

what housing was available. This judgment is fundamentally flawed and contrary to the Housing Act 1996 which requires councils to house applicants within their local housing authority insofar as reasonably practicable. Furthermore, councils must give consideration to the Homelessness Code of Guidance issued by the Secretary of State and 'where possible, secure accommodation that is as close as possible to where they were previously living' so they can retain links with schools, doctors, social workers and other key services. The CoA judgment essentially renders this guidance irrelevant resulting in its increasing disregard by local authorities. London Borough of Waltham Forest where the proposed policy changes involve dividing homeless applicants into two groups, one of which will be offered accommodation (where possible) in Waltham Forest, adjacent boroughs, or boroughs in the East London sub-region and those who simply won't, namely all other homeless families subject to the borough being able to procure it. The decision of the CoA sets a terrible precedent for local authorities to engage in social cleansing of the poor on a mass scale. It cannot be right that applicants are threatened with homelessness unless they agree to uproot themselves from communities they have lived in for years. Moreover, homeless applicants are frequently given only 24 hours in which to accept/refuse the accommodation offered to them. Within this time they must decide whether or not to relocate their entire family to an unfamiliar place without any opportunity to view the property in advance. This is a demanding situation for any person.

Statistics demonstrate the extent of the problem across all local authorities: of the 60,940 households in temporary accommodation on 30 September 2014, 15,260 (25%) were housed outside of the authority's district – up from 11,860 at the same date last year. Of the 15,260 accommodated in another local authority district, 14,220 were from London authorities. Some 45,640 of the households in temporary accommodation included dependent children or a pregnant woman. However, what these statistics highlight is the essential need for the court's scrutiny in such matters; otherwise there is a danger that councils may be tempted to save money by moving homeless households out of their area. It is wholly wrong that councils can uproot people from everything they know.

The impact of being forced to move away from family and other support networks cannot be underestimated. Add to this a whole new level of complexity where children are involved, with their emotional well-being and education being the biggest casualties. In this case, there is no evidence to suggest that Westminster Council looked to find accommodation in or closer to Westminster for Ms Nzolameso. Following the Court of Appeal decision, Ms Nzolameso was made homeless after Westminster Council ceased to provide her with temporary accommodation. Her five children have subsequently been separated into care across three homes. Not only does this appeal decision bring long-awaited fresh hope for Ms Nzolameso, the eventual decision of the Supreme Court will be one of the most important social housing judgments for decades, setting a precedent for homeless applicants across the country.

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

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MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 519 (05/03/2015) - Cost £1

About Bloody Time: R v. "Mouncer and Others' Trial" (Official Investigation)

Theresa May SSHD: I have decided to call for an independent, QC-led investigation into the collapse of the R v. "Mouncer and others" 2011 trial. Stephen Miller, John and Ronald Actie, Yusef Abdullahi and Anthony Paris were wrongfully prosecuted and stood trial in 1990 for the murder of Lynette White in 1988. Stephen Miller, Yusef Abdullahi and Anthony Paris were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, while John and Ronald Actie were acquitted. Ronald Actie and Yusef Abdullahi are deceased. The three surviving victims of the miscarriage of justice, Stephen Miller, John Actie and Anthony Paris, are the claimants in this case.

The 2011 trial (R v. "Mouncer and others") of police officers for offences connected with the 1990 trial, including conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury, collapsed. I have asked Richard Horwell QC to carry out this investigation and he has agreed. Mr Horwell is an excellent QC with experience of both prosecution and defence work. He is currently counsel for the Metropolitan Police Service in the Litvinenko inquiry. He will be supported by a junior barrister, Patrick Hill, from the same chambers, to assist with the groundwork involved.

The investigation team has agreed the terms of reference with the three surviving victims of the miscarriage of justice and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House. The investigation will begin on 2 March 2015 and will aim to complete its findings by summer 2015. The team will report to me and I intend to publish the investigation's report. The purpose of the investigation is to understand how the collapse of the 2011 trial came about, covering all questions of resources, performance and conduct which were not addressed by the previous investigations. In particular, it will explore:

The reasons why leading counsel for the Crown lost confidence in the disclosure process and the prosecution was therefore abandoned. Whether 227 boxes of documents were overlooked and the contents not considered for the purposes of disclosure in the prosecution. The investigation team is calling for evidence to be submitted to the investigation for consideration alongside the significant amount of material to be made available by South Wales police. Evidence should be sent to operationmouncer@3rblaw.com I am grateful to the chief constable of South Wales police for the support he has offered to the investigation.

Joint Enterprise Murder Convictions - Reduced to Manslaughter & Affray

On Wednesday 25th February at the Court of Appeal the joint enterprise murder convictions of Gerard Childs and Stephen Price were quashed. They had been given life sentences in 2013 for the murder of Jonathan Fitchett but the 3 appeal judges quashed their convictions and substituted the offence of manslaughter for Childs and affray for Price. They were given new sentences of 7 years (Childs) and 2 1/2 years (Price). They have already served 18 months in prison. Campaign group JENGBa (Joint Enterprise: Not Guilty by Association) was in attendance at Court to support the defendants' families. They have sought to highlight the injustice of joint enterprise since forming in 2010 and have given evidence to the Justice Select Committee's recent Inquiry.

Lord Justice Davis, writing for the majority, stated that, given the scarcity of evidence that the defendants had a common plan prior to Childs throwing the first punch, the trial judge should

have set out in the summing up the components of the lesser offences of manslaughter and affray. The trial judge's failure to do so meant the jury misconceived their role as having to decide between joint enterprise murder for both defendants or acquitting both defendants.

What makes the judgement unusual, is Judge Davis' treatment of the Crown Prosecution Service's decision to seek joint enterprise murder in this case, despite the lack of evidence to show that the defendants had a common intention to seriously injure the victim. It suggests that the Court of Appeal have taken over the baton from the House of Commons Select Committee who last year urged the Government to urgently review the law surrounding joint enterprise. However, Justice Minister Chris Grayling has deferred any decision to consider their findings on the potential injustices caused by the doctrine of joint enterprise until after the election.

JENGBA's patron Jimmy McGovern, who wrote the BBC drama *Common*, which addressed joint enterprise, said: "I am over the moon for the defendants and their families, this law is wrong – how can justice prevail when people are being wrongfully convicted of murder as proven today?" Gloria Morrison of JENGBA said: "This is a groundbreaking victory for our campaign and the families we support who have fought for years to highlight the injustice of joint enterprise. Common sense has prevailed today. We hope it paves the way for all prisoners who have been wrongfully convicted to have their appeals heard and upheld. Too many innocent people are being imprisoned because of poor defence teams and over zealous prosecutors. Today's judgement has proved we have been right all along and we hope this is the beginning of the end for wrongful joint enterprise convictions".

Judges tell CPS to Piss Off After CCRC Referral Victory

On 9 February 2011, in the Crown Court at Peterborough, before Mr Recorder Goodwin and a jury, the appellant was convicted of robbery in relation to Mr Yuri Rocha. His defence had been that he was misidentified as one of the robbers by Mr Rocha and his girlfriend, Ms Claudia Pereira. He sought leave to appeal against his conviction, but leave to appeal was refused by the single judge and, when renewed on 5 October 2011, by the full court.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) referred the robbery conviction of Mohammed Amin to the Court of Appeal. Mr Amin had pleaded not guilty but was convicted of robbery at Peterborough Crown Court in February 2011. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. He tried to appeal against his conviction but his appeal was dismissed in October 2011. Mr Amin then applied to the Commission for a review of his conviction.

Following a detailed investigation of the case, the Commission decided to refer Mr Amin's conviction to the Court of Appeal because of new evidence it had discovered that raised the real possibility that the Court would quash the conviction. The referral was based on several grounds including new evidence which potentially undermined witness identification evidence upon which the prosecution case had depended, on the non-disclosure of photographs and CCTV relevant to the identification evidence at trial, and on the failure to give adequate jury directions relating to identification evidence. Mr Amin was not legally represented for his application to the Commission.

The appeal was heard on Thursday 5th February 2015, at the conclusion the courts decision was to allow the appeal. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) took the hump and applied to the court for a re-trial. The judges chose not to make a decision there and then but to deliberate the request and on the Thursday 26th February they handed down their decision, which was emphatic, they said: "We refuse that application: the appellant has now served a term of 3 years, and neither justice nor any other public interest demands that he be tried again.

they didn't, then governing a country would be impossible. Governments need and thrive on secrecy, disingenuousness and lies, all neatly wrapped up and presented as honesty, transparency and openness. Should you ever need proof that the above is indeed the case, try putting in a Freedom of Information Request to the police and see how many reasons they give you for being exempt from answering your questions. The endless exemptions were gifted by the politicians when they promised to be more open. with the public.

Britain is destroying itself from the inside; slowly rotting away like an ageing corpse, as it seeks to be more important than it really is. Our rulers have, as have all empirical rulers that have lost their empires throughout history, turned on their own people, in misguided desperation and yearning for someone to rule. Therefore, as is so often the case in a general election, the choice in the forthcoming general election essentially comes down to whose lies you wish to believe; or to be more precise, which lies make you feel better. Nothing more, nothing less. Unfortunately, until a more representative voting system is introduced, particularly for a general election, this is the only choice that voters are ever likely to get. Most people say they don't care about politics, and quite honestly, one can understand why they say that. Nevertheless, the fact is that politics affects everything that happens in our lives; from the price of food, to the length of prison sentences; from how many children you can afford to have, to how many of them will still be living with you when they're in their mid-40s.

As Winston Churchill once famously said, "Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." The truth is that depressing as that may sound, those are probably the only true words you'll ever hear spoken by a British politician; past or present.

HMP Doncaster: Prisoner Charged With Murdering Fellow Inmate *Nina Massey, Mirror*

A prisoner has been charged with murder following the death of a fellow inmate at his prison. Kieron Simpson, 25, allegedly assaulted 43-year-old Robert Bryan on February 27, leaving him with serious injuries, at HMP Doncaster. Bryan was taken to hospital at around 6pm but was unable to recover after being attacked. A post-mortem examination concluded that he died as a result of head injuries, South Yorkshire Police said. Simpson has been remanded in custody and is due to appear before Doncaster Magistrates' Court. HMP Doncaster, run by private firm Serco, was criticised in a report last year for locking up inmates in cells without electricity or running water for more than two days. HMCIP found that the prison's "performance was in decline". Wyn Jones, Serco's Director of Custodial Operations said at the time: "We fully accept the recommendations that are made in this HMCIP report, we have launched a major improvement programme. We determined that Doncaster will become a prison of which all can be proud."

Social Cleansing of the Poor by Councils Must be Stopped *Justice Gap*

There was welcome news last week for council tenants after a mother of five, homeless after she lost her challenge of a decision by Westminster Council to re-house her 50 miles away in Milton Keynes, found out that she can now take her appeal to the Supreme Court. The case will now be heard next month. Titina Nzolameso argues that Westminster failed to examine all the available housing in the borough or closer by when they made their decision and, therefore, it was unlawful. In October 2014, the Court of Appeal refused Ms Nzolameso's appeal against the council's decision.

At the time, Justice Moore-Bick in considering whether it was 'reasonably practicable' to find Ms Nzolameso suitable accommodation in the borough, said that it was not necessary for Westminster to explain in detail what other accommodation was available. He ruled the borough was allowed to take 'a broad range of factors' into account, including the 'pressures' on the council, in deciding

ried out with young people in each of the four Secure Training Centres (STCs). The YJB will continue to commission these reports and monitor the findings from this survey in future years to gain a better understanding of the representation GRT young people within STCs.

General Election 2015: Why Voters Have Already Lost *Raymond Peytor, Opinion Site*

As Britain gears up for May's general election, preceded by two months of political diatribe, it is likely that the only winners will be politicians. The voters themselves, regardless of which way they vote, will once again be the losers. Given the corrupt nature of Britain's political structure – including the outdated, outmoded and totally unrepresentative voting system – whichever party or parties come to power, the end result for the public is likely to be broadly the same. More state control, more restrictions on civil liberties, even less money for the poor and more money for the already wealthy.

If you don't believe that the voting system is unrepresentative, consider this: According to the Electoral Commission, the percentage of votes cast as a proportion of all those eligible to vote in the 2010 general election was Conservative 23.47% , Labour 18.87% and Liberal Democrats 14.99%. That means that at the very best, nearly 75% of voters did not end up with the party for which they voted. Given that there were 45,597,461 registered voters, it is very difficult to see how that election was representative.

Although Britain's electoral system – if not its entire political structure – may be broken, those in power have absolutely no interest in fixing it. Were they to do so, they would run the risk of having to truly represent the people. Britain's MPs have no interest in the people, the public having been described by one MP recently as being, 'a bloody nuisance'. With the political hierarchy focused on the past and consumed by historic sex abuse cases, a desire by all major parties to exercise more control over individuals and politicians who give in at the drop of a hat to feminist lobby groups and money grabbing charities, whichever party or parties form the next government, the outlook for the rest of us is to say the very least, bleak. For those who believe that voting UKIP will make any difference, forget it. When it comes to the crunch, most voters will go with the parties for which they normally vote and UKIP, if it's lucky, may end up with four or five MPs; certainly not enough to make any difference. UKIP will soon be subsumed and corrupted by the political machine, sinking into obscurity from which occasionally, a howl of pain may be discerned.

TheOpinionSite.org believes that in the forthcoming general election, voters will be faced, as is so often the case, with a choice between several evils: On the one hand there is David Cameron with his ever increasingly right-wing Conservative party, including a justice secretary who many believe has the mindset of an incarceration-motivated megalomaniac, a home secretary who is a self-proclaimed feminist who wants to be prime minister, a work and pensions secretary who sincerely believes he is doing good by taking money away from people who have very little to begin with, and a policing minister who, as an ex-policeman, wants to give the police as much power as possible, regardless of the consequences.

On the other hand, there is Ed Miliband's Labour party which is driven by feminists, has no idea about the economy, purports to help the poor but actually doesn't, is essentially the same party that created 3,000 new criminal offences in just 10 years under Tony Blair – that's almost one a day, has a leader that fails to inspire, and a would-be chancellor who can't add up. Somewhere in the middle, there is the soon to be annihilated Liberal Democrat party led by Nick Clegg. Well-meaning, supposedly a champion of civil liberties and protector of the poor, the Lib Dems are out of sync in a society where greed, selfishness, vindictiveness and revenge seemed to rule.

What all the three main parties have in common of course, is the inability to tell the truth. To put it another way, they all lie through their teeth. But then again, so do all politicians; and if

Glasgow High Court Throws Out Murder Charge Against Paul Ward

The Scotsman

Paul Ward accused of murdering dog walker Jean Campbell with a heavy metal lead was been cleared of involvement in her death. At the High Court in Glasgow judge Lord Matthews acquitted 21-year-old Paul Ward after hearing an examination of facts into her murder. MrWard, who is suffering from a psychotic illness, was due to stand trial, but he was deemed unfit to do so. He denied murdering Mrs Campbell. The prosecution claimed Mr Ward killed Mrs Campbell because he was an animal lover and hated the way she treated her German Shepherd Kai.

Lord Matthews said: "A great many hours of work were put into this case by dedicated policemen, including authorised surveillance of the accused's home, but the result of all of it, is in my opinion at least, a weak Crown case. There was proof of an a possible, albeit tenuous motive. The accused potentially had the opportunity. There are a number of suspicious circumstances in this case and the accused might have committed the acts referred to in the indictment, but that is not the test." Lord Matthews said that the Crown case did not convince him beyond reasonable doubt that Mr Ward was Mrs Campbell's assailant. He added: "I appreciate that what I have said might not find favour with the family and friends of Mrs Campbell.

New Rules to Crackdown on Violent Prisoners Come Into Force

A significant step forward in the fight against violence in prisons has been taken today (27 February 2015), with the publication of a joint national protocol on crime committed in prison. The new joint protocol produced by the Prison Service, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has set out clearly that when there are serious assaults on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason why not. The protocol provides robust guidelines for joint working between prisons, police and CPS to ensure that wherever possible prisoners who commit serious assaults on staff or other serious crimes – such as hostage taking, arson, absconds – are punished through the courts. It will help to improve crime reporting and information sharing and most importantly it will improve the service to victims of crime in prisons, especially hard-working prisons staff.

It is already the case that there is a presumption that sentences for offences committed in prison will be served at the end of, rather than alongside, the initial prison sentence. This new approach sits within the Prison Service's wider violence reduction strategy, focused on reducing violent behaviour and making the most of the latest technology such as body worn cameras. Hand-in-hand with this work is the crackdown on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or so-called legal highs' coming into prisons.

Prison governors have recently received new guidance from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) which sets out clearly for the first time the measures available to them to deal with NPS. This will reinforce the prison estate's zero tolerance approach to contraband. A loop hole is also being closed by the MOJ, which means that anyone found trying to throw these dangerous non-controlled drugs into prison could now face 2 years in prison.

Prisons Minister Andrew Selous said: "Violence in prisons is not tolerated and assaults on our hard-working staff are unacceptable. I do not underestimate the hard work and challenges that prison staff face on a daily basis which is why we worked hard to get this protocol in place as quickly as possible. Today is a milestone in our huge effort to tackle violence in prison. This new approach to investigating crime in prisons will ensure that those that attack staff are prosecuted and fully brought to justice. We have always had a complex and challenging prison population but are taking appropriate steps to ensure that we carefully manage the increased levels of violence.

These new guidelines will provide additional guidance to prosecutors, who review all charging decisions in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The Code for Crown Prosecutors requires the CPS to consider whether there is sufficient evidence and, if so, whether a prosecution is in the public interest before charging. It will ensure that different police force and CPS areas pursue prosecutions of crimes within prison in a more consistent and efficient way. While it is right that there should be some local prioritisation of crime investigation and prosecution, all agencies want to ensure that serious crimes in prison are dealt with fully by the criminal justice system.

PAS: Legal Advice for Women & Disabled Prisoners

Women Prisoners: Since our last update on activities in August, our Women Prisoners Caseworker has dealt with hundreds of telephone and letter enquiries from prisoners, and to deliver 13 legal advice clinics in 4 women's prisons: HMPs Holloway (in London), East Sutton Park (Kent), Send (Surrey), and New Hall (West Yorkshire). A further 16 clinics were delivered to women prisoners by Peer Advisers - prisoner volunteers who had been trained by our Caseworkers to provide basic legal information and advice to their fellow prisoners. Overall we have helped 241 women prisoners in the past 6 months through the clinics alone, and hundreds more through the telephone calls, letters and casework. We are also progressing in our plans to extend our clinics into other women's prisons around the country.

Demand has remained high for our Women Prisoners Caseworker's services. Prisoner numbers attending our HMP East Sutton Park clinics have increased. Following our first clinic at HMP New Hall in December – which was very well-attended - we recorded a subsequent increase in calls from that prison to our telephone helpline, which demonstrates the outreach clinics' importance in raising prisoner awareness of our services.

Our Women Prisoners Caseworker acted for a prisoner, detained in a low secure psychiatric hospital, where she had been transferred from prison for treatment. Even though she was considered well enough by a Mental Health Tribunal to be released from hospital, she needed to be released by the Parole Board before she could be discharged into the community. Her local authority refused to pay for the cost of her post-release accommodation and care support services in the community. Our Caseworker was approached by the hospital's clinical team to help them resolve the funding dispute, without which the Parole Board would not be able to direct the woman's release. Our Caseworker corresponded with the local authority, setting out the woman's legal rights and putting them on notice that judicial review proceedings would be instigated if funding was not agreed. The local authority then reconsidered the matter and agreed to provide the funding. This case highlights the difficulties that women prisoners with mental health conditions can face in obtaining the discharge care packages they require upon release.

Disabled Prisoners: Since August, your donations have supported our Community Care Caseworker to deliver 16 advice clinics within 3 London prisons: HMPs Pentonville, Thameside and Wandsworth. At these clinics, she provided one-to-one legal advice and assistance to 145 prisoners, many of whom have a disability or mental health condition. Your gifts have also supported her to deal with hundreds of telephone and letter enquiries from prisoners. She has also been working on a number of ongoing cases helping and advising disabled prisoners.

Our Community Care Caseworker successfully obtained a direction for release on parole for one disabled prisoner who had been imprisoned for 30 years. He is elderly and infirm and has a heart condition, reduced mobility, and was also demonstrating significant cognitive decline – including a drastically impaired short term memory. He is the co-founder of a charitable

Wales and North West England, including a small remand function serving the courts in North Wales. It will include places for education, 12 large workshop spaces, and resettlement functions, helping offenders who will be held closer to home reintegrate into their communities on release. The Ministry of Justice has also been working closely with Welsh devolved health and education services to develop suitable models for the prison and will continue to work with the Welsh government and other partners to agree the necessary resourcing as delivery requirements are finalised. Construction is currently underway in Wrexham and the first houseblock is due to start taking prisoners from early 2017.

HMP Swansea - Some Positives, but Areas for Improvement

A typical Victorian inner-city prison which holds up to 455 adult and young adult male prisoners. At its last full inspection in 2010, inspectors found the prison had achieved reasonably good outcomes. This more recent inspection found outcomes for prisoners were more mixed. Swansea prison had a number of significant advantages. It had a full complement of staff who were all fairly settled and experienced. The prison was of a manageable size with a defined role. Its situation ensured significant connection with the community and prisoners, who were mostly local. Inspectors were concerned to find that: - there had been four self-inflicted deaths since 2010; - the number of self-harm incidents was low, but some incidents were serious and inspectors were not assured that enquiries into those incidents were thorough, nor was the prison acting on recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman following his investigations into deaths; - the prison faced a number of security challenges, in particular confronting the issue of illicit drugs which could easily be thrown over the prison wall; - there were not enough education or training opportunities for prisoners and the provision of learning and skills had deteriorated; - resettlement services lacked leadership and direction, which was a concern as the jail was transitioning to become a resettlement prison, although a significant number of prisoners said that they believed someone had helped them to prepare for their release.- Inspection 6/10th October 2014, inspectors made 80 recommendations.

Prisoners: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: What is the government's response to the recommendations made in the report by HMCIP of February 2014 reviewing the monitoring of Gypsy, Romany and Traveller prisoners.

Lord Faulks: I welcome the report by HMCIP, People in Prison: Gypsies, Romany and Travellers (GRT). Meeting the needs of GRT prisoners has traditionally been challenging due to very low declaration rates. To address this, and to improve the support received by them, the NOMS has carried out work to increase the confidence of these prisoners to declare their ethnicity. In March 2014, NOMS implemented a new tool to monitor various outcomes for prisoners against a range of protected characteristics, including GRT prisoners. This has proved to be successful and declaration rates have increased. The tool allows NOMS to better understand where gaps in services for GRT prisoners are, and for services to be commissioned where appropriate. NOMS has worked closely with organisations such as the Friends Family and Travellers and the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain to provide information to staff and prisoners regarding best practice when working with GRT prisoners.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) commissioned and jointly published (with HMIP) the report: 'Children and Young People in Custody 2012-13: An Analysis of 12-18 year olds' perceptions of their experience in secure training centres'. This was the first published annual summary of children and young people's self-reported experiences and perceptions from surveys car-

not to make any link with falling staff numbers. Prof Louis Appleby, who oversees the implementation of the national cross-government strategy for suicide prevention, was due to speak at the justice ministry's "independent ministerial board" on prison suicides on Monday. Several members of the independent board voiced their concern after Appleby, who is the national clinical director of health and justice, made public his decision on Twitter.

Deborah Coles, the co-director of Inquest, which works with families of those who die in custody, reacted by saying it was outrageous that the MoJ was trying to "gag" Appleby from making a link between a rise in prison suicides and staffing cuts. The shadow justice secretary, Sadiq Khan, also protested: "If these reports are true, this is censorship – plain and simple," he said. "Ministers can't tell a leading expert what he can and can't say just because the truth is unpalatable. We need an honest assessment of what is driving the surge in suicides and violence in jails under this government. The truth is Chris Grayling refuses to acknowledge there is a prisons crisis, and will do anything he can to avoid hearing the truth about just how terrible an impact his policies have had on our jails."

Whitehall sources suggest Appleby's decision may have been based on a misunderstanding or misinterpretation. They stress that the independent ministerial board, which is chaired by a Labour peer, Lord Toby Harris, and has in its membership Frances Crook of the Howard League for Penal Reform and Juliet Lyon of the Prison Reform Trust, has repeatedly discussed a possible link between suicides and prison staffing levels. The board's secretariat is provided by a seconded member of the justice ministry's national offender management service and is understood to have requested Appleby keep his presentation focused on the wider aspects of the issue over which he has been an expert for more than 20 years.

New Prison to be Run by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)

The prison, which is due to open in 2017, will be run by an innovative new approach that will see the best of the public, voluntary and private sectors working together. HMPS will take overall ownership of the prison but with 34% of service provision outsourced – including a large industrial workshop complex. Prisons Minister Andrew Selous said: "I am pleased to announce that the new prison in North Wales will be operated by Her Majesty's Prison Service as part of an innovative new approach to running prisons. Our combination of benchmarking and outsourcing services is saving taxpayers around £300 million a year and now it will allow us to deliver a truly efficient prison in Wrexham that is based on best practice from the opening of previous prisons. This prison reflects the true success of our reforms in helping to create a modern low-cost prison estate, and is proving a real boost to the North Wales economy with £1.1 million already committed to local companies – well ahead of the £250,000 target for 2014." The £212 million investment will provide good quality prison accommodation that delivers value for the taxpayer by reducing the cost per prisoner place. Recent reforms have already saved significant sums for taxpayers, and continuing to create a modern low cost prison estate is essential to further reduce the overall cost of the prison system. Once operational the North Wales prison will also bring a huge benefit to the area, boosting the regional economy by around £23 million a year and create up to 1,000 jobs.

Secretary of State for Wales Stephen Crabb said: "The new prison in Wrexham will provide a massive boost to North Wales by generating opportunities for local businesses and creating hundreds of jobs in the area. This is all part of our long term plan to help rebalance the economy and invest in world class infrastructure across the whole country."

The prison will provide around 2,100 Category C places for male offenders from North

trust helping to improve literacy in prison. She secured a comprehensive community care package for him, providing a suitable release address. This enabled the parole panel to direct his release so that he could resettle successfully in the community. His placement is a specialist supportive care home that specifically supports those who have been institutionalised. Our Caseworker also initiated arrangements for him to receive mentoring in the community from an ex-prisoner who is now a journalist. *Adrian Gannon - PAS*

Children as Young as Seven Lured Into Street Gangs

Hannah Fearn, Independent

Children as young as seven are at risk of becoming embroiled in gang culture, but the Government has no idea how many gangs are operating in the country, a report from MPs has said. The Home Affairs Select Committee also revealed that although £10m has been spent on tackling gangs the Government has not reviewed the success of the projects that received the money. In 2013, the Metropolitan Police reported 259 violent youth gangs and 4,800 gang members operating across 19 London boroughs. The following year almost 20 young people were either stabbed or shot every week in the city. And in 2012, Greater Manchester Police identified 66 gangs with an estimated total of 886 members. However, there is no national database of gangs and their members, or even an agreed definition of what a gang is. Among children and young people in gangs, 2,409 are known to be subject to sexual exploitation, with 16,500 others at risk. Girls, in particular, can find it hard to leave a gang without violent reprisal. "There is no comprehensive national figure of the number of gangs, or the number of young people involved or associated with gangs. It is vital that a unified gang definition is used across the Home Office and police forces to ensure greater understanding of the scale of this issue both locally and nationally," the report concluded.

After riots spread across British cities in the summer of 2011, the Government set up a review of gang violence and brought in a strategy to stop young people being drawn into gangs and to help gang members leave. But the committee said the Home Office had "failed to effectively evaluate the project". Keith Vaz, who chairs the committee, said it was "lamentable that such limited progress has been made". The report also raised questions over policing. Although most gang violence is reported in London, just 14 injunctions have been brought against gang members in the capital. The report urges the Home Office to publish a league table of injunctions every six months to encourage their use. It also calls for every chief constable to appoint a dedicated officer to lead efforts to tackle gangs. A similar approach is recommended in schools. "We should accept that children as young as seven are at risk of gang involvement," the report concluded. "In every school where there is local knowledge of gangs, a senior teacher should be nominated to ensure mentoring to assist young people at risk of gang involvement."

Doreen Lawrence & Imran Khan - Double Jeopardy, Victims Law & Undercover Cops

There was a brief but telling breakdown in harmony at an event featuring Baroness Doreen Lawrence in conversation with Imran Khan, who has represented the Lawrence family since Stephen Lawrence's death. 'You're wrong, Doreen. You're wrong,' Khan told his most famous client. They discussing the experience of victims in the criminal justice system and, in particular, Labour's victims' law proposals. The campaigning lawyer was saying to Lawrence, co-author of the Labour Party Victims' Taskforce report with Keir Starmer, that she was wrong to assert that our justice system afforded defendants greater rights than victims. Instead, Khan, a defence lawyer, described a system 'skewed in favour of the victim' and that it was far more difficult for defendants now than when he started out in law. Indeed, Khan revealed that he

might well be campaigning against Lawrence and Labour's 'victims' charter'.

The event was this year's Legal Action Group annual lecture hosted by Fiona Bawdon, editor of Legal Action. The case of the murdered teenager had never gone away, reflected Bawdon. The family was presently waiting on a report concerning allegations of undercover police from the Metropolitan Police's Special Demonstration Squad spying on the family during the investigation into Stephen's death. Imran Khan had thought that the convictions of Gary Dobson and David Norris for murder in 2012 marked the end of the case. However, stories about police corruption began to appear in the press, and a Channel 4 documentary in June 2012 revealed that undercover officers had been tasked to spy on the Lawrence family. Doreen Lawrence expressed her shock at such an intrusion at the height of the family's grief.

In March 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May announced an inquiry into undercover policing, after a review conducted by Mick Creedon, the Chief Constable of Derbyshire Police, could not reach a definitive answer. The inquiry is not yet underway and, as Khan said, although we know that 'since 1968 the state has been getting police officers to pretend to be community activists' and infiltrate groups, it is not clear how far up the chain of command the knowledge or approval of these activities went. Fiona Bawdon noted that the convictions eventually secured in 2012 for Stephen's murder were only made possible by the abolition of the rule against double jeopardy and advances in forensic science which allowed a retrial of Dobson and Norris based on new and compelling evidence. It was the Macpherson Report, ordered by Jack Straw following Stephen's death, which recommended that the rule preventing a defendant being retried on charges of which he has previously been acquitted be abolished in murder cases.

Khan recalled the experience of sitting in court next to a grieving Lawrence, having himself represented defendants charged with murder and having seen victims' mothers 'staring at him with eyes piercing'. He saw his client looking at the defence lawyers in the same way, and felt compelled to tell her 'that's the lawyer's job. It's not personal, that's how the system works'. The solicitor was, according to Bawdon, 'one of the most vocal opponents of the abolition of the rule against double jeopardy'. The lawyer argued that the community which would be 'hounded' were those who were 'disproportionately in the system anyway'. He recognised the 'increasingly compelling argument 'in favour of the reform to double jeopardy where there is unassailable forensic evidence. Khan spoke about how the collapse of the private prosecution brought by Stephen Lawrence's family against Dobson, Norris, Luke Knight, Jamie Acourt and Neil Acourt in 1996 had felt at the time like a personal failure. However, in hindsight he said felt it was a stroke of genius because it moved the case forward.

Doreen Lawrence told the audience that Khan was the first person she rang after being offered a peerage by Ed Miliband. The solicitor told her to go for it and, after letting Miliband wait for a couple of days, she called back to accept and subsequently became Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon in October 2013. The peer described House of Lords as 'a weird place, very frightening'. She saw her role in the upper chamber as questioning and challenging what she heard from some peers who 'have no idea what it's like for people on the outside world'. Imran Khan was despairing about the state of legal aid which he reckoned had been 'decimated'. 'It is not the profession I came into,' he added. The lawyer has said previously that he would not be able to take on the Lawrence case if it landed on his desk today because of cuts to legal aid. Nevertheless, Khan would not discourage aspiring lawyers from pursuing a career in legal aid, quoting Confucius: 'Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.' Khan closed the evening by quoting Lord Neuberger, the President of the Supreme Court, who recently said that the measure of a good society is the ability of a citizen to go to court and enforce their rights and, because of this, 'a price should not be put on justice'.

cial consideration in the District Court in Massachusetts where the court will have applied the ordinary standard of relevance before determining that all of the materials should be provided.

Lord Justice Coghlin stated that Parliament had not specified in the 2003 Act the grounds upon which the evidence is considered to be relevant for the purpose of a request for mutual assistance other than it is for "use in the proceedings or investigation". He said it was difficult to see how such evidence could be of use if it was irrelevant but that was very far from reading into the 2003 Act any particular standard of relevance. The judge said that the duty of the court in the process of statutory interpretation is to ensure that the interpretation adopted is compatible with the ECHR rights: "We have carefully considered all of the circumstances of this application. Our conclusion is that even on the assumption that the issue of the [letter of request] may have infringed [Mr Rea's] right to privacy we are entirely satisfied that any such interference was in accordance with law and necessary in the interests of the prevention of crime in accordance with Article 8(2) ECHR and, accordingly, the application will be dismissed." The Court of Appeal noted that the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales has produced guidelines on the proper approach to be adopted with international letters of request issued under the 2003 Act and suggested that the creation and publication of similar guidelines for NI might assist designated authorities, practitioners and individuals alike.

[A the end of the hearing, Mr Rea indicated that he intended to apply to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal against this decision. The Court of Appeal ordered that the tapes were not to be released pending the determination of this application.]

Prisons: Mass Media

Lord Beecham to ask Her Majesty's Government what is the justification for the Ministry of Justice's refusal to permit visits to any prisons by a reporter from The Guardian. To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances and with what conditions access to any prison by a journalist would be permitted. [HL4943]

Lord Faulks: The External Communications team at the Ministry of Justice receives a significant number of requests by local and national media for access to prisons. For operational reasons and resource implications it is not possible to facilitate all requests.

Each request is considered on its own merit, with careful thought over the subject area, resource and security implications, victim impact, and value to the taxpayer. In a similar way to the police or the NHS, there are operational considerations to be made when filming or reporting in prisons. When facilitating media access we must ensure that the needs of victims are met, which may involve concealing identities, carrying out relevant checks and liaising directly with victims about the access request. We must also ensure that media access does not breach any security restrictions, for example filming keys or locks. Consideration is also given to protecting the identities of prisoners and staff. We are committed to providing open and transparent access to prison and regularly provide access to journalists for news items, features and documentary programmes. We aim to provide a range of access to different journalists covering both print and broadcast media, local, national and online media.

Suicide Prevention Expert Pulls Out of Prisons Talk Over 'Censorship' *Alan Travis*

The government's leading expert on suicide prevention has pulled out of a Ministry of Justice presentation on the rising number of suicides in prisons after being told, he says,

February 2015, Mr Rea sought an application for leave to apply for a judicial review of a decision of the DPP to issue an International Letter of Request to the Central Authority of the USA seeking mutual assistance in respect of tapes recordings made by him which are being held by Boston College. Mr Justice Treacy dismissed the application and Mr Rea made a fresh application to the Court of Appeal. This was listed as a matter of urgency as, subsequent to the first hearing, PSNI officers had travelled to Boston for the purpose of taking possession of the tapes. The parties agreed that sole issue to be considered by the Court of Appeal was whether, under the legislation, there was a requirement to demonstrate the relevance of the requested material.

The court heard that in 2005 Mr Rea was interviewed for the purposes of the Belfast Project and his testimony was recorded. He said it was his clear understanding that the recording was done under the strictest conditions of confidentiality and access was to be restricted until after his death unless he provided prior written authority for their use. The court was told that the PSNI are investigating a number of serious offences believed to have been committed by Mr Rea including murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, robbery and membership of the Red Hand Commando. In furtherance of that investigation, the DPP, as the designated prosecuting authority under Crime (International Co-Operation) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") issued a request to the USA authorities for assistance in accessing the tapes.

Counsel acting for Mr Rea submitted that his donation of the tapes to the Boston College archive clearly engaged his Article 8 ECHR rights to privacy and in such circumstances in order to obtain access to them the DPP would have to show that any interference was in accordance with the law and necessary in a democratic society. He submitted that this involved a requirement for the DPP to show that the material was relevant and of "substantial value" to the investigation being conducted. Counsel for the DPP argued that the standard to be established was simply that the evidence should be "for use" in the proceedings or investigation. He pointed out that the legal test applied by the USA in such cases was that of "probable cause" noting that if the USA court had not been satisfied that the request demonstrated probable cause then the subpoena would not have been issued. Counsel emphasised that the proceedings were only at the investigative stage and that the DPP had a duty in accordance with Article 2 ECHR to properly and effectively investigate offences, such as murder, committed during the course of terrorist activities in the interests of victims and the general public.

Lord Justice Coghlin, delivering the judgment of the Court of Appeal, said it was important to bear in mind that the matters are still at the investigation stage and that, as a consequence the PSNI cannot identify specific aspects of the recordings which may or may not be relevant to the offences being investigated other than it purports to be an account of terrorist activities carried out by the Red Hand Commando of which the PSNI hold information indicating that Mr Rea was a member.

The Court of Appeal considered the following matters to be of relevance in this application:

- The statutory conditions specified in the 2003 Act are satisfied insofar as the DPP is a designated authority, there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that offences have been committed and proceedings in respect of those offences are being investigated;
- The letter of request to the USA authorities confirms that the PSNI has evidence and information indicating that Mr Rea has a long involvement in organising and participating in terrorist activities in NI;
- The representative of the PPS who prepared the letter of request confirmed that he addressed his mind to the issue of relevance when making the request for the tape recordings and that, in light of the material he was aware of, it was likely that the tapes would assist in the investigation; and
- The material being sought has already been the subject of judi-

Felony Murder: Why a Teenager Who Didn't Kill Anyone Faces 55 Years In Jail

Blake Layman made one very bad decision. He was 16, an unexceptional teenager growing up in a small Indiana town. He'd never been in trouble with the law, had a clean criminal record, had never owned or even held a gun. That decision sparked a chain of events that would culminate with his arrest and trial for "felony murder". The boy was unarmed, had pulled no trigger, killed no one. He was himself shot and injured in the incident while his friend standing beside him was also shot and killed. Yet Layman would go on to be found guilty by a jury of his peers and sentenced to 55 years in a maximum-security prison for a shooting that he did not carry out. How Blake Layman got to be in the Kafkaesque position in which he now finds himself – facing the prospect of spending most of the rest of his life in a prison cell for a murder that he did not commit – is the subject on Thursday of a special hearing of the Indiana supreme court, the state's highest judicial panel. How the judges respond to the case of what has become known as the "Elkhart Four" could have implications for the application of so-called "felony murder" laws in Indiana and states across the union.

It was about 2pm on 3 October 2012, and Layman was hanging out after school in his home town of Elkhart with a couple of buddies, Jose Quiroz, also 16, and Levi Sparks, 17. They smoked a little weed, got a little high, and had a moan with each other about how broke they were. Layman looks back on that afternoon and wonders why did he do it? Why did he throw it all away? He was doing well at school, had an evening job at Wendy's, had a girlfriend he liked, was preparing to take his driving test. "It felt to me like life was really coming together at that point," he said. Within minutes, all that promise vaporised in an act of teenaged madness. Someone noticed that the grey pickup truck belonging to Rodney Scott, the guy who lived across the street, wasn't in its usual parking spot. The homeowner must be at work or away somewhere. The house, by extension, must be empty.

On the spur of the moment, Layman and his teenaged buddies came up with a plan to break into the house, grab a few things to sell and quit before Scott returned. It would be easy, a harm-free ruse to get hold of some spending money. It all happened so fast. They called a couple of older friends from down the road, Danzele Johnson, 21, and Anthony Sharp, 18, to join them. They knocked as loudly as he could on Scott's door and when there was no reply – confirmation in their minds that the house was vacant – they broke open the side door. Five minutes out from having had the original idea, four of them were in the house with Sparks keeping lookout outside. They ran through the kitchen, Layman pocketing a wallet on the kitchen table without stopping to think why it would be left there if the house was empty. They had a look around the spare bedroom and then indicated to each other it was time to leave.

That's when the shooting started. Layman heard the boom of a gun and scrambled to hide in the bedroom closet. Danzele Johnson fell into the closet beside him. When Layman looked down he saw Johnson's shirt stained red with blood. Layman crouched down in terror, and noticed that he too had been shot and that blood was streaming down his right leg. Rodney Scott was not, as the boys had assumed, out of the house. He had been asleep upstairs and when he heard the commotion of the break-in grabbed his handgun. Not knowing that the intruders were unarmed, he let off a couple of rounds that put a bullet through Layman's leg and hit Johnson in the chest, killing him. Layman replays those fateful minutes for the Guardian as he sits in a visitor's room in Wabash Valley correctional facility, a maximum-security prison in the south-west of Indiana where he is serving his sentence. He is dressed in standard-issue khaki and grey, his hair cropped short in classic prison style. He recalls that a couple of hours after his arrest, he was told by officials at the county jail in Elkhart that he was being charged with "felony murder". "I was shell-shocked," he told the Guardian. "Felony murder? That's the first I'd heard of it. How could it be murder when I didn't kill anyone?" The charge was not a mistake. At the end of a four-day trial in September

2013 in which they were all judged as adults, Layman, Sharp and Sparks were found guilty of felony murder. (Quiroz pleaded guilty under a plea deal and was given 45 years.) Layman was dispatched to the prison, still aged 17, to begin his 55 years in a lock-up cell.

The legal anomaly at the heart of what has become known in criminal justice circles as the case of the “Elkhart 4” will be the subject on Thursday of a special hearing by the Indiana supreme court, the state’s highest legal panel. The judges have asked lawyers for Layman and for the prosecution to address that specific question: is it consistent with Indiana law that he and his friends who were all unarmed, who fired not a single shot, and who in fact were themselves fired upon, one fatally, by a third party – the homeowner Rodney Scott – could be put away for decades for murder? The conundrum is not an arcane one. Some 46 states in the union have some form of felony murder rule on their statute books. Of those, 11 states unambiguously allow for individuals who commit a felony that ends in a death to be charged with murder even when they were the victims, rather than the agents, of the killing. In Indiana the wording of the felony murder law is more nuanced than those of the other 11 states. It says that a “person who kills another human being while committing or attempting to commit ... burglary ... commits murder, a felony.”

Cara and Joel Wieneke, the legal duo who represent Layman, said that at the heart of the argument they will be presenting to the supreme court is the issue of agency. “The plain language of the statute requires the defendant or one of his accomplices to do the killing. In Blake’s case neither he nor any of his co-perpetrators killed anybody – this was a justified killing by the person who was protecting his home,” Joel Wieneke told the Guardian. Layman’s mother, Angie Johnson, expressed a similar thought in lay terms. She told the Guardian that “stealing and killing are two different things. In this case they took stealing and they turned it into killing – my son doesn’t deserve that.”

Blake Layman has had plenty of time to contemplate his action, and its consequences, since that Wednesday afternoon in 2012. “I’ve thought about it a lot. I made this bad decision and it derailed my entire life. I just wish I could go back and tell my 16-year-old self to see sense.” He’s done a lot of growing up behind bars, shedding his child’s skin and the reckless decision-making that came with it. “I know I did wrong. I know I committed a crime. From the very beginning I’ve never disputed that. If they had brought me a burglary plea bargain I would have signed it, because I was guilty. I made a bad choice, and I gladly take responsibility for it,” he said. But the one thing that he does not accept is that he is a murderer. “I’m not a killer,” he said. Layman’s wounds have healed, leaving two very neat tattoos on the side and back of his leg where the bullet entered and exited. But he continues to feel deep remorse for what happened.

Police reports show that when the arresting officers turned up at Scott’s house, they found Layman lying face down on the carpet of the bedroom saying “I’m sorry, I’m sorry,” over and over again. “I realised how bad everything had gone,” he told the Guardian. “I knew Danzele was dead. I was apologising to him, and to the homeowner – both of them really.” He also had the chance to apologise to Danzele Johnson’s mother, who visited him in county jail when he was awaiting trial. “I told her if I get the chance, whenever I get out, I promised her I’d do right. Danzele was 21 years old and he didn’t get the chance to live his life. So I said I was going to do right when I get out, not just for me but also for him.”

Today Layman is housed in a wing of Wabash prison where inmates are put as a reward for best behaviour. He’s taking cognitive thinking classes, has learnt how to quilt, and spends a lot of time in the library reading up on the law. “I feel like if I have to do my time, why not better myself as much as I can while I’m here,” he said. He’s hoping he will be allowed to walk free from prison before it’s too late. “I just want a chance to live,” he said. “I’ll go to work every day, and come home to my wife

leaderships of the principal loyalist paramilitary groups, the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), remain committed to their ceasefires.

The Government’s Strategic Approach: The Government are clear that terrorism will not succeed in Northern Ireland; democracy and consent will always prevail. Tackling terrorism remains a tier one priority—the highest priority for Government. We will do all that we can to support the PSNI to counter the threat as part of broader efforts by this Government to tackle terrorism, wherever it originates or whatever form it takes. This Government have already provided additional security funding to PSNI over a five-year period amounting to £231 million. This is despite the overall spending reductions needed to deal with the deficit and the competing resource needs resulting from international terrorism. In addition, the inclusion in the financial package of Stormont House agreement of an undertaking by the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that police funding is protected from significant reductions will help to ensure that the PSNI remains able to tackle the threat effectively.

Our strategic approach has also involved working closely with our colleagues in the devolved authorities and our partners in the Republic of Ireland on a range of issues. This co-operation greatly strengthens efforts to combat terrorism in Northern Ireland. We continue to build a united, complementary approach to security and politics that leaves no space for violent dissident republicans. We recognise the continuing link between political and security stability. Political progress has been made this year, for example with the Stormont House agreement, but challenges undoubtedly lie ahead. Other strategic and political challenges, distinct from the threat from dissident republican groupings, require ongoing and concerted action to ensure Northern Ireland continues to thrive. For instance public disorder is disruptive and distressing for the communities affected, damages Northern Ireland’s reputation abroad, and can expose police officers to risk of attack from dissident republicans. Northern Ireland enjoyed the most peaceful parading season for a number of years in 2014. Those involved in parading or protests need to do all they can to ensure this continues.

Conclusion: Suppressing the threat from violent dissident republicans is a difficult and, in many cases, dangerous task. Despite a challenging working environment, there have been notable successes in recent months. This is the result of the considerable effort, expertise, co-operation and resolve. But continued vigilance is needed. It is clear that these violent groupings retain lethal intent and will seek whatever opportunity they can to target the police officers and others who help to keep families, businesses and communities across Northern Ireland safe. The support of the public and their assistance and patience in response to security alerts is both invaluable and admirable. With every attack that is mounted and the many more that are foiled, the PSNI and its security partners become more knowledgeable, resilient and able to tackle the threat and bring perpetrators to justice. Our commitment to Northern Ireland and to securing a peaceful, stable and prosperous future will not waver. We remain focused on supporting the work that continues on a daily basis to combat terrorism and ensure that people can continue to go about their daily lives safe from attack.

Court of Appeal Dismisses Application by Winston Rea

The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal dismissed an application by Winston Rea to quash the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under Section 7(5) of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 requesting mutual legal assistance from the United States Central Authority in respect of material held by Boston College, Massachusetts and pertaining to Mr Rea. On 9

Londonderry and then attempted to lure in PSNI officers by making bogus crime reports. Although the devices were intended to target responding PSNI officers, they could easily have been triggered by passers-by or even by children playing. Thankfully, both devices were made safe by Army ammunition technical officers before anyone was injured.

Two further attempts to murder PSNI officers undertaking their duties were made in Londonderry and Belfast in November. In Londonderry, terrorists detonated an improvised explosive device in a residential area of the city as a police patrol vehicle passed by, while in north Belfast an explosive device was fired at a stationary PSNI vehicle. Fortunately, the occupants of both vehicles escaped uninjured but both attacks could easily have resulted in fatalities or serious casualties. In a fifth incident an explosive device was sent to the Chief Constable at police headquarters in Belfast. Dissident republicans continue to engage in brutal punishment shootings as a means to try to exert fear and control within local communities. Hoax devices have been deployed without any regard for the impact they have on the welfare of the community, including elderly residents, children and workers. These shameful incidents can cause significant disruption to local people and to businesses.

Dissident republican prisoners in Maghaberry continue to threaten, and to try to intimidate, staff and contractors as they seek to carry out their work. This Government fully support the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Prison Service as they respond to this wholly unacceptable activity and I pay tribute to all prison officers for the difficult job that they carry out. Although risks endure, it is important to highlight the excellent progress that has been made in disrupting terrorist activity and bringing dissident republicans to justice. In October 2014 a weapons hide was uncovered on a farm in County Fermanagh. It was found to contain five complete explosive devices, parts for further devices, a firearm and mortar components. In November, a potential shooting attack was averted when the PSNI arrested a man in possession of a sub-machine gun in Belfast. Also in November, a total of fifteen men were arrested following a long-running investigation into dissident republican activity in Newry, County Down. Of those arrested, ten were charged under the Terrorism Act 2000 and remanded in custody.

In the Republic of Ireland, An Garda Síochána (AGS) has also had success in combating the threat. A weapons cache discovered in Dublin was found to contain an assault rifle, automatic pistols, ammunition and a significant quantity of bomb-making equipment that could have been intended for use in attacks in Northern Ireland. Two men were arrested in December in possession of improvised incendiary devices probably destined for use in Northern Ireland. The close working relationship between PSNI and AGS, and their joint efforts both north and south of the border, has led to considerable success in combating the threat from dissident republican terrorists over the last six months. I am confident that both police services will do all that they can to build on this through 2015 as they make progress with a number of ongoing investigations. This work is painstaking and lengthy but there is a steadfast commitment to bringing the terrorists to justice on both sides of the border.

In my last statement I commented on in-fighting within loyalist paramilitary organisations. This has persisted in recent months and understandably remains a cause for concern for the wider community. There is no place in Northern Ireland for individuals or organisations that seek to exert fear, control or intimidation. The PSNI have assured me that they are doing all that they can to apprehend those responsible for violent and criminal acts. As in previous reporting periods, there are individuals associated with loyalist paramilitary groups that are involved in serious criminality. However, overall, we continue to assess that the collective

and kids. When I think of my future that's what I see. I don't ask for much." Ed Pilkington, *Guardian*
Six Men Jailed For HMP Oakwood Riot

The disorder erupted at privately-run HMP Oakwood, near Wolverhampton, last January and lasted for about 10 hours. A limited number of prisoners damaged property; smashing windows, CCTV cameras, cell furnishings, pool tables and washing machines. The cost of the damage and dealing with the disorder was estimated to be in excess of £170,000, the police spokesman added. One prison officer told BBC News many inmates were involved and they took over an entire wing of the jail. The six men all admitted violent disorder at Stafford Crown Court and were given sentences between 24 and 28 months. The prison officer, who helped tackle the violence, told the BBC: "I would sum it up as a full-scale prison riot and we were very lucky that it only took place on one unit and didn't spread." The trouble flared at the G4S-run prison about 17:00 GMT on Sunday 5 January when prisoners were in the process of being locked in their cells, Staffordshire Police said. The six men sentenced for the disorder were: Daniel Rust, 23 sentenced to 28 months, plus eight months for an unrelated assault at HMP Birmingham, Ryan Harris - sentenced to 28 months, Matthew Williams - sentenced to 24 months, Adam Bates - sentenced to 24 months, Mark Russell - sentenced to 28 months, Daniel Donovan - sentenced to 28 months.

Youth Prison Deaths Prompt Calls For Reform

Mark Townsend, Guardian

Figures have revealed that 65 children and young adults have died in detention during the last four years, an average of one a month. The figures, in a report by campaign group Inquest, prompted renewed calls for a fundamental rethink about the suitability of prison for young people, arguing that "a litany of systemic neglect, institutional complacency and short-sighted policies" contributed to the deaths. The report, which also identifies "an institutional resignation or complacency towards youth deaths in prison", comes ahead of the results of an inquiry by Lord Harris into how to reduce the numbers of deaths in jail among 18- to 24-year-olds. A majority of the deaths – 54 – were classified as "self-inflicted" and of these 29 occurred in single cells, raising concerns about the quality of risk assessments on inmate placed by themselves.

Of the 54 suicides, all but one were hangings and involved the use of cell windows, light fittings, shoelaces and bunk beds. Of the remaining deaths, three were classified as "natural causes", two were categorised as "unknown" at the time of writing and four were homicides, which also raise questions about prison health and safety, particularly in light of the murder of 19-year-old Zahid Mubarek by his cellmate Robert Stewart, a known violent racist with mental health problems, in Feltham young offenders' institution in March 2000.

Deborah Coles, co-director of Inquest, said: "There are so many deaths in prison because prison is, by its very nature, dehumanising and violent. The limits to which they can be changed or reformed means that prison ... will continue to be a place where people lose their lives. Too often a punitive and generic approach has been deployed, which is counter-productive to the neurological and psychological developmental stage of 18- to 24-year-olds." The report added: "Time and again systems set up to safeguard children and young adults fail miserably" arguing that "prison is an ineffective and expensive intervention that does not work".

Prison staff make decisions about prisoners' risk using a tool called Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) yet the report found that 36 of the 54 self-inflicted deaths, more than two-thirds of the total, were not on an ACCT at the time of their death, provoking further concerns about the identification young prisoners at risk.

Further analysis by Inquest on 47 of the young adults who died in prison identified a series of

questions about levels of care, mental health, alcohol or drug misuse and learning difficulties. It found that 33 had mental health issues including diagnoses of personality disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder while 13 of those who died had experienced some kind of family breakdown. Almost a quarter had special needs or learning difficulties and a third had problems with alcohol and drug misuse.

Of the 65 deaths, 62 were aged from 18-24 years and three were children under 18 years, with the youngest being 15-year-old Alex Kelly who was found hanging in his cell in January 2012. Further analysis of the prison deaths show that 28 (43%) occurred in an adult prison, 14 deaths in a young offender institution and that only 6% were young women. "Successive governments have hardened their political rhetoric to appear tough on crime, overlooking appropriate placement in community or therapeutic environments where behavioural change can be supported," added Coles.

Cameron Orders Inquiry Into Ill Treatment of Michael Adebolajo *Vikram Dodd,*

The prime minister has ordered a new inquiry into claims the security services may have been complicit in the ill treatment of Michael Adebolajo, who went on to butcher a British soldier in a London street, it has emerged. The inquiry will be conducted by the intelligence services commissioner, Sir Mark Waller, an independent watchdog over the security services. It follows criticism by the official inquiry into the circumstances leading up to Lee Rigby's murder by parliament's intelligence and security committee (ISC) in November 2014.

The inquiry will centre on how MI6 dealt with claims from Adebolajo that he was badly treated during his detention in Kenya in 2010 by its counter-terrorism police, who have ties to Britain. The committee's report found that MI6 dismissed Adebolajo's claims as fabricated without asking the Kenyans about them. It said: "The committee has been concerned about the way SIS dealt with Adebolajo's allegations of mistreatment. SIS [MI6] does not seem to have taken them seriously, even in the wake of previous allegations." Further details of the new inquiry into MI6 and claims of complicity came in the government's response into the ISC conclusions, which also found errors by MI5 in the runup to the murder of Rigby in May 2013, near to the Woolwich military barracks in south London where he was based.

The government response to the ISC findings released on Thursday said the prime minister had "asked Sir Mark to examine the concerns raised by the committee about the government's responsibilities in relation to partner counter-terrorism units overseas. "Sir Mark has started his examination and will report his findings in due course. SIS is cooperating fully with Sir Mark and will ensure any recommendations arising from his examination are fully addressed." The ISC report criticised evidence from the former MI6 chief Sir John Sawers, saying it was incorrect and that a document showing this was initially not given to the committee by the intelligence service.

Adebolajo alleged that he was beaten and, on more than one occasion, threatened with electrocution and rape during his detention in Kenya in 2010. The ISC said he had gone there to join extremists in neighbouring Somalia. Britain has a close relationship with Kenyan anti-terrorism forces and has paid for some of their facilities. The ISC said Adebolajo was interviewed first by Kenyan police and then by a counter-terrorism unit, the ATPU, whose name the committee redacted, using the term Arctic instead. "This unit has a close working relationship with HM government (HMG)," the report says. Adebolajo made the claims of ill treatment during a British police interview, claims which were passed into the security services.

The ISC report says MI6 did not try to find out which Kenyan unit he claimed had tortured him. "This is surprising: if Adebolajo's allegations of mistreatment did refer to his interview

by Arctic then HMG could be said to have had some involvement – whether or not UK personnel were present in the room," it says. The ISC added in a paragraph partially redacted for national security reasons: "Given that *** has a close relationship with Arctic, ***, this certainly could be enough to raise questions of complicity." The report says Sawers told the committee that MI6 had no responsibility for enquiring into Adebolajo's claims. It quotes Sawers as saying: "[The committee is] suggesting that somehow we should have treated this as an SIS responsibility, when it is simply not the case. It is not an SIS responsibility."

But an email from an MI6 officer contradicted this, saying: "We obviously need to investigate these allegations, which underline the need for continuing assurances from Kenyans on the issue of detainee treatment. We would be grateful if you could provide a summary of [HMG] and [Arctic] involvement in the investigation into Adebolajo ..." The ISC said this undermined the evidence of Sawers, who announced his departure from MI6 in October, by which time copies of the committee's findings were circulating in security and government circles. "This email clearly indicates that SIS officers believed that they had a responsibility to investigate the allegations made by Adebolajo, particularly in light of ***. We support this view. However, SIS has no record of any response to this email and it is not consistent with the evidence provided to the committee by the chief of SIS ..." the report says. Furthermore, the committee said, MI6 did not initially hand over the email. "We note our concern that this email was not provided as part of the primary material initially offered in support of this Inquiry as it should have been. It was clearly relevant to the issues under consideration," it said. There is no date set for when the new inquiry will report.

Northern Ireland Security Situation *House of Commons / 26 Feb 2015 : Column 30WS*

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mrs Theresa Villiers): This is the seventh statement on the security situation in Northern Ireland and the final regular statement of this Parliament. It covers the threat from domestic terrorism in Northern Ireland, rather than from international terrorism, which members will be aware is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, who updates the House separately. A number of small, disparate but dangerous groupings of dissident republican terrorists continue with their attempts to undermine Northern Ireland's democratic institutions through the use of violence. However, because of the tireless efforts of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), working in conjunction with MI5, An Garda Siochana (AGS) and Army ammunition technical officers, the overwhelming majority of Northern Ireland's population are able to go about their daily lives untroubled by terrorism. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PSNI and all its security partners for their outstanding work.

Continued vigilance is, however, essential. The threat level in Northern Ireland and Great Britain from Northern Ireland related terrorism remains unchanged since my last statement to Parliament in October 2014. The threat to Northern Ireland is SEVERE (an attack is highly likely) while the threat to Great Britain is MODERATE (an attack is possible but not likely). All threat levels are kept under constant review. There were twenty two national security attacks in 2014 and there has been one so far in 2015. PSNI and prison officers as well as members of the armed forces continue to be the principal targets for dissident republican terrorists and the threat to life persists. A number of these violent groupings continue to attack, or aspire to carry out attacks, including the so-called "new" IRA, Oglaiha na hEireann (ONH) and factions of the continuity IRA (CIRA).

Since October 2014 when I last reported on the security situation in Northern Ireland, PSNI officers have been subject to violent attack on five separate occasions. In two particularly serious incidents violent dissidents set up booby trapped explosive devices in Strabane and