

Met and CPS apologise to Liam Allan over collapsed rape trial

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-and-cps-apologise-to-liam-allan-over-collapsed-rape-trial-5l2fsnr8q>

David Brown

January 30 2018, 12:00pm, The Times



Liam Allan with his mother Lorraine after the case against him collapsed
BEN GURR FOR THE TIMES

The Metropolitan police and Crown Prosecution Service have apologised to an innocent student who was wrongly prosecuted for rape after errors and a lack of knowledge.

Liam Allan, 22, was brought to trial because a detective denied that the alleged victim's mobile phone contained evidence proving that she had lied, a review of the case found today.

He spent almost two years on bail and three days in the dock at Croydon crown court before his trial was halted last month after police finally handed over the crucial evidence.

The failure to disclose evidence has prompted a review by the CPS of all rape and serious sexual offence cases in England and Wales.

A joint review of the investigation by the Met and CPS published today said that there was no evidence that the mobile phone messages were withheld deliberately.

It blamed a "combination of error, lack of challenge, and lack of knowledge".

The report reveals that Detective Constable Mark Azariah, the officer in charge of the investigation, had assured a senior officer and prosecutors that the 57,000 text and social media messages from woman's mobile telephone contained nothing relevant to the case.

Commander Richard Smith, who oversees all Met rape investigations, said that he had personally apologised yesterday to Mr Allan, a criminology student from Beckenham, southeast London.

"It is clear from our review that both the Met and the CPS did not carry out disclosure procedures properly in this case," he said. "Although we are confident there was no malicious intent in this case, it was important that we carried out this urgent review and learn lessons from it.

"Those lessons will now be adopted across not only the sexual offences teams but across the Met. There are important lessons for us to learn from this case. Equally, there are important lessons for the criminal justice system."

Mr Allan's defence lawyers had asked the CPS last June for any text and social media messages from the alleged victim's telephone relating to their relationship.

The review found that Mr Azariah had not carried out a wider check of social media and had refused the defence request, saying that it was not "proportionate or necessary".

Commander Smith said that Mr Azariah would not face any disciplinary action

"The officer is unable to explain why he failed to make a record of the searches [of the messages] conducted," he said.

Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence.

An extra 120 officers have been allocated to review all 600 rapes cases currently awaiting trial in London. The CPS has allocated 11 lawyers to the review.

Commander Smith admitted that caseloads for officers investigating rape cases were "higher than we want them to be" but denied that there was a shortage of funding.

The review recommends disclosure training for police officers and the appointment of "disclosure champions" in the CPS.

Claire Lindley, chief crown prosecutor for south London, said that she knew that there had been "issues" with some of the other cases already reviewed.

"My view is that the cases we are seeing show we are not making decisions quickly enough when material come to light," she said.

Asked if innocent people could have been jailed because of disclosure failures, she replied: "If any defendant feels they are wrongly convicted they must appeal in the normal way."

Ms Lindley said that Mr Allan's cases had "highlighted some systemic and deep-rooted issues that have been apparent to those working in the criminal justice system for some time".

She added: "The prosecutors involved in this case did not sufficiently challenge the police about digital material. That meant that it took longer than was necessary to drop Mr Allan's case. It is vital that lessons are learnt from this case and others which have come to light over recent weeks where disclosure obligations have not been met.

"It is incumbent on all parties in the criminal justice system to ensure that these issues are addressed, and we have been working with our partners since last summer on a range of measures designed to improve performance in this crucial area."

96 comments

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M E MacCormack Jan 31, 2018

"Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence."

Eh?

Flag

3RecommendReply

Cynthia McNair Jan 31, 2018

Why on earth hasn't the woman involved been arrested and charged?!

Even if the police didn't do due diligence she is still unnamed and out there. As a woman, I am ashamed and appalled at this.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Ricky Freeman Jan 30, 2018

It is my understanding that some messages from the 'false accusers' phone, detrimental to the defendant were used in the case against him. I do not believe that in the process of gathering this evidence, that no one saw the messages which ultimately cleared him. We need a proper independent investigation, followed by the sacking of Alison Saunders.

Flag

4RecommendReply

JohnJoe Jan 30, 2018

@Ricky Freeman This will blow over. NOTHING will change. The police and the CPS seem to believe they are free to make up their own laws

Flag

6RecommendReply

Avicenna Jan 30, 2018

The police perverted the course of justice. How dare they say the prosecution is partly to blame, they can't know what is there if it is hidden. The officers involved need to be sacked and massive compensation paid.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Michael Doughty Jan 30, 2018

The officers involved have not even been named. The accuser also has anonymity as she does not appear to have been charged.

Meanwhile this young man has seen his life ruined.

It's now guilty until proven innocent.

The police and CPS can destroy the lives of anyone they want.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Martin R Jan 30, 2018

@Michael Doughty No not anyone they want. Just men.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Questioner Jan 31, 2018

@Avicenna "The police perverted the course of justice." Surely not - you have to be joking - police pervert course of justice in order to up their conviction rate - whoops - sorry

Flag

1RecommendReply

Gerryco Jan 30, 2018

The root problem is revealed in the fact that there would be over 57,000 lines of text for the Officer in the Case to consider, if he were to scrupulously check all the available material. He cannot simply delegate that duty and in any case there is no-one else to do it. The police will have to be better resourced if they are expected to keep up with the modern inordinate use of personal digital devices and social media.

In the meantime the defence in every case will of course use this weakness to ask, as a matter of course and without any real cause to believe that there is material to help them, for this work to be done. If the defence in the Liam Allen case had any evidence that such material existed, they could have applied to the judge well in advance of the trial for an order that it be disclosed, or at least that it be shown to the judge to rule on it.

What is the answer? The obvious first step is to boost police numbers and to train specialist teams dedicated to checking such data. That will cost a lot of money but it appears that it will be necessary.

The second step is simply to charge fewer cases of rape and other serious sexual assaults. It is these cases, in which consent is often the central issue, that the complainant's private communications are most likely to be relevant.

That would go against Ms Saunders' post-Savile policy of increasing the numbers charged, but maybe that is a good thing. After all, regardless of the disclosure issue, the Liam Allen case looked headed for an acquittal, given the fact that there were apparently 12 separate counts of rape on the Indictment - would it not cross every juror's mind that an alleged victim would be unlikely to be raped by the same person more than one time? (Unless the alleged victim is said to be under the age of consent, in which case her age and his knowledge of it becomes the issue).

Flag

3RecommendReply

Avicenna Jan 30, 2018

But the police falsely claimed and lied about reading all the messages!!!

Flag

11RecommendReply

David Lamming Jan 30, 2018

@Gerald Collins But the messages on the complainant's phone (not "the victim's phone," will the journalist who wrote this report, please note) that showed her to be a liar were to her friends, not the defendant, so he would not have been able to show that there was exonerating evidence within

the phone messages in order to support an application to the judge for disclosure. It took defence counsel in the case to find the messages when she trawled through them overnight during the trial after prosecution counsel, Jerry Hayes, ordered the police to hand them over. Mr Hayes is the hero in the case: one hopes he will not now be sidelined from receiving future prosecution briefs.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Gerryco Jan 30, 2018

@David Lamming @Gerryco I appreciate your argument and I am not criticising the defence in the Allen case for not making an application to the judge.

I was making the point that the defence in every future case will demand phone data simply because they know that the police will often be under too much resource pressure to keep up with demand. They will no doubt cite the Allen case as a reason why it should be disclosed to them, even though they have no evidence that data which could help them actually exists.

Flag

1RecommendReply

John Snodgrass Jan 30, 2018

@Gerryco @David Lamming I don't get this. On the one hand we are being told there were supposedly 57,000 lines of text to read (really?) which is too much for the officer(s) in charge of the case (then why prosecute before you have examined all the evidence?) yet the barrister was on top of it in one night. We are also being told they did read the crucial texts but regarded them as irrelevant. Perhaps the police will soon reconcile all these disparate statements into one consistent scenario before the public starts to smell a rat.

I also find extraordinary the comment that any prisoners concerned about disclosure in their cases can appeal. Really? Well out of time and with no new evidence? What about stating instead that any prisoner concerned about the disclosure in their case can request full disclosure now with the assurance that the new and improved procedures will ensure that this full disclosure is made AND the prisoner will be informed of any material that was not disclosed prior to trial.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Questioner Jan 31, 2018

@Gerryco " If the defence in the Liam Allen case had any evidence that such material existed, they could have applied to the judge well in advance of the trial for an order that it be disclosed, or at least that it be shown to the judge to rule on it." But there was material - real material - which prevented an innocent man going to prison for between 6 and 8 years. How dare you say he defence could have applied to the judge? The prosecution were being told by the police - who have by law to tell the prosecution in every single case whether there is any material capable of helping the defence - that there was NOTHING CAPABLE OF HELPING THE DEFENCE. You really don't know what you are talking about - or you are an copper or ex-copper who cares nothing for innocence.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Alan R MacKenzie Jan 30, 2018

"Although we are confident there was no malicious intent in this case, it was important that we carried out this urgent review and learn lessons from it."

Perhaps not. However, it appears to be yet another attempt to meet with the decree by Alison Saunders that more men must be prosecuted in cases of sexual allegations. It does not help when Saunders makes public announcements when a man is cleared that the prosecution failed "due to insufficient evidence" rather than him being innocent.

The false claims by the accuser appears, to me at least, as vexatious in nature.

Flag

11RecommendReply

Jupes Jan 30, 2018

@Alan R MacKenzie I have no idea where she studied, but I do know, many at Cambridge were completely nuts. And quite likely to support the prosecution of a man, walking, peacefully, across the forecourt of Waterloo station, at a busy time, of interfering with a woman, in a way unachievable by even the most adroit of prestidigitators. When are we going to realise, our Civil Servants are of no use to us whatsoever? That the Service is nothing more than a dustbin, for immature intellectuals, incapable of finding work elsewhere...

Flag

5RecommendReply

Alan R MacKenzie Jan 30, 2018

@Jupes @Alan R MacKenzie

Yes, I saw the video from the cctv of the incident to which you refer. It is beyond belief the man could have been charged. Was she not a prominent figure in the BBC?

Flag

5RecommendReply

Jupes Jan 30, 2018

@Alan R MacKenzie @Jupes To do so would have required the powers of the Superman, of DC comics past. Perhaps, she was part of the same social circle as the DPP. I do not believe she invented it out of malice, rather, it found its way into her mind, as often happens, with the creative. He, quite simply, did not do it, though. And this, to anybody, probably even to those who work for Alison, would have been clear. But, in the Civil Service, the message from the top is pervasive. Their reports would have been edited, as they passed upwards, within the hierarchy.

These people, it must be remembered, have, absolutely, nowhere else to go. A peculiar bunch, more like an extreme religious sect than a useful, operating, body.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mr John Walter Mark Lewis Jan 30, 2018

No disciplinary action against the Officer and no prosecution arising from a false accusation ! Unbelievable except in a system so weighted against men who are subject of such accusations, headed by an individual with a clear personal agenda.

Flag

17RecommendReply

Allison Laird Jan 30, 2018

@Mr John Walter Mark Lewis Agree entirely- it's not right. Unfortunately, at present, the only thing the woman's lies make her guilty of is defamation, which can be either criminal (must be proved to be have done with deliberate malice) or civil.

To stop these women destroying lives like this (and I do blame the women who tell lies to the police in the first place, regardless how messed up the police handling of the allegations), there must be stronger, punitive laws in place to give them pause for thought before they open their vicious little mouths.

What people don't realise is that these allegations become a life destroying sentence on the man, forever afterwards casting a suspicion over him, like a living death sentence.

Flag

13RecommendReply

David Lamming Jan 30, 2018

@Allison Laird There is a stronger punitive law. On the basis it can be shown that the woman concerned deliberately lied in her evidence (assuming that she had given evidence in the trial before the prosecution was discontinued following the disclosure of the text messages), she can be charged

with perjury and/or doing an act tending and intending to pervert the course of public justice, the penalty for which is at large (i.e. a potential maximum of life imprisonment.)

Flag

3RecommendReply

Allison Laird Jan 30, 2018

@David Lamming That's a good point, David. It would be very much in the public interest to know whether she had given evidence under oath. If so, prosecute to the max.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr John Walter Mark Lewis Jan 30, 2018

Thanks for your thoughts. The offences of wasting Police time, and attempting to pervert the course of justice must be possible avenues of prosecution to pursue. I do agree with you however auto where the blame lies in these cases and your proposed approach. There would be doubtless howls of protest from certain quarters however!

Flag

1RecommendReply

Ian Lumsden Jan 30, 2018

"The review found that Mr Azariah had not carried out a wider check of social media and had refused the defence request, saying that it was not "proportionate or necessary.....Commander Smith said that Mr Azariah would not face any disciplinary action"

Says it all really.

Flag

20RecommendReply

ML1970 Jan 30, 2018

I am sure the officer had a huge work load and if he was aware of any evidence such as this that would have undermined the case then I am sure he would not have wasted his time in taking the case forward. He would have ditched the case on got on with his other work.

58000 messages, I do not believe for one moment that it was the investigating officers duty to check every message. He would have relied on someone else doing this for him and flagging up any counter evidence. This is why it is a systemic problem and he should not be made a scape goat.

I suspect the real cause of this whole mess has been the endless austerity cuts.

It is time for this Country to decide what its spending priorities are.

Flag

1RecommendReply

David Charnley Jan 30, 2018

@ML1970 "I suspect the real cause of this whole mess has been the endless austerity cuts.

It is time for this Country to decide what its spending priorities are."

I am glad it is not you who is looking into what went wrong : It is to do with the ability to see evidence and not be influenced by pre-conceived ideas :

"Commander Smith admitted that caseloads for officers investigating rape cases were "higher than we want them to be" but denied that there was a shortage of funding"

Flag

4RecommendReply

ML1970 Jan 30, 2018

So what motive would an officer have to ignore such evidence. The supposed preconceived ideas theory being put forward is rubbish. No officer is going to see a young lads life ruined unnecessary to meet targets. They put forward the case and evidence they have. If he knew there was such damning evidence to the contrary I am of the view that the case would not have been presented.

However, it is probable that a senior office with career motivations would down play funding matters. Let us wait to see what comes forward in the future.

Flag

RecommendReply

Wyn Ford Jan 30, 2018

@ML1970 Believe it or not, there are people in this world who are not as diligent as you may hope. There are some who take short cuts. There are a few who couldn't care less about consequences for other people — and even those who harbour malign intent do exist. Time and again we hear about people on bail for years, while their careers are damaged or destroyed, suffer extreme stress, and end up with no case to answer. We have a system designed for organisational outcomes, not the rights of individuals. It stinks.

Flag

3RecommendReply

David Charnley Jan 30, 2018

Having been involved in criminal defence for decades I can assure you that these problems have been around for decades. They certainly didn't suddenly start since 2008. I recall a colleague of mine making at least 5 applications to the judge over a period of months in about 2000 before evidence being disclosed (under threat of yet another application) 36 hrs before the start of a juvenile rape case which led to its abandonment. Does this sound familiar?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Smoky Ashton Jan 30, 2018

Dear David, the "cause" of all this is the appalling misdirection emanating from the appalling head of the CPS. As for workload etc etc I strongly suggest it would be a straightforward matter to select the telephone numbers of great interest, on both parties phones, and work on these first, then widen and search, widen and search if this is warranted. From reading the reports, it would seem they adopted a more scattergun approach, starting at the beginning and plodding through one by one.

Flag

RecommendReply

Alan Jesson Jan 30, 2018

@ML1970 In my email 'seen' folder I have over 16,000 messages, plus something like double that in other folders and sub-folders. My email program can search all those folders and sub-folders for key words in less than a quarter of an hour. (Actually about 5 minutes the last time I used the facility). I can then select what messages I want to examine closely.

There are other search programs out there which are even more efficient. A competent person - say a police officer as a random example - could construct a search string to go through those 58,000 messages in a few minutes whilst s/he got on with other work. Anybody working through 58,000 messages line by line is not competent.

Flag

2RecommendReply

David Craig Jan 30, 2018

Time for Alison Saunders to resign. Sorry, I forgot that progressive libtards like Alison Saunders are only interested in their own lousy careers.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Saint John Jan 30, 2018

The Police are encouraged to get convictions.

So for them to be adjudicators of what the defence can see is ridiculous.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Cassius Jan 30, 2018

@Saint John

I was wondering if there is some quota of rape accusations that need to be at least seen to come to fruition?

Flag

RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Jan 30, 2018

@Cassius @Saint John Yes. The DPP has set the target. So, it becomes less relevant whether somebody is guilty or not, especially if you put the onus on the accused to prove he didn't do it.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Saint John Jan 30, 2018

"Asked if innocent people could have been jailed because of disclosure failures, she replied: "If any defendant feels they are wrongly convicted they must appeal in the normal way.""

Unbelievable . They dont have access to the accusers phone records CPS but you do . So they cannot appeal. But you CPS can check.

Flag

13RecommendReply

David Lamming Jan 30, 2018

"[Liam Allan](#), 22, was brought to trial because a detective denied that the alleged victim's mobile phone contained evidence proving that she had lied."... "Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence."

Commander Smith should be relieved of his senior post, reduced in the ranks, and sent back to training school to learn about the offence of perverting the course of justice; And the (still anonymous) complainant should be charged with this offence and, if convicted, face a potential 5 year jail sentence - which is the sentence it is likely Mr Allan would have received had he been (wrongly) convicted.

Flag

26RecommendReply

HaggisJockNessie Jan 30, 2018

And the name of the false accuser will never be in the public domain....

Flag

7RecommendReply

Andy Crofts Jan 30, 2018

@HaggisJockNessie It will be. SOME will sort that out, at some point. That, or The Sun offering a shed-load of money for an interview, and voluntary disclosure.

Flag

1RecommendReply

chiaramonti Jan 30, 2018

Looks like a complaint to the IPCC is in order.

Flag

4RecommendReply

John Hooton Jan 30, 2018

@chiaramonti

I would far rather some useful organisation did it

Flag

3RecommendReply

Ellie Delights - less heat more illumination Jan 30, 2018

What was the "evidence" that led to the charge and the CPS going ahead?

Has the concept of reasonable doubt been scrapped?

Flag

6RecommendReply
Ben Jan 30, 2018
How and why is Alison Saunders still in post?

Flag

16RecommendReply
Andy Crofts Jan 30, 2018
@Ben Yeah. She hasn't apologized in the slightest, instead abdicating her role.

Flag

8RecommendReply
Mark Eltringham Jan 30, 2018
This admission from the CPS is sleight of hand. It does nothing to address the underlying problems, which include the inversion of the presumption of innocence and target setting for convictions. Those issues need to be laid at the door of the current and former DPP.

When are politicians going to address this?

Flag

16RecommendReply
David Tilley Jan 30, 2018
Detective Constable Mark Azariah, should be dismissed immediately

Flag

20RecommendReply
Andy Crofts Jan 30, 2018
@David Tilley Too harsh. A large glass of whisky, a private room and a revolver. Having said that, if this so-called 'victim' is revealed on Social Media, which will surely only be a matter of time, I think she'll be found to have topped herself.

Flag

2RecommendReply
Andy Crofts Jan 30, 2018
About time DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) learnt to become DPJ (Director of Public Justice).

Flag

5RecommendReply
Caspertg Jan 30, 2018
We must now see the resignation or removal of Alison Saunders.

We now have a horrific, authoritarian justice system where an allegation alone can result in a drawn out, hugely damaging arrest and prosecution and a potential conviction.

Systematic failures of disclosure and 'believe the victim' have given us the justice system of a police state that Hitler, Stalin, Mao would all be jealous of.

And in this why can we not at least have an investigation into the accuser to see whether there is evidence that she acted maliciously and whether there is a chance of a successful prosecution. Maybe start with the phone records!

Flag

30RecommendReply
RM Jan 30, 2018
From experience and talking to others who have gone through similar experiences, every police force investigates and collects evidence differently. What they appear consistently not to do however, is search for evidence to back up the accused person's account of events. This means that often there is no evidence to disclose to assist the accused. The police can therefore sit pretty saying they have disclosed everything that they have gathered.

In Liam's case however evidence was available and there is no excuse at all. He should be compensated for the years of agony he has endured. The accused should be brought to account through the law courts. It is not sufficient to say she has not committed a criminal offence. If Liam has been exonerated then this leaves only one person left who lied.

The officer concerned and his DS should be subject to a full, independent investigation.

Flag

27RecommendReply

Rob Irving Jan 30, 2018

Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence.

Obviously they must have proof the woman lied. It even states she made "the false allegations" surely this must be enough evidence?

Flag

20RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Jan 30, 2018

@Rob The problem with prosecuting her and others is a sudden increase in the numbers of accusers proven to have lied. And so an end to the idea that accusers never lie.

Flag

8RecommendReply

RM Jan 30, 2018

Perhaps if the DPP sets targets for prosecuting false accusers we'll see a change!

Flag

8RecommendReply

Martin Bryars Jan 30, 2018

@RM ME Too might not approve though. The whole system is off balance.

Flag

3RecommendReply

RM Jan 30, 2018

Maybe a 'me too' campaign should commence from all those people brave enough to share their stories of how they have been affected by the growing number of sexual convictions based on little or no evidence?

Flag

RecommendReply

RM Jan 30, 2018

Sorry that was an idiotic suggestion as many of the people it has affected are in prison!

Flag

RecommendReply

Rob Irving Jan 30, 2018

@Mark Eltringham @Rob Its already proven that accusers lie with or without any prosecutions Mark. Just again proves the police are incompetent.

All it says is the police are happy to let people who are clearly guilty with perverting the course of justice away with it. Causing the Victim, in this case Liam Allan another injustice.

Think all these cases over past months has proved that Alison Saunders view to always believe the accusers is flawed and something drastically needs to change. The first step I think is to replace her as DPP.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Jan 30, 2018

@Rob Irving @Mark Eltringham I agree completely. No doubt she'll come up with some new figures in the future to prove women never lie, based on her own refusal to prosecute women for lying.
Catch 22

Flag

1RecommendReply

John Sheppard Jan 30, 2018

Detective Constable Mark Azariah, no disciplinary action, why not. He refused access to relevant information having been requested by the defence. How can this be right?

Flag

13RecommendReply

Alan R MacKenzie Jan 30, 2018

@John Sheppard

I suspect he has been hung out to dry. If disciplinary action were to be taken he may well be able to incriminate others. Those higher in the pecking order do not want that to happen.

Flag

4RecommendReply

John Sheppard Jan 30, 2018

@Alan R MacKenzie @John Sheppard You could be right.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Mizula Montana Jan 30, 2018

Some compensation and a resignation by the DPP would be appropriate, this is systematic under her.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Jason Paul Jan 30, 2018

One of the biggest issues here is that the Met sit on the information and are gatekeepers for what the defence can see, based on keyword searches.

They will never search the evidence with the level of robustness that the defence would - how can a defendant trust an analysis done by the police that there's nothing exculpatory just because they've done some text search and haven't found anything?

That entire methodology is entirely broken. It's clear they aren't examining every word sentence or paragraph of collected evidence.

Flag

14RecommendReply

Mark Roberts Jan 30, 2018

The most scandalous thing is now a lot of juries will not trust the evidence of the police and the CPS, so might be unwilling to convict someone who is actually guilty.

Flag

8RecommendReply

lancsmarsbar Jan 30, 2018

@Mark Roberts Yes, that's the irony. The whole target-driven push to get more rape convictions has completely backfired.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Prabhat Jan 30, 2018

Has the DPP apologised? This is all window dressing given that CPS and the Police are only following DPP's guidance and planned aims here.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Andy Crofts Jan 30, 2018

"SQUARK! Lessons Learnt"
"Squark! Lessons learnt! Pretty Polly, Lessons Learnt! Squark"

Flag

30RecommendReply
TemporaryTexan Jan 30, 2018

How about review if the officer had enough resources to review such amount of information given. If so he needs a training course.
The rape claim victim should have to have counselling at least, with community service. The damage she has done to actual rape victims who may not be listened too because of her lies.
I heard that this poor man will continue to have this case on his Disclosure and Barring Service as they have not procedure to take it off or add information to clarify he was falsely accused and in fact innocent?.

Flag

3RecommendReply
Graeme Harrison Jan 30, 2018

If the officer had insufficient time and/or resources to do the job that the law required him to do, he ought to have said so rather than falsely claim he had looked at the material and found nothing that ought to have been disclosed.

Flag

9RecommendReply
Mark Eltringham Jan 30, 2018

@TemporaryTexan The number of people available to prosecute these cases has risen hugely in the past two years. It has nothing to do with resources and everything to do with policy.

Flag

4RecommendReply
David Harrold Jan 30, 2018

This piece pretty much nails where the current culture of victimhood is heading with this.....

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/01/11/liam-allan-falsely-accused-rape-accuser-almost-got-away/>

Flag

3RecommendReply
Alan R MacKenzie Jan 30, 2018
@David Harrold
Worthwhile reading.

Flag

RecommendReply
Alan Jesson Jan 30, 2018

May we now be confident that Mr Allan's record at the Disclosure and Barring Service has been cleared of the notification that he has been charged and prosecuted for rape? A limp apology from the police is not sufficient.

Flag

17RecommendReply
Samuel Trefgarne Jan 30, 2018
Here's the report...

<http://news.met.police.uk/documents/review-of-r-v-allan-74882>

Flag

3RecommendReply
thebeancounter Jan 30, 2018

"the alleged victim's mobile phone contained evidence proving that she had lied"

"Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence."
??

Flag

44RecommendReply
Martin R Jan 30, 2018

@thebeancounter I really hope the Judge that started all this off brings them to account.

Flag

16RecommendReply
GT Jan 30, 2018

@thebeancounter As you say: ??? How about 'attempting to pervert the course of justice' or does that only apply when the case moves out of the 'court of media and public opinion' to the so-called courts of justice?

Equality under the law? Rubbish! The bigots and activists have the field.

Flag

7RecommendReply
Allison Laird Jan 30, 2018

@thebeancounter She's definitely guilty of defamation which can be either a criminal (ie knowingly malicious which is extremely difficult to prove) or civil offence.

Defamation is defined as:

"Any intentional false communication, either written or spoken, that harms a person's reputation; decreases the respect, regard, or confidence in which a person is held; or induces disparaging, hostile, or disagreeable opinions or feelings against a person."

I think Mr Allan has a pretty good civil case against her. With any luck a civil suit will make her name public. Serve her right, too.

Flag

5RecommendReply
charlie white Jan 30, 2018
@thebeancounter ? indeed

Flag

RecommendReply
C J Delmege Jan 30, 2018

"Commander Smith said that there was no evidence that the woman who made the false allegations against Mr Allan had committed any criminal offence." Eh?? So this liar gets off scot free.

Flag

42RecommendReply
Martin R Jan 30, 2018

@C J Delmege Stop that. You are clearly 'victim blaming' the person who made false allegations. (Clearly being sarcastic).

What a crazy world we are in.

So making false accusations is no longer a crime?!?!?!?

Flag

16RecommendReply
Richard Stout Jan 30, 2018
@Martin R @C J Delmege

Apparently it is not a crime for a woman to make false allegations against a man.

Flag

13RecommendReply

charlie white Jan 30, 2018

@Richard Stout @Martin R @C J Delmege All sexual assault accusers will be believed (A Saunders, head of CPS), ergo, all men accused must be guilty. From there you can see how an inadequately trained and inadequately experienced detective constable would not bother examining nor passing on crucial evidence to the defence team. What a mess.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Mark Roberts Jan 30, 2018

@Martin R @C J Delmege I wonder if the chap could take her to court for libel or slander? Doubt if it is worth it though, she is probably a benefit scrounger with nothing to pay compensation with.

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1RecommendReply

Martin R Jan 30, 2018

@Mark Roberts @Martin R @C J Delmege I think if there was a thing as a 'mens group' as I am sure there are 'womens group' to fund this then it might set a good precedence.

That is not anti men or anti women but pro justice. See if the feminist groups chip in financially to fund the libel case.

Crowdfund? There was an equal case where a woman wanted group funding to take court action against an alleged attacker (rightly so if she was seeking justice). Why not in this case?

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Sam Day Jan 30, 2018

Azariah demonstrated enough dereliction of duty for his actions to allow an innocent man to have his life turned upside down for an extended period of time and narrowly avoid a complete travesty of justice resulting in Allan being imprisoned.

For all of that, apparently no further action needs to be taken against the constable and, due to continued evidence being withheld or lack of it being released, no lessons seem to have really been learned.

The Police will continue to follow the orders of their political masters and pursue convictions for whatever the controlling ideologues dictate today.

Flag

24RecommendReply

John Hooton Jan 30, 2018

He was assured that a PC had checked 57,000 communications and found nothing incriminating. Does a PC control the level of resource necessary to do that?

We need the answers to some very searching questions before we start on the apologies..

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3RecommendReply

Brian Davies Jan 30, 2018

Ah yes, "lessons".

In such serious cases I would have hoped that the officer conducting the case and the CPS would have been sufficiently competent that the "lessons" necessary would have been learned as an essential requirement before they were handed such responsibility. A detective constable in charge of this case begs the question whether he had sufficient experience to handle such a case on his own.

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6RecommendReply

Andy Webb Jan 30, 2018

What a whitewash.

Talk is cheap.....shut up and do something!

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Attrix Jan 30, 2018

Well they have said quite a few things, bu have not included an admission of incompotence.

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H M Jan 30, 2018

"Commander Smith said Detective Constable Azariah would not face any disciplinary action"

There are words and there are actions.

The police and CPS *say* they are taking things incredibly seriously, but are failing to even give a token slap on the wrist to the negligent officer.

I firmly believe that the "urgent review" and "lessons learned" from it will be about as transparent and effective as their disciplinary procedure.

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36RecommendReply

Moor Park Jan 30, 2018

"Commander Smith said that Mr Azariah would not face any disciplinary action" - So others may be encouraged to follow his omissions?

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Michael Stevenson Jan 30, 2018

It beggars belief that this man can have his life ruined and that

- 1) The police offer totally inadequate responses to this egregious affair
- 2) the officer concerned who failed in his duty is not to face investigation

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John Hooton Jan 30, 2018

Can I add a third?

- 3) the supervising officer failed to review thoroughly and is not to face investigation

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18RecommendReply

thebeancounter Jan 30, 2018

- 4) Yet there was no failure to provide incriminating evidence, which coupled with other similar cases recently, implies there is a systemic bias
- 5) The lying accuser faces no charges

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Matthew Twigg Jan 30, 2018

@thebeancounter Number 5 is the one the aggravates me the most.

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*Ref.: Met and CPS apologise to Liam Allan over collapsed rape trial.docx
26/04/2018 09:57*