into Death of Kingsley Burrell to take Place - Four Years After his Death

The family of Kingsley Burrell, who died in police custody, has revealed that an inquest is finally set to take place – nearly four years after his death. Kingsley’s sister, Kadisha Brown-Burrell, says she is pleased that the full details of how he died will finally be put before an inquest jury in February next year. The 29-year-old died in March 2011 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QE) following contact with police. In June the CPS announced that there was “insufficient evidence” to prosecute four police officers and six NHS staff who were involved in treating or caring for Kingsley in the days and hours before he died. Kingsley died three days after dialling 999 for police help because he felt he was about to be attacked by a gang while he was out walking with his young son. But he was himself detained under the Mental Health Act, transferred to a mental health unit and then the QE before he died. Kingsley’s sister Kadisha said: “Finally the circumstances surrounding the death of my brother Kingsley, will be placed in the public domain and it will be up to a jury to decide exactly how he died.”

The preliminary hearing will be held in November and a full three week inquest is set to start on

February 9, 2015, at Birmingham Coroners Court.

Campaigners will continue to protest outside the offices of Birmingham Crown Prosecution Service, at Colmore Gate, with the next one scheduled for Monday, September 8, at noon. The family have been holding the peaceful protests outside the CPS offices on the second Monday of every month. Kadisha said: “We will simply never give up. Plenty is still happening behind the scenes – that is why we are keeping this campaign going.”

A spokesman for the CPS said: “Any cases sent to the CPS for a charging decision are assessed in accordance with the Director’s Guidance for charging and the Code for Crown Prosecutors, which ensures that prosecutors take a consistent approach to charging decisions. These are based solely on whether there is sufficient evidence and if it is in the public interest to prosecute.”

State Should Pay For Representation and Witnesses In Private Child Disputes

Money purse - *WalletQ v Q* ; *Re B (a child)* ; *Re C (a child)* [2014] EWFC 31

Public funding is not generally available for litigants in private-law children cases, and no expert can now be instructed in such a case unless the court is satisfied, in accordance with section 13(6) of the Children and Families Act 2014, that the expert is “necessary” to assist the court to resolve the proceedings “justly”. As the President of the Family Division observed, restrictions on legal aid in certain circumstances has led to a “drastic” reduction in the number of legally represented litigants: The number of cases where both parties are represented has fallen very significantly, the number of cases where one party is represented has also fallen significantly and, correspondingly, the number of cases where neither party is represented has risen very significantly. All this has led to increased calls on the Bar Pro Bono Unit, which is generally not able to meet the demand. Munby J has therefore directed that the cost of certain activities, such as bringing an expert to court and providing advice to parents accused of sexual offending within the family, should be borne by the Courts and Tribunals Service.

Background: 1. *Q v Q* - The father, a convicted sex offender, sought contact with his son. His public funding had been terminated after two experts had provided reports commenting on the risk that he posed to the child. In the earlier hearing, it will be remembered, Munby J suggested that it might be necessary to explore whether there was “some other pocket” to which the court can have resort, in order to ensure a just and fair hearing. The response by the Ministry of Justice to the Court’s question was as expected; that the father in this case had failed to satisfy the statutory merits criteria required to access funding. The position was further exacerbated by the fact that as a non-English speaker he needed an interpreter, a service which is normally paid for by the Courts & Tribunals Service.

2. *Re B* - Here, the father, who was seeking contact with his daughter, denied the allegation that he had raped the mother. His application for legal aid had been rejected. Since a defendant in a criminal case involving an allegation of sexual abuse is statutorily prohibited from cross-examining the accuser, it is incumbent on the judge to ask such questions as the circumstances allow. By the time of this hearing the Legal Aid Authority had allowed the father public funding after judicial review proceedings were proposed.

3. *Re C* - The father sought contact and a parental responsibility order in respect of his son. Again, the mother alleged that she had been raped by the father, an allegation which was denied by the father, who was awaiting trial in the Crown Court. An application for “exceptional” funding under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 s.10 had been made, but a decision was still awaited. The PLP contended that this was a case in