

## ***Judge slams Met Police after Liam Allan cleared in rape trial***

Officers sat on evidence that proved innocence

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/judge-slams-met-police-after-liam-allan-cleared-in-rape-trial-pcqsp5x9s>

**David Brown, Chief News Correspondent**

December 15 2017, 12:01am, The Times



Liam Allan with his mother, Lorraine Allan, and supporters at Croydon crown court. "I knew the truth," she said yesterday after her son was cleared of all charges

BEN GURR FOR THE TIMES

A judge has called for an inquiry after the trial of a student accused of rape collapsed because police had failed to reveal evidence proving his innocence.

Liam Allan, 22, spent almost two years on bail and three days in the dock at Croydon crown court before his trial was halted yesterday.

The judge demanded a review of disclosure of evidence by the Metropolitan Police, Britain's biggest force, and called for an inquiry at the "very highest level" of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). He warned of the risks of "serious miscarriages of justice" after hearing that, to save costs, material was not always handed to defence lawyers.

Mr Allan, a criminology undergraduate at Greenwich University, had been warned that he would be jailed for at least ten years if found guilty after being charged with six rapes and six sexual assaults against a woman who told police that she does not enjoy sex. Mr Allan said the sex was consensual and that the woman was acting maliciously because he would not see her again after he started university.

His lawyers had repeatedly been refused access to records from the woman's telephone because police insisted that there was nothing of interest for the prosecution or defence, the court was told.

When a new prosecution barrister took over the case the day before the start of the trial, he ordered police to hand over any telephone records. It was revealed that they had a computer disk containing copies of 40,000 messages.

They showed that she continued to pester Mr Allan for "casual sex", told friends how much she enjoyed it with him and discussed her fantasies of being raped and having violent sex.

Jerry Hayes, the prosecuting barrister, told the court yesterday that he would offer no evidence. "I would like to apologise to Liam Allan. There was a terrible failure in disclosure which was inexcusable," he said.

Mr Hayes, a former Tory MP and criminal barrister for 40 years, added: "There could have been a very serious miscarriage of justice, which could have led to a very significant period of imprisonment and life on the sex offenders register. It appears the [police] officer in the case has not reviewed the disk, which is quite appalling."

Speaking outside court, Mr Allan told *The Times*: "I can't explain the mental torture of the past two years. I feel betrayed by the system which I had believed would do the right thing — the system I want to work in." His mother, Lorraine Allan, 46, a bank worker, hugged her son as he was surrounded by friends who had been lined up to give character evidence if the trial continued.

"In the current climate, in these sorts of cases, you are guilty until you can prove you are innocent," she said. "The assumption is there is no smoke without fire."

Radhia Karaa, a district crown prosecutor, wrote to the court admitting that the handling of the telephone downloads "has fallen below the standard that we expect". Judge Peter Gower found Mr Allan not guilty on all charges. "There is something that has gone wrong and it is a matter that the CPS, in my judgment, should be considering at the very highest level," he said. "Otherwise there is a risk not only of this happening again but that the trial process will not detect what has gone wrong and there will be a very serious miscarriage of justice. He [Mr Allan] leaves the courtroom an innocent man without a stain on his character."

The judge said that police must tell prosecutors about all material collected during their investigations. "It seems to me to be a recipe for disaster if material is not viewed by a lawyer," he said. "Something has gone very, very wrong in the way this case was investigated and brought to court."

Julia Smart, for the defence, said she received the details of the woman's text messages on the evening before she was due to cross-examine her, so stayed up reading them. When she told the court what she had found, the trial was halted. She said she believed that evidence from phones was being withheld from defence lawyers to save money.

Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, has pushed to increase the prosecution and conviction of sexual offences. Rapes recorded by police have risen from 12,295 in 2002-03 to 45,100 last year but the number of rapes referred to the CPS for a decision on charging has stayed broadly static. Of the 35,000 adult and child rapes recorded by police in 2015-16, just over 6,800 were referred to police, a fall of about 690 on the previous year, according to Rape Monitoring Group figures.

A Met spokeswoman said: "We are aware of this case being dismissed and are carrying out an urgent assessment to establish the circumstances."

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John Dec 22, 2017

And how many men are on police bail enduring Hell earth because of a 'casual complaint' A case, a close relative had his niece over, she asked if she could stay the night with the family, later she got bored and asked for a lift home, not possible as they had all enjoyed a few bottles of wine. Bored niece later phoned her mother demanding a lift home, why asked the mother, 'oh I'm upset my Uncle has touched me, mother comes screaming over, picks daughter up, informs police, subsequent early morning arrest follows.

Although uncle, his wife, son and daughter, all attest the accusation was impossible because of proximity to the accuser, police arrest alleged abuser, confiscate all electronic devices (and have a good snoop around)

Alleged abuser is suspended without pay from his job.

14 months pass, police say 'other, more serious accusations' are taking up their time (operation Sanctuary seems to have been the reason)

Finally the 'victim' makes another accusation involving her stepfather, however this time it can be conclusively be proven she is lying.

When challenged by police she casually admits to making it up and when pressed further, admits she was lying about the initial allegation.

Price she paid? Absolutely none, price paid by her uncle? Loss of employment, forced to move due to the whispering campaign and probably irreversible mental health problems.

Nice one, boys in blue! no complaint regarding the CPS, there was no file ever put forward for them to consider.

And not even a hint of an apology from the police.

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2RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 23, 2017

@John I hope The Times is archiving all these cases, for the time when public opinion really will turn against the cynical carelessness with innocent lives that Saunders' and her ilk have fostered.

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2RecommendReply

keith gibson Dec 16, 2017

Why would the Met pursue an innocent man? Because they can (and do)

This organization is past its sell buy date. Like the RUC, it needs dismantling and reconstituted as the London Police Force. Saunders needs to go with her £zillions pay off asap.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Peter Sutton Dec 16, 2017

Some questions spring immediately to my mind:

- 1) will the so called victim now be prosecuted? She most certainly should be.
- 2) Will the police officer investigating be prosecuted or at very least be put before a disciplinary tribunal? He or she most certainly should be.
- 3) How many more colossal cock ups is Alison Saunders going to be allowed to oversee before she is replaced.

This case once again undermines any confidence in the Metropolitan Police and in the UK justice system

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14RecommendReply

Roy Cullen Dec 16, 2017

The real problem here rests with the System of Justice used within the UK: the Adversarial System, which is not set up to seek the TRUTH of any charges laid before a Court of Law within the UK. It is a fight between the Prosecution and the Defense to win over and influence the Magistrate or the Trial Jury dealing with the case regardless of what is true or false in the matter. The system used within the UK Courts needs to be changed to that used in France, Germany et al where the Police and the Judge who is examining the case both examine the facts to seek out the Truth of the matter together: the Inquisitorial System.

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6RecommendReply

Frankenfurter Dec 16, 2017

@Roy Cullen

I would rather have our system anyday.

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1RecommendReply

Steven Oldfield Dec 22, 2017

@Frankenfurter @Roy Cullen How would you know unless you had been a victim of it?

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1RecommendReply

e blois Dec 16, 2017

@Roy Cullen I fully agree. I'm tired of the old Brexit lie about the mainland system being based on the theory of guilt until proof of innocence. The UK is the only state in the EU which practices that, and this case is a perfect example.

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Mary Rushe Dec 17, 2017

You might want to check your facts before making such sweeping statements. Ireland too insists that defendants are innocent until proven guilty. Also, unlike in the UK, all parties in rape and sexual assault cases are guaranteed anonymity until a trial has been completed.

Flag

3RecommendReply

e blois Dec 17, 2017

@Mary Rushe I strongly suggest you read my posts more carefully. Having lived in Ireland I am well aware that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. I never said otherwise. What I wrote was:

[I'm tired of the old Brexit lie about the mainland system being based on the theory of guilt until proof of innocence. The UK is the only state in the EU which practices that, and this case is a perfect example.]

In simpler English that means that the UK is the only state in the EU which presumes guilt until proof of innocence. Do you now understand?

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Steven Oldfield Dec 22, 2017

@e blois @Roy Cullen It is not a perfect example of anything other than an unusually honest CPS Barrister preventing a mis-carriage of justice. There are many people in Jail due to material not being disclosed and the 'innocent until proven guilty' does not factor in any aspect of our injustice system.

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Did You Ring Sir Dec 16, 2017

@Roy Cullen Whenever that has been suggested here, the standard answer is that "the UK justice system is the best in the world" and the adversarial system 'brings out the best' !! Ha Ha. ! Tell that to all those 'victims' of injustice we've been seeing, and those who couldn't afford a 'top barrister'. The resistance to change might, once, have been due to the preponderance of lawyers and barristers in Parliament. How about members of the profession starting a debate here. Why shouldn't we change ?

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HenryV Dec 16, 2017

Surely having sex with someone 6 times then calling it rape is a bit suspect to start with . The alarm bells should have rung then I would have thought.

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12RecommendReply

Kentish Kate Dec 16, 2017

Something I do not understand is why his defence did not access the texts on his phone. I have not seen an explanation of this. surely they would be have been able to access them from his service provider.

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2RecommendReply

Aravind Venkatram Dec 16, 2017

Wonder where the "Guardian" and "Independent " is on cases such as these along with a tribe of Feminazis like Jessica Valenti and the like.

Flag

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Did You Ring Sir Dec 16, 2017

@Aravind Venkatram where they always are.

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Stephen62 Dec 16, 2017

The Times haven't used the quote, but it appears elsewhere.... How do Scotland Yard justify still calling the woman in the case "the victim"? Have they no shame?

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Richard Stout Dec 16, 2017

When will the woman who made these false allegations be named and charged?

Are there no penalties in the UK for making false allegations to the police? No concept of malicious prosecution?

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Peter Sutton Dec 16, 2017

@Richard Stout I agree, this woman must be named, shamed and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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Families Need Fathers Dec 16, 2017

*"the woman was acting maliciously because he would not see her again"*

This is not so rare. Just a week or so ago heard a very similar story in the context of family law proceedings where the accuser told her ex partner that unless he returned to live with her he would never see their daughter again.

It does not help genuine victims if no action is taken for these types of hate crimes.

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Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

To sum up ! Saunders might be deterred the next time from using this particular ploy. Her next one (if she hasn't tried already) will be to rig juries.

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Steven Oldfield Dec 22, 2017

@Did You Ring Sir Too late for that! It has been a practice for years by inserting people of a certain professional persuasion into Juries and then feeding them unlawful evidence to lead the Jury into discovering it and then convicting a defendant on this basis.

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1RecommendReply

Grumpy Old Man Dec 22, 2017

I'd be interested in your evidence for that. My experience of serving on juries is that it would be impossible, especially the idea of feeding evidence to one member of a jury in isolation, and then having that one person feed them that evidence to sway the verdict.

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C J Delmege Dec 15, 2017

This woman acted out of malice and spite. She has betrayed all the real victims of rape. I look forward to her being prosecuted, named, and shamed.

Fat chance....

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7RecommendReply

Ray Whitehouse Dec 15, 2017

Come on just suspend all the people involved on full pay, that's effectively what you did to this poor person. Take two years to do the investigation. Ruin their lives and their family lives and then in two years time make a decision on what to do next.

When is the public apology going to happen? When is someone going to say sorry?

I don't particularly want to know the accusers name, I'd like to know she's getting the support she needs to make sure she doesn't do this again.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Aravind Venkatram Dec 16, 2017

@Ray Whitehouse Not really, I prefer that the real victim here gets to drag her name in the mud and the associated accomplices that is the cops are fired with no pension. In countries where rape can be a capital crime this man would have been hanged and his family sullied for ever.

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6RecommendReply

John OConnor Dec 16, 2017

@Ray Whitehouse **When is the public apology going to happen? When is someone going to say sorry?**

Never?

They will never say sorry. They will produce one of those statements about themselves: " We will learn lessons so that this never happens again."

And next month, next year they will do the same again. F(ck them.Forgive me for using language unbecoming of the Times but we have to get angry for justice for this man.

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3RecommendReply

Jack Jones Dec 16, 2017

Why 'on full pay' for goodness' sake?

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Peter Sutton Dec 16, 2017

@Ray Whitehouse I cannot agree with you about not naming this woman but rather supporting her. She is a malicious criminal who was prepared to wreck the life of an innocent young man and as such she must be punished if the law is to retain any credibility at all.

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7RecommendReply

platoandco Dec 16, 2017

@Ray Whitehouse

Support?

She needs to learn the virtue of honesty...

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3RecommendReply

Geoff Kerrison Dec 15, 2017

Why is this a surprise?

I know I am not the only one who has been denied access to evidence held by the police and CPS that proved my innocence. This was despite the CPS being ordered to do so three times by magistrates. Could it be, in part because, that the deputy head of the regional CPS told me that his job was to convict me.

And this was only a speeding charge.

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Kentish Kate Dec 16, 2017

@Geoff Kerrison I find that very scary. Hope it worked out well for you in the end

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2RecommendReply

Samuel Lowe Dec 15, 2017

Considering the patent exculpatory nature of the evidence any notion that the prosecution was trying to save money beggars the imagination. Hopefully there is a avenue for bringing the perpetrators of this flagrant abuse of process to justice.

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15RecommendReply

DAVID RENNICK Dec 15, 2017

What a scandal. Thank goodness for Jerry Hayes, the prosecuting barrister, who clearly saw an injustice at work and stopped it in its tracks.

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Michael Doughty Dec 15, 2017

Is the woman being prosecuted?

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27RecommendReply

John OConnor Dec 15, 2017

@Michael Doughty Nobody knows. Probably not, too much would be revealed in a trial. So much for justice for an innocent man; a malicious one gets away free.

I wonder, if the case had gone ahead would she have appeared in court or be identified as "victim Z". I know what I would call her but it can not be repeated here.

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11RecommendReply

Hugh Smith Dec 15, 2017

Michael Doughty. No. Every person in the UK is entitled in law to lay charges against any other person under UK jurisdiction.

Lay opinion only!

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1RecommendReply

Jack Jones Dec 16, 2017

Hugh Smith -that's completely incorrect. In fact NO ONE is entitled to lay false charges in court. It's called perjury.

Flag

6RecommendReply

j h Dec 15, 2017

The ones who are truly guilty in this case (girl, prosecution and police) are allowed to remain anonymous.

Flag

23RecommendReply

Harry Machin Dec 15, 2017

It appears that the police service is run by the same blinkered management theory that is prevalent throughout our public and private sectors. A target driven organisation where success is measured in the number of convictions achieved rather than getting to the truth. The former being an easier bean to count than the latter.

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19RecommendReply

Caroline Mills Dec 16, 2017

Maybe charge them with aiding and abetting, that would add a few beans.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Marcus Aurelius Dec 15, 2017

Absolutely disgraceful.

Those responsible in the Met and CPS should be summarily dismissed for gross negligence.

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18RecommendReply

DAVID JONES Dec 15, 2017

It won't happen. All we will get is the usual guff about "lessons being learned going forward "

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10RecommendReply

Phillip Cozens Dec 15, 2017

I don't suppose that anyone will consider prosecuting the accuser for bringing a malicious charge. Of course not, this is England.

Flag

17RecommendReply

John OConnor Dec 15, 2017

@Phillip Cozens Not just England. It is typical of all organisations whose purpose is self-protection rather than truth and justice. This is particularly true of



the legal system (they will hardly ever admit errors or miscarriages of justice, we were wrong),  
police (find someone for the crime and if needed withhold evidence),  
churches (protect the organisation at all costs while preaching "truth and morals" to the rest of us),  
cities and councils (just look at Grenfel tower)

add more if you want

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5RecommendReply

Phillip Cozens Dec 15, 2017

@John OConnor @Phillip Cozens Sadly, I agree with you. Was it ever thus, or is it more prevalent now?

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1RecommendReply

Woolfman Dec 15, 2017

Another layer of the public's confidence in the Police Force shaved away....I'm not sure there are many / any layers left are there? What a disgrace...and as for the CPS, they are not crowned in glory either.

Flag

8RecommendReply

DAVID JONES Dec 15, 2017

Does anyone else think that the Met is totally out of control, corrupt and incompetent in equal measure.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Ray Whitehouse Dec 15, 2017

@DAVID JONES Yes me.

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4RecommendReply

Hugh Smith Dec 15, 2017

David Jones. Of course not! Bad apples occur, mistakes are made, even Saints falter.

Flag

RecommendReply

Peter Sutton Dec 16, 2017

@Hugh Smith All perfectly fine just as long as "bad apples" are weeded put and consigned to the bin and "faltering saints" are prosecuted as the criminals they are

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1RecommendReply

Steven Oldfield Dec 22, 2017

@Hugh Smith Rubbish! The system is rotten top to bottom and Jerry Haynes is an exception! You obviously have no knowledge of these matters so why speak generally?

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr Richard Dean Dec 15, 2017

This was so shameful on so many levels: the Police , the CPS and the accuser. I do hope that with her fantasies of rape and violent sex she doesn't reflect more than a very small minority of women and men

Flag

7RecommendReply

Tim Chilton Dec 15, 2017

I sadly can echo this. Direct experience of police collusion with the alleged victim, failure to disclose as in this case, and held on bail for just under 6 months (trial by process). I was saved by the crown court judge and simply being resilient. This man will be damaged but now hopefully be supported by the general public, and one day a sea change of police practice.

Flag

24RecommendReply  
nick meurice Dec 15, 2017  
Ditto

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Richard Stout Dec 16, 2017  
@Tim Chilton

#me too! This feminist driven gender bias has to be addressed.

Flag

3RecommendReply  
John OConnor Dec 15, 2017  
The accuser in this case should be publicly identified. That would prevent her and others like her from trying the same malicious accusations again. Why give anonymity to someone who should be charged with a crime?

Flag

20RecommendReply  
C J Delmege Dec 15, 2017  
@John OConnor And may repeat it.

Flag

4RecommendReply  
MJJ Dec 15, 2017  
There seem to be two aspects to this.

.  
The CPS are persuading women who might have had sex, and then wished they hadn't, to pursue the case, and fail to warn them how unlikely a jury is to send a relatively innocuous man to prison just on the say so of a woman who was so drunk she has no memory of what took place.

.  
The other aspect is that they seem to be unable (or unwilling) to recognise liars, as in this case, and encourage the malicious to press ahead even when there is evidence that the man is innocent. Is it any wonder that juries seem to be more and more unwilling to send men to prison?

.  
How is the current situation better than the bad old days when women were discouraged from pursuing unprovable complaints?

Flag

11RecommendReply  
N Morris Dec 15, 2017

A mystery is why he did not show the messages, from her on his own phone, to police. If he knew the messages existed, why didn't he shout for them to be revealed in the two years on bail?

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3RecommendReply  
Gerry Mander Dec 15, 2017  
He had a new phone. The one with his copies of the messages was no longer in his possession.

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4RecommendReply  
Libra Too Dec 15, 2017

@N Morris Wow Sherlock; I never thought about that until now! Even after his arrest, and assuming 'they' took his 'phone away from him, he surely would have told the police, his solicitor and his family too that he had received lots of texts from her and suggest that they be checked, It can't be possible that he didn't. In which case, what's been going on?

The thick plottens!

Flag

3RecommendReply  
N Morris Dec 15, 2017

Awful, shocking story. The sort of thing you read about happening abroad, not here. How can we be shocked at Dubai for example when the UK is no better. No better at all.

Flag

8RecommendReply  
Jeff L Dec 15, 2017

“[Mr Allan] leaves the courtroom an innocent man without a stain on his character”  
Yes but not without publicity that may well be unwelcome. At the very least, the accuser's anonymity clearly no longer applies since her claims were false so I fail to understand why her name isn't mentioned while his is? Shouldn't she be outed at the very least as a means of balancing the scales when the accusations are so obviously and conclusively false and defamatory?

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15RecommendReply  
Libra Too Dec 15, 2017

@Jeff L Bet by tomorrow morning the tabloids' sniff-dogs will have found someone around her who knows who she is and is prepared to spill the beans (for recompense, of course).

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Jean Jeanie Dec 16, 2017  
@Libra Too @Jeff L I really hope so !

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RecommendReply  
Hugh Smith Dec 15, 2017

Jeff I. “No smoke without fire!” The cry of the witchfinders! We really are a miserable shower.

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2RecommendReply  
grammaticus Dec 15, 2017  
The accuser must now stand trial....

Flag

17RecommendReply  
Wanderer Dec 16, 2017

Those who supported the accuser in bringing this case in the name of the of the crown should be the first to be sacked and prosecuted. Follow that with those associated with this case as in the way Joint Enterprise is applied. Then continue with those involved with the policies, procedures etc. This will focus accountability further up the chain of command.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
SJR2020 Dec 15, 2017

I have personal experience of the momentous shift in police policy through a friend who was accused of rape and assault of a female.

Once such an allegation is made there is little time and effort spent in testing the validity and credibility of the allegation; the assumption is that the allegation is fact.

Thereafter only the evidence to prove the allegation is focused on and anything else is ignored or not investigated. This absolves them of obligations of 'Disclosure' to the defence, which as we see can prove people are innocent.

National disgrace. And I'm an ex cop.....

Flag

22RecommendReply

Richard Stout Dec 16, 2017

@SJR2020

I have personally experienced the same feminist process where accusation is the new guilty, and allegations are the new evidence.

The vindictive allegations of a woman are accepted as true, regardless of the lack of corroborating evidence. Police and prosecution proceed aggressively as if the "perp" is already proven guilty and simply ignore evidence to the contrary in their rush to incarcerate male "offender".

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3RecommendReply

Mandy Moxon Dec 15, 2017

This woman is evil- overwhelming for what she has done to her victim but also the heap in of dung she has thrown over real rape victims.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Hugh Smith Dec 16, 2017

Mandy Moxon. Hyperbole helps no one. This woman is a sorry , petty, vindictive cow. She might be evil, but we have no evidence of that. Evidence, remember that little tittle?

Flag

RecommendReply

Rob Denholm Dec 15, 2017

If the cover up of these text messages was wilful by the police, then the person/s responsible should face a lengthy jail sentence. Liam Allan's life has been and could have changed for ever.

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8RecommendReply

Grumpy Old Man Dec 15, 2017

Increasing the number of prosecutions for this type of case cannot be at the expense of innocent people.

No amount of compensation can make up for what this completely innocent young man and his family and friends have been through.

I hope that the so called victim will be dealt with for wasting the time of the police and the courts.

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9RecommendReply

Pastaman Dec 15, 2017

Can anyone explain to me why this woman should not be named, then shamed, then prosecuted, then jailed? How much has this case cost the public purse?

Flag

8RecommendReply

Adrian Turner Dec 15, 2017

The prosecution *must* disclose any material which undermines their case or assists the defence case. This is a statutory duty, but failings are sadly commonplace these days.

Patently, here there was an appalling breach of that duty. Happily, prosecution counsel discovered this just in time and a potential miscarriage of justice was avoided. Other defendants have been less fortunate.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Tacitus Dec 15, 2017

Inexcusable, pedestrian policing falls through the cracks. Is it any wonder we struggle to find the police credible these days?

The police should pursue the woman for waste of public time/money/court case fees and she should have a criminal record.

Liam Allen will no doubt seek compensation and the British tax payer picks up the bill.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Denisitme Dec 15, 2017

Tim Elster says it perfectly. Mr Allan should sue this woman for defamation and seek damages to his reputation. Two years he will never get back because of some sick, perverted, jealous, and dangerous little trollop who caused untold hurt and damage to Mr Allan and his family. There are more of these women out there than we care to admit. I had the son of a friend who went thru the same thing, with a similar outcome, that particular trollop had a penchant for accusing young men of rape, the case was thrown out but she was not named....therein lies the problem. We need to instil consequences for lying accusers just as we expect the guilty to receive punishment for crimes committed. There should also be anonymity for those who are suspected until they've been proven to be found guilty. This releasing of names of the accused is trial by media and the old "no smoke without fire" rings loud and not so clear. However, we now know that in this particular case there was evidence galore to charge this woman before it ever got to court! Absolutely staggering!

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8RecommendReply

John Cole Dec 15, 2017

Surely the female complainant should now be charged with 'attempting to,pervert the course of justice?

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7RecommendReply

Kentish Kate Dec 16, 2017

@John Cole and also the Met and CPS

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1RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

Strangely, people complain about the legal system in Russia. And yet here we have a case that clearly demonstrates that we are worse than Russia!

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Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

Will some generous employer out there have the goodwill to give this young man a job?

Or will he be left forever tainted by this case even though he was not found guilty?

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RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

He may well have suffered terribly from this. And his family.

Surely, any decent society would at the very least pay his legal costs and compensate him for his great distress.

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2RecommendReply

Dave Halford Dec 15, 2017

And what of the complainant? I hope action is being taken against her for these groundless and malicious charges she has instigated. Aside from the suffering of the defendant, what a monumental waste of taxpayers money!

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Bruce Warman Dec 15, 2017

So this man has been made to suffer to mental torture for several years and the woman walks away free. Name her, shame her and prosecute her!

Flag

5RecommendReply

R.Sole Dec 15, 2017

She (the defence lawyer) believed that evidence from phones was being withheld from defence lawyers to save money.

I am struggling to get my head around the CPS thinking that not providing a disk with this vital evidence would save money. It would simply convict an innocent man, destroy his life and cost the taxpayer the thousands it costs to keep a prisoner locked up.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Arthur Wellesley Dec 15, 2017

I assume that this woman will now be going to goal?

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3RecommendReply

E Mitchell Dec 15, 2017

Thank God for the independent Bar!

How on earth were the police able to tell the defence that there was nothing of relevance on the phone if they had not looked? Either way they were lying.

Flag

5RecommendReply

SARAH Dec 15, 2017

Everyone is sympathetic to Mr Allan, but if he hadn't been so knowledgeable - a criminology student - and less presentable, less articulate, no protective mother, no wonderful friends etc...I doubt it would have had such a good outcome.

There must be a change in law to protect the innocent who are accused of sexual crimes, and anonymity is a good start.

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6RecommendReply

Nigel Brown Dec 15, 2017

I think confidence in the British Judicial system and the Police has been in decline for quite some time. I lost my faith around 40 years ago.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Wanderer Dec 15, 2017

Both parties deserve support now and in the future. Mr Allan is fortunate to have been well defended by Julia Smart.

Evidence is ignored by police all the time. The fundamental problem is that the role of the police is biased from the start. They are obliged to investigate and regard an accuser as a victim simply because they have made an accusation. They have too great a role in multiple stages and elements of an investigation. Police officers routinely lie for each other in statements and in court. There should be an assumption that they are biased and should prove their 'opinions'. Judges seem to be incapable and/or have their hands tied in approaching matters with scepticism and common sense. The pretence that Judges are independent should be exposed by understanding the constraints placed upon them from recruitment and selection to the options they have in handling cases and making decisions. Too many processes rely on people ticking boxes and doing the right thing to 'see justice' whilst their jobs are reliant on not rocking the boat. Given the conduct of police there should statistically be many more collapsed trials. There should be a much more independent process in approaching cases and protecting all those involved. Crucially what is the process of a conversation with an accuser about the suitability of making an accusation? And making them aware of the effect on the accused both in defending the case and beyond. The police have no regard for the impact a case may have on the accuser. The political choices in police policy, strategy, time should be exposed in a meaningful way. The potential effects on the accused are life changing even for a minor conviction, from loss of job, profession, insurance, health they are disproportionate and should be reviewed again. The police involved no doubt achieve their targeted arrests/convictions whilst the courts etc. are unwilling to dismiss cases. Police should be removed from involvement beyond initial contact. Independent support, statements, evidence gathering should be introduced. The ease of recording any offence should be reduced and for minor cases Magistrates' role more limited. Rather than an automatic requirement for cases to be recorded and prosecuted there should be public justification for using public money for doing so as once 'in the system' cases etc. cost the taxpayer. Given the likelihood of re-offending once people have been in the system is a serious problem and indicates its limitations. The UK has the capacity to develop new ways of addressing a wide range these issues. Unfortunately the widespread obligation of reporting matters to the police doesn't take into account consequences of the police's corrupt and corrupting behaviour. So instead of resolving a matter without escalation the likelihood is that it will take on a life of its own. This is the tip of an iceberg which has impacted many people and should be a wake up call to the structure, assumptions of the entire legal system. Even where an accusation is not pursued the accused can be classified by police as 'high risk' making them vulnerable to future accusations and an easy target for the police. I understand that many accused people are vulnerable themselves and actually need protection, support, education. Moreover many are failed by the raft of quasi, proto legal, bodies and quangos, who are involved with the legal system and beyond.

So lets start to debunk the myth that the justice system is fair, appropriate, useful etc. The taxpayer is being defrauded by the pretence of the legal system universally helping society. Whilst the individual has little chance of challenging matters.

Time for greater scrutiny of the murky world of the CPS.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Daniel Robinson Dec 15, 2017

Can't imagine what he and his family went through in this process. Hopefully he'll be able to enjoy life from the money he gets in the case he brings against the police!

Flag

2RecommendReply

Pete Roberts Dec 15, 2017

Appalling , mystifying , why would the Met pursue this against what is obviously an innocent man? Heads must roll.

Flag

5RecommendReply

TommyCovi Dec 15, 2017

The Police Officer who repeatedly refused the defence access to the phone of this young woman should be sued for damages for 'Misfeasance in public office' by the accused - the policeman's Chief Constable would be held vicariously liable and it would, in all likelihood be an end of the officer's career.

In these kinds of cases there should a 'trusted third party' system who would be asked to evaluate the disputed evidence. If this was ever put in place it would have to be a disqualifier to have been a police officer since the IPCC is as useless as it is precisely because it has so many ex-police working within it.

Flag

1RecommendReply

The researcher Dec 15, 2017

Isn't lying under oath (as the evidence here clearly shows) perjury - or did I miss something?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Gramarian Dec 15, 2017

So if these txts had not been sent, then instead of being released 'without a stain on his character', he could have spent 12 years in jail.

Lucky she sent the txts is it not, because that did have to happen at all and is wholly incidental.

The CPS must have thought they had a good chance of getting a conviction to pursue the case. All very unsatisfactory.

Flag

2RecommendReply

James Thornton Dec 15, 2017

Not only should the accuser be prosecuted but also why did none of the recipients of her emails come forward

Flag

2RecommendReply

michael floyd Dec 16, 2017

Yes James why?...because the females we live with have a separate parallel universe of secret communication and disclosure that undermines business, banking and law ....whispered girl talk is massively magnified by the Internet.

Flag

RecommendReply

Prince-ER Dec 15, 2017

I feel absolutely disgusted by this case and I really feel for Mr Liam Allen. It was bad enough that the police withheld evidence that could have cleared him sooner, but if this woman (who's name we will never know and is free to do this again) had been honest from day one, then this could have all been averted. This now makes it difficult should a woman find herself in a similar situation, as she may not be believed. Also, this might make some men believe they can do something similar and say that the woman wanted and enjoyed it. I hope that Mr Allen can now proceed with his life and find it in himself to trust the police and women.

Flag

2RecommendReply

David Mills Dec 15, 2017



So evidence wasn't looked at because of 'cuts'? The police seem to have a huge amount of time to pursue historic sex cases often involving people that are now dead. Seems priorities are just a tad skewed here.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Maximus Decimus Meridius II Dec 15, 2017

I understand that there is a strong & supported view that nothing should be done to prevent rape victims coming forward. I understand that many think that naming and shaming those who make false allegations would discourage genuine rape victims. But....

.

I understand that there is a strong & supported view that naming those charged with rape encourages other victims to come forward. I understand that those who have been raped need all the encouragement they can get. But...

.

I understand that we live in a world with an ever increasing need for individuals to seek attention - especially in social media.

.

We need a solution - soon we will need it more than ever.

Flag

RecommendReply

Eleanor Saunders Dec 15, 2017

Did he not have text messages or voice mails on his own phone that he could have shown the defence?

I hope the accuser is brought to justice.

Flag

RecommendReply

Ben Wilder Dec 15, 2017

Absolutely f\*\*king outrageous. Those responsible should be looking at an immediate termination of their careers.

Is this purely a cost-saving issue. Or is this part of the politicization of the CPS and a desire to "believe the victims" following the recent statements of that nature by Allison Saunders?

Flag

3RecommendReply

monkey Dec 15, 2017

Resignations from the CPS and Met police please? Yet again shown as incompetent and not fit for purpose!

Flag

6RecommendReply

Steve Williams Dec 15, 2017

This is becoming so common, I see many of these cases where the assumption is of guilt from the beginning so why investigate. I don't know the details about the case so I may be wrong but why did the defence not investigate this? He would have known about these texts, even if they are no longer on his phone an expert analysis of his phone would have revealed them. Sadly this wasn't done, maybe time constraints on a legal aid lawyer or because Legal Aid wouldn't authorise the payment. The justice system is 2 tiered, private payers generally get much better results and that cannot be fair.

Flag

15RecommendReply

Andrew 1774 Dec 15, 2017

Name and shame her. The Police involved here should also be named and shamed.....There is no common sense left in the Civil Service if the system says no. Hopefully AI will help us rid ourselves of

these idiots and cut through the paperwork so we can get some real people doing real face to face work in amongst the community. Look at the massive failings in Hillsborough and Operation Midland.

Flag

31RecommendReply

Muroy Dec 15, 2017

@Andrew 1774 Name and shame??? Prosecute her with the same risk of imprisonment as her victim faced. False Rape accusations are as bad as real accusations, if guilty she should go to jail for very, many years. No other sentence will address this vile criminal, she is scum.

Flag

3RecommendReply

JOHN RYAN Dec 15, 2017

Alison Saunders is leading a mob mentality in the CPS.  
She is not fit to lead having a sexist and androgenistic agenda .

Flag

32RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN RYAN At the very least she should address this case in a statement.

Flag

1RecommendReply

R Morse Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN RYAN I think you may mean misandristic or perhaps misandrous (misandry being the male version of misogyny) - but that doesn't make your point any less telling.

Flag

2RecommendReply

JOHN RYAN Dec 18, 2017

@R Morse @JOHN RYAN

Thank you .

Flag

RecommendReply

Dan Taylor Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN RYAN Male and female characteristics ???

Flag

RecommendReply

SurreyBadger Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN RYAN add to that the dog whistle agenda on 'hate crime'

Flag

1RecommendReply

Libra Too Dec 15, 2017

Having just watched the last episode of the ITV series, "Bancroft", one can only think that 'climbing the greasy pole' is all that matters to certain police officers. Yes, I know it was a fictional drama but there have been others too, along the same lines - so that one can only conclude there is a basis for them. I'm sure Lynda La Plante would tell you.

I'm afraid corruption, whether financial or moral, is/was and always will be endemic in any institution. I was once romantically involved with a policeman some 50 years ago and could certainly tell a few stories - never trusted them since then.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Prabhat Dec 15, 2017

I would like to see/hear Alison Saunders justify/explain this case.

Flag

27RecommendReply

David Craig Dec 15, 2017

@Prabhat Alison Saunders is too busy telling Plods to trawl the Internet for supposed 'hate crimes' to deal with any real crime.

Flag

1RecommendReply

SurreyBadger Dec 15, 2017

@Prabhat I'd like to see her resign

Flag

2RecommendReply

Julian Baker Dec 15, 2017

Name the victim and prosecute her for the costs

Flag

48RecommendReply

Pete O'Tube Dec 15, 2017

@Julian Baker Prosecute her for perjury.

Flag

3RecommendReply

peter rogol Dec 15, 2017

@Julian Baker The victim has been named. I think you mean name the culprit.

Flag

2RecommendReply

JOHN RYAN Dec 15, 2017

This man should be significantly compensated.

His mother too , has suffered terribly, needlessly and unjustly.

If no voluntary compensation is offered , he , and his mother should sue.

Two years of their lives going through this nightmare ordeal-disgraceful .

Flag

49RecommendReply

Hector Le Crapaud Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN RYAN Right. this is the first constructive post I have read. Forget naming and shaming. It doesn't help him, the woman is a nutter who needs treatment, not shaming, and the senior police officer responsible should simply be fired.

Flag

1RecommendReply

David Summers Dec 15, 2017

Yes he should be compensated he should sue the accuser and sue the state !

Flag

2RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

The CPs are reported as saying the prosecution was stopped because "there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction. "

When the evidence shows he is clearly innocent- and that he was put through this purely because the defence was denied evidence that the prosecution had.

If the CPS said that then the Director of Public prosecution should be fired for this appalling statement from her badly run organisation.

Flag

47RecommendReply

Dr Half-track Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John The more pertinent question would seem to be Who hired her, and why?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Paul Newsome Dec 15, 2017

Fair's fair. The prosecution did not have the key information.

It was the new lawyer for the prosecution who forced the police to release it to both parties. Just in time it appears.

Flag

RecommendReply

Gary Stapleton Dec 15, 2017

Cuts in the criminal justice service leading, or even perhaps excusing, the unbelievable incompetence within both the Police Force and the legal system. Lawyers are like Doctors, never take them at face value or show complete trust, and always seek a second, or even third opinion. A life interrupted, even destroyed, due to police complacency and idleness, failing to investigate the obvious, her mobile messages, combined with the blatant fabrication / lies of the accuser is unbelievable. This woman should be prosecuted for perverting the course of Justice and given a custodial sentence. Justice, going back to the Magna Carta, should be equal for all, with the premise of innocence until proven guilty. I applaud the Lawyer who finally demanded the 40,000 messages from The Police and the judge who rightly threw the case out of court. However, it gives the public at large little faith in The Police Force and The Lawyers, the former seemingly driven by inane politicians to short cut investigations and hit ridiculous targets, and the latter most seemingly driven by avarice, woeful standards and an overriding desire to secure a conviction.

Flag

14RecommendReply

John Caldwell Dec 15, 2017

If I were the unfortunate young man, I would simply name his accused, and hang the consequences. She deserves, at the very least, public approbation.

Flag

38RecommendReply

Hector Le Crapaud Dec 15, 2017

@John Caldwell I think you mean "opprobrium?"

Flag

2RecommendReply

MJJ Dec 15, 2017

It's not so much his naming her, but the media publishing her name that would have consequences

Flag

2RecommendReply

DAVID JONES Dec 15, 2017

The word you are looking for is opprobrium

Flag

RecommendReply

RamRod Dec 15, 2017

How many more peoples lives are gpoing to be ruined or stained becasue the Police just accept allegations a "true and credible" and barge ahead on the assumption of guilt, making the allegations public, without bothering to do any basic investigations or correlate whether the statement are true or not.

Malpractice such as this destroys confidence in the impartiality of the Police and the perverse pressure of the CPS to get more convictions - without any consideration being given to the damage being done to the innocent victims of false allegations.

This lack of Natural Justice must be addressed and resolved - it is not an isolated incident - it keeps on happening - hence it must be institutionalised failing of our police and justice system.

Can we please see some action to resolve these terrible injustices.....

Flag

21RecommendReply

J McGill Dec 15, 2017

I have never yet heard of any of the many women who have been found to have invented sexual attacks and rapes being brought to justice.

Have we now gravitated to one law for women who are always believed as "victims" and a much more rigorously applied law for men who are automatically presumed to be guilty?

Let's restore my faith in our very damaged criminal justice system by prosecuting these female fantasists.

Flag

38RecommendReply

Balraj Sandhu Dec 15, 2017

The trial collapsed, but he's been stained by this.

Liam Allan should sue for libel. Under defamation of character and reputation. The other party has got away with it without consequence. That cannot be right.

Flag

34RecommendReply

Bob N Dec 15, 2017

The male is always at fault. In all cases the names should be withheld until a guilty verdict has been handed down

Flag

19RecommendReply

brian wright Dec 15, 2017

I don't think I've seen a comments section which is so unanimously of one opinion - even Trump has his defenders!

Flag

9RecommendReply

Christopher Walker Dec 15, 2017

I don't feel that I could possibly make a comment, or have any valid opinion on this story because I am male, white and middle class.

Flag

16RecommendReply

Bologna Dec 15, 2017

This case has been headlined on the 1pm BBC1 news and also on the BBC news channel. Not being mentioned in the online Guardian however. Not surprised.

Flag

19RecommendReply

Culpepper Dec 15, 2017

@Bologna Guardian did put up their piece around 2pm. But it focused more on "insufficient evidence to secure a conviction" than anything. Brief quote from the defendant about the hell he's been through but little empathy and certainly NO mention of the accuser or her phone messages or her apparent malicious intent.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Goldbold Dec 15, 2017

The woman should be sentenced to the same term of imprisonment as her victim would have received.

Flag

31RecommendReply

BullFinch Dec 15, 2017

Outrageous case. We should be told who was responsible and, more important, why exactly they made this 'mistake'.

Flag

18RecommendReply

CAK Dec 15, 2017

This confirms my view that Saunders should be dismissed from the CPS.

Flag

21RecommendReply

Liberty Dec 15, 2017

It is not enough for a Judge saying, effectively, something must be done. The government must compel the police to make any evidence available to prosecution and defence lawyers, and the lawyers made legally responsible for its safekeeping.

Saving money??? The police - admittedly Wiltshire, had millions of £s spare to pursue Edward Heath who was dead and could not defend himself making a fair trial impossible on the say so of a known fantasist.

Flag

28RecommendReply

David Batten Dec 15, 2017

What is now going to happen to the women who lied to the Police causing a waste of Police and CPS time, not to mention the intense mental harm to the Innocently accused young man.....if we do not demonstrate loudly and very clearly the there will be severe repercussions from false statements on Rape accusations then the Justice system will be continually be used as a weapon in private/personal disputes.

Flag

27RecommendReply

Ken Wood Dec 15, 2017

Sadly it has become part of the modern culture that if something goes wrong then it must be the fault of a government agency. The culpability of parents, involved parties or in this case the accuser, is buried beneath the rush of condemnation of the public agency.

Whilst there should be a proper review and rational action to change policy or better instruct/train government employees, we should not lose sight of the fundamental cause of the problem.

In this case a woman prepared to make false allegations and commit perjury.

Not many years ago police were heavily criticized for not believing and acting on each and every allegation of rape or indecent assault.

Flag

5RecommendReply

C.G. Portocale Dec 15, 2017

It is absolutely unacceptable that this case should have taken two years to come to court and to come to this sorry conclusion. Efficiency is not just about getting the right answer but doing things within a reasonable time frame, and two years is not reasonable.

Flag

19RecommendReply

Peter Jordan Dec 15, 2017

I sometimes criticise Times reporting, but here it is absolutely spot on. The police failure is highlighted, the court's horror at finding out what had happened was fully reported, the DPP's call for

more prosecutions for rape was mentioned, along with the failure of this call to lead to any more actual prosecutions.

Everything is there to draw the obvious conclusions: the police are overstretched; they solve their problem by not being thorough, and the result can be injustice.

Much of the comment below is paranoid stuff about hidden agendas, corrupt courts etc. This is rubbish. The problems are clear, and they need thorough investigation. End of story.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Dr Half-track Dec 15, 2017

Ms Alison Saunders CB, Director of Public Prosecutions, Head of the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales, is on record as saying "For too long society has blamed rape victims", that 'attacks on women are a blight on society', that 'society is confused', and that:

"the CPS must be nimble and intelligent enough to boost rape convictions"  
(The Times Jan 31, 2015).

Mission accomplished?

Flag

14RecommendReply

Tim Elster Dec 15, 2017

There are about 130,000 police officers in England and Wales and they have pretty much the same frailties as the rest of us. If only 1% of those officers are lazy, incompetent and dishonest that would amount to 1,300 officers. It is the job of the prosecution and defence lawyers, and the judge, to be wary of the sort of thing that has just happened to Mr Allan and they should be held to a much higher standard of accountability, should they fail in their role.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mark Wood Dec 15, 2017

Someone needs sacking if not jailing for this. This is unbelievable, I honestly can't believe that this has happened.

Poor bloke.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Eric Dec 15, 2017

Some very strong comments with which I generally agree. Of course the "victim" has been acting illegally but surely the greater failure is in the system and the CPS and police in this case. Whatever the excuses, they have failed abysmally and the prosecution barrister Jerry Hayes is to be applauded.

Flag

15RecommendReply

Tim Elster Dec 15, 2017

This must be the best Christmas "present" imaginable for Mr Allan, his family and his loyal group of friends and I truly hope they savour it. However, great damage has been done to this young man by a grossly dishonest and malevolent woman who remains unnamed and as yet unpunished. There can be no justice in allowing her to remain unnamed while this young man has had to get on with his life in full view under the blight of her wholly dishonest allegations, which must amount to perjury at least.

Mr Allan's first defence lawyer should be reported to the Law Society for incompetence. The newly appointed, highly experienced prosecution lawyer should be commended for demanding the phone information from the police. He would undoubtedly say he deserves no such commendation, as he only did his job, but it seems from the article that he probably saved Mr Allan's life by doing his job.

If Mr Allan gets through this dreadful episode without long-term psychological damage, which I deeply hope he does, it will be very surprising. He owes it to himself and to other potential victims to bring a civil action against this woman, as doing so will both reveal her identity and win him the damages to which he is justly entitled.

If he should read this, I would implore him not to give up on the law. British law is the finest in the world but is being let down by people who lack accountability and remain unpunished.

Tragically, this country is being destroyed by a general lack of accountability at all levels of society, if this hugely damaging cultural malaise is not reversed the continuing decline of this once a great nation will become inevitable.

Flag

155RecommendReply  
Prabhat Dec 15, 2017  
@Tim Elster Thank you.

In a society where the social issues, now unfortunately including judiciary, are dealt with on the basis of targets and tick box exercise, this case is an example and a symptom of the deeper failings.

Flag

6RecommendReply  
Tim Elster Dec 16, 2017

@Prabhat @Tim Elster Prabhat, thank you, but I think your diagnosis is wrong! "Targets and tick boxes" are essential to development/performance improvement, if you don't have targets you go backwards. If you don't have targets you don't know where you're not. But having establish targets and tick boxes you then have to develop a culture of accountability in order to "police" achievement. If you don't create a culture of accountability you are actually worse off than before you set targets, as people then exploit their freedom by playing or abusing the system, which is what we see happening everywhere.

In the UK our social liberality (not a political comment) has undermined and is continuing to undermine discipline and accountability. There is something almost decadent and self-indulgent in this behaviour and a more than a whiff of inevitability. After all, it has been said that every nation goes through three stages in its development, early development, achievement and greatness, then decline. It is all too evident in which stage the countries of western Europe are, including the UK. I believe the momentum of decline is too great to reverse, as not enough people recognise it and desire such a reverse. Tim

Flag

RecommendReply  
Alan Simpson Dec 15, 2017

@Tim Elster I have already commented on this case. Mr Allan's two years of waiting for a trial must have been unbearable and I will be surprised if he comes out of it psychologically unscathed.

If there is a prima facie case against someone who is acquitted at trial stage then I believe no compensation is paid. This is a good law as it would be wrong to give someone such as an armed robber compensation on the grounds that a jury returned a not guilty verdict.

However, where a prosecution which is proved to be malicious or carelessly made against a totally innocent person then an award can be made.



If we look back at Operation Midland Lord Bramall and Lady Britton received financial compensation which was settled out of court and they were never charged with any crime. The Met obviously didn't want to air their dirty washing in a full hearing.

I think Harvey Proctor is also due an award but I'm not sure if that has been settled.

I'm still shell-shocked that police and CPS didn't dig much deeper into the claims of a woman who said she had been raped and sexually assaulted on six separate occasions by someone she knew.

Alarm bells should have been ringing loudly in their ears.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Desperate Searcher Dec 15, 2017

@Tim Elster I agree to the extent that a malicious accusation should be followed by suitable punishment, but simply naming the woman as would have the adverse affect of discouraging genuine accusations of rape, and yet more 'Harvey Weinstein' situations where serial rapists go on and on because their victims are too frightened of the consequences to themselves of failed legal action. This offence is notoriously difficult to prove, given that it generally takes place in private, without witnesses and often in situations where the rapist has control over the venue and thus the presence of forensic evidence. It's wrong to assume that a verdict of 'not guilty' for the man automatically implies a verdict of 'guilty' for the woman - in such cases I think the old verdict of 'not proven' would be appropriate.

In this case, there does appear to be evidence of malice, and this malice should be tried, and if she's found guilty, she should be punished - and named then, if that's deemed appropriate. Right now, punishing her is secondary to the consideration of what effect this would have on genuine victims of rape.

Flag

RecommendReply

Tim Elster Dec 16, 2017

@Desperate Searcher @Tim Elster Hello DS, I wrote what I did intending accountability to be its kernel, not the desirability of naming the alleged victim of a rape. However, I do believe it is inherently wrong that the identity of an alleged rapist is revealed while that of the alleged victim is not.

I think it is important to remember that we now live in a society in which woman drink as much alcohol and pop as many pills as men do and are increasingly sexually aggressive and opportunistic. We should not continue to judge this matter in the context of decades old precepts but in the context of today's society. I have three daughters and would not expect them to bring a rape accusation without the willingness, indeed the desire, to reveal their identity.

The undoubted fact that "this offence is notoriously difficult to prove" is not helped by destroying the balance of fairness and justice in a society that is rightly striving to achieve gender equality. Indeed it is actually damaging in this respect and most intelligent women would agree with this.

Your recommendation of a "not proven" verdict would be a huge step backwards and is wholly unrealistic as such a verdict is damaging to both parties.

You rather reveal your inherently prejudiced position by saying "there does appear to be evidence of malice" where from what The Times and other media reported it is crystal clear there was premeditated and enduring malice of forethought, not to mention perjury by this woman.

You then further reveal your prejudice by saying "punishing her is secondary to the consideration of what effect this may have on genuine victims of rape". While even I can detect some twisted logic in this, taken to its logical conclusion it suggests you would have preferred Mr Allan to have been found guilty, even though clearly innocent, as this would have furthered the cause of "genuine rape victims".

You are coming very close to advocating a distorted form of "affirmative action" in rape case.

You are part of the problem, not a part of the solution.

Flag

RecommendReply  
SixG Dec 15, 2017

@Tim Elster I'm not a lawyer or a policeman Tim but I have been close to a few dreadful miscarriages of justice.

Very sadly I no longer believe that British law is the finest in the world. It is in my view vastly inferior to the French Napoleonic code.

Flag

RecommendReply  
Tim Elster Dec 16, 2017

@SixG @Tim Elster Hi SixG, I too am neither a lawyer nor a policeman and I know nothing about the French Napoleonic code. But I do know with great certainty that the malaise of unaccountability that has been disemboweling this nation for many decades is clearly evident in all our institutions and throughout society generally. In the case of British law, which has been developed on the basis of precedent since Magna Carta, not on the basis of legal theory as is the case in France, we have a fine instrument which only needs playing properly. But, like everything else, that requires accountability at all levels. Tim

Flag

RecommendReply  
Negroni Dec 15, 2017

Surely the woman in this case should now be prosecuted for wasting police time, wasting tax payers money and generally for being a disgusting human being?

Flag

143RecommendReply  
Alison Dow Dec 15, 2017

And as a warning to anyone else who might fancy playing the same game.

Flag

14RecommendReply  
JOHN RYAN Dec 15, 2017

@Negroni  
Being a disgusting human being is not illegal.  
Just as well really , there would not be room in the prison system for so many offenders-

Flag

2RecommendReply  
Robert Jarvis Dec 15, 2017

@Negroni Absolutely! It seems justice for men that suffer from sexual harrassment from women is a way more lightly pursued affair. If a woman had suffered the way this man had there would be a huge outcry for the male perjurer to be brought to justice.  
It's time these sort of cases were dealt with on a level playing field.

Flag

9RecommendReply  
George Kaye Dec 15, 2017

@Negroni Without question

Flag

6RecommendReply

expat Dec 15, 2017

@Negroni "Surely the woman in this case should now be prosecuted for wasting police time, wasting tax payers money and generally for being a disgusting human being?"

Are you serious??'?!

This woman tried to stitch up a young man and get him jailed for life. She tried to destroy him; and you want to say she was wasting money and time.

The man was going to face 10 years in JAIL. Jesus! Are you serious????????????????????

Flag

RecommendReply

TommyCovi Dec 15, 2017

@Negroni Unlikely to happen since it would highlight the failure / wrongdoing of the Police and they will avoid that at almost any cost. CPS were not complicit in any way it seems.

Flag

RecommendReply

Dec Dec 15, 2017

I see below the word "incompetence" used describing the police action.

I have to wonder, if tapes/discs were available in the police's hands, then somebody must have listened to them. Somebody(ies) had to decide this was not going to help the prosecution in the case.

I cannot believe that the existence of such evidence could have been kept secret from the prosecuting counsel. I am not a conspiracy freak, (though I do love how such people can tie far-flung facts together - purely vicarious on my part) but in this case I believe that any newspaper could delve much deeper, to see how far up the ladder the "they didn't tell me, guv" excuse will be used. Telephone records have to be separated and collated. To do that, you have to LISTEN TO THEM!

So, not only all the police responsible for the cover-up, but also the former Crown Prosecutor should be investigated for suitability for the positions held. It seems to me that the CP would/should ask what the full facts of the case are, before calling for and reviewing all evidence.

But that's just me.

Flag

30RecommendReply

Frankenfurter Dec 15, 2017

@Dec

It seems from the article they didn't listen to them. It was the defence that asked for them. I'm not sure they were going to be used in evidence. Think they were going his way against his. If the police knew the contents of the tapes they surely would not have proceeded.

Flag

RecommendReply

Obiter Dictum Dec 15, 2017

There is something drastically wrong here. The police obviously knew about the texts because they have obtained the disc that contains them. Why ask the mobile network provider for the data and then say you have not checked it.

This is not about costs, it's about corruption!

Flag

66RecommendReply

Mrs Felicity de Scarfo Dec 15, 2017

@Obiter Dictum I agree with you.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Sameen Farouk Dec 15, 2017

@Obiter Dictum I didn't understand why the messages weren't obtained from the recipients.

Flag

RecommendReply

nick meurice Dec 15, 2017

Absolutely correct. I've seen the same personally. If it doesn't suit the police prosecution case they will hide it.

Flag

RecommendReply

Sherman Dec 15, 2017

It is about time that in rape cases everyone's names are anonymous.

**ONLY** after the verdict, the guilty party should be named. If the accuser had made FALSE allegations - her identity should be made public.

Women could be repeat offenders, & do this again & no one will be any wiser. They are a disgrace, as REAL rape victims will be looked upon as 'another liar'.

Flag

89RecommendReply

observing tortoise Dec 15, 2017

@Sherman Where would you draw the line between 'False' allegations, and allegations where there wasn't enough evidence to convict (which doesn't mean the allegations were false).

Flag

RecommendReply

Sherman Dec 16, 2017

@observing tortoise - Yes, it's difficult, & that is why there is a jury. There is no fool-proof system; But anonymity should be paramount, because regardless if one's proven innocent - mud sticks.

Flag

RecommendReply

observing tortoise Dec 15, 2017

@Sherman This case seems clear enough but others will be less so.

Flag

RecommendReply

Laurence Wilkinson Dec 15, 2017

And what happens to the other innocents. Still doing time.

Because plod wanted a conviction.

Flag

41RecommendReply

Cobalt Dec 15, 2017

I am sorry to write this, but this is directed at any, ANY male accused of rape out there.

You will find that the system is absolutely against you. You are guilty until proven innocent. This might or might not destroy your life and career prospects.

If you are falsely accused of rape, and you know this is a false accusation, comply with bail conditions, submit to the letter of law, but remember: the state will be obliged to give you a hefty remedy for its misjudgement.

Then share your experience online. Thanks to the powers of the internet, we are now able to say how the legal system really works in a case like this.

Flag

35RecommendReply

I'm not Robert Winston Dec 15, 2017

Perhaps those held responsible should face the same penalty as this unfortunate young man and of course the accuser.

Flag

45RecommendReply

Krunger Dec 15, 2017

I would be interested to know if any women, both police officers and CPS officials, were involved in prosecuting this case.

With more women entering the police and the legal profession the possibility that some of them might be angry feminists with "an all men are rapists" mind-set needs to be guarded against it.

Of course, this could be a case of incompetent male officers rather than overzealous female officers.

The report does not give any information on the gender of the officers - but information that challenges politically correct values is often omitted from reports. I think we should be told.

Flag

45RecommendReply

BlueInTheFace Dec 15, 2017

@Krunger A clearly valid point but I shouldn't think there's a chance of the information being disclosed. Nowadays it's probably illegal to even think there might be a gender dimension to the circumstances.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Jean Jeanie Dec 15, 2017

@Krunger "Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, has pushed to increase the prosecution and conviction of sexual offences "

Flag

8RecommendReply

Mel Morris Dec 15, 2017

@Krunger speculation much? How dare you suggest that women are somehow less professional than their male counterparts and would not investigate based on the law. I find your insinuations abhorrent.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 15, 2017

@Mel Morris @Krunger "speculation much?" ??? What does this mean?

Flag

RecommendReply

Ms H Dec 15, 2017

@Krunger And I would be interested to know how many women's claims were dismissed during the decades before women got angry, in which men dominated the system and operated a casually sexist "She was probably asking for it" attitude.

Or how about the period (still continuing) when whites were in charge - no racist offences then, were there, Krunger.

You are an idiot, sir.

Flag

RecommendReply

Ross Dec 15, 2017

@Krunger

*some of them might be angry feminists with an "all men are rapists" mind-set*

just as some officers might have an "all women are sluts and therefore fair game" mindset.

All that is necessary is that they obey the law and enforce the law. If you do your job properly, your mindset barely shows.

Flag

RecommendReply

Michael Jones Dec 15, 2017

It seems crazy but I can see nothing that suggests that HIS text messages were not read to see what she had sent him, then used as a lever to access her text messages. The whole debacle has a ring of stink about it. There has now been several cases that just look like people being stitched up like kippers by the people who are entrusted and have the privilege of being police officers.

Flag

37RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@Michael Jones ... The boy had changed his phone at some point .... likely also his number.

A sensible thing to do when being stalked by 'a woman scorned'. Also most people would delete 'stalker' messages automatically Why keep them?

Maybe that 'change of phone' was the reason the 'stalker' ultimately approached the police i.e. she had lost the ability to make direct contact.

Flag

RecommendReply

Michael Jones Dec 16, 2017

Thanks for your reply Kate, and I appreciate what you say, but most service providers can supply the text information that they archive.

Flag

RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

Earlier I suggested that a good computer system that both the CPS and the defence have access to may help. With all evidence online - obviously via password protection.

But my post was inexplicably removed.

Flag

19RecommendReply

David Hope Robertson Dec 15, 2017

The evidence was withheld to save money? This has become the refuge of the negligent and the culpable. 'Not my fault, it's down to government cuts'.

Flag

34RecommendReply

Bob N Dec 15, 2017

@David Hope Robertson How can it save money? The cost of the trial. The cost of keeping him in jail. No way!

Flag

4RecommendReply

BB Dec 15, 2017

This should be essential reading for Jenni Russell and her ilk.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Simon Packer Dec 15, 2017

There seems to me a need to address a deeper question behind this. I'm assuming the latest judgments on this case are sound as they appear to be. How and why does society, or at least very influential sectors of it, tend to buy into fashionable, simplistic, unbalanced blanket-judgement tendencies over certain scenarios?

Flag

3RecommendReply

brian wright Dec 15, 2017

@Simon Packer You only had to see Jo Brand on HIGNFY a few weeks ago to see how much some of our liberal elite have bought into simplistic blanket judgements, making her male fellow panellists (and I'm sure viewers) feel uncomfortable with her shrill opinions when the talk turned to consensual/non-consensual sex.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Carrie McGrath Dec 15, 2017

I stupidly thought that ALL evidence had to be turned over to the defence!

Not just the evidence they "feel" is necessary!

As the Police seem unable to do this, time and again I feel the name of the Defendent should also be withheld.

This has ruined yet another young Man's life and it has to stop!

Flag

42RecommendReply

Steve Williams Dec 15, 2017

@Carrie McGrath The prosecution/review the evidence and THEY decide whether it is helpful to the defence case - based on the defence statement. The defence are never aware of the evidence unless the prosecution decide it helps the defence!

Flag

3RecommendReply

Rosemary Wood Dec 15, 2017

@Carrie McGrath Not all evidence otherwise the defence would charge a fortune for the time spent examining it. The police are charged with assessing anything that could 'reasonably assist the defence or undermine the prosecution.' Some investigations will take a detective months to sift through extraneous material at the risk of their career if they miss something vital. It's one reason some police quit that line of work.

Not much excuse in this case though, if you spend hundreds having a phone forensically downloaded the least you can do is read through it the transcripts. Especially these days where people's phones are the same as an old fashion diary.

Flag

RecommendReply

Matt Dec 15, 2017

What is most worrying about this to me isn't that the police covered up evidence or the woman lied out of vindictiveness.

It's that if she hadn't sent these text messages, this kid would be going to jail.

Flag

50RecommendReply

scillychick Dec 15, 2017

You can see the sheer relief and strain in this young man's face, I wish him all the very best for the future.

Flag

52RecommendReply

John Snodgrass Dec 15, 2017

Firstly it entirely wrong for the Director to push for any particular statistical outcome. The correct approach to addressing past failures is to institute fishnet protocols that will ensure genuine cases are not overlooked. Whether this yields more prosecutions should be neither here nor there. This directive/policy must be immediately rescinded in favour of proper process. It is not the DPP's job to serve impulsive political agenda.

Secondly the police/DPP conduct must not escape urgent and rigorous scrutiny. If the defence solicitors were told that here was nothing relevant in the text message records then wasn't that a representation that the police/DPP had in fact examined them? Had they read them and were then deliberately concealing damning evidence or were they being untruthful about whether they had actually examined all the texts? An unequivocal answer is required. Certainly it would be most unusual even negligent for them not to have gone over the texts in such a case as guilty men in a relationship context often make apologies or admissions soon after the event.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Russell Murday Dec 15, 2017

Unfortunately everything these days seems to be target driven.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Romeolima Dec 15, 2017

I would hope this will be a case when no one will contest that Liam Allen should be awarded significant damages and that the evidence protocols are independently investigated.

Flag

34RecommendReply

MCGibbo Dec 15, 2017

#NOTALLMEN

Flag

15RecommendReply

Scaramanga Dec 15, 2017

The more I hear about Alison Saunders the more terrible she gets.

Flag

35RecommendReply

Mr Peter Cuthbertson Dec 15, 2017

What a total disgrace on the part of the prosecution. In the dim past when I practised the rule or convention was that the prosecution's function was to lay the facts both for and against conviction before the judge and jury for them to decide, not to seek a conviction at all costs. The rather quaint reason being that the Queen in whose name a prosecution is made would not be disappointed if one of her subjects was found to be not guilty of the crime alleged. Call me old school but that is still how it should be so avoiding this attitude of conviction at all costs and even it seems at the cost of a huge injustice to an innocent man.

Flag

43RecommendReply

Prabhat Dec 15, 2017

@Mr Peter Cuthbertson That convention has been codified now.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr Peter Cuthbertson Dec 15, 2017

Thanks for that information. As I said it was my "dim and distant past" recollection! More so should it be followed.

Flag

RecommendReply

Kentish Kate Dec 15, 2017



@Mr Peter Cuthbertson But if it had not been for the Prosecution lawyer the accused would probably have been found guilty.  
What I do not understand is why the 'missing' texts were not available from the accused's phone/service provider.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr Peter Cuthbertson Dec 16, 2017

Yes but the Crown Prosecution Service are the lawyers conducting the case and who decide whether to prosecute or not and I find it hard to understand why it was not until the last moment that the exonerating evidence was disclosed. I am unable to say why the evidence was not available on the young man's phone. I guess only the defence team will be able to provide that answer to you.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mike Herberts Dec 15, 2017

If there was no other evidence to offer and the phone records 'had nothing of interest' how is it possible that the DoP brought the case at all in the first place. This is either hugely incompetent or sinister.

Flag

29RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

Political correctness means that false accusers of rape dont get prosecuted because it is policy. The policy says it may discourage people reporting rape.

This has to be a nonsense. And should stop. Proven false accusers should risk prosecution. To be imprisoned for rape is far worse than being imprisoned for murder. So anyone who falsely causes it should face penalties.

Flag

53RecommendReply

brian wright Dec 15, 2017

According to the BBC website, 'The CPS said it offered no evidence in the case on Thursday as there was "no longer a realistic prospect of conviction".'

Much nearer the mark: 'There was no evidence to offer, other than that which would have exonerated the accused straight away, which was wilfully overlooked both by the police and ourselves.'

Even their admission of wrong-doing or negligence sounds grudging.

Flag

50RecommendReply

RamRod Dec 15, 2017

@brian wright What - the CPS admit they made an error and apologise - no - that's for others to do.....  
Disgusting

Flag

9RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@brian wright No surprises there ... I listened to an interview with Alison Saunders on BBC some months ago .... I learned that SHE is ALWAYS RIGHT, and has no idea why people do not understand this.

A more arrogant, self-satisfied, or dictatorial Establishment figure would be difficult to find - sorry no, forgot about Anna Soubry and Emily Thornberry - definitely of that ilk, all three totally contemptuous of the 'lower orders'.

Flag

1RecommendReply

spanish shower Dec 15, 2017

There are psychological studies that demonstrate men and women are equally aggressive. The difference is with men that aggression often comes in the form of physical violence, with women it often comes in the form of 'reputational sabotage'.

Flag

22RecommendReply

Nick Skellon Dec 15, 2017

Will this malicious woman now be prosecuted and gaoled for trying to destroy an innocent man's life?

Flag

63RecommendReply

Sherman Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Skellon - Simple answer is no. If they do, they will have to charge everyone involved for withholding evidence ie. the Cps + themselves. That's never going to happen as they are "always right".

Flag

9RecommendReply

David Harris Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Skellon In 21st Century Great Britain? no chance she is more likely to claim, and be awarded, damages.

Flag

8RecommendReply

expat Dec 15, 2017

@David Harris @Nick Skellon The Media will shower her with money, Film contracts, books publications and feminist coverage as to how she suffered at the hands of a mad young man.

That is the society we have today. Vindictive and Media driven.

Flag

RecommendReply

nick meurice Dec 15, 2017

Not necessarily so. There was a recent similar case but the woman involved had mental issues and committed suicide. Then the man got blamed by her family.

Flag

RecommendReply

Steve Williams Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Skellon The CPS website states that they do not prosecute women who make false allegation of rape as a matter of principle.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 15, 2017

@Steve Williams @Nick Skellon That's ridiculous. I wonder what principle that is then.

Flag

RecommendReply

lancsmarsbar Dec 15, 2017

@Steve Williams @Nick Skellon If that is so it is disgraceful and should be reversed immediately. I think that there is a declaration attached to every formal statement made to the police saying: ' I make this statement in the knowledge that I can be prosecuted if I knowingly state anything that is false or do not believe to be true.' That is something that must be enforced without exception otherwise our criminal justice system is in tatters.

Flag

RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@Steve Williams @Nick Skellon One of Saunders' 'principles' eh ? I wonder what others she has ?

Flag

RecommendReply

CSki Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Skellon It's almost astonishing to think that the woman in question is not front page of the newspapers for causing such damages, costs and what could have driven the young man to suicide over this past two years. Disgraceful behaviour and if there is gender equality then she must be tried, her name made public and suffer a prison sentence as this poor man would have and would have had to endure.

Flag

RecommendReply

morticia Dec 15, 2017

I wonder how many times this has happened and how many are in prison because of it. My sympathy goes out to that maligned young man and his family for what they have suffered.

Flag

38RecommendReply

Richard Halstead Dec 15, 2017

My faith in the Police when it comes to prosecution of innocent victims was severely shaken when I worked in Hong Kong and acted as a character witness to an amah(maid) accused of stealing goods from a building site near where I lived. Her version was that she, along with several others, had been ordered by her landlord to move some goods to a nearby jetty for his later collection. They were caught red-handed and the Landlord readily confessed that the goods were not his, and yet the CPS still decided to prosecute, until they saw me in Court just before proceedings as the main defence witness, whereupon they decided to drop the case. If I had not been there they would have undoubtedly conspired to have several innocent amahs deported back to the eternal grind of life in The Philippines.

More recently, in the UK I came across another instance whereby the police were just about to launch criminal negligence proceedings against a good Samaritan I know very well who asked for my help until I pointed out a number of glaring inconsistencies in the witness statements taken by the prosecuting officer which lead me to conclude that obtaining a conviction was her only objective, despite all evidence to the contrary. The case was then dropped but, again, I had the distinct and uneasy feeling that this kind of thing was going on all the time. This uneasiness was then reinforced by a case of alleged rape where the complainant originally, on the Sunday afternoon, had complained to her boss (my wife, who mentioned it to me at the time) about being sexually harassed at work by a co-worker earlier that day, which somehow by the Wednesday had magically turned itself into an allegation of rape. He was immediately suspended as a precautionary measure and at the trial the jury took just 25 minutes to unanimously clear him, making me again wonder who's side the police are on in these situations- seemingly their own!

Flag

24RecommendReply

Michael Duerden Dec 15, 2017

I feel very much for Liam Allan having to go through 2 years of torment. I note that his accuser is not named.

Given the nature of his accuser's pestering which seem to be evident on the disc not disclosed by the police I wonder if such cases should not be resolved through supervised discussions between the parties before submitting the case to the prosecution process which then emphasises the differences and by its very nature makes the whole matter much more confrontational.

I am aware that what I suggest is open to abuse but there are clever legal people who am sure could devise a system with adequate checks and balances to make such a system work.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Harold Hare Dec 15, 2017

The law makes provision for the defence to make a court application for disclosure prior to the trial. One wonders whether this happened - and if not, why not. If one was indeed made before trial then it was presumably refused by a Judge at some point - which would be very worrying indeed.

Yet another example of why we need to preserve and cherish the private Criminal Bar.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

@Harold Hare

If you read the article you would see: "His lawyers had repeatedly been refused access to records from the woman's telephone because police insisted that there was nothing of interest for the prosecution or defence, the court was told."

Flag

25RecommendReply

expat Dec 15, 2017

@Gladismonroykd @Harold Hare Then, the Police were complicit in the wrongful charges and handling.

They should be charged and dismissed from the Service.

Flag

RecommendReply

Steve Williams Dec 15, 2017

@Harold Hare Genuinely don't understand the reference to the private Criminal bar? I may agree with you but don't understand your point?

Flag

RecommendReply

Martin Tennison Dec 15, 2017

Sad

Flag

3RecommendReply

Michael Duerden Dec 15, 2017

Thank goodness for a man like Jerry Hayes. I assume that he was supposed to win his prosecution but was fare-minded enough to insist that the defence got to see the evidence. It's difficult to articulate my admiration for Jerry Hayes when so many other people twist things to their own advantage.

I hope that lessons will genuinely be learnt from this possible miscarriage of justice and that it is not swept under the carpet like, for example, the findings of so many public inquiries. I would like to think that compared with some other countries we have one of the finest systems of justice.

It is by and large not politicised as in USA, Russia and China. By and large it is open to public scrutiny and even family court judgements are on the whole being opened up to public scrutiny. It is independent of government and parliament. It's debatable if is accessible to all except the very rich and those poor enough to qualify for legal aid (which is being curtailed).

So once again congratulations to Jerry Hayes. We need more people like him.

Flag

25RecommendReply

Peter Cressall Dec 15, 2017

The malicious accuser should at the very least be convicted of perjury.

Flag

37RecommendReply

Crusader Army Dec 15, 2017

UK Police no longer fit for purpose. CPS also. Time for a total root and branch reform of both. The officer in charge of the investigation should be prosecuted for failing to disclose evidence. Surely he has committed a crime? And the woman who bore false witness should also be prosecuted and named. Isn't our justice system rotten?

Flag

21RecommendReply

MJJ Dec 15, 2017

First step should be to sack Alison Saunders

Flag

20RecommendReply

Jean Jeanie Dec 15, 2017

@MJJ Yes indeed " Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, has pushed to increase the prosecution and conviction of sexual offences "

Flag

4RecommendReply

Nicholas Reger Dec 15, 2017

@MJJ And then have a long hard Paddington stare at...

"Swiss" Bernard Hogan-Howe (Lord Baron Kt QPM).

"The dignity of **Knight Bachelor** is the most basic and lowest rank of a man,

who has been [knighthood](#)"

Flag

1RecommendReply

nick meurice Dec 15, 2017

Fortunately most judges are aware of this and ensure justice is done. As are defence barristers.

Flag

RecommendReply

BroadOaks Dec 15, 2017

Imagine the 24/7 torment this poor man has suffered while this has dragged on for 2 years. This is totally unacceptable. He should be financially compensated by the woman and the police. The police officer responsible for withholding the defence information should be reprimanded, or sacked and the woman who falsely accused the man must go on police record and be punished, appropriately, for making obviously false and very serious accusations.

Flag

26RecommendReply

John black Dec 15, 2017

I am so heartened to read the opinions of almost every commenter below, which all cover more or less the same lines, and so i will not repeat.

Mrs May whilst struggling to make a good show as PM, was far better in her previous role, and this is a perfect opportunity for her to shine. We need an end to disgraceful travesties like this.

Accountability must play a part where an innocent person has been put through hell and back by state employees. Enough is enough and an example should be made of all those involved.

Are any charges to be brought against this awful woman who made the vindictive false charges and wasted Police and Court's time in addition to the untold mental pain caused to the defendant and his family? Surely that is not beyond the Police and the CPS?

On top of all this, there is legislature that stops the falsely accused defendant from suing the Police and CPS. Regarding his financial costs, these are unlikely to be paid.

They say cancer is often brought on by stress. What is the effect of living through two years of the threat of a twenty year life sentence on this poor lad and his parents?

This is an unmitigated disgrace and an embarrassment to our law enforcement. For heavens sake Mrs May, at least get something right!

Flag

19RecommendReply

Gladismonroykd Dec 15, 2017

@John black At the very least the CPS should pay his legal fees.

Flag

15RecommendReply

Russell Murday Dec 15, 2017

The 'insufficient time because of cuts' doesn't wash. It would take no more time to find evidence as it would to find no evidence, as to find no evidence you would have to look at all the records on the phone.

Flag

17RecommendReply

Taylor Rhodes Dec 15, 2017

Can he countersue the allegor for blighting his character? Isn't that a criminal prosecution case?

Flag

10RecommendReply

Nicholas Diable Dec 15, 2017

@Taylor Rhodes I should imagine he'll seek compensation from the police for failing in their duty. Pretty sure blighting a person's character isn't a criminal offence... though I've been caught out by some weird ones before.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mrs Ruth Bruce Dec 15, 2017

@Nicholas Diable @Taylor Rhodes

Blighting a person's character is called libel. It is an offence.

Flag

RecommendReply

Cliff Matthews Dec 15, 2017

What a mess because the police fouled up. Women in future less likely to be believed. A young man put through hell for a couple of years. A mentally deranged or vindictive woman empowered to continue with her fantasy.

The police now need to turn their attention onto their star witness.

It's probably too much to ask that anyone on the prosecution side will be reprimanded and more taxpayers money goes into paying for police ineptitude.

British justice is too often a matter of pot luck.

Flag

12RecommendReply

BB Dec 15, 2017

@Cliff Matthews By 'pot luck' I believe that you are referring to police/CPS/judicial incompetence or sometimes worse?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Cliff Matthews Dec 15, 2017

and furthermore it seems that the woman in question was sending messages to her friends about her sexual activity and fantasies. Did none of these "friends" think to offer up the evidence they had that all was not as the woman described.

Flag

RecommendReply

Julian Bassett Dec 15, 2017

The Met needs fixing, fast. It's not just this, it's the Damian Green business, Plebgate, and more. We had the chance to bring someone in to lead the Met a few years ago, Bill Bratton, a man with an outstanding record and no baggage. But Theresa May blocked it.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Nick Billson Dec 15, 2017

Congratulations to Julia Smart (his defence lawyer) for demanding to see the records. Why didn't his previous lawyer do that? On such serious charges the defence should always demand access to the Police evidence.

Flag

4RecommendReply

John Austin Dec 15, 2017

Duh. They did - read the article.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Russ T Dec 15, 2017

So when is this woman being prosecuted for making false, vexatious claims and wasting Police time??

Flag

19RecommendReply

Nicholas Diable Dec 15, 2017

@Russ T Perjury would be the prosecution I should hope!

Flag

2RecommendReply

MN LDN Dec 15, 2017

It is worth also noting that whilst the article above makes quite clear the disgraceful conduct of the police and CPS and also explains clearly why the accused was unequivocally innocent, the same cannot be said for others in the media. .

It is worth reading how the Guardian reported this case:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/15/scotland-yard-carrying-out-urgent-assessment-after-trial-collapses>

And this is not to have a go at the Guardian - albeit their article is a disgrace - but to demonstrate that even though this poor boy was clearly innocent and shown to be, the stigma of rape will still not be removed due to selective reporting of the case and the usual disgraceful stock answer of the CPS that there was insufficient evidence to have a realistic prospect of conviction.

As has been said by so many here the law regarding anonymity must change, proper reporting must be mandated and heads must roll both at the CPS and the police. There must be accountability.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Jules Dec 15, 2017

@MN LDN Thanks for the link, I have just read the Guardian and agree it's awful reporting!

Flag

1RecommendReply

ManchesterIsRed Dec 15, 2017

People don't like to hear this, but the reality is that cases such as this are the logical outworking of the toxic, hate-filled ideology of feminism, which is not about gender equality - not any more - but has become a platform for those women who really hate men.

If, as a feminist, you believe that we live in a 'rape culture' and that masculinity is 'toxic', then every man taken off the streets and locked up makes those streets safer for women and is a victory for women.

Nobody should doubt that feminists are quite happy to see totally innocent but "toxically masculine" men locked up and branded for life as sex offenders, with their safety under threat within prisons. Not only is this where feminism has brought us, this is now the toxic ideology of gender hatred that is controlling the levers of State policy.

Flag

17RecommendReply

MKW Dec 15, 2017

@ManchesterIsRed No, take it from a feminist: we don't hate men, we don't want to take all men off the street. This was a single terrible case, caused by one single woman lying, and the disgraceful professional incompetence or malignance of a bunch of police whose sex you do not know.

Flag

8RecommendReply

JOHN CAMPBELL Dec 15, 2017

@MKW @ManchesterIsRed

Far from being an isolated case; one of my students went through the same process a few years ago.

It is not only women who are vulnerable.

Flag

3RecommendReply

MKW Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN CAMPBELL @MKW @ManchesterIsRed And it's terrible, but it's not caused by feminism.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mrs Ruth Bruce Dec 15, 2017

@JOHN CAMPBELL @MKW @ManchesterIsRed

*It is not only women who are vulnerable.*

Correct. Sometimes - as in this case - the victim is the one in the dock.

Flag

RecommendReply

Krunger Dec 15, 2017

@MKW @ManchesterIsRed We haven't been told the sex of the police officers involved in this case. But we all know that details that show politically correct favoured groups in a poor light tend to be withheld from reports.

I for one am suspicious that an angry feminist female officer with "an all men are rapists mind-set" might have been involved with this case.

We cant know anything for certain of course until that information is released.

Flag

RecommendReply

Dafydd Jones Dec 15, 2017

@ManchesterIsRed To me, this incident has nothing to do with feminism and everything to do with the police and prosecution service. As for the woman, wasn't it more than 300 years ago that



Congreve wrote "Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned Nor Hell a fury like a woman scorn'd"? Nothing new there, but I do hope she's brought to justice for the harm she's inflicted and the time she's wasted.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@Dafydd Jones @ManchesterIsRed Hold on - slightly confused there ! Its everything to do with a 'feminist' DPP

Flag

RecommendReply

Mel Morris Dec 15, 2017

@ManchesterIsRed Sorry but your anti-feminist rant says a lot more about you, than it does about feminists. Quite frankly everyone should be a feminist - simply expecting both sexes to be treated equally. No more, no less. It's people like you who twist everything to fit your anti-woman agenda and look for conspiracies where there are none, who show us that we are still far far away from equality. The fact that 7 people recommended your response is sad, but unfortunately not surprising

Flag

4RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@ManchesterIsRed It's why the 'Monstrous Regiment' was correctly named and recognised in days of old

Flag

RecommendReply

John OConnor Dec 15, 2017

It appears that it is okay to sacrifice an innocent person once the police get a conviction. Reminds me of many previous miscarriages of justice, one that comes to mind is Hillsborough.

Flag

10RecommendReply

MJJ Dec 15, 2017

Remember that Alison Saunders has publicly stated her support for police at Hillsboro

Flag

6RecommendReply

Paul Morris Dec 15, 2017

Typical police incompetence.

Flag

4RecommendReply

CVF Dec 15, 2017

@Paul Morris Incompetence or a deliberate act?

Flag

3RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@Paul Morris Or just obeying 'orders' issued by the DPP to 'increase numbers' of rape prosecutions and believe, without 'question' or verifiable evidence, the word of the 'alleged victim'.

That is the core FACT of this terrible persecution of an innocent young man.

Flag

RecommendReply

DEREK Crompton Dec 15, 2017

Im absolutely terrified when I read this about how easy it is for a man to be sent to prison for something he didnt do

Flag

11RecommendReply

Furr Dec 15, 2017

Just wow. Sometimes if the police have made up their mind (in my experience) they don't bother with little things like "the law" or "evidence". Why did the boy's first solicitor not demand the evidence though? Will the young man receive compensation for this?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Erik Eriksson Dec 15, 2017

It'll all be swept under the carpet again. Nobody of significance brought to book. Always has been that way, always will be.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Christopher Pridham Dec 15, 2017

Not at all surprising. I dealt with a very similar case recently myself as a Defence Solicitor .

Flag

9RecommendReply

MrGB Dec 15, 2017

The woman lied and the police perverted the course of justice. They should be prosecuted.

Flag

12RecommendReply

expat Dec 15, 2017

"Rape" A man`s most feared word which can destroy his life no matter how innocent he is; aided and abetted by corrupt Police and a vindictive female.

I shudder top think how many innocents there are in Prison and branded sex offenders.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Howard M Dec 15, 2017

I would find the nastiest ambulance chaser lawyer and sue the sh&t out of PC Plod CPS and the woman who accused him. She also needs to be named and shamed. The only question is his phone would have receipt of her text messages pestering him for casual sex. Why were they never used in his defence? Sounds like he started off with a unprepared defense counsel.

This is so typical of how a man must be guilty because a woman says so and the police lazily eat it up.

Flag

12RecommendReply

BigJim Dec 15, 2017

*inquiry at the "very highest level" of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).*

This is a non-starter. Having the CPS investigate itself? When its policies, or rather the policies of the DPP are so easily associated with such corrupt cases?

The CPS should be made to fund an Ombusman with some real teeth in its remit. A means to investigate such cases, if necessary in kicking doors in, breaking-open filing cabinets, taking computers away for forensic examination is urgently needed. The CPS can't be trusted to investigate itself.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@BigJim 'Lowest' seems a more appropriate adjective.

Flag

RecommendReply

Svetozar Dimitrov Dec 15, 2017

Why is his tormentor allowed to remain anonymous?

Her name and face should be all over the media and she should spend a long time in jail.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Antony Martin Dec 15, 2017

I'm sure someone will have already made the observation but I must voice it also. What is happening to the woman who made the malicious and vexatious claim against this innocent young man? The incompetence of the police force involved is staggering, the clearing of Liam Allan's name is wonderful news and the repercussions for his accuser should be writ large for all to see. I suspect nothing will be done and will only serve to undermine our confidence in rape prosecutions.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Grumpy Old Man Dec 15, 2017

Option One

This is the result of the Police being underfunded

Option Two

Despite booking hours of overtime to the case the Police were too lazy to spend an hour reviewing the phone records of the accuser.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Bowman2010 Dec 15, 2017

@Grumpy Old Man Option Three

The policed took a look at the texts, saw they were not 'helpful' to their case and schemed to prevent the defence seeing them.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@Grumpy Old Man Option Three - Saunders push to increase rape convictions.

Flag

RecommendReply

JTC Dec 15, 2017

More early retirements in the Met then.

It is clearly a nonsense that to avoid any form of censure a police officer simply retires with his or her pension intact. And we the taxpayer pay for their misdemeanours, wrong doing or incompetence.

Flag

4RecommendReply

EnglishRose Dec 15, 2017

Absolutely dreadful. I take disclosure obligations so seriously. no matter how harmful to my client everything that must be disclosed is disclosed. Everyone must act in accordance with the law.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Skinny Minnie Dec 15, 2017

It would be good to think that someone in the met would be held accountable and punished but I suspect that a senior police officer may suddenly discover the need to retire on health grounds with a full pension.

Flag

12RecommendReply

MoorlandView Dec 15, 2017

@Skinny Minnie Compensation should be paid from the policeman's pension pot and the false accuser.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr John Palmer Dec 15, 2017

Criminal prosecutions against the Police, CPS and prosecuting lawyers absolutely must now follow this terrible exposure of perversion of the course of justice.

Our legal system is at risk of falling apart if this does not happen. In this case the evidence would seem to be obvious. The difficulty would seem to be in determining criminal intent versus gross incompetence.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Tim Place Dec 15, 2017

UK police not fit for purpose

Flag

9RecommendReply

Awewheesht Dec 15, 2017

The Police have a genius for undermining the plight of real victims of abuse in this country while fuelling the suspicion that they are pushing yet another agenda.

If critical evidence was withheld to save money; sack the Head of the Met for running the show badly. If it was withheld because they haven't filled their rape quota, then sack the Head of the Met.

Either way, this was a perversion of the rule of law in this country and it was directly orchestrated by the Police. The consequences for one party were potentially life ruining, amounting to state sponsored torture, with absolutely none on the other side.

That is an abomination.

Flag

4RecommendReply

J McGill Dec 15, 2017

After over 40 years of "lessons have been learned", the Met has yet again taken another gigantic step backwards in 'restoring' public confidence in themselves.

Besides that, the Director of Public Prosecutions should resign with immediate effect. Her pursuance of "rape" cases at all costs is the root of this shambolic nonsense and can only inevitably lead to further miscarriages of justice.

This case has done nothing for Justice, for the principle of innocence until proven guilty and nothing for real rape victims.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@J McGill

Correct . The DPP should be sacked if she doesnt resign.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Mrs P Dec 15, 2017

Well done to Liam Allan for having had the strength to survive 2 years under the weight of false accusation. I hope he receives the justice he deserves by his accuser being similarly prosecuted.

He knew he had received messages from his accuser 'They showed that she continued to pester Mr Allan for "casual sex"'. Thank goodness for the new prosecution barrister insisting that the evidence was handed over. What action is being taken over the lack of action of previous prosecution barrister?

Flag

14RecommendReply

JAMES TAIT Dec 15, 2017

"The MET will carry out an urgent assessment to establish the circumstances". The evidence is clear enough. I have always thought that the CPS was incompetent and the Met police not only failed in their duty of care towards Liam Allen in ensuring that the complaints against him were investigated properly but they were also compliant in hiding certain facts that would have proved his innocence. They cannot shy away from that and the CPS should again reflect that this latest miscarriage of justice in bringing the lad to trial is doing further damage to the public's faith in the CPS and the police.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Kevin Byrne Dec 15, 2017

Seems it's not a crime to lie to police and the court in attempt to have an innocent man jailed and his life and that of his family effectively ruined. Seems too, that at least one investigating officer was complicit in that attempt to pervert justice. This shameful affair is akin to lynch mob mentality in its total disregard and disdain for truth and justice.

Flag

10RecommendReply

John Porter Dec 15, 2017

This woman should be charged with Attempting to Pervert the Course of Justice. If it can be proved that the Police Officer knew what was on the disk he too should also be charged

Flag

15RecommendReply

ArnieT Dec 15, 2017

@John Porter Agreed: women have been jailed for making such wrongful rape allegations - she should not be allowed to get away with this.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Germann Arlington Dec 15, 2017

"A judge has called for an inquiry after the trial of a student accused of rape collapsed because police had failed to reveal evidence proving his innocence."

How is that even possible?

If the police (detectives) had evidence proving man's innocence why did they bring the case to trial in a first place? Were they fighting to achieve targets for rape convictions? Would not that be very similar to Stalin's times when KGB had plans for numbers of arrests?

"In the current climate, in these sorts of cases, you are guilty until you can prove you are innocent" This is surely the wrong way around, in our lawful society the burden of proof is on the prosecution. It seems that the police (detectives) who must surely be impartial as they must protect both the accused and the defendant equally, at least until the defendant is proven guilty, seem to favour the accuser and conspire against the defendant.

The question must surely be asked if this is the single occurrence or part of the culture.

"He [Mr Allan] leaves the courtroom an innocent man without a stain on his character."

That is a false statement.

Mr Allan, unlike his accuser, was named and dragged through mud for 2 years.

Flag

16RecommendReply

Bishop Jonathan Blake Dec 15, 2017

It is inexcusable that so many miscarriages of justice are taking place, because corruption in the Metropolitan Police and Crown Prosecution Service has been allowed to pullulate in the absence of any proper accountability. Confidence in the judicial system collapses in the face of such revelations.

Liam Allan can never be compensated for the trauma and damage he has suffered. The system is well and truly broken and needs radical reform.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Peter Iden Dec 15, 2017

With power comes responsibly. Naming people on zero evidence is completely irresponsible. If the case collapses the police should not just be able to drop it they should have to go in front of a judge and explain why they ruined someone's life for no reason, a declaration of innocence should be made, compensation decided, and the person making the false claim prosecuted.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Peter Jordan Dec 15, 2017

@Peter Iden The Judge already made the declaration of innocence in the strongest possible terms. Did you miss that bit?

As for the rest, it may well happen. Be patient.

Flag

2RecommendReply

John Smart Dec 15, 2017

As an observation there are mostl

Flag

RecommendReply

C Cripps Dec 15, 2017

This is appalling, what a terrible ordeal to put someone through, that will hurt him mentally for years. I hope there's repercussions for those responsible

Flag

7RecommendReply

Richard Strickland Dec 15, 2017

@C Cripps The police are also great at losing evidence and covering up things to save their own skins.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Andrew King Dec 15, 2017

We know this goes on. The upper echelons of the police are riddled with young ambitious officers whose sole mission is to prosecute to the utmost whatever target the Home Office sets them, because they know that meeting targets means promotion and promotion means retirement at 50 with a massive index linked pension and a passport into some other soft job on a tribunal somewhere. And justice? Well anything that threatens the all important quota of rape charges or the ratio of prosecutions to convictions? Well let's jsut say there is nobody in the police fighting that particular corner. This article is timely, but lacks in one respect. Name names and don't forget those names. Because otherwise the guilty will just take early retirement with all the benefits intact. Being an incompetent senior officer is a passport to a good life. It must stop.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Richard Strickland Dec 15, 2017

@Andrew King I think those pensions should be stripped from all officers who have worked with forces where they can be proved to have failed the public. I would estimate that would be almost every force in the country. Individual officers should also be open to being sued for damages if it can be proved they neglected to protect the public or were negligent at any stage.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Peter Jordan Dec 15, 2017

@Andrew King Paranoid alert!

Flag

1RecommendReply

Carla Dec 15, 2017

This is absolutely terrible and I assume the woman concerned will be named, hauled before the courts and charged with wasting police and court time, then given a suitable punishment. I won't hold my breath but in blatant cases like this something really needs to be done.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Curmudgeon Dec 15, 2017

Apart from the mental anguish to the victim and his family, has anyone been fired for this debarcle? And where is the female who made these accusations?? Will she be prosecuted?

Flag

9RecommendReply

John Smart Dec 15, 2017

Mrs Allan's remark about the presumption of guilt is the key to what went wrong. Why bother with contrary evidence when everybody is sure he is guilty.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Blueinsale Dec 15, 2017

Truly appalling, the judge should have called for the senior police officer on the case to the court and sent him/her to the cells for a period of time on remand until a full explanation is forthcoming, that should concentrate minds.

Flag

3RecommendReply

barry cooke Dec 15, 2017

" to save costs, material was not always handed to defence lawyers." and yet the police can spend millions investigating the long since dead Heath with absolutely no chance of bringing to court let alone a conviction....police cries of lack of resources is just a joke...the biggest problem for police resources is the police.

Flag

6RecommendReply

MaryR Dec 15, 2017

The police refused lawyers access to telephone records saying there was nothing of interest there and then it is claimed this prime evidence was withheld due to a need to save costs. Surely this is a fabrication, from what is reported it appears that crucial evidence was deliberately withheld and that smacks of the worst kind of corruption.

Flag

12RecommendReply

John Austin Dec 15, 2017

Actually I doubt it was corruption. It sounds like the Plod just CBA to do their jobs properly. Laziness and contempt for the court process.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Edward O'Brien Dec 15, 2017

As my blood cooled I re-read this report to make sure I had not missed anything. I didn't and continue to wonder. There is no mention of the woman being prosecuted or of any police officer being summoned before the judge. And do we not all ask ourselves, after reading this, how many innocent men are suffering in prison at this time because a female head of the CPS wants more men in jail for alleged rape. She too should be summoned before the judge and made to explain how her fixation effects front line policing.

She leaves the apologies to her juniors, has her district prosecutor write a grovelling note. Alison Saunders should get off her a... and make it known she carries a pretty large share of the blame for this farce, and god knows how many others, and what she intends to do to prevent it happening again.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Jean Jeanie Dec 15, 2017

@Edward O'Brien Nothing I am afraid - the woman is clearly on a mission.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Cliff Resnick Dec 15, 2017

"Mr Allan said the sex was consensual and that the woman was acting maliciously because he would not see her again after he started university." A woman's wrath, now it seems to be condoned by law.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Peter Jordan Dec 15, 2017

@Cliff Resnick But it wasn't condoned by law, was it? The court and its processes produced the correct result. The story is incorrect police procedure.

The big news here is police overwork.

Flag

RecommendReply

david cunningham Dec 16, 2017

@Peter Jordan @Cliff Resnick The big story is CPS and Met incompetence, arrogance, absence of moral compass, equity and legal procedure, a culture of promotion via target chasing irrespective of Justice - and public unaccountability.

No amount of additional resources will cure that!

Flag

RecommendReply

brian wright Dec 15, 2017

The mother is exactly right - it's almost as if the onus has shifted, in rape cases in particular, from the prosecution having to prove guilt to the defendant having to prove innocence.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Minority Man Dec 15, 2017

I of course agree with the views of those who condemn this woman's actions and the behaviour of the police. However, one additional aspect worries me about modern court proceedings and that is the issue of costs. There is no mention in the court report of whether or not the accused was "granted" Legal Aid or not. I believe that current arrangements deny this to many who are subsequently acquitted and that this leaves them liable to find a great deal of money to pay already rich QCs and solicitors inflated fees, which will blight their lives for many years afterwards as they struggle to pay off any generated debt. It seems that it is only the rich who can afford the sort of justice that many of us believe is our right.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Martin M Dec 15, 2017

In cases of negligence or incompetence in the public sector, no one ever seems to be held to account. What usually happens is the taxpayer pays a fine! The public sector is fundamentally flawed: no one cares, no one does more than a pathetic minimum of work, no one's accountable and members of the public are treated like dirt rather than being valued customers – and there's nothing that can be done about it. This goes for them all: teachers who stay away from schools for a second day because of a little snow, doctor's surgeries which make you beg for an appointment, HMRC officials who treat



you with contempt, police who give reasons for not helping rather than help – the list goes on. And these are the people to whom Jeremy Corbyn wants to give large pay rises. Makes me sick.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Jules Dec 15, 2017

It doesn't cost much to hand the evidence over. It's arrogance not cuts that caused this shocking case. The police need to stop blaming cuts and get on with the job. Recently I went to a local police station to report that several youngsters were setting fire to bins in the local park. The police told me to go and sort it out myself!!

Flag

10RecommendReply

Plah22 Dec 15, 2017

A good editorial decision to give this story such prominence

Flag

8RecommendReply

Hem Laljee Dec 15, 2017

To keep someone on bale for 2 years which is an immense mental strain for anyone in that position. The attitude that I am Police and no one can doubt my words. At the end of this period to be empty handed as regards the evidence is beyond understanding. Up and down the country there are cases where Police seniors have never been prosecuted. The important two years of this student have been sacrificed by the over=confident Police and the Prosecutors.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mr Dog Dec 15, 2017

If, like me, you are part of a generation brought up to respect police officers and believe that we had a criminal justice system that other countries envied, then cases like this leave one painfully disillusioned.

Flag

15RecommendReply

John black Dec 15, 2017

@Mr Dog Fortunately You and I like most, never come into situations where the Police and CPS are involved, and so we still believe in our justice system. It is only when we hear about situations like this, that the present day reality comes as a shock.

We Should thank our lucky stars that we have not experienced it first hand and only read about it. And yes, I think luck seems to play an important part these days.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Peter Mcparlin Dec 15, 2017

why was it all brought out at the- last minute-prosecution barrister appt just before the court case- surely all and any reports need to be studied overtime by the prosecuting barrister?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Greg Carlow Dec 15, 2017

There will be "full appologise and we have learnt the the lessons" statement, then everything will catty on as before and one or two will get promoted. Nobody gets fired anymore.

Flag

6RecommendReply

John C. Dec 15, 2017

Shouldn't the police concerned be prosecuted for attempting to pervert the course of justice?

Flag

19RecommendReply

Clare Hickling Dec 15, 2017

Poor boy! Will he ever be able to trust a woman again?

Flag

17RecommendReply

Oneforall Dec 15, 2017

Surely, the people who place real victims in the greatest danger are vindictive women such as this piece of work.

There seems to be an element of fashion in all of this, as we seem to have rape and sexual molestation all over our media at the moment.

One wonders what the percentages of media and politically driven cases are valid after such a case and if the police are to be trusted to get to the truth (or present what they know in court). If a percentage of these cases are false or blown out of all proportion then this undermines real cases. We will have increasing chances of innocent men going to jail and guilty men going free.

Flag

30RecommendReply

j h Dec 15, 2017

Everyone who is truly guilty in this case is allowed to remain anonymous.

Flag

51RecommendReply

PJW Dec 15, 2017

I am unclear how refusing to hand over a disk saves money.

Flag

30RecommendReply

Julian Bassett Dec 15, 2017

@PJW It is truly the lamest of lame excuses.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Grumpy Pensioner Dec 15, 2017

Surely the is. at the very least, a common law conspiracy to pervert the course of justice ?

There is a coterie of legal firms specialising in liable/defamation cases, and for once, I hope they can be put to good use and metaphorically screw this woman into the ground.

Flag

31RecommendReply

Reginald Albion Dec 15, 2017

How about a photo of the person who falsely accused him?

How about a concession by feminists that too many men have suffered due to a lack of due process when a blackmailer is involved.

The principles are simple, but once ideology is involved, they get complicated.

Flag

35RecommendReply

Janice Haigh Dec 15, 2017

@Reginald Albion

How about a confession by misogynists that this is not about feminists (however scared they are of us) but about police failure.

Flag

RecommendReply

Matt Dec 15, 2017

How is it possible that a case of her word against his got as far as court anyway?

I know that would make it pretty much impossible to prove rape, but what ever happened to innocent until proven guilty?

Will the police officer see the inside of a prison cell? Will the malicious accuser?

Flag

26RecommendReply

Rozel Dec 15, 2017

Poor man. What a wicked woman. I hope she is prosecuted, and the CPS and Met Police held to account. He should receive damages for his experience, the effect on his young life must be enormous.

Full marks to the new barrister, it beggars belief that he could get at the truth one day before the trial, after two years. Why did the previous lawyers accept what the Police said and not insist on seeing the evidence themselves? Completely shocking.

Flag

42RecommendReply

Shaun Thorpe Dec 15, 2017

@Rozel The new barrister was a woman - Julia Smart.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Nick Broad Dec 15, 2017

Jerry Hayes is the hero here. A man of integrity. We could do with him back in parliament.

Flag

31RecommendReply

Sam Spencer Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Broad Hero is probably too strong but he is the only person on the prosecution side with a shred of integrity; integrity is sadly lacking throughout modern life.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Shaun Thorpe Dec 15, 2017

@Nick Broad Jerry Hayes was the prosecuting barrister, who offered no evidence. The barrister who uncovered the phone calls the night before the trial was Julia Smart, the defence barrister.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Janice Haigh Dec 15, 2017

@Shaun Thorpe @Nick Broad

According to the article it was the prosecuting barrister, Jerry Hayes, who ordered the police to release the evidence.

Flag

2RecommendReply

david cunningham Dec 15, 2017

CPS has become a repository for every LLB who wants power, salary and pension with minimal effort. CPS proven incompetence and appalling PC behaviour (Rotherham et al) has nothing to do with Treasury cuts. It is the quality of the management and staff that is the problem. Same with the Met. More overpaid, self serving public servants.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Mr Gerald McDermott Dec 15, 2017

We started cleaning out the Augean stables in the 1960s. There is a reason it is called the Augean stables and it still requires an Herculean effort to get the job under control, but it will never be finished.

Constant vigilance is the only answer.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr Gerald McDermott Dec 15, 2017

And that vigilance applies more than anything to the media.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Ray Whitehouse Dec 15, 2017

The met police will now do their review of this with the priority of reducing the risk to their organisation rather than getting to the real truth of it all. Why should we trust the police to investigate this correctly.

The first thing they should do is to make a full public apology from the head of the police force and then ensure the poor guy gets appropriate compensation without him having to go through all the court procedures to get it.

More than one police officer will be implicated in this, like the comment in the article about no smoke without fire, there will be more than just one police officer responsible and accountable for this.

Flag

30RecommendReply

roy beale Dec 15, 2017

Lots of similar doubts on my daughter's trial, where the Met and CPS used a man they have been arresting for years, with 7 rape and sexual assault allegations but no convictions, as a witness for the prosecution.

Loads of questions over missing CCTV and phone records not being checked, lots of other damning and factual evidence on [www.jemmabeale.info](http://www.jemmabeale.info)

A lot of similarities and questions of both the Met and CPS.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Michael Gibbs Dec 15, 2017

@roy beale

You should appeal then and cite this case. Whatever, completely wrong to post and advertise your daughters trial and sentence on here.

Flag

RecommendReply

Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017

How long would it take to plug the file in to a computer and do an automatic scan for relevant words such as *sex*, *rape*, the accused name etc; ?

Then those messages could be examined. The '*on the grounds of costs*' defence is appalling particularly given the consequences for the accused

Flag

8RecommendReply

Minority Man Dec 15, 2017

It all needs doing manually when an individual's freedom and character are at stake. We owe Justice that, surely?

Flag

RecommendReply

*This comment has been deleted*

Chris Roman Dec 15, 2017

In fairness it was the prosecuting barrister who was new, and he ordered the disclosures. From the report it seems that it was the police who were stalling.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@Chris Roman

My apologies I stand corrected

Flag

RecommendReply

EnglishRose Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John I think the article says it was when a new "prosecuting" barrister took over actually. The defence only have what the prosecution send to them.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@EnglishRose @Saint John

Thank you for correcting me

Flag

RecommendReply

Suzan Baker Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John As I read it, the new barrister was for the prosecution, and he was Jerry Hayes. On being appointed he checked the phone records and saw the error.

The defence lawyers had been denied access and so never saw the records.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@Suzan Baker @Saint John

Thank you for correcting me

Flag

RecommendReply

jane howard Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John I understood that Jerry Haynes WAS the replacement.

Flag

RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@jane howard @Saint John

Thank you for correcting me

Flag

RecommendReply

Stensson Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John You apparently read the article very poorly. It was Jerry Hayes who was the new prosecuting barrister who sorted it out and ensured that Julia Smart, the defence barrister, was given the phone records.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Peter Mason Dec 15, 2017

@Saint John

It was the prosecution barrister who was a replacement (para 6) and ordered the phone records to be released.

Flag

2RecommendReply

MJR Dec 15, 2017

What on earth are the police doing?

If there was compelling evidence to exonerate this man how can it possibly have got past the CPS unless either they didn't get this evidence or they decided to ignore it and sit on it. Either way that is simply appalling.

The evidence surely points to the accuser making false allegations and she should be prosecuted for it.

Meanwhile the police/CPS need to be subject to a very thorough independent investigation. Is this a one-off or is it indicative of something much more sinister?

Flag

15RecommendReply

David Shipley Dec 15, 2017

Surely now that it has been proven that the woman is not a victim she can be named. It is understandable that an accuser can remain anonymous where a not guilty verdict arises because of weak evidence of guilt, but when there is clear proof of innocence this right should be forfeited.

Flag

38RecommendReply

Taylor Rhodes Dec 15, 2017

@David Shipley She should be prosecuted.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Daniella Stewart Dec 15, 2017

I think because it was really a police screw up allowing the case to not just continue for so long, but actually make it into court. And by proxy also the media.

If they had done their job correctly in the first place then the case should never have seen the light of day. Nor then would the accused been seen/unfairly vilified publicly, and situation closed.

So technically- whilst the girl in question is undoubtedly malicious and morally reprehensible, just reporting something to the police is not a crime in itself.

It only became a criminal matter because the police made it one.

So, yes she's a vindictive cow. But the fact the police didn't do due diligence, for whatever reason, that's not really her fault.

Albeit she could have retracted her statements perhaps at some point. However. I'm not sure about the UK but in Australia in domestic situations the police very often pursue criminal cases against the accused man/woman/partner, even if the defendant doesn't want them to press criminal charges or to take it to court.

So who knows at what point 'mistakes were made' and by whom. Except at the end of the day the responsibility here for damage done to the poor boy is solely that of the Met.

Not absolving the girl for being nasty. 'Saving money' by withholding clear contrary evidence is just unacceptable.

Flag

RecommendReply

Kishore Thampy Dec 15, 2017

False allegations are bad enough. But it is appalling that in order to be politically correct and appease fundamentalist feminists society is being coerced to accept accusations involving any type of assault on women as incontestable facts. This is happening not just in cases of rape but across the board in all walks of life where a man has the burden of the proof of innocence contrary to established law where the burden falls on the accuser.

Flag

23RecommendReply

Foreversideways Dec 15, 2017

It's time men fought back against these women and stopped meekly accepting what's thrown at them. I think it's actually starting to happen, I have spoken to a number of friends who are male employers who will now no longer employ a woman where possible. You reap what you sow.

Flag

6RecommendReply

LLE Dec 15, 2017

@Foreversideways

Well said.

The police and the idiotic CPS are used as pawns by devious women to get spouses off council tenancy's, leverage in the family courts, stay in the UK when sponsors no longer want to support their applications, I could go on.

Flag

RecommendReply

Martin Bryars Dec 15, 2017

This matter seems to have evaded the BBC as I can find no reference to it. I suppose that has nothing whatsoever to do with the BBC's agenda on sexual matters.

Flag

32RecommendReply

Steve E Dec 15, 2017

@Martin Bryars A spokesman for the CPS said: "In November 2017, the police provided more material in the case of Liam Allan. Upon a review of that material, it was decided that there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction."

Finally on the BBC website, note the wording!

Flag

2RecommendReply

Shaun Thorpe Dec 15, 2017

@Martin Bryars <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-42365521>

Flag

RecommendReply

Bobster Dec 15, 2017

The detectives involved should be sacked, prosecuted and stripped of their defined benefit pension rights.

The conduct of the police is not surprising - withholding evidence and lying to get a "result" seems to be the mantra for so many forces.

The woman should be prosecuted and thereby named and rightly vilified.

The original CPS prosecutor should be sacked for incompetence.

The blatant disregard for the accused's legal rights to be treated fairly under the law by police and prosecutors is appalling.

There has to be accountability for this appalling lack of responsibility.

Flag

39RecommendReply

colin jewitt Dec 15, 2017

@Bobster Kier Starmer trained his department and then joined labour in blaming others

Flag

1RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 15, 2017

This is the correlation of setting an arbitrary and misguided target for number of convictions. The only real target that there should and can ever be is for the correct outcome. The numbers are coincidental to that achievement.

Flag

15RecommendReply

Oliver White Dec 15, 2017

Like everything in this crumbling country the Police service is hopelessly incapable of doing the job its supposed to do and we see evidence of this on a daily basis . . Is it because they don't have the money or because they've become complacent and arrogant, who knows !

I'm sure they would say the former, my experience says the latter but all these stories about people getting fitted up by inept, dishonest or vindictive Police remind me of, well, everywhere else in the World really !

Flag

10RecommendReply

Foreversideways Dec 15, 2017

It's because the senior ranks are full of left wing politically correct graduates who see the job as part of the social services.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Piltdown Man Dec 15, 2017

Perhaps it would help the police if Council wasn't paid £1000 per hour. Pay the lawyers less and get more justice. I was involved in a Company litigation nearly 30 years ago and 'advice' from Council cost us £600 an hour then so just think what it costs now.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Atticus Dec 15, 2017

@Piltdown Man Counsel are paid nowhere near that amount. Even experienced barristers do not make anything like that. You're believing a myth I am afraid. Criminal barristers earn about £400-600 a day for their work in the Crown Court (£50-£150 for a full day in the magistrates' court). That sounds a lot, but it includes VAT and is before tax and the 20% they must pay their chambers. Don't forget that they don't get paid for preparing a case. Mr Hayes and Ms Smart will have spent the week and weekend before this trial working for no money.



If the fees of criminal barristers are cut any further then experienced counsel like Mr Hayes and Ms Smart will not take cases such as these. Innocent people will be found guilty of shocking crimes and lives will be ruined.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Thomas Allan Dec 15, 2017

@Piltdown Man 30 years ago a commercial litigation counsel may have been charging £600ph and it is possible may be charging £1000ph today, but it is highly unlikely that criminal counsel is paid that much as it is all from the public purse. The low level of fees at the criminal bar is actually a problem, particularly at the junior end with the result that it is becoming difficult to recruit and retain the best at the criminal bar.

Flag

4RecommendReply

RECH Dec 15, 2017

This is absolutely terrible and surely it is unthinkable that the police and CPS staff involved should not face some sanction. Whether the woman should be named is I think harder because of the knock on effects on others being deterred from reporting real offences - perhaps she should be tried for perjury and only named if convicted (and it is ridiculous if there is a policy of not prosecuting for perjury in these cases, as some seem to suggest).

But all of us are complicit in creating this climate in which an unverified tweet can be taken as proof of guilt. It is terribly, terribly difficult, but we should try to remember that - to take an extreme example - Harvey Weinstein has not even been charged, let alone found guilty of anything.

Justice is one of the absolutely central foundations of civilisation, and it was a great British jurist who said it was better that 99 guilty went free rather than 1 innocent be convicted. Alison Saunders should reflect on that.

Flag

30RecommendReply

Foreversideways Dec 15, 2017

If roles were reversed the man would be outed on social media by the sisters.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Ms Elizabeth Keith Dec 15, 2017

@RECH 'Alison Saunders should reflect on that.'. This hopeless woman is incapable of reflecting on anything that doesn't fit her feminist agenda. She should be sacked - with no golden pay-off, either.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Stelling Dec 15, 2017

A terribly shocking case. Who will be held accountable ? The police officers involved are now suspended without pay ?

Flag

57RecommendReply

seen it all Dec 15, 2017

@Stelling should be sacked without pension

Flag

1RecommendReply

Lucy's dad Dec 15, 2017

@Stelling

Your being optimistic about suspensions, should actually be charged for 'perverting the course of justice'.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
barry cooke Dec 15, 2017  
@Stelling nah...at worst' early retirement on generous pension...

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Righttorant Dec 15, 2017  
Presumably the accusing woman will now be charged with slander, libel, making a false witness statement, defamation etc. etc. This lad will bear the scars for many years.

Flag

137RecommendReply  
Peter Wright Dec 15, 2017  
@Righttorant  
Rape is a heinous crime but false accusation of rape is more so.

Flag

11RecommendReply  
Doug Bates Dec 15, 2017  
@Righttorant if there is evidence then yes, it would probably be difficult to prove thou

Flag

1RecommendReply  
To Lewes Dec 15, 2017  
@Righttorant You would hope so but I doubt that any of that will happen. In cases such as this she should loose her anonymity, though that won't happen.  
Counterfeiting a rape allegation reduces the confidence in all rape allegations and because of that should be punished most severely.

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017  
Absolutely disgusting but I wonder how often this sort of things happen.

In any case if the police have any material at all that they have not examined it should all be handed to the defence. The failure to examine it is irrelevant.

Flag

33RecommendReply  
Obiter Dictum Dec 15, 2017  
Dr Nick Cornish  
Do you really think the phone records were not checked by the police.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
TheBofinger Dec 15, 2017  
Appalling police and CPS practice.  
What I don't understand is this: "His lawyers had repeatedly been refused access to records from the woman's telephone because police insisted that there was nothing of interest for the prosecution or defence, the court was told." Why didn't his solicitors ask the court to make an order for disclosure after the first refusal so that they could check for themselves? The man's liberty was at stake - you would insist on phone records as part of disclosure and not take the police's word that there was nothing of interest on there, surely?

Flag

63RecommendReply  
Michael Watson Dec 15, 2017  
Yep...sounds like his original defence team weren't up to much

Flag

3RecommendReply

Steve Bull Dec 15, 2017

But, the defendant must have received the messages. Why wasn't his phone used as evidence?

Flag

9RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@Steve Bull Two possibilities: 1) surely anyone receiving obscene messages re. sexual activity from an unwanted source would automatically delete them? 2) maybe one would decide 'enough is enough' and change both phone and number?

Both 'natural' reactions to any 'stalker', which this young woman clearly proved herself to be, e.g. huge number of messages found on her phone.

Flag

RecommendReply

Did You Ring Sir Dec 15, 2017

@TheBofinger Saunders probably told them it would be too expensive.

Flag

RecommendReply

Richard Marriott Dec 15, 2017

There is something rotten at the heart of our judicial system - the police and large sections of the judiciary have become politicised and the blame for this in large part can be laid at the door of the Blair NuLabour administration. As we have seen recently, the Met Police Force has become dangerously politicised. Then we have a whole panoply of laws introduced by NuLabour which actively work against the interests of the settled, law abiding people of this country. Chief villain, was incorporating the Human Rights Act into UK law - we now have to pay compensation to foreign villains who have committed heinous offences against our own people, we cannot detain and deport foreigners who have committed serious crimes and should be deported, and yesterday the High Court ruled that EU Freedom of Movement prevents us from deporting foreign vagrants from other EU countries.

The system is mad! Time to clear out the Augean Stables is well past.

Flag

118RecommendReply

Picador Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Marriott I knew on reading the article that somehow, somewhere, someone would link this in some way to the EU. "deport foreign villains who have committed heinous offences" by all means - but don't put that in the same paragraph as this 'heinous' failure of domestic justice.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Mark Hayhurst Dec 15, 2017

I had to laugh at your word "politicised" (which is exactly what has happened to your own contribution). Didn't you read the article? This isn't about Tony Blair, it's about the police being short of money.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Richard James Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Marriott Excellent comment and Ms May as Home Secretary, while she must have been aware of the depths to which the system had fallen, did nothing to reverse it. She even wanted to stay in the EU and probably still does want the ECHR to have power over us.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Blackbird Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Marriott

Whist I would not argue with all that you have said, this case is about gross incompetence by the police and (possibly) the CPS who were quite content to ruin a young man's life as a consequence of either their indifference, or nefarious intent. Both of these departments of law should and MUST be above any external 'politicised' influence, no matter the source.

What has happened amounts to - at best - nothing less than a criminal neglect of duty and - at worse - possibly a perversion of justice, by intent. This should not stop at a disciplinary action or even dismissal, but lead to the criminal prosecution of the responsible law officers themselves.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Jenesaisquoi Dec 15, 2017

At Richard. What I don't understand about the HRA is that there are several rights which are qualified and in which the courts can decide that the interests of and protections for wider society can take precedence over the individuals rights. It is the courts who look at the balance of the issues, and in some of these cases where, for example , individuals are clearly a risk to society at large ( either through criminal activity or terrorist activity) the judges invariably come down on the side of the individual to the disbenefits of our society at large. What is it I wonder that makes a judge think a foreign criminals rights are greater than those of our society, and thus individuals here , who then may be detrimentally affected later by that criminal.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Minority Man Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Marriott "Chief villain, was incorporating the Human Rights Act into UK law... " Not for much longer if our politicians in the future act in our best interests, once we are out.

Flag

1RecommendReply

31linden Dec 15, 2017

What a disgrace.....the sadly all too common shambles but one which has blighted the life of a innocent person.

The woman should be prosecuted for wasting police time and the police hauled over the coals but I doubt either will happen.

Flag

79RecommendReply

Ian Burgess Dec 15, 2017

The accused should bring a civil action against this woman, she ought to be named.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Chris Miller Dec 15, 2017

@31linden ... lessons will be learned ... no-one really to blame ... nothing to see here ... move along please ...

Flag

3RecommendReply

DS Dec 15, 2017

Name and shame the accuser. The routine naming of the accused before the trial has been completed and a verdict passed has to stop too. It can ruin innocent peoples lives.

Flag

113RecommendReply

Philippa Rees Dec 15, 2017

@DS Hell hath no fury....is this not the first motive to be considered before charges are brought? The phone records should have been the first step, not the last!

She should be named and charged.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Nigel Benson Dec 15, 2017

Spot on. I've said this for years you're absolutely correct. And all driven by the hardcore womens lobbies who quietly disappear when a man is found not guilty

Flag

2RecommendReply

Elizabeth Jane Mott Dec 15, 2017

The woman involved should be prosecuted immediately for making false accusations. She nearly sent an innocent young man to jail for 10 years.

Flag

199RecommendReply

Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017

@Elizabeth Jane Mott I hope that they expunge the accusation from this poor man's police record and, if that is the only thing on his record, then the whole thing is removed otherwise it will show up whenever or if ever he applies for a visa for an overseas trip.

Flag

13RecommendReply

TP Dec 15, 2017

@Elizabeth Jane Mott This should absolutely be the case. There will be more scepticism and less justice for women who truly suffer rape if people like this are allowed to go unpunished and taint the whole legal process with doubt. Women who are prepared to lie in this fashion should be deterred from doing so to the highest extent possible. Zero tolerance for false claims of sexual abuse that could result in lifetime of horror for men falsely accused. I am female but a mother of sons, I feel strongly women should stand against this behaviour by other women - it does not help the cause of gender equality in the slightest

Flag

6RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@TP @Elizabeth Jane Mott Agree. I too am the "mother of sons" and now four grandsons; all the former were 'gathered in' after I read Ms Maltby's first article in the Times ... so too their courteous and somewhat 'old-fashioned' father!

All have been warned to treat 'needy' women with scepticism; to ensure they are NEVER - despite an ingrained 'gentlemanly' code - alone with any wide-eyed and mystified young colleague exuding 'admiration'.

Flag

RecommendReply

dauidr Dec 15, 2017

Good for the prosecution barrister es conservative M P to act in an honourable way. Shame on the Police. Wonder what would have happened if the Labour deputy leader has been the prosecution Barrister

Flag

34RecommendReply

Peter Mason Dec 15, 2017

@dauidr

I doubt that the Labour Deputy Leader would have been the prosecution barrister. He (Tom Watson) is not a barrister!

Flag

1RecommendReply  
davidr Dec 15, 2017

@Peter Mason @davidr Yes I am aware of that, I was simply comparing the barrister in this case and the way he handled an alleged sex offender case to the way Tom Watson handled the alleged Ted Heath case.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Stuart Whitby Dec 15, 2017

@davidr That's a highly unfair "observation" on the nature of people and politics. An ex MP from one party does a thorough job in his original role of criminal barrister and you make implications about the nature of the case if a barrister from another party had been in the prosecution?

Flag

RecommendReply  
davidr Dec 15, 2017

@Stuart Whitby @davidr See my reply to Peter Mason

Flag

1RecommendReply  
j turner Dec 15, 2017

The accuser should be named, shamed and prosecuted as this poor man has had to endure. Why should accusers remain anonymous?

Flag

184RecommendReply  
Gemini Dec 15, 2017

@j turner I suspect she stands a very real risk of being charged with perjury and perverting the course of justice.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
bluearmyfaction Dec 15, 2017

This is what happens when there is so much pressure regarding sexual crimes. Not just to prosecute, but to get convictions.

They are the most difficult crimes to prosecute successfully because so often it is one person's word against another. It would help if politicians did not complain about the low conviction rates in order to get cheap publicity - and if the media did not play their game.

Flag

97RecommendReply  
MJR Dec 15, 2017

@bluearmyfaction That pressure should not lead to the police/CPS failing to act properly though.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
MarquisDeMoo Dec 15, 2017

@bluearmyfaction A while back I was led to believe that JPEG images are not considered good enough for evidence in law because the compression technique removes subjectively unimportant detail. Curiously the human brain is very similar in that it builds a picture from interpretation of a limited field of vision, which is why you do not notice your blind spot. Worse memories tend to be fabricated and studies have shown that it is easy to fool people into believing they saw an event that they could not have. Thus nobody should be convicted on the say of any other person and I have strong reservations about convictions based on multiple witnesses, there should always be corroborative physical evidence.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
AJCG Dec 15, 2017

Will anyone get fired for incompetence/negligence? Will the innocent young man be able to sue the Met for the two years of hell?

Flag

117RecommendReply

Mr K Miller Dec 15, 2017

@AJCG Given that it was a blatant failure to follow correct procedures I think the answer must be 'yes'.

Flag

21RecommendReply

AJCG Dec 15, 2017

@Mr K Miller @AJCG I'd like to think that the answer to both would be yes..but, I have little faith in the ability of the Met to clean house rather than close ranks and cover up. Although the Commissioner - Cressida Dick - is a real tough cookie and appears to be more "user friendly" than previous appointees.

Flag

1RecommendReply

MAGISTER Dec 15, 2017

@AJCG No but lessons will be learned. They always are apparently.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Andrew Dec 15, 2017

Disgraceful

Flag

51RecommendReply

Mary Goldie Dec 15, 2017

@Andrew utterly

Flag

RecommendReply

Alan Jackson Dec 15, 2017

Gross incompetence by the CPS and police at best - but probably criminal intent here. Makes one wonder how many others may be languishing in jail on the back of false accusations by spurned accusers.

Flag

90RecommendReply

djab Dec 15, 2017

@Alan Jackson This is not a case of incompetence but one of withholding evidence which is a criminal act.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Charles Robson Dec 15, 2017

A recent Times article drew attention to the distinction between the (increased) number of reports to the police and the (decreased) number of convictions for hate crime. Surely this distinction should always be observed when reporting legal affairs. The sentence in the last paragraph of this article would then read: "Alleged rapes recorded by the police have risen ..... but the number of alleged rapes referred to the CPS for decision on charging has remained broadly static." There may be an increase in the actual number of rapes and the investigative process may still not be adequate, but rectifying this if true is not helped by blurring facts or, in the case reported here, ignoring them.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Edward Locke Dec 15, 2017

"We are aware of this case being dismissed...". It's good that the police keep up to date with the news.

Flag

27RecommendReply

John Kirby Dec 15, 2017

Bet yer absolutely NOTHING will happen in the Met as a result of this. At best, a lowly plod will be "disciplined". But the senior management will just carry on. It would be utterly shameful if they get away with this - but I bet they do.

Flag

64RecommendReply

Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017

@Joe in Suffolk In the meantime what happened about that officer in the Damian Green case who kept, illegally I think, his notebook which could contain evidential material for other cases.

I wonder if that officer only kept the one notebook and, if so, i wonder why....

Flag

22RecommendReply

Peter Wright Dec 15, 2017

@Joe in Suffolk

"It appears the [police] officer in the case has not reviewed the disk, which is quite appalling."

Aye! Right!

Flag

1RecommendReply

JOHN CAMPBELL Dec 15, 2017

Sadly this is far from being the first case of its kind.

Perhaps Austen, you will read this . Best wishes.

Flag

19RecommendReply

David Stewart Dec 15, 2017

I hope the woman who bought false allegations against him gets prosecuted. She can't get away scot free.

Flag

289RecommendReply

Neil Barrett Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart We should start by now naming her.

A close friend (who was raped at knifepoint) is very bitter about her effect of allegations like these on those who have really suffered. The people she (and people like her) damage most are those who are real victims of this dreadful crime.

Flag

168RecommendReply

Doug H Dec 15, 2017

@Neil Barrett @David Stewart Some 10 years ago my brother worked for the Met and used to have to interview victims of such crimes and has echoed the sentiment of your friend many times.

Unfortunately because so many falsely report rape they have to sometimes put the victims through thorough and repeated questioning to try and tease information to find out if they're lying. I can only imagine how a real victim feels when their claims are questioned.



Flag

9RecommendReply

Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017

@Neil Barrett @David Stewart I understand that complainants are guaranteed anonymity for life but surely, if the claims are blatant lies, that should not apply unless, of course, naive politicians never considered that anyone would lie.

If she is charged with perverting the course of justice then she should be named.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Stephen Dunne Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart She should be given the same sentence he would have got if found guilty.

Flag

58RecommendReply

Coocoorookoo121 Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart Totally agree and hope both the police force involved and the lawyers involved are also prosecuted for holding back the evidence which would have cleared this young man. Given how the system is now weighted in favour of the victim, any evidence to the contrary should be seriously considered and allowed in defence of the accused.

Flag

27RecommendReply

Mark Mass Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart that is an excellent point and something I missed when I read the story.

The courts have jailed a number of false claimants recently, she must be jailed to prove that the rule of law is paramount

Flag

13RecommendReply

Mordwinoff Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart The same happened to our grand son, the pre-trial judge did not think there was a case to answer but the CPS went ahead. It seemed a clear case of Hell hath no fury..... X was acquitted as the woman was caught lying in the witness box and had lied to her only supporter. X in the mean time had lost his job as they worked for the same firm and had not in the circumstances been able to get another. A lawyer friend estimated the cost to the taxpayer to be upwards of £500,000. No the woman was not charged with either perjury or wasting police time.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Nicholas McGee Dec 15, 2017

@David Stewart I hope the defendant/(now victim) sues the Met.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Otto Leipzig Dec 15, 2017

Us up North in the former mining areas are all too familiar with this kind of police incompetence and lying. The Sheffield Rhino whip tortures, Orgreave false riot charges, Hillborough and the cover up of child rapes in Rotherham.

As the old saying goes "Never trust a copper", and these days add "nor the CPS"

Flag

28RecommendReply

Jon Sayers Dec 15, 2017

I agree with many of the comments here and I also believe that Alison Saunders should resign over this and many other instances of CPS incompetence. Take the case of Mark Pearson and the Greville Janner case as just two other examples.

Can a stated ambition of bringing more prosecutions and convictions in sexual assault cases be wise or fair? Like councils asking traffic wardens to hand out more parking tickets, or as Liam Allam's mother so pithily says, like setting sales targets.

I strongly agree that the woman in the case should be named and prosecuted - that would be proper justice and might discourage malicious claims by others.

A number of legal professionals and former legal professionals, including retired police officers, have been moved to comment here. Could I ask that one of you - someone who knows how to word it appropriately and effectively - might consider launching a petition to ensure that the identity of the complainant is revealed in such cases and that prosecution follows? Perhaps another petition to call for the resignation of Alison Saunders? I would sign both.

Flag

116RecommendReply

Ian Burgess Dec 15, 2017

Probably find out that the woman in question had 'issues' so preventing a charge being brought against her. Maybe she was also 'offended'.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Anip Dec 15, 2017

@Jon Sayers Me too. And I would also pay into a crowd fund to help bring any private prosecutions necessary.

Flag

1RecommendReply

London Resident Dec 15, 2017

I would happily contribute to that as well

Flag

1RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@London Resident Me too.

Flag

RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 15, 2017

@kateha @London Resident And me

Flag

RecommendReply

Michael Fisher Dec 15, 2017

So are we wrong to infer that the CPS want more men put away to please certain people, and they don't care too much how they do it?

Flag

59RecommendReply

Richard Pursehouse Dec 15, 2017

Never mind an inquiry, how about a charge of 'perverting the course of justice' for the top police monkey in the county? And he should demand an apology from the person who accused him who should be named.

Flag

49RecommendReply

Stillfly Dec 15, 2017

Alison Saunders has previous in this area. It would be interesting to know if she had any knowledge of this case.

Flag

33RecommendReply

London Resident Dec 15, 2017

It doesn't matter if she does. She created a culture where upping rape convictions was at the forefront of what she was trying to achieve in her role.

Since her appointment there have been numerous trials abandoned that should never have been brought. In pursuing her objectives she has dragged innocent men through appalling ordeals, protected vindictive liars who have wasted police and court time and spent a fortune in taxpayers' money.

Simply unacceptable.

Flag

55RecommendReply

lanesmarsbar Dec 15, 2017

@London Resident Yes, it almost amounts to an abuse of legal process. The criminal justice system MUST be objective not politically-(in)correctly targetted.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 15, 2017

@lanesmarsbar @London Resident "almost"?

Flag

3RecommendReply

London Resident Dec 15, 2017

Absolutely. We demand accountability from leaders of organisations as they determine the culture from the top down.

Saunders could have endorsed a rigorous objectivity in bringing trials. She could have encouraged greater support for rape victims, perhaps better training for judges, different interview and screening processes and all of these might have had some merit.

However she stated as an objective increased convictions and we are now seeing near miscarriages of justice (and undoubtedly some miscarriages of justice) occurring almost weekly and a waste of resources simply to satisfy her politically driven target.

It's positively Soviet that a public servant tries to impose targets on criminal convictions.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Paul Whitehead Dec 15, 2017

He should bring a civil case for substantial damages against her. Then she would be outed.

Flag

71RecommendReply

Clare Hickling Dec 15, 2017

@Paul Whitehead That is no doubt an effective plan of action; but why put the onus on the victim of this travesty of justice to go back to court and fight it out? He deserves a normal life with a complete break from lawyers!

Flag

1RecommendReply

Graeme Harrison Dec 15, 2017

@Paul Whitehead Substantial damages she almost certainly would be unable to pay. That sounds like a completely worthwhile exercise.

Flag

RecommendReply

Hugh Smith Dec 15, 2017

What has happened to the Met? Are there any straight cops left?

Flag

49RecommendReply

John Kirby Dec 15, 2017

@Hugh Smith apparently not. Story after story after story showing the goings on in this institution.

21RecommendReply  
Ricky Freeman Dec 15, 2017  
One thing I have noticed is that sometimes, getting a conviction, any conviction is the priority, especially as a high profile case can lead to a promotion. Flag

30RecommendReply  
Raphael Dec 15, 2017  
Immediate sacking (after investigation) of all those who knew of the contents of the messages and were content to let a guy get 10 years in prison!  
No easy "early retirement"  
And the guy should sue both the Met, CPS, and the lying woman! Flag

98RecommendReply  
William Isaac Dec 15, 2017  
@Raphael Sacking,okay,what about their pensions?This is the tool used to bend coppers into shape. Flag

2RecommendReply  
Raphael Dec 15, 2017  
@William  
Agreed! Flag

RecommendReply  
ModCon Dec 15, 2017  
@Raphael  
I believe they did not even bother to read the messages so may not even had any ide what the contents were. Flag

2RecommendReply  
NDA Dec 15, 2017  
Liam Allan's name has been plastered all over the papers - but not the woman, who has committed a dreadful crime. Our procedures for these types of cases really needs to change, unless it's in the public interest, nobody accused of sexual offences should be named unless guilty - they should have the same anonymity as the accuser. Flag

149RecommendReply  
Bel Ami Dec 15, 2017  
Good for you Jerry! Well done, and very best from AL. Flag

18RecommendReply  
John Austin Dec 15, 2017  
I first met him when I was a pupil in his chambers and he was still an MP. He have me a tour of Parliament. Great bloke. Wotcha Jerry! Flag

17RecommendReply  
Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017  
@John Austin I remember him from when he was an MP and occasionally on TV. very amiable and very sharp.  
Boris could learn a lot from him. Flag

1RecommendReply  
Shaun Thorpe Dec 15, 2017

@Bel Ami Jerry Hayes was the prosecuting barrister. The barrister who uncovered the phone evidence was Julia Smart, the defence barrister.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Innominatus Dec 15, 2017

Who pays his legal expenses? Can the accuser be prosecuted for a malicious allegation?

Flag

19RecommendReply

Andrew Cole Dec 15, 2017

The change in the legislation putting the burden of proof on the accused was passed by MPs in the context of a political environment in which there is pressure for a higher number of convictions. What did MPs think was going to happen?

Flag

31RecommendReply

Margaret Studer Dec 15, 2017

He has good friends and family who stood by him and I'm sure they will continue to support him as he gets his life back together. I wonder how his accuser will fare when she needs support.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Mrs Ruth Bruce Dec 15, 2017

@Margaret Studer

... *when she needs support*

She needs not support, but the prison sentence her victim would have had if convicted.

Flag

3RecommendReply

tightlywoundballofhate Dec 15, 2017

Surely the woman should be prosecuted for making a false statement. Should he not be able to sue her too for defamation and to recover the costs of his defence?

Flag

104RecommendReply

The Dynamic Flashy Dec 15, 2017

Why is it that after a false rape accusation (or rape acquittal) the accuser remains unnamed - and more often than not, unpunished. But the (falsely) accused have their name tarnished forever?

Flag

49RecommendReply

SpyWhoLovedMe Dec 15, 2017

One's anonymity is preserved even if the allegation made is false - and therefore an offence. Yet surely offenders do not deserve anonymity. In this case, it is the defendant, not the complainant who deserved anonymity.

Flag

18RecommendReply

GT Dec 15, 2017

Sack Saunders. She has no or little interest in justice - real justice, which involves ascertaining the truth. She and her scum are concerned only with achieving "results" for the corrupt purpose of self-advancement. The lying bitch who made the false claim should be identified together with her parents and every one of those 'friends' who knew the complaint to be false and who were willing to stand by and see a miscarriage of justice. She should be imprisoned.

Flag

40RecommendReply

London Resident Dec 15, 2017

She should go. It is her flagship policy to convict more rapists and almost weekly we are seeing cases that should never have been brought to trial collapse - how many cases have successfully convicted on flawed or partial evidence?

There is a very real possibility that there are men serving sentences who are innocent as a result of pressure from Saunders down.

This is unacceptable and an appalling miscarriage of justice and notwithstanding an urgently needed investigation into the conduct of the Met Saunders should either do the decent thing and resign or be sacked.

Flag

22RecommendReply

Keith Proctor Dec 15, 2017

The CPS and the MPS should urgently investigate the extent to which the policy of

"believe the victim and survivor" was also responsible for this near miscarriage of justice

in this case. The student has my, and should have all our, sympathy and understanding

and

should be fully and handsomely compensated for the horrors I know he will have

undergone over the last two years.

The College of Policing should also consider this case, and similar cases, in their current review of the Henriques recommendations on belief. The DPP should issue her personal

apology to this man.

K Harvey Proctor

Flag

34RecommendReply

DamienT Dec 15, 2017

In my reading of this report my conclusion is that, when it comes to sex cases, the CPS is utterly corrupt. It puts doubt in my mind about all the cases that have been reported in recent years including those against celebrities.

Flag

19RecommendReply

LLE Dec 15, 2017

I deal with spurious rape allegations nearly every week. In one case I had to fight for my client to be re interviewed, as the complainant had sent messages to him admitting lying. He was kept on bail for months afterwards and even when he was released without charge, they took no action against the alleged victim/absolute liar and would not 'no-crime' the incident.

It is dispicable how some woman use rape to manipulate and control and the idiotic policevand CPS lap it up.

Sundry bores ask me "why do you do your job aren't you just helping criminals?"

If you knew how many innocent people are accused of crimes they didn't commit you would understand why I do...

Flag

173RecommendReply  
JOHN CAMPBELL Dec 15, 2017  
@LLE  
Thank you, excellent comment.

Flag

18RecommendReply  
LLE Dec 15, 2017  
And thank you to The Times for allowing the comment to be posted. The Graun deleted this comment every single time I made it in that infernal rag.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
Ad valorem Dec 15, 2017  
And the young woman, the real criminal here, remains anonymous.

Flag

64RecommendReply  
Londoner Dec 15, 2017  
One of the things that has upset me is the unfair and biased way this has been reported in the Guardian. The messages "cast doubt" on the case, whereas the truth is that they destroyed it. Their article twice parrots the line that there was no longer a realistic chance of conviction, but does not set out the reality of what happened. A disinclination to admit potential miscarriages of justice in this area permeates the thought of 'progressives'.

Flag

43RecommendReply  
John Austin Dec 15, 2017  
The Graun has an agenda on this. It is one of the reasons I won't read the rag any longer. "Facts are sacred" as they say. Hypocritical fake-news merchants.

Flag

18RecommendReply  
London Resident Dec 15, 2017  
I agree. I used to read it a few times a week as I admired its liberal heritage, it had some good columnists and was a useful counterpoint to publications like the Times.  
I can't do so now. It has utterly abandoned liberalism and indulges in "progressive" bigotry. You can tell the Guardian view of almost any story by simply knowing the identities (gender, race, sexuality etc) of the individuals involved. The actions and events are almost irrelevant. CP Scott would be appalled at what his legacy has become.

Flag

18RecommendReply  
Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017  
@Londoner To be fair to the Guardian I think, since reporting of cases like this is reviewed by the papers' lawyers before publication that may have been written under cautious legal advice.

Flag

RecommendReply  
MJM Dec 15, 2017  
Simply appalling by the Police. I expect there are many more cases like this.  
His Mother's comments are spot on for what passes as justice today.

"In the current climate, in these sorts of cases, you are guilty until you can prove you are innocent," she said. "The assumption is there is no smoke without fire."

Flag

25RecommendReply

Richard Griffiths Dec 15, 2017

The sacking of the Chief Constable and senior chief investigating police officer is the only way to help that this does not happen again.

Flag

22RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Griffiths

The Current Commissioner wasn't in post two years ago

Flag

1RecommendReply

Wilbers Dec 15, 2017

When will they allow anonymity for those accused as well as those accusing?  
Will the girl now be prosecuted for perverting the course of justice? I doubt it.

Flag

34RecommendReply

Bob Dec 15, 2017

What about the girl who made the allegations? Does she get to just walk away from all of this? That doesn't seem right.

Flag

88RecommendReply

Oliver Griffin Dec 15, 2017

@Bob she's not been named, so v. possible that she is being tried (naming a defendant in an ongoing case would be contempt of court I think)

Flag

4RecommendReply

Gerald Collins Dec 15, 2017

@Oli @Bob no she's not been named because she is the alleged victim of a sexual offence. Her identity is protected indefinitely, regardless of the outcome of the case.  
Fair enough but the accused should benefit from the same protection unless and until convicted.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Darren Brooks Dec 15, 2017

@Bob In the case of my friend, his accuser committed clear perjury, but he was told by the Police that they have a policy not to prosecute because it discourages other women from coming forwards. That is not justice.

Flag

29RecommendReply

Dr Nick Cornish Dec 15, 2017

@Darren Brooks @Bob The police will only investigate if a complaint is made and recorded which is appalling.

Flag

RecommendReply

I am feeling rather weary.. Dec 15, 2017

This woman has done the real victims of rape no favours at all.She needs prosecuting.

Flag

238RecommendReply

Sam Day Dec 15, 2017

No, no, no she needs help and exposing her to public scrutiny would simply exacerbate her issues. After all, someone who would happily allow an innocent man to be held under suspicion of rape for more than two years via her false allegations must surely be seen as a victim herself and society



cannot be seen to punish a victim. Unless, of course, her false allegations had been accepted not just by the police and CPS, but also by a judge and jury.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Ms Elizabeth Keith Dec 15, 2017

@Sam Day 'she needs help and exposing her to public scrutiny would simply exacerbate her issues.'. The best help, to bring this woman to her senses, would be a taste of her own medicine. All the while she's called a 'victim' she'll never see what she's done wrong. The only victim in this case is the hapless Liam and the woman in question should be named and shamed. As for the police and CPS - it's time the government stepped in and exercised some control.

In a different but allied case also reported today, Bishop George Bell - accused of nasty sexual misdemeanours even though long dead - has now been exonerated and his accusers slated. Taking just these two cases together, surely even our current weak and feeble legislators can see that something needs to change, and quickly.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Newminster Dec 15, 2017

Sam Day —

I think you need to put a /sarc tag on that for the hard of thinking — or are you in reality an exiled Graun reader and you mean it?

Flag

3RecommendReply

NR Dec 15, 2017

At the very least for wasting Police time.

Flag

3RecommendReply

John Sheppard Dec 15, 2017

Evidence not shared to save money, I don't get it! I suspect a more sinister intent was at play here. Our police and the Met in particular are letting themselves and more importantly the public down badly. More and more examples of this type of "incompetence" are coming to light and are very concerning it seems in maybe systemic.

Flag

59RecommendReply

Leanora Munn Dec 15, 2017

The whole thing is scandalous.

Flag

30RecommendReply

Wild Dog Dec 15, 2017

This young guy should sue the Met and the CPS for damages. The young woman should be prosecuted for maliciously bringing the case and for perjury.

-

Is our police force fit for purpose anymore?

Flag

158RecommendReply

George Rosenberg Dec 15, 2017

@Wild Dog Unfortunately the right to sue in these circumstances has been abolished. He might (if lucky) get his costs on a legal aid scale - much less than anyone pays if they are privately represented.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Ann Bishop Dec 15, 2017

@George Rosenberg @Wild Dog

Mr Rosenberg, when did this happen? I'm genuinely interested in knowing more about this. Thank you.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 15, 2017

You've answered a question I was going to ask, but are there no circumstances under which he could sue when there is a clear (acknowledgment by the judge) case of negligence? Otherwise what is the incentive to ignore disclosure.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Peter Bromiley Dec 15, 2017

On the other hand, she might still get compensation. I know of a step-daughter who lied about her step-father assaulting her (he basically wouldn't let her go nightclubbing at 15). It fell apart under cross-examination but she still got (from memory) about £20,000.

Flag

RecommendReply

kateha Dec 15, 2017

@Wild Dog The police are mere following orders. The CPS, led by Alison Saunders is responsible for those Orders; i.e. all allegations of 'hate' or sexual crime MUST be BELIEVED without prejudice.

The CPS has defiled and corrupted the British Legal System in keeping with the ideological stance of Ms Saunders. Neither she nor the CPS are Fit For Purpose. We simply cannot know how many similar cases have resulted, over the past 20 years, in the prosecution and conviction of 'innocent' white men.

What we do know is that abuse, torture and rape of vulnerable white British children in over 40 cities of England was ignored - ergo facilitated - for even longer than 20+ years. No question in those cities of the 'victims' being believed!!

Questions need to be asked e.g. did New Labour pass a Bill in Parliament confirming that all alleged 'hate' and 'sex' crimes MUST be believed without question, evidence, witnesses, or documented proof?

Flag

RecommendReply

David Spence Dec 15, 2017

A ray of hope.

His mother's comments are spot on.

Flag

17RecommendReply

Alan Simpson Dec 15, 2017

I am a retired detective superintendent and when I feel it's justified I jump to the defence of the police in this comments section.

I'm now finding it harder and harder to do particularly following Hillsborough, Operation Midland and now this debacle.

The fact that the police didn't read the text messages of the accuser in this case, deliberately or through lack of interest, and then refused to hand the disk over to the defence, is simply unforgivable.

Nothing fills me with more horror than an innocent man going to prison.

The CPS doesn't come out of this case with clean hands either.

Something is badly amiss with crime detection in the UK at this time and a root and branch overhaul is desperately needed to prevent a case of this nature getting so far down the road to a point where a miscarriage of justice was narrowly avoided.

230RecommendReply  
e blois Dec 15, 2017

@Alan Simpson We don't know that they didn't read the messages.

Flag

6RecommendReply  
Michael Watson Dec 15, 2017

Someone must have read them as they told the defence lawyers there was nothing of interest in them....or they were just lying and hadn't bothered.

Flag

19RecommendReply  
Newminster Dec 15, 2017

Michael Watson —

The implication, as I read the story, was that they were lying and hadn't bothered. As Liam's mother said, the "no smoke without fire" philosophy is alive and well.

Which is why police aren't over bothered about being over-fussy when they "know" the guy is guilty and why society demands that these sort of man-in-the-street-"stands-to-reason-dunnit" arguments aren't acceptable when it comes to someone losing their liberty and reputation and you will please hand over **everything**, officer, like it or not and whether you think it is relevant or not!

A strict interpretation of that requirement to the point of instant dismissal for gross misconduct is needed. To include the culprit's "line manager" if he gave the order.

Flag

.  
There has been no mention in all this of the original Crown barrister. He/she has a few questions to answer in this fiasco, I would have thought!

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Neil Barrett Dec 15, 2017

@e blois @Alan Simpson The fact they said there was nothing of interest implies that they did.

Flag

8RecommendReply  
Gary Byrne Dec 15, 2017

@Alan, surely the police would have checked the 2 phones as a basic?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Rosa T Dec 15, 2017

@Alan Simpson This doesn't just happen in the present, either. Back in the early 1980s a teacher at my son's school was accused by one of the boys of sexual abuse. The police were informed but took little interest and assured the head (who passed the assurance to parents) that there was 'nothing to worry about'.

In 1997 after a career of abuse involving a great many school-age children, this man was sent to prison for eight years. At the time of the original complaint he was making obscene videos of children - including my son (who was too embarrassed/afraid to speak out) then aged 11. A cursory search of the teacher's lodgings would have found the evidence.

Flag

1RecommendReply

SixG Dec 15, 2017

@Alan Simpson

It appears to me AS - I am neither a policeman nor a lawyer - that those who should uphold the law without fear or favour no longer do so. They now pursue political directives rather than the truth. And the current political directive is to increase successful prosecutions for rape.

Flag

RecommendReply

Freeliner Dec 15, 2017

@Alan Simpson Should not certain officers be held accountable under the law? They, and the CPS, almost ruined a man's life. Is there no redress?

Flag

RecommendReply

Alan Simpson Dec 15, 2017

@Freeliner @Alan Simpson If the police deliberately withheld the contents of the tape knowing it would be of benefit to the defence then it becomes a perversion of justice and a criminal offence.

If it was just incompetence then I'm not sure where that fits in.

I do hope Mr Allan goes on to become a criminologist as he will undoubtedly become eminent in that field.

Flag

RecommendReply

Gerald Collins Dec 15, 2017

Obviously things went seriously wrong in this case due to shortcuts taken in its prosecution. But lessons should be learnt from it far beyond the narrow issue of disclosure duties: as the defendant's mother said, in the current climate the policy seems to be that all rape claims are treated as true, and to put the accused on trial unless he can disprove his guilt.

That is Ms Saunders' approach and it is only when something unusual like this happens that the risk of wrongful conviction that it brings with it becomes so obvious. Suppose there had been no phone message record. The future of the defendant's life would have depended solely on his ability to persuade a jury that the alleged victim was lying, with nothing more to assist him than friends and family attesting to his good character.

It is time for the CPS to revert to the former position that sexual offences need corroboration, and that a jury trial is not a safe enough test of guilt or innocence where there is none.

Flag

42RecommendReply

Frankenfurter Dec 15, 2017

Ignoring the incompetence of the police how this man's accuser walk away having fabricated a story out of spite. Surely she must have broken some law?

Flag

78RecommendReply

Mike TC Dec 15, 2017

@Frankenfurter Yes - it's called perverting the course of justice !.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Newminster Dec 15, 2017

MikeTC —

It's probably stretching it a bit but I would rather like to see her done for malicious prosecution. I know I'm only dreaming but I have always felt there is something singularly nasty about women who say "have sex with me or I'll say you raped me."

Flag

3RecommendReply

Stuart Smith Dec 15, 2017

@Frankenfurter attempting to pervert the course of justice and since she had given evidence in court under oath also perjury, which has a sentence of upto 7 years and/or a fine.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr K Miller Dec 15, 2017

And what will happen to the young woman who nearly ruined this young man's life?

Flag

58RecommendReply

Deja Vu Dec 15, 2017

Now is the woman who accused him to be prosecuted?

Flag

47RecommendReply

Matthew L Dec 15, 2017

She must. People can't go around making accusations like this and get away with it. Scandalous

Flag

17RecommendReply

Peter Shields Dec 15, 2017

Poor man. Glad he has justice (if late). He is 22 so hopefully can pick up his life again.

Flag

23RecommendReply

Hobbes Dec 15, 2017

What is to happen to the woman who lied and made the false complaint? And what is her name? Prosecuting and naming her is very important otherwise she may cause life changing stress to other innocent people.

Flag

59RecommendReply

James Lawson XIX Dec 15, 2017

@Hobbes

You think?

The moment she is identified then its 'open season' on her by any man minded to either sexually assault or rape her. Both he and she will be fully aware that should the case ever reach the court, the fact that she has, in the past, been convicted of perverting the course of justice arising out a false allegation of rape, then that fact alone is capable of undermining the evidential standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt' required to convict her assailant or rapist.

It is the reverse situation which occurs when a defendant's previous convictions of a similar nature may become relevant and admissible to the issue of guilt.

Any woman (or man for that matter) who makes a false allegation of rape may as well paint a large Bullseye on themselves for any sexual predator who thinks he might have a go!

Flag

1RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@James Lawson XIX @Hobbes

In which case they shouldn't make false claims . Your elevation of her to potential "victim" does justice to no one.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Soysauce Dec 15, 2017

Err I don't suppose the so called 'low' conviction rate is due to a lack of credible evidence in the first place... just a thought

Flag

23RecommendReply

Shrikant Deshpande Dec 15, 2017

Isn't this perjury? By the police and the woman (who shouldn't now remain unidentified).

Flag

39RecommendReply

Parkway Dec 15, 2017

.."He [Mr Allan] leaves the courtroom an innocent man without a stain on his character."

Except that he hasn't. His name has been plastered across the internet.

Accused is now the new Guilty. A stain that can never be removed.

Flag

76RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 15, 2017

Not only that but any application for enhanced CRB check will throw this up.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Newminster Dec 15, 2017

Chris Huckle —

I think in this case the outcome is so clear that Mr Allan has no cause for concern. The judge was quite clear in his (unusual) statement that the accused was "innocent".

Lack of "reasonable doubt" didn't come into it. The offence of which he was accused never happened.

An interesting sideline from Scottish law. There it must first be proved that the offence was committed and then that it was, in law, an offence. I wonder how this case would have fared under that system.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 15, 2017

Not having a criminal record is very different from an enhanced CRB check which brings up arrests, charges etc even if no conviction resulted. The police decide on the interpretation of the

information (so not so good in this instance). It is then up to the potential employer whether he thinks it is relevant. He would be unlikely ever to get a job working with vulnerable people.

Flag

1RecommendReply

DavidEDI Dec 15, 2017

I'm sure this man is pleased after the truth is revealed finally - what an awful experience to go through and I hope he recovers quickly so he can continue with his life, without too much bitterness.

I also say to the press that they shouldn't publish details of alleged perpetrators until they are convicted or found not-guilty. If the victim receives anonymity then the same rules should apply to everyone in these types of cases. I refer to the Times article about Samuel Armstrong as an example.

Flag

25RecommendReply

London Resident Dec 15, 2017

There is a simple solution to this. The presumption should be that the accused is. It publicly named unless the police or the CPS can make a suitably robust case to an independent judge that there is good reason to believe the person is a repeat offender and there are potentially other victims or witnesses out there who might come forward.

This cannot be done as a trawl or to "see what turns up". Otherwise he defendant's name is not published until the point of conviction.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Simon Reid Dec 15, 2017

Mr Allan's accuser now also needs to stand trial.

Flag

32RecommendReply

David Craig Dec 15, 2017

Hopefully the lady involved will now be prosecuted and imprisoned for a substantial time.

Flag

47RecommendReply

Mike TC Dec 15, 2017

*The judge said that police must tell prosecutors about all material collected during their investigations. "It seems to me to be a recipe for disaster if material is not viewed by a lawyer," he said. "Something has gone very, very wrong in the way this case was investigated and brought to court."*

Quite outrageous ! The police officers who withheld this information should be prosecuted for perversion of justice

Flag

63RecommendReply

Richard Ryan Dec 15, 2017

This has to be a joke, absolutely pathetic. The police force in this country are totally useless.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Alistair Speirs Dec 15, 2017

Maybe time for some newspapers to admit that judges are not "enemies of the people" but rather, as they always have been, "protectors of the people".

Flag

38RecommendReply

Michael Kowal Dec 15, 2017

I hope that substantial compensation is paid to Liam for the police's inept handling of this miscarriage of justice. It would appear that the police and CPS are incompetent and lazy. Whilst reading the constant injustices and twisted ideologies of the PC, government mishandling of policies, useless MPs, it makes me wonder why anyone would want to reside in the UK. Incidentally, I left the U.K. a year ago.....never to return. God help the youth of today, they have no future.

Flag

16RecommendReply  
witne55 Dec 15, 2017  
Where did you move to?

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Michael Kowal Dec 15, 2017  
Philippines

Flag

RecommendReply  
dasher Dec 15, 2017  
Where would you suggest moving to? Genuine question - having endured two trials of this ilk when serving on a jury recently, I have been thinking the same thing.

Flag

5RecommendReply  
George Rosenberg Dec 15, 2017  
@Michael Kowal The government has abolished the right to claim compensation. He might get costs on the legal aid scale even if he has spent 10 times more (as he probably has)

Flag

6RecommendReply  
david barton Dec 15, 2017  
And the police and CPS wonder why many people dislike them or simply don't trust them or usually both.  
Staggering that an innocent young man can be put through two years of torture when blatantly innocent.  
What is happening to the young lady that falsely accused him?  
Surely she should be looking at lengthy prison sentence?

Flag

49RecommendReply  
Jack Jones Dec 15, 2017  
"she believed that evidence from phones was being withheld from defence lawyers to save money."  
-  
She 'believed'... but actually has no clue. The next paragraph explains the police are under pressure to secure convictions for rape. Do we really believe the police would never suppress evidence to secure these convictions?

Flag

29RecommendReply  
KS Dec 15, 2017  
Poor young man. What a nightmare for him and his family.

Flag

24RecommendReply  
BrianS Dec 15, 2017  
Aside from the disgraceful behaviour of the police in this case, it is appalling that the so-called victim cannot be lawfully named and shamed.

Flag

59RecommendReply



Polly Dec 15, 2017

She should be prosecuted and jailed for wasting public funds. Those police officers should be dismissed for gross negligence.

Flag

17RecommendReply

Karlos Dec 15, 2017

Then they should hand her the sentence he would have had.

Flag

46RecommendReply

thebeancounter Dec 15, 2017

Indeed, Hammurabi's code

Flag

5RecommendReply

Whiskybreath Dec 15, 2017

Can we expect some new criminal charges and trials of those responsible?

Flag

19RecommendReply

thebeancounter Dec 15, 2017

And what chance the woman involved being named?

Flag

46RecommendReply

Ken Broadbent Dec 15, 2017

Jaw is literally on the desk reading this. What motivated the police and cps to proceed with this torture. And surely the girl must now face jail time.

Flag

44RecommendReply

Richard Cornish Dec 15, 2017

I hope that Liam gets a very large sum in compensation. This case is a disgrace and shatters my hitherto trust in the police.

Flag

35RecommendReply

George Rosenberg Dec 15, 2017

@Richard Cornish The government has abolished the right to compensation. He might get costs on the legal aid scale if he is lucky.

Flag

5RecommendReply

MJJ Dec 15, 2017

Alison Saunders seems to be losing the plot. Do we believe this exonerating evidence could possibly have been sitting there for two years and nobody had an inkling that it existed? I would say heads should roll, but no doubt they will be allowed to resign with full pensions.

.  
I thought CPS looked at evidence before they decided to prosecute? On the other hand, surely some of this evidence was on the man's phone, so his lawyers should have had some idea of what to look for. This all seems very, very strange, and it took a CPS prosecutor to do the CPS in, highlighting the fact that they didn't look at the evidence in their rush to prosecute. I wonder if a less senior prosecutor would have carried on the conspiracy to withhold evidence?

.  
I hope this poor man is adequately compensated for his ordeal, and that the woman is prosecuted for her lies.

Flag

104RecommendReply

bluearmyfaction Dec 15, 2017

@MJJ " Do we believe this exonerating evidence could possibly have been sitting there for two years and nobody had an inkling that it existed?"

It is definitely possible that an overworked, underfunded police team could have overlooked the evidence because everyone thought someone else had done it. And it is definitely possible that an overworked, underfunded prosecution team did not know that the evidence existed.

Flag

RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 15, 2017

@bluearmyfaction @MJJ

Oh come on . Phone records of texts is the first thing you would look at .

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mrs Ruth Bruce Dec 15, 2017

@bluearmyfaction @MJJ

It is not possible. The police said that they had looked at the record and found nothing of interest for the prosecution or defence.

It follows that they knew of the existence and contents of that record and withheld it for purposes of their own.

Flag

7RecommendReply

MJJ Dec 15, 2017

They didn't overlook it, they just tried to make sure the defence didn't see it. And if the CPS did not zealously pursue even the most doubtful cases they wouldn't be so overworked

Flag

1RecommendReply

Anthony Groom Dec 15, 2017

Yet another innocent man put through hell by trumped up charges.  
Nowadays men guilty before being proved innocent.

Flag

27RecommendReply

M E MacCormack Dec 15, 2017

So what happens now to the woman who falsely claimed to be a rape victim?

Flag

88RecommendReply

onlyfair Dec 15, 2017

"Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, has pushed to increase the prosecution and conviction of sexual offences." Not disclosing to the defence evidence which proves the innocence of the accused would certainly help to achieve that aim. It is not about saving money; it is about contamination of the criminal justice system by the setting of prosecution and conviction targets for political reasons.

Flag

54RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Dec 15, 2017

This is what happens when you invert the presumption of innocence while setting targets for convictions. It's only in the current climate that Alison Saunders is able to cling on to her role and fingers are not pointed at Keir Starmer. There needs to be some kick back.

Flag

28RecommendReply

Alan Williams Dec 15, 2017

I had always had complete confidence in the police but recently, this case, the Heath case and the Damian Green case has undermined my faith.

Flag

21RecommendReply

Gary Byrne Dec 15, 2017

Unbelievable.

Flag

8RecommendReply

de Selby Dec 15, 2017

What a travesty of justice on the part of the police. Utterly disgraceful.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Smoky Ashton Dec 15, 2017

Another example of the rotten state of the Metropolitan Police. This force needs a thorough, top to bottom investigation by policemen NOT from London and it must be reformed starting with the head of the force who must me an outsider !

Flag

19RecommendReply

Graeme Harrison Dec 15, 2017

It's very touching that you appear to believe that it's only the Met that behaves in this way.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Mister Happy Dec 15, 2017

Wow!v This is absolutely amazing.

An innocent person could easily have spent years in prison, because public servants simply did not do their job properly. This must never be allowed to happen again. But one wonders how many other times the person concerned was convicted, or pressured into pleading guilty despite knowing they were not.

Flag

33RecommendReply

*Ref.: [Judge slams Met Police after Liam Allan cleared in rape trial.docx](#)  
26/04/2018 09:52*