

## Police are ‘trained to hide vital evidence’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-are-trained-to-hide-vital-evidence-cnfdm6iz>

Full extent of disclosure failures laid bare

**Frances Gibb**, Legal Editor

April 3 2018, 12:01am, The Times



Liam Allan was put on trial on 12 charges of sexual violence because the police failed to hand over text messages that would have exonerated him

BEN GURR FOR THE TIMES

The scale of the failure by police and prosecutors to disclose vital evidence in criminal cases is exposed today in documents showing that such behaviour is routine and deliberate.

A dossier seen by *The Times* reveals a commonly held view that the defence is not entitled to see all the evidence. It discloses the tactics used to stop it being handed over, with officers in at least one force apparently trained in how to avoid making available material that might undermine their case.

The file draws on the reports of 14 focus groups with the police, and others with prosecutors and judges, as well as a survey of prosecutors.

The findings come after this newspaper reported on a series of rape cases that collapsed at the eleventh hour when evidence was passed to defence lawyers. The comments in the dossier include one prosecutor saying: “In even quite serious cases, officers have admitted to deliberately withholding sensitive material from us and they frequently approach us only a week before trial. Officers are reluctant to investigate a defence or take statements that might assist the defence or undermine our case.”

Among the comments from police focus groups was: “If you don’t want the defence to see it, then [evidence] goes on the MG6D” — a reference to the list of sensitive unused material to which the defence does not have access. In another focus group, an inspector noted that police “have been

trained to put items on there that they do not want disclosed to the defence”. This tactic was confirmed by prosecutors. One recorded comment was that “officers put undermining material on the MG6D list to hide”.

In one report on focus groups with judges, the inspectors note a judge saying: “There seems to be an idea that the defence is not entitled to see things but where the defence press matters, this yields results.”

Prosecutors are also at fault. Sometimes this is because of what one called a “hugely excessive and complex caseload, insufficient time to do the job, poor-quality and slow digital systems, poor-quality investigation by police [and] wrong prioritising of objectives by the organisation”.

The dossier was obtained by the Centre for Criminal Appeals, a charity, under a freedom of information request to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Inspectorate and the Inspectorate of Constabulary, which collated the unpublished comments when preparing a joint report on disclosure of evidence last year.

It makes clear that the failure to hand over evidence that may undermine the prosecution case is often deliberate and comes at a time when the criminal justice system is under scrutiny. Last year *The Times* revealed that [Liam Allan](#), a 22-year-old student, spent almost two years on bail and was put on trial on 12 charges of sexual violence because the police failed to hand over text messages from the alleged victim that would have exonerated him. His lawyer secured the messages and he was cleared. Other similar cases subsequently came to light.

Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, and Jeremy Wright, the attorney-general, began inquiries into disclosure failings after the trials failed. It emerged yesterday that Ms Saunders’s contract as DPP was not to be renewed — which she said was through her own choice.

Last week the CPS and police inspectors gave evidence to the Commons justice select committee. Kevin McGinty, chief inspector of the CPS, said disclosure failings were the single most frequent cause in the steady stream of miscarriages of justice. He described a culture in which disclosure was seen not as part of an investigation but “more of an administrative exercise”.

The Centre for Criminal Appeals has submitted evidence on disclosure to the justice select committee along with the Cardiff Law School Innocence Project, urging the creation of an independent agency to deal with the issue.

The National Police Chiefs’ Council lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave, said: “National training and guidance on disclosure does not in any way endorse or encourage the unnecessary withholding of any material relevant to a case. It is, however, right that in cases involving sensitive unused material, such as details of an informant, that this is not automatically shared with the defence. This is entirely in line with legislation and national guidelines and is well understood by defence and prosecution alike.

“At the same time, we know that investigators need more effective, consistent training and advice so they have absolute clarity about the disclosure process - and this is central to the improvement plan we have put into action with the Crown Prosecution Service and College of Policing.”

---

### Related links

---



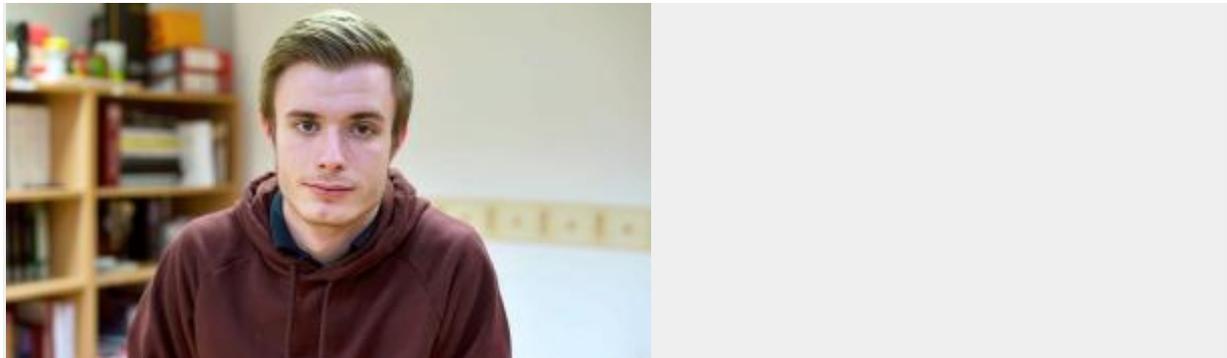
MELANIE PHILLIPS

[Time to end this policing by pressure group](#)

**Melanie Phillips**

The justice system is in deep trouble. Two developments suggest at least the beginnings of an attempt to...

April 3 2018



[Review of botched rape trial 'misses the point'](#)

**David Brown, Chief News Correspondent**

January 31 2018



## [Judge slams police after man cleared of rape](#)

**David Brown, Chief News Correspondent**

December 15 2017

Comments are subject to our community guidelines, which can be viewed [here](#).

410 comments

+ Follow

Post comment

Newest | Oldest | Most Recommended

Alison Wunderland Apr 6, 2018

IT is an offence to fail to disclose evidence, that is the law, but as I just heard a copper on video says that the law is discretionary, what? That means discrimination. Once you start down that road you can say farewell civilisation. I had a case where the police and the IPCC refused to disclose witness statement made by police officers. Eventually I managed to get some of the evidence from the police insurers. When a court order was made for discovery, the police failed to produce anything, we produced a bundle of ALL our evidence. This was contempt of court by the police, but the judge struck out the case as having no merit. Now we have it from the legal system that everything is discretionary.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Philippa Lyon Apr 7, 2018

You're right, they've made decisions about types and what they get which is illegal. It is supposed to be based on character not race, colour or religion ... lazy Police who don't get the full story before jumping to conclusions. I just heard a story of a girl who confronted 2 people who stole from her mother. She was sent to prison for 7 months, mostly I'm guessing because she didn't know how to speak to the Police. They've never been charged.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Derek Emery Apr 4, 2018

There is a scoring system for police performance as there is for the NHS. No points will be gained by handing evidence to the defence that would weaken the case.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Philippa Lyon Apr 5, 2018

It's a good idea but like most cover-over ideas, it will work until they work out a barter system, then you've got a deeper attitude towards corruption. Things need to be managed with penalties worse than the benefit without belief they won't be applied ... but then proper remuneration keeps people satisfied, respectful and therefore reporting, which of course you can't give when the economic benefit isn't there ... efficiency = pay rise isn't understood - you tell em they start arresting more and slamming more with false evidence ... too many wrong people in the Police force ... not enough money = no-one wants to join ???

Flag

1RecommendReply

david cunningham Apr 4, 2018

Well at least the Boss responsible Ms Alison Saunders will not have her contract renewed. An opportunity for the Minister to get a proper qualified CEO team in place to sort out these failures. Cutting down the prosecution procedures and paperwork to release police to prevent and solve crime would be a good start. The Minister should not let the lawyers dictate this reorganization. Lawyers have a vested interest in over complexity. It is good for fees. Get a decent management consultant to investigate and report.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Paul Bradford Apr 4, 2018

In addition to my comment below, there will be a lot that do not like this one. Once I had arrested someone, I had to explain to the Custody Officer (of a rank of at least Sergeant) the reason and grounds behind the arrest. If they were not sufficient and this was reviewed by an Inspector, the person had to be released as the arrest was unlawful. The person would be interviewed, if that was necessary (not in drink drive, or Public Order arrests). The evidence would then be presented to the Custody Officer who would decide if there was sufficient evidence to charge if the person had not admitted the offence. If the area was a little grey, the person was bailed and a file was prepared for a Prosecutions Inspector to make the decision on whether to charge or not. I can say that every person that I charged, committed that offence. When it went to Court if the person was found not guilty by the Magistrates or Jury, it was due to a sterling effort by the Defence in throwing some doubt into the minds of those trying the case. Things may well be different now, but there is no point in 'gilding the lily' to get a better case. I'm sure that it went on in the past and maybe does on occasion these days. But what would be the point? You could end up in prison yourself.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Paul Bradford Apr 4, 2018

I began my Police Service shortly after the new file system was implemented. This changed the prosecution file system, producing the MG file system (which continued to evolve during my service). Initially, there were (from memory) 19 separate file documents to include. This was the beginning of the problem with Police paperwork. The time spent dealing with the paperwork after charging a defendant meant that we spent a lot less time on the street. As time passed, more documents were added, as can be seen from the MG6d mentioned in the file. There will be an MG6a, b and c and possibly others. If you look at the Contents of National File Standard [https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/dpp\\_guidance\\_5\\_annex\\_c.pdf](https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/dpp_guidance_5_annex_c.pdf)

you will begin to understand the sort of job a Police Officer will have to do in terms of paperwork. During my career, there was NEVER any pressure or suggestion that evidence was to be withheld. In my opinion, not only would that be stupid, why run the risk of being dismissed or a prison sentence? However, it was noticeable that Defence procedure at Court seemed to be to direct the Magistrates or Jury away from the offence that the Defendant had committed to the area where an error might have been made in the paperwork or the detention of the Defendant. The Custody Record was scrutinised for any potential error in their normal 24 hour maximum detention time. i.e not having had the correct rest time or refreshment breaks as laid down by PACE.

Witnesses were often all requested by the Defence in the hope that one or more wouldn't appear and the case could be dismissed as they were 'Essential to the Defence case'. However, if the Defendant failed to turn up, the case would be put off to another date.

As time went on, my statements became better with experience and the system changed so that statements could be served Section 9 (both parties agreeing on the evidence contained within and no reason to cross examine). What I mean by better with experience can be explained by an example of chasing after a shoplifter down the High Street and then arresting them after they had run around a corner. It seems quite straightforward, but if you didn't include the fact that the Defendant went around the corner, out of sight for x seconds and when you turned the corner, the Defendant, still wearing the same clothes that you had earlier described and x feet away, was the only one in sight and/or was the same person that you had been chasing, the Defendant would possibly get off.

This is talking about a simple case. When serious cases such as murder are involved, the pressure on the PC (and let's be clear about this, the Police is run on the ground by Police Officers and Police Sergeants. Ranks above that are rarely seen out of the Station) will be enormous to get things right. I recall a new Police Officer that I was tutoring saying that I must enjoy dealing with accidents as I always volunteered for them. I replied, I don't enjoy them at all, but one day, I will be first on the scene at a fatal road incident. (As it turned out, fortunately that never happened). If I don't deal with it properly, I will be in trouble. I can't use the excuse that I didn't know. The response would be, you have been an Officer for 12 years, you should know.

Police Officers are trained on the job and learn from the experiences of their Tutor Constables. You will only be as good as the Officer that trained you, unless you strive to find out more. I was lucky. I had a good Tutor and some good, experienced colleagues that helped me out. There were and will still be those that just want to drive a fast car on blues and two's to an incident and then not deal with it properly when they get there, but they are in the minority.

The Country gets the Police Service that it will pay for. PCSO's and Special Constables are, in my opinion an attempt to bolster the amount of a uniformed presence on the streets. Again, in my opinion, if you want part time Officers, they should be fully trained and paid, in the way that the Territorial Army are trained to support the Regulars. Using the Special Constabulary as a stepping stone for applicants who wish to join the Police is wrong.

Long before I left, The Job became a shadow of it's former self. The public were and are being let down by the ineptitude of those in charge. The situation will be made worse by the College of Policing's plans that all Officers should be University Graduates. A degree is no evidence of common sense or ability to be a Police Officer. If they take that road, many good Officers would not be able to serve (myself included and I believe that I was a good Officer).

In order to avoid wasting Court time, maybe consideration should be given to go back to the days when a Defendant was taken to Court the day following their arrest and not be given the time to work out an alibi or a reason for their actions. The Defence Solicitors wouldn't like this as it would cut down the amount they could bill the State!

Flag

3RecommendReply

Philippa Lyon Apr 4, 2018

To sit on bail for 2 years; it wouldn't happen to Britain's most wanted ... with a face like that (and for no-one to notice), shows severe intimidation and like most innocents a useless respect for the Law.

This is what happens when you have a winner/loser culture, while everyone's running to win, the innocent get lost.

Flag

2RecommendReply

PB Joyce Apr 4, 2018

Perhaps the scariest and most revealing case was that of Mark Pearson two years ago. He was actually prosecuted for assaulting a woman "penetratively" after momentarily brushing against her in a packed Waterloo Station. Police traced him through data on his travel smart card. It sounds like a lot of work. Who says women's sexual complaints aren't investigated?

The complainant failed to identify him in an identity parade. CCTV cameras showed that he didn't even break stride, and the two made only momentary contact. One camera showed that in his left hand – the "penetrative" one – he held a newspaper, and in his right he held a bag.

A forensic scientist engaged by the defence testified that Mr Pearson passed the complainant for "half a second." His lawyer said that the prosecution had slowed down the CCTV footage to make it appear that Mr Pearson had enough time to commit the crime. Slowing the recording down must have been a conscious decision by someone unscrupulous enough to see that playing it at normal speed was no way to get a conviction.

Why are these CPS crooks not prosecuted?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Steve McGuigan Apr 4, 2018

Couldn't agree more. Can we really be living in the same democratic country in which I was born? The attitudes of today's senior police officers to crime is of great concern to much of the British public. It seems that political correctness trumps all. Didn't British justice use to be the envy of the world?

Flag

5RecommendReply

Edward O'Brien Apr 3, 2018

I can only imagine every sound minded British citizen will be appalled at this report. How on earth can our police force ever be trusted again...? Anyone coming under what is becoming tantamount to the jackboot, must in future, via their lawyer, demand assurances from a senior officer in writing that all evidence is 'on the table'. Failing to comply will inevitably demolish the prosecution's case.

That said, this report just makes me want to vomit...

Flag

6RecommendReply

david Wilson Apr 3, 2018

Police officers and prosecutors who withhold evidence should go to prison.

Flag

10RecommendReply

CM Apr 3, 2018

So for the sake of political correctness, innocent people are having their lives deliberately destroyed? It is time to put and end to lefties and leftism once and for all. We all know this. We need to do it. Time for a revolution. These people are evil. They will not rest until we are all slaves.

7RecommendReply  
S de Cantaville Apr 3, 2018  
So much for, without fear or favour....

Flag

6RecommendReply  
Zabonga Apr 3, 2018  
After reading most of this thread's comments,I'm left wondering which country's  
Police Force you would prefer?

Flag

By reputation,any Muslim country may be a good start.

1RecommendReply  
Steve McGuigan Apr 4, 2018  
@Zabonga

Flag

You miss the most salient point completely.

RecommendReply  
Guevara Leacock Apr 4, 2018  
@Steve McGuigan @Zabonga Point completely missed!

Flag

RecommendReply  
VH-EAH Apr 3, 2018  
Mr.VH here.....

Flag

In other news, the world is round, night is dark and bears are guilty as charged for woodland activities.....

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Jolly21 Apr 3, 2018

Sadly the police officers now dealing with these cases are generally now young in service and lack the experience required to be a Detective. A lot of these problems regarding disclosure comes from a lack of knowledge and over work rather than deliberate attempts to wrongly prosecute suspects.

There is a fundamental problem in the police of experienced Detectives working on the day to day crimes. The majority of experienced Detectives transfer to specialized squads were the work load is not as strenuous and working conditions are better.

There is no apprenticeship for new Detectives to follow and no attempts to retain retiring experienced Detectives.

Flag

4RecommendReply  
William Clark Apr 3, 2018

@Jolly21 Worse, like in NHS general practice, the really experienced policemen cannot wait to get out of the service and retire.

Flag

7RecommendReply  
Tim Place Apr 3, 2018

@William Clark @Jolly21 and good riddance

Flag

1RecommendReply

Guevara Leacock Apr 4, 2018

@Jolly21 Not to mention cuts to policing. You now have officers who are on the beat also acting as officers in the case for criminal prosecutions and witnesses as to fact. Some of those same officers are also involved in matters of disclosure. They are overworked. That cannot and should not be allowed to continue.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Les Beswick Apr 4, 2018

@Guevara Leacock @Jolly21 When did you last see an officer on the beat, I haven't seen one of those for thirty years or more...

Flag

RecommendReply

Born to Bougie Apr 3, 2018

If a person is wrongly convicted and evidence is withheld intentionally then there should be legal action taken against the prosecutors with them held to account and prosecuted likewise.

Flag

16RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@Born to Bougie It seems mainly the police rather than the prosecutors withholding evidence, if this article is correct. They can be sued, but individuals would normally be subject to disciplinary action within the force. Prosecutors who have been shown to deliberately withheld evidence from the defence illegally can be struck off.

But I think the problem is the attitude that all that matters is convicting someone, rather than trying to find the truth. And I'm not sure how we change that.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Zabonga Apr 3, 2018

@Bernadette Bowles @Born to Bougie

"Prosecutors who have been shown to deliberately withheld evidence from the defence illegally can be struck off."

How many have been struck off?

Any idea?

Flag

3RecommendReply

Paulinho Apr 3, 2018

No doubt the police will try and spin this into them being the victims. As they do with every bit of bad publicity. From Hillsborough to Stephen Lawrence, to grooming and now this.

This isn't even police incompetence. It's downright dishonesty and criminality. How many miscarriages of justice do we need before we have proper independent reviews into the actions of the police?

The bodies which look into the police are far from independent. They are as much involved in the self preservation of the police as the coppers themselves.

Flag

19RecommendReply

SJR2020 Apr 3, 2018

As a former police officer, I can think of little more distasteful than the knowledge that I had been party to an innocent man being convicted.

If this is now routine practice, then those who sanctioned, supervised, partook and stood by saying nothing need routing out and prosecuting.

This appears to be conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and corruption on an industrial scale. And all in the name of ticking some statistical boxes - unbelievable!

Flag

15RecommendReply

Mrs Patsi Waite Apr 3, 2018

My heart goes out to Liam Allen for all he went through because evidence was withheld that would have exonerated him. One wonders how many others have suffered due to what was undoubtedly a miscarriage of justice.

Flag

16RecommendReply

Whatsnew Apr 3, 2018

If it undermines their case, they haven't got a case. Is that too difficult to comprehend?

Flag

15RecommendReply

mark Apr 3, 2018

Both the media and the Government are very quick to criticise the police and the CPS when the level of arrests that result in prosecutions is to their eyes "too low". It's a natural consequence of this that those involved then find ways to game the system.

Flag

5RecommendReply

ArtemisiaFranklin Apr 3, 2018

It is not up to the police to decide which 'side' they are on in a case, and then to act as judge and jury themselves. When did impartiality disappear? What possible right do they have to decide which evidence goes forward to a court? I had assumed in past cases where evidence was not made available, that it was due to incompetence, but now it is clear it is due to deliberate tampering with the court system. It is a scandal that this lack of monitoring and accountability has been allowed to flourish.

Flag

28RecommendReply

Mr Turner Apr 3, 2018

Virtue signalling, political correctness and pure incompetence are destroying every part of our society!

Flag

12RecommendReply

Whatsnew Apr 3, 2018

@Mr Turner

The trendy term "virtue signalling" has become unbelievably boring.

Flag

3RecommendReply

de Selby Apr 3, 2018

@Whatsnew

As are virtue signallers.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr A Kennedy Apr 3, 2018

Who is "virtue signalling" here and how? What has (so-called) political correctness got to do with this? How is this pure incompetence and not pure bad faith?

Flag

3RecommendReply

Dr Amanda Davies Apr 3, 2018

@Mr A Kennedy "What has political correctness got to do with this." Chiefly the policy adopted by the police to automatically believe all complainants in rape cases on the basis of a CPS drive to push up convictions for rape, regardless of evidential sufficiency.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Danger Mouse Apr 3, 2018

If you can't trust the Police, who can you trust?

Flag

5RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Marcus Aurelius ... ANSWER = Step forward - ahem - Donald Stickland .

Flag

4RecommendReply

*This comment has been deleted*

Danger Mouse Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H @Marcus Aurelius

You have me confused with another Sir.

Flag

RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

CPS holding up its hands in horror? Do they think we are completely stupid? We all know that this is done at their behest (except for just one man that we know of, Gerry Hayes, who let the cat out of the bag and must be the only CPS lawyer with integrity) and they just thought nobody would ever find out. The rot comes directly from the top, the toadlike Alison. I would imagine linklaters are going to lose a lot of business because who would want this odious disasterfest having anything to do with their legal affairs. I know I wouldn't.

The result of her ham fisted blundering is that juries are refusing to convict rapists because they don't believe what the police and prosecutors are saying. Would you send a man to jail when you had a niggling feeling (galloping on to a certainty with each debacle) that prosecutors were smugly sitting on exculpatory evidence?

Flag

38RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@MJJ No, you wouldn't. I wouldn't. And right now I'd wonder in the case of any type of crime. If we lose trust in the impartiality of the justice system, we have a very serious problem; this Saunders woman should be on trial for misconduct in public office. It is her guidelines that are at the very least partly to blame for this situation.

Flag

6RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

Remember that Mary Hogg scuttled off hat shopping and avoided being held to account for Ellie's death. The wicked seem to prosper in our legal system - a bit inappropriate to call it a justice system.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Jerry Carroll Apr 3, 2018

British police are notorious world-wide for being cowed by political correctness and now this.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Are they really, Jerry? Notorious world-wide you say.....where are you reporting this fact from? Best Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Zabonga Apr 3, 2018

@Jerry Carroll " British police are notorious world-wide for being cowed by political correctness"

Jerry..you speak with forked tongue.

Flag

RecommendReply

Stephen Green Apr 3, 2018

No lessons learnt from hiding evidence at Hillsborough then?

Flag

11RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

They are a bit better at it now, and didn't think they would be caught.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Malcolm Wood Apr 3, 2018

@Stephen Green Hillsborough is a poor comparator since the police were the subject themselves of much of the criticism there, whereas the most recent cases concern deliberate concealment where they, (and seemingly the CPS) were complicit in cases against third parties.

Deeply worrying but hardly unique if you cast your mind back, for example, to the Guildford four and Maguire cases of the Irish troubles.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Joseph G Apr 3, 2018

The hounding of the Heath and Jenner families spring to mind. If this can happen to families with money, what happens to those without?

Flag

11RecommendReply

Malcolm Wood Apr 3, 2018

@Joseph G Doubtless there were worrying inconsistencies in Janner's case, but before you so readily dismiss him as necessarily without any evidence against him I refer you to this link:-

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/19/lord-janner-escaped-prosecution-due-to-cps-and-police-failings-report-finds>

Certainly plenty to dismiss outright your claim that this was nothing more than "hounding" of the families. It makes clear that he definitely should have been prosecuted at an earlier time.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Steve McGuigan Apr 4, 2018

@Malcolm Wood @Joseph G I am somewhat astonished that you should seek to justify, in any way, the withholding of evidence by HM Constabulary.

Surely the role of the police is to present evidence objectively.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Joseph G Apr 3, 2018

There is of course pressure to get convictions

In the case of rape cases, as above, there is pressure from SJW groups to convict, even on no evidence.

But this was precisely why checks and balances are needed and need to be enforced. Officers found to have hidden crucial evidence should lose their pension. They are criminals.

Flag

20RecommendReply  
bertierussell Apr 3, 2018

Several comments suggest that the police have to disclose everything to the defence. But the article strongly suggests that there is a repository where nothing needs to be disclosed. If that is true then this loophole needs to be shut immediately. All cases where evidence was filed there need to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Flag

8RecommendReply  
Adrian Turner Apr 3, 2018

@bertierussell The legal obligation is to disclose material which would undermine the prosecution case or assist the case for the defence.

During an investigation, a lot of 'neutral' material is gathered. It does not have to be disclosed (though it should be mentioned in the schedule of unused material) because that would impose a pointless burden on the prosecution.

I ass that any system of disclosure, other than one which requires everything to be handed over, has to depend ultimately on the integrity and thoroughness of the prosecution, and these can be placed under great strain when there are pressures for results and reductions in resources.

Flag

6RecommendReply  
Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@Adrian Turner @bertierussell Yes, that is an issue, particularly with so much social media stuff to sift through. We perhaps need to rethink how this can be fairly dealt with; our guidelines date back before this. Perhaps both defence and prosecution should be given the passwords to all accounts for the parties involved, and both sides can trawl as they see fit? Or a body set up specifically to do this for all parties?

But what the article is reporting on is not incompetence nor overwork, but deliberate concealment of evidence - a criminal offence, and one that undermines the whole justice system.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@bertierussell The only info in there should be the personal details of witnesses, anything relating to national security, that kind of thing. Not normal evidence. Clearly, the system is being misused.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
bertierussell Apr 3, 2018

If this is true then the police are totally untrustworthy. How many people have been wrongly convicted. There is prima facie one or more conspiracies to pervert the course of justice. This should

be independently investigated.. using non UK resources if necessary. Those involved should be tried and if convicted face the severest sentences permitted by law. Those in charge whilst this happened should be banned for life from holding all public offices whomsoever they are.

Flag

16RecommendReply

Old Boot. Apr 3, 2018

Unsettling to read of more information that appears to confirm that the police is almost a state-within-a-state, a fearsome entity dangerous to the public good.

The Dutch PM is correct. Britain seems to be in a state of collapse.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Zabonga Apr 3, 2018

@Old Boot. I'll still "Call the Police" if I'm in trouble -wouldn't you?

Flag

RecommendReply

Sir John Hawkswood Apr 3, 2018

People here seem to be forgetting, or are totally ignorant of, the fact that the Police have to act in strict accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act which amongst many other things dictates exactly how they must treat and handle all evidence. If they fail to do so then they have potentially committed a criminal offence, few officers would want to put themselves in that position merely to have a better chance of a conviction

at court. The information placed on an MG6D is reviewed by a Disclosure Officer independent of the investigation and he or she must decide based on their training and the Law what is disclosed to the Defence and how unused material is dealt with. All of this is recorded and filed and as we can see it can be requested by the Defence.

To claim that this amounts to the Police being "trained to hide evidence" is frankly outrageous.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Old Boot. Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood Your assertion, which one would hope to be correct, appears to be specifically contradicted by the contents of the above article.

Are you concerned about that?

Specifically, why suggest information is 'hidden' there if there is indeed an effective backstop of competent 'review'???

Flag

12RecommendReply

Mr David Boden Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood Forgive me for asking but didn't you expire in Florence in 1394 ?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Dr Amanda Davies Apr 3, 2018

@Mr David Boden @Sir John Hawkswood Wasn't that Sir John Hawkward, without the "s" in the name?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Grant McCormack Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood

The article gives the example of "Liam Allan", a 22-year-old student, who spent almost two years on bail and was put on trial on 12 charges of sexual violence because the police failed to hand over text messages from the alleged victim that would have exonerated him.

And, yes his lawyer eventually managed to secure the text messages and he was cleared, but if the Police have to act in strict accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and information placed on an MG6D is reviewed by a Disclosure Officer independent of the investigation, why was the evidence which established his innocence not considered much earlier, and why did the matter have to go the length it did if the safeguard you referred to were followed?

Flag

11RecommendReply

peter nightingale Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood PACE only introduces the Codes of Practice, not following them is not a Criminal Offence.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Colin Hooker Apr 3, 2018

@peter nightingale @Sir John Hawkswood Could someone with everyday professional knowledge clarify this central point. It strikes me that if there really were no criminal sanction on officers for failing to apply the various steps properly within the Codes of Practice, then the whole PACE edifice would have crashed into pieces soon after implementation, thirty years ago. Something else in the legislation or subsequent legislation or almost unbelievably negligent defence solicitors must have allowed the "MG6D" situation to grow out of control.

Flag

1RecommendReply

peter nightingale Apr 3, 2018

@Colin Hooker @peter nightingale @Sir John Hawkswood The assumption is that the Police and Public Prosecutors will ensure PACE and Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (disclosure requirements) will be followed.

Flag

RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood But the article, if correct (and the Times is passing on official information obtained under a FOI request, apparently), is actually saying that significant numbers of the police are not acting in accord with the law, but quite deliberately conspiring to frustrate its demands - and teaching new recruits to do so, too.

"The dossier was obtained by the Centre for Criminal Appeals, a charity, under a freedom of information request to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Inspectorate and the Inspectorate of Constabulary, which collated the unpublished comments when preparing a joint report on disclosure of evidence last year."

It is precisely because this information does come from these sources, rather than some anonymous whistleblower, that we should take it seriously, and be very troubled by it. There are checks and balances, yes, such as the disclosure officer - but there is an implication that some of these are part of the problem.

I would be very relieved to find that this report is overblown, and we're just talking about the occasional bad apple, plus some oversights due to overwork - but given where the info comes from, I'm not optimistic.

Flag

RecommendReply

Janet Brown Apr 3, 2018

I don't see any evidence in the above article to warrant the phrase significant numbers

Flag

RecommendReply

Meuse Apr 3, 2018

This is an unfair and unworthy headline. The list of unused sensitive material is available for scrutiny by the defence in most cases and subject to judicial confirmation.

Flag

3RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

What possible justcan there be for concealing evidence like that? If they have exculpatory evidence how much time and money would be saved by simply dropping the case. Taking a man you know to be innocent to trial, while hiding the evidence of his innocence seems to be perverse to say the least.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Wanderer Apr 3, 2018

Appearances, Targets, Success, Promotion, Salaries, Pensions, Kudos, Budgets, Fighting Crime.....

Flag

2RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

I am depressed. However, not surprised to see fighting crime at the very end of your list

Flag

RecommendReply

paul dee Apr 3, 2018

Well done The Times in exposing this scandal. The politicians no doubt would have liked to curb such investigations especially after their expenses scandal. It doesn't stop them deploring the human rights of certain countries. Now we have human rights abuses of our own.

Flag

19RecommendReply

Gramarian Apr 3, 2018

Why would tax payer funded public servants seek to undermine the legal process.

If true, the persons responsible should be brought to justice themselves.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

You ask why? Politicians have been abusing their position and subverting due process fkr long time. Police is simply extending the courtesy.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Gabriele Behrendt Apr 3, 2018

@Gramarian The statistics look better, when they convict someone.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Nick Tilley Apr 3, 2018

@Gabriele Behrendt @Gramarian

Or indeed fail to record that a crime has occurred in the first place, saving the need to investigate at all.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Old Boot. Apr 3, 2018

@Gramarian 'performance' measures of successful cases perhaps? It seems possible.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Anip Apr 3, 2018

And just what do Theresa May (former home sec) and the current Amber Rudd say about this?

Surely they too are complicit in this appalling injustice?

Flag

9RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Apr 3, 2018

@Anip Without a full investigation, it is not possible to say whether they could have known of any of this - assuming it to be correct. Rudd may well have no responsibility, this has clearly been going on a lot longer than she's been in post. I suspect a lot of this would come under the Chief Constable of each force involved, and the rest would be a result of the guidelines from the DPP and, as it's a matter of everyday policing practice rather than a policy decision, the HS and her department would not have been involved. It may be that a memo exists from May telling Chief Constables to improve clear-up rates and to he11 with the consequences, but I rather doubt it.

Politicians of all parties, however, have been tying money to clear-up rates for a long time - that may well be a contributory factor. In doing so, I imagine their hope was that the police would work more effectively rather than try to cut corners to convict anyone regardless, but we may be seeing the law of unintended consequences in action again.

Flag

RecommendReply

Wilf Apr 3, 2018

it seems that the police have fallen into the way of thinking that they are there not to investigate crimes to the fullest extent, on whichever side the evidence falls, but to provide evidence more or less solely to back up the prosecution case, whatever its merits.

Flag

21RecommendReply

Saint John Apr 3, 2018

The problem is that there is pressure on the police to get convictions.

Given that, it is impossible and illogical to expect them to help the defence.

The pressure needs to be changed to finding the truth -not getting convictions.

Flag

11RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

Who but Alison Saunders wants to send innocent people to prison?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Saint John Apr 3, 2018

@MJJ

Anyone whose promotion depends upon convictions .

Flag

RecommendReply

Saint John Apr 3, 2018

@MJJ

You need to ask yourself why didnt the Police refuse to take on Saunders ideas ? They didnt report to her. But they bought into her mantra of "victims" being believed. Which meant prejudging the accused.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Janet Brown Apr 3, 2018

Because it was Government policy, from The Home Office

Flag

RecommendReply

Saint John Apr 3, 2018

Professionals tell civil servants to naff off rather than be unprofessional

Flag

RecommendReply

Samir Hadji Apr 3, 2018

Would be much better if our courts were designed to get to the truth of a crime, rather than an adversarial system that includes two bewigged chaps from posh schools trying to out debate each other in front of a panel of the great unwashed who may have no clue / interest about the case put before them.

Now I know this is a stereotype but regrettably often the case. Anyone know the % silks from Public/Private schools? Male & White?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Grant McCormack Apr 3, 2018

@Samir Hadji And, why does the "% silks from Public/Private schools? Male & White" matter.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Cormac Friel Apr 3, 2018

@Grant McCormack @Samir Hadji The smaller and less diverse the club, the easier it will be to corrupt and cover up any corruption. Of course it may not happen but it is a greater risk if that % is high

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr Turner Apr 3, 2018

@Samir Hadji Don't know where to start with this ridiculous comment. Have you no idea about the British system of justice at all?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

@Mr Turner @Samir Hadji Aaaaah...Tell us about this wonderful British System of Justice please Mr Turner.....sounds like you know a bit about it...

Is it the one you lot have been saying how bad it is, all day? That one? Have you come to defend it now Samir Hadji has suggested a change? Why has that upset you...you appear to think it was rubbish just before....Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

David Roe Apr 3, 2018

The Police take in a massive amount of material in important cases which is gone through and a judgement is made as to the relevance of that material as 'evidence' of the case in question. It is not

the case that they are 'trained' to hide vital evidence. I am absolutely certain that there may be bent cops out there that do hide evidence relevant to the defense but I doubt that they are widespread. There will also be genuine errors of judgement but I would like to point out that the defense can still request material previously lawfully undisclosed as they are provided with the 'unused material' form in advance of the trial. I do not see the headline in any newspaper that the defense failed to examine that list to assist their defendant in advance of the trial. It seems like someone has distorted the truth of the matter here. Dare I say 'fake news'?

Flag

3RecommendReply

Grant McCormack Apr 3, 2018

@David Roe No David, the point is that judgements are being made as to the relevance of 'evidence' from the view of the prosecution and evidence that would weaken the case against the accused or even exonerate is not being disclosed. And, the article gives the example of "Liam Allan", a 22-year-old student, spent almost two years on bail and was put on trial on 12 charges of sexual violence because the police failed to hand over text messages from the alleged victim that would have exonerated him."

And, yes his lawyer managed to secure the messages and he was cleared, but an unbiased review of the evidence would have established his innocence much earlier, so why did the matter have to go that length in the first place?

Flag

13RecommendReply

David Roe Apr 3, 2018

I stand firmly by what I wrote Grant. The Police don't attempt to weaken a case against the defense but like I said I'm sure there will be bent cops out there who would. The case you refer to is, on the face of it, is an absolute outrage but whether this was a deliberate act by the officer in charge is I believe yet to be determined. I would like to think that it was shoddy investigating.

Flag

4RecommendReply

MJJ Apr 3, 2018

David, you assert that police do not deliberately withhold evidence, but this is exactly what they did. If the investigators read the texts they knew the woman was lying. Surely they should have dropped the case and started looking at the complainant? Shoddy investigating doesn't really cut it here.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Grant McCormack Apr 3, 2018

David, I think MJJ above and Freebooter below have said it all.

Flag

RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

@David Roe

Why should the defence have to ask for material which the police hold and which may assist the defence? The police are there to impartially gather evidence and present it to the legal representative of both sides, not come down on the side of the prosecution once the CPS have charged somebody.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Mike Apr 3, 2018

I reported a drunk driver who chased me home after trying to force me off the road. He came onto a roundabout off of a motorway, I hadn't been on the motorway. He must have mistook me for

another car. At my home he got out of his car and was very aggressive. He took another look at me, 6ft, 14 stone, and muscular, and got back in his car. I went over to reason with him to not drive and he stabbed me in my arm with his long pointed ignition key. I called the police but he drove off. The police arrived a couple of hours later, and were more interested in questioning me because they thought it must have been my fault. I was even cautioned.

When they visited the mans home he was not there. Surprise surprise. Next time, I will deal with it in my own way, and no police.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

@Mike why on earth did you accept a caution Mike? What offence did you admit to? As far as I'm aware, reporting drunk drivers isn't an offence. Nor is being stabbed with a key. Although people on here seem to believe all sort of weird stuff.

I think you have to go down the station and a pretty senior officer has to be there to caution you. It'd be admitting you'd committed a crime, all sorts of repercussions. Did that happen? Or did they just caution you as in "Word of advice mate...blah blah blah".

best Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Diane O. Apr 3, 2018

I was always brought up to respect the police and would be genuinely baffled by the idea that some people wouldn't help them when they could. I no longer respect them in any sense whatsoever, they no longer work for us, they work directly against us and it can't all be coming from the top.

Flag

12RecommendReply

MacRankin Apr 3, 2018

@Diane O. I'd be very worried if that were the case. I hear, or rather understand what you are saying and believe you've seen it all before, but it cannot be always so. Well, I hope not.

A neighbour of mine, who stopped taking his happy pills / medication tried to kill me. He waited for me, knocked me off my bicycle and chased me down the road with a rather large kitchen knife. It was both exhilarating quite frightening.

Another neighbour must have called the police, for he (my assailant) was taken away (to be sectioned) and I was questioned in the other neighbour's house about how it all came about. I will forever be grateful to the police for their assistance and of course for the peeps who called the police in the first place.

All this happened about 10 years ago. But form what I can tell from other stories flying around other newsworthy sites something has for some time not been quite right with our police force as it once was.

There is no way to change this, without some radical change from within and or, some help (from the government) in creating a police force that works... for the many (?). ;)

If I did have an answer, it would be to have the conservatives running the country (though, not this lot) and have Labour run things at a local level. How that would solve things, I have no idea. But something needs to change!

Flag

1RecommendReply

John OConnor Apr 3, 2018

**"... but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned, something which you later rely on in court, and anything you do say may be given in evidence."**

Unlike the police and prosecution who can hide information from the defence the accused and defence must reveal everything. That is hardly fair and just.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Wanderer Apr 3, 2018

@John OConnor The accuser should make their statement to video without the police being present, currently the police write it out for them. People are told to sign a statement where the officer has added bits in so that they can 'secure a conviction'.

Where the police need to make a statement they should be separated from their colleagues (as they do with the public). Currently, I believe this only happens in firearms cases.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Sir John Hawkswood Apr 3, 2018

@Wanderer @John OConnor

Utter drivel from start to finish, you have barely a clue what you're talking about here.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Sir John Hawkswood Apr 3, 2018

@John OConnor It's also untrue.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Wanderer Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood @John OConnor I can vouch for what I have stated as being true. Solicitors and barristers will also confirm.

Flag

RecommendReply

John OConnor Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood @John OConnor

What is untrue?

(Certainly not the police caution which can be seen here: <https://www.gov.uk/arrested-your-rights>)

Flag

RecommendReply

DeadCatBounce Apr 3, 2018

Hurrah. The innocent have nothing to fear. Unless of course they happen to be the most convenient fall guy for the police to pin it on.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Mike Apr 3, 2018

You won't go wrong if you stand by the old slogan 'never trust a copper'.`

Flag

4RecommendReply

Sir John Hawkswood Apr 3, 2018

@Mike The old criminal's slogan that is.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Semper te fallant Apr 3, 2018

@Sir John Hawkswood @Mike Used to be - but no longer, I'm afraid

Flag

1RecommendReply

Anthony Lee Apr 3, 2018

It's always easier in such circumstances to focus on the symptom rather than the cause. Policing in this country has been a political football for far too long, which is not to say that there is no fault on their part but more that a kind of siege mentality develops over time. Ken Clarke writes in his autobiography about how resistant he found the police (as Home Secretary) to modernisation and change, including removing unnecessary layers of management. When he proposed removing the rank of Superintendent he was rebuffed not only by the Police Federation, but also by the superintendent's own union (yes, they had their own trade union!).

The police feel as though they are getting 'it' from all sides and yet are still under the microscope in terms of performance statistics.

Crime figures and prosecution rates seem a very blunt tool with which to measure intelligent policing in an enlightened society. Let us hope that revelations such as this lead to a more enlightened debate, although I'm not holding my breath.

Flag

10RecommendReply

0.44010292204 Apr 3, 2018

Yes , and they go off on full pay to man the union office.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Janet Brown Apr 3, 2018

When you consider the number of Police officers killed and injured in duty in this country , that far outnumbers our armed services now . The bravery shown time and time again in recent times, when officers have put their lives in danger defending the public with little or no support , running towards danger when the public are running away , that's an outrageous statement . Our Police are depleted , less well trained , and with less support on the streets than they have been for years . They have more paperwork and investigations to complete than ever . To be honest when I read some of these statements I wonder what they bother .They join with a burning desire to keep their communities safe and promote justice , but they are leaving in droves , injured officers are poorly supported and many forced out , as there is no give in the system any more . They are made up of your neighbors, you family, the friend from school your , work friends partner . They don't come from another planet , most are doing their best . They deserve out respect and support, because when you are in trouble, they are the only ones who will come running and stand between you and that danger , even if there are only 2 on duty to cover 7 miles of a densely populated community .

Flag

1RecommendReply

Andrew Cole Apr 3, 2018

When are we going to see Alison Saunders answering questions about "hiding" evidence on a semi-industrial scale? When did she first know it was going on?

Flag

22RecommendReply

Meuse Apr 3, 2018

@Andrew Cole Problems about disclosure have existed for many years before Alison Saunders' appointment. In many cases it is a massive and under-resourced exercise to review unused material to assess relevance to the defence case which is often skilfully or inadequately drafted for serious criminals to exploit those difficulties. Simple headlines are misleading.

Flag

1RecommendReply

cherrypicker Apr 3, 2018

Britain the home of free speech, the place where democracy was born, the police always known to be fair, our legal system justice will prevail.

Consecutive governments over the past 30 years have been active in destroying the above, Britain is fast becoming a banana republic a police state.

Cuts being made relentlessly to the police in all areas is all part of the plan to destroy Britain as it used to be, the cuts have been made by all governments. Trouble can only be the result

Flag

8RecommendReply

Samir Hadji Apr 3, 2018

@cherrypicker What have you been smoking, we never invented democracy and certainly do not have free speech.

For democracy the credit goes to the ancient Greeks. Our form of democracy in the UK is bizarre, allowing a party absolute power with less than 50% of votes cast and includes an unelected chamber full of political appointees and hereditary peers. then we have the privy council.....

Given our laws on slander and liable this fundamentally leaves free speech in the hands of the rich. Likewise we have a parliament ruled by a convention that stops debate of our royal family..... hardly free speech!

Flag

4RecommendReply

de Selby Apr 3, 2018

@Samir Hadji @cherrypicker

You don't know much about the ancient Greek form of 'democracy', do you.

Do you even know who had the vote?

Flag

RecommendReply

Samir Hadji Apr 4, 2018

@de Selby @Samir Hadji @cherrypicker oh you mean it was flawed like our system despite thousands of years to improve matters?

Flag

RecommendReply

de Selby Apr 4, 2018

@Samir Hadji @de Selby @cherrypicker

It puts into context the stupidity of your comment.

Flag

RecommendReply

Bantam57 Apr 3, 2018

As Gilbert & Sullivan put it rather aptly from Victorian days .. " when constabulary duties to be done, to be done, a policeman's lot is not a happy one , happy one!"

Flag

2RecommendReply

Janet Brown Apr 3, 2018

I think we need to make our minds up what we want . Mistakes are being made , but when you remove layers of checking processes from both the CPS and Police because of cuts , then cut staff dealing with cases , but increase work loads , it's not going to be good . The government set targets

and agendas , but just like The NHS, and Education they have faced slashed budgets . Good investigation takes time , good training and there needs to be good quality control in place . Our police face the daily pressure to cut corners because time is money , and police forces have to work to budgets . It's not rocket science , and it's not what forces from other countries face .

Flag

3RecommendReply

Diane O. Apr 3, 2018

What on Earth have 'cuts' to do with not handing over text messages?

Flag

11RecommendReply

Marcus Lau Apr 3, 2018

@Diane O. @Janet Brown

Indeed. This isn't a case of workloads being too heavy, this involves deliberate withholding of evidence that would clearly exonerate a suspect.

Spot the Copper's Husband/relative, methinks.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Dan the man Apr 3, 2018

Another example of Bodging Britain. it's what we seem to do best.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Wanderer Apr 3, 2018

This 'win by any means' culture has been promoted by the policies of successive governments through changes to legislation, procedures and targets. Solicitors, barristers, judges, know the police and other agencies operate like this yet seem to be obliged to let them continue. It seems that 'upholding justice' means not challenging those involved in the system.

Flag

11RecommendReply

rahb Apr 3, 2018

@Wanderer When some of these victims of injustice sue guess who will pick up the bill. We will.

None of the groups you mention above. They and their mates will be looking for more lucrative work in the process.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Wanderer Apr 3, 2018

@rahb @Wanderer Exactly, they will happily deprive other folk of their careers yet escape independent investigation or penalties themselves. The cost of compensation is minute in comparison to the social damage they do, ask the young with experience of the system and what it has done to them - a gateway to more crime. Even having a record of being arrested creates difficulties for people.

It is a self perpetuating industry where lawyers make up approximately 15 per cent of MPs. While the lords has a quite a few together with retired judges.

Flag

6RecommendReply

expat Apr 3, 2018

How did New Scotland Yard become so famous around the World? Disinformation!

The crime fighting Scherlock Holmes boys in blue are a figment of a writers imagination.

They WERE good; but now, it is a sad, sad truth.....

Flag

6RecommendReply  
Diane O. Apr 3, 2018  
But Scherlock didn't work for Scotland Yard. He was independent and I seem to remember the police being portrayed as bumbling, and not very bright.

Flag

3RecommendReply  
expat Apr 3, 2018  
@Diane O. THAT, was exactly my point. The myth has been plastered onto the reality.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
RamRod Apr 3, 2018  
The role of the police is to establish the perpetrator of s crime and bring them to trial.....  
It is not to collude with alleged victims in hiding evidence that may stop innocent people being brought to trial, with lop-sided evidence, in the wish to improve their clear up rate....  
Disgusting and destroys confidence in the police.....

Flag

14RecommendReply  
rahb Apr 3, 2018  
@RamRod Isn't failure to disclose a criminal offence?

Flag

12RecommendReply  
RamRod Apr 3, 2018  
I would have thought so - especially if it pre-meditated and intentional rather than (being claimed) an oversight.....,

Flag

2RecommendReply  
Saint John Apr 3, 2018  
@rahb @RamRod

no

Flag

RecommendReply  
Flying Pig Apr 3, 2018  
I've never heard of a detective getting promoted for ensuring that the defence is given the evidence for his suspect to be found not guilty. More often to get promoted a detective has to get the convictions no matter what.

Flag

13RecommendReply  
Justin Case Apr 3, 2018  
There must be some way we can pin this on the ECJ. Come on JRM let's have a bit of creative thinking.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
sheila corn Apr 3, 2018  
I assume you mean 'Just Remoanng Morons'?

Flag

RecommendReply  
Justin Case Apr 3, 2018  
Nice one Sheila

Flag

RecommendReply

Neville Smith Apr 3, 2018

Surely police also have a duty to establish the innocence of a suspect as much as guilt?

Flag

12RecommendReply

Diane O. Apr 3, 2018

They no longer have duty at all, just targets for convictions and soft targets are much easier.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Foreversideways Apr 3, 2018

Police, just remind me who are they. I never see one out in the wild.

Flag

8RecommendReply

rahb Apr 3, 2018

@Foreversideways At one time out in the sticks where we lived we suddenly noticed quite frequent "panda patrols". Then we found that a senior police officer had moved nearby. When he moved we stopped seeing the police patrols. Now that's what I call a genuine coincidence.

Flag

17RecommendReply

e blois Apr 3, 2018

There's so much corruption of various kinds in many forces, that I doubt the situation is curable short of mass sackings and starting again.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Dan Ludlow Apr 3, 2018

Maybe the time has come to appoint Chief Constables from outside the police? Break the chain that seems to have developed negatively and focuses police on prioritising to performance criteria over need or public expectation.

Flag

9RecommendReply

rahb Apr 3, 2018

@Dan Ludlow That used to be the case. Often they were appointed from the armed forces. There were also Watch Committees.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Janet Brown Apr 3, 2018

Its the government who set the objectives, and targets . Have a look at The Home Office website , they have a very strong control of everything the police do , including budgets .

Flag

1RecommendReply

Dan Ludlow Apr 3, 2018

@Janet Brown Then they appear to be failing don't they. The first priority of any government is the safety and protection of the citizen, if they are setting rules that puts this in jeopardy they fail a prime duty. I might suggest that a root and branch overhaul of the Home Office, re-establishing its priorities and reason for being is probably long due.

Flag

RecommendReply

Chris Bolton Apr 3, 2018

@Dan Ludlow That's the exact opposite of the solution. It's performance criteria and statistical management that have led to the present problems. You can't measure good policing by statistics because they vary depending on the criminal intent of the community. You can only judge it by being a good and more experienced police officer.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Dan Ludlow Apr 3, 2018

@Chris Bolton @Dan Ludlow Is it? The most effective statistic of any Policing would be a measure of crime committed would it not? Prevention of Crime over reporting and clean-up rates.

Not so long ago Village bobbies were withdrawn, seen as a waste of resources in villages with no crime, and officers without a prosecution tally showed up in statistics as lazy or useless. Many of those officers were doing a superb job and should have been promoted, maybe even becoming Chief Constables themselves, applying savvy to Law and order.

Instead they got passed over in favour of those who appeared to be doing a great job but who were largely firefighting crime that was getting out of control.

Last weekend I drove 700 miles to Wales and back to a wedding. I saw one police car, and that was a local patrol in Caernarfon. There may have been unmarked police cars on motorways but who knows? There was some poor driving throughout the trip, and just the presence of a police car or uniform will act as a reminder that there are laws that should be heeded.

As with everything, effectiveness depends upon understanding the subject fully and then prioritising correctly.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Chris Bolton Apr 3, 2018

@Dan Ludlow @Chris Bolton

I think we're actually in broad agreement - and apologies, I misread your post. I thought you were supporting the use of performance criteria, not wanting to move away from it. But if you have managers brought in from outside, it's all they can use.

"The most effective statistic of any Policing would be a measure of crime committed would it not?" Not really, because different areas have different intrinsic levels of crime. It's one measure to look at, but it shouldn't be used as a target.

"Prevention of Crime over reporting and clean-up rates." Agreed - but try producing evidence of the crimes that haven't happened. Whereas an experienced senior officer can look at what the constables on the ground are doing and reward appropriately. You can't do that if you bring people in from outside.

"Many of those officers were doing a superb job and should have been promoted." Agreed - but they didn't get promoted because they were judged on statistics.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Dan Ludlow Apr 3, 2018

@Chris Bolton @Dan Ludlow I think policing needs a change of emphasis. Fire-fighting as is currently the method is almost worse than useless. It's very common for crime to be reported and get no physical response, even in an emergency. When in the past was this ever acceptable and what makes it acceptable now? Is there any changed rule or regulation that allows this or is it only now that we have reached a point where rules or law will make attending a 999 obligatory as with Ambulance and Fire-Brigade with monitored attendance?

A friend of mine, a lady who lives in the countryside has been burgled 3 times in the last 5 years. Her husband is a driver and often away. On the most recent occasion the local police said that they couldn't guarantee attending a 999 call even if there were burglars on the premises and she was alone. This seems incomprehensible to me, since what else are the police employed for and at our council tax and general tax expense?

The first duty of a police officer, (I was told as a schoolkid back in the day when they regularly attended schools to lecture on law and order issues, road safety, cycling proficiency, and carry out bicycle road-worthiness testing in the bike sheds), was the protection of life. To that end all officers were (and still are, I suspect) trained in First Aid and able to swim.

To be told that even if you are in mortal danger, the police cannot be relied upon rather makes their purpose questionable, does it not? The lady in question was asked if she had friends or relatives she could call on if in danger (I kid you not!). She reminded them that the issue was one of her remoteness. She keeps animals and horses on a smallholding. The officer speaking to her then suggested she might be better off moving into town.

Changing one's lifestyle to suit public servants? A non-starter isn't it. Since the police now no longer carry out many duties that a few years ago were the norm, why can they no longer deliver the few remaining essentials?

Perhaps we should be insisting that essentials are covered as a priority and monitored to ensure they are?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Andrew Cole Apr 3, 2018

@Dan Ludlow One wonders what proportion of Chief Officers are Common Purpose Alumni?

Flag

5RecommendReply

Dan Ludlow Apr 3, 2018

Is it not perverting the course of Justice? Maybe prosecutions should result?

Flag

34RecommendReply

Mr Gerald McDermott Apr 3, 2018

There is one golden rule. Don't get in trouble in the first place. If you do God help you, no one else will.

My father always told me if a policeman knocks on your front door invite him in and offer him a cup of tea.

Life is not so simple these days, a woman across was burgled a few years ago a policeman called to ask if I had seen anything. He gave me an invite to a coffee morning.

4 am New Year the police chased a man up my drive, he climbed over the fence and onto my neighbours garage, waking my neighbour. the police left him saying they knew who he was and they could see him again, they only wanted to talk to him.

A couple of days later I found an hammer on my front lawn where he had obviously thrown it I phoned the police not the local police who said they would pass the message on to the local police. My neighbour asked them if he had been arrested. we got no answer back.

Flag

8RecommendReply

e blois Apr 3, 2018

@Mr Gerald McDermott " Don't get in trouble in the first place."

You completely miss the point. This is not about getting into trouble. It's about the police getting innocent people into trouble by having the evidence rigged leading to wrongful convictions. It could happen to you.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Mr Gerald McDermott Apr 3, 2018

@e blois @Mr Gerald McDermott I think you missed the point. I did write god help you

Flag

1RecommendReply

John Cleeve Apr 3, 2018

Beyond belief! British justice exposed for what it is.

Flag

19RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

What is alarming in the comments below are the individual experiences of wilful or otherwise incompetence of the police by the public at large.

Do they really think that they have the respect of the community? Or is that now not a requirement given that they assume they are above law?

Flag

16RecommendReply

Foreversideways Apr 3, 2018

Oh no I think it's fair to say they have very little respect in society.

Flag

5RecommendReply

james murray Apr 3, 2018

Airline pilots have an anonymous place to report 'near misses', technical and other such failures in the system of sending thousands of tubes full of people into the sky.

-

This enables them to contribute to improving the safety of the airline industry but where any fault on the part of the pilots themselves is hidden but they can ensure that every year airplane flying safety develops.

-

Such an anonymous system for worried police officers to point out systematic failures in policing procedures such as evidence disclosure is now long overdue.

-

'Those who ignore the lessons of the past are condemned to repeat them'

-

Jim Murray

Flag

16RecommendReply

Mel Shaw Apr 3, 2018

It still seems to be the case that once the police 'have got their man (or woman)', often based on stereotyping, they do everything they can to shape the evidence to secure a conviction. This approach was exposed as wrong and was supposed to have been stopped many years ago. Instead it seems to have been institutionalised.

Flag

21RecommendReply

Chris Bolton Apr 3, 2018

The root cause is politicians setting targets instead of reinforcing professional standards via good management. If you tell the police that their target is to ensure that X% of suspects are convicted,

that's what they will try to do. The targets culture stems from a refusal to accept subjective opinion - "we must have evidence" - in areas where subjectivity is fundamental. This doesn't just apply to Police.

The difficulty now is how to wind back the culture to one of doing the right thing and being recognised for it. That requires a chain of management who are competent to recognise what is going on in their area; sadly, they have been pushed out by the bean counters and aggressive target pushers. Yes, you also need a system to cope with the odd bad apple, but it's better than what we have now.

PS - fully in agreement with Robert Highfield, 2 posts below

Flag

10RecommendReply

Bob N Apr 3, 2018

There seems to be a deep seated belief in the police to prevent justice. Yet again are wonderful police. I have little or no faith in them at all.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Robert Highfield Apr 3, 2018

The problem is police leadership. I am a retired Superintendent in the Hong Kong police, spent two years in the U.K. police.

Leaders these days have to be competent, but beyond that, political correctness, loyalty to your boss and obedience are the key promotion requirements. This is becoming a world-wide phenomenon as organisations become more risk-averse. Initiative might be rewarded if it works, but is slated if something goes wrong; with the obvious result that following procedures and not questioning them becomes the norm.

What officer would dare say "This seems wrong boss, why are we doing it?" Officers who point out problems with the system are rarely rewarded and often suffer consequences because they are questioning their seniors who have implicitly endorsed the existing system. Since many of these seniors have got to their rank by being careful rule-followers, they are uncomfortable at being questioned in this way. It soon becomes apparent to ambitious officers that for every senior who welcomes their criticisms there is another who will hold it against you.

So these failings which seem so obvious in hindsight are allowed to fester for years.

And the ordinary officer on the street doing mostly a great job at some risk is the one who suffers from the fall-out.

Flag

68RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Robert Highfield ... spot on, R H, and fully Recommended .

Flag

2RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@Robert Highfield

" Since many of these seniors have got to their rank by being careful rule-followers, they are uncomfortable at being questioned in this way. "

If they had followed the word of law (on disclosure) they would not be in a mess that they are in now.

Otherwise, I would agree with your point.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Frank Macaluso Apr 3, 2018

@Robert Highfield Recommend all you want, and I agree with what this ex-copper says, but what a terrible state of affairs, not to mention a useless police force.

Flag

2RecommendReply

David Apr 3, 2018

Thank you for an impo

Flag

RecommendReply

The Artist Formally Known As AFit Apr 3, 2018

So basically, we've had a deeply flawed and corrupt prosecution service since when?

Flag

RecommendReply

Martin M Apr 3, 2018

Come on, what do you expect from the police? Justice? Honesty? Professionalism? Don't be silly: most of them do what they need to achieve their stats and make their life easy (while having a little fun with mistreatment).

Flag

9RecommendReply

Stephen Campbell Apr 3, 2018

@Martin M Policing throughout the UK is filled with decent young people from good backgrounds who have behaved themselves in their youth, join a job aimed at serving the public, which is very selective, with a long and difficult initial training period. Their physical safety is risked regularly and they routinely face violence and confrontation on our streets. As with all public bodies, they are over-stretched and under-resourced, doing a job with serious consequences. At senior level, they are often led by hubris-filled, promotion-driven slaves to P.C., many of whom have not served their time on the front line and do not understand the pressures.

They do not turn from being reasonably intelligent, decent, civic-minded people, into devious sadists, by joining the police and those who suggest they do, have an obvious and damaging pathological hatred of authority.

Modern UK policing has many difficulties to face and will not be helped by sniping at the honourable people who continue to volunteer to put themselves between us and the bad guys.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Man on the Street Apr 3, 2018

I do get the impression the eagerness of the police to obtain conviction and improve the percentage of convictions in relation to allegations, the evil in this whole sorry matter arises from the false statistic that has been peddled by pressure group and a significant number of politicians who equate allegations as genuine complaints and the person who alleges as "Victim" and not merely a complainant.

Allegations may or may not be true. The authorities need to investigate to ascertain that the allegations are truly justified before putting a truly innocent person against who a false allegation is made through a mangle.

The way to keep the police and any prosecuting lawyer on the strait and narrow is to prosecute those who deliberately failed to disclose or delayed it till minute before midnight.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Peter Jones Apr 3, 2018

@Man on the Street For at least the last 5 years, the CPS have told the police to accept every complaint as valid and to always believe the "victim", regardless of any evidence to the contrary. This has hardly helped those wrongly accused by nutters and liars.

Flag

RecommendReply

MJR Apr 3, 2018

There is something deeply wrong with the justice system when the intent of the police is to deliberately pervert the course of justice. The police should be following the evidence, not making their minds up about someones guilt and skewing the system against them. It's an absolute failure of leadership that allows such behaviours.

The irony and sadness is that as faith in the police and CPS justice systems decline, so it will make convictions that much more difficult to obtain against the truly guilty.

The criminal justice system is completely undermined when parties start gaming the system in favour of the prosecution.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Edward Burlington Apr 3, 2018

Are the UK Police still using Windows XP as their main computer operating system?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@Edward Burlington You are asking for the Russians?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Edward Burlington Apr 3, 2018

@Prabhat @Edward Burlington I would be surprised if the Russians didn't know that and didn't have unfettered illegal access to the whole of the PNC. I was actually interested in what was currently used because the article implies their computer systems are slow and that that frustrates them.

Flag

RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@Edward Burlington hah! that was genuinely tittersome!

Flag

RecommendReply

Edward Burlington Apr 3, 2018

@Prabhat @Edward Burlington I now have an answer of sorts - circa 50% of the computers used by Metropolitan Police are still on XP. That is amazing although 90% of NHS computers are still on XP.

Flag

RecommendReply

Marcus Lau Apr 3, 2018

@Edward Burlington @Prabhat

It's highly unlikely that the OS would be responsible any perceived slowness. Presumably they're constantly trawling through massive Datawarehouses that are indexing and referencing information constantly, and are receiving feeds from numerous data sources - Border, NHS, Prison, etc etc.

Flag

RecommendReply

Edward Burlington Apr 3, 2018

@Marcus Lau @Edward Burlington @Prabhat If you compare XP to Windows 10 the former is a "poor-quality and slow digital system" and if they are using XP I shudder to think what hardware is being used.

Flag

RecommendReply

Colin Skeabost Apr 3, 2018

Further evidence of the breakdown of Britain's fabric.

In my years I have had few brushes with the law but those that I have did not inspire me that outcomes would be fair and the elements of justice upheld.

That much of what police have to do is tedious and there are many examples of courage and proper devotion to duty it is appalling to learn that there is organised behaviour to frustrate the balance of the 'scales of justice'.

Flag

4RecommendReply

John Sheard Apr 3, 2018

It has long been the police's priority to "get this case off the books" - in other words, upgrade their clear up their crime detection rates to make the force in question look good. In past years, this on occasion led to an innocent man or women - often known criminals - being convicted of crimes they did not commit.

A well held police view in those days was that they may not have done this but they deserved jail time for crimes they had "got away " with. In other cases, particular burglaries, guilty offenders were pressured to plead guilty and to go before the court and plead guilty to other break-ins they had not committed to be "taken into consideration" - TICs they were called - which allowed the police to get otherwise unsolved cases "off the books."

Their reward for this was for the prosecution to put in a "good word" to the judge.

What concerns me now - as a retired award winning crime journalist whose experience ranged from the A6 murder in the 1960s to the Yorkshire Ripper - is that it was mainly "old lags" who were "fitted up" in this way, some of whom actually enjoyed the relative comfort in prison. But that seems to have changed.

In recent years, particularly in so-called "date rape" situations, political pressure for more convictions suggests that the man involved is sometimes a person of good character taking part in what he thought was a consensual sex.

In this, much of the pressure for false convictions by the none-disclosure of defence evidence seems to have come from the Crown Prosecution Service. One begins to wonder how many young men are in prison, their lives ruined, for a genuine misunderstanding rather than a criminal act.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Matt Apr 3, 2018

I've never trusted the police ever since I was 21 and was on a night out. A friend was attacked by four men and he fought them all off. By the time the police got there, he was dealing with the last one.

The police turned up with their badge numbers removed from their shirts ready for a fight. One pulled out his truncheon when I asked for his badge number. Another tried to bend my arm behind my back and arrest me for gently tapping him on the arm while saying "excuse me officer".

I can't remember the details but the police were extremely aggressive with us for no reason.

My friend was arrested and taken away, later charged with trumped up charges of being being drunk and disorderly because "he kicked off in the van". He didn't - I know him well enough to say that wasn't true.

The CCTV evidence exonerated him the next day of the original crime of which he was accused.

I do remember there was a younger female officer that night who looked shocked at what her colleagues were doing.

Obviously this isn't the same scale as hiding evidence, but anybody who thinks the police are just there to do good all the time are wrong.

Flag

27RecommendReply  
tested Apr 3, 2018

Maybe more chief constables brought up through the ranks including beat policing instead of "fast tracked" rising stars that are more political than competent.

Flag

5RecommendReply  
Bill Forrest Apr 3, 2018  
@tested

Serving years in the lower ranks incurs the risk of acquiring the barrack room culture of paranoia: it's us against all those villains out there. This in turn prompts an inclination to bend the rules that may prevent a conviction. However, you may have something about the weighting of ambition on the fast track.

Flag

4RecommendReply  
Kane Holbrook Apr 3, 2018

Those responsible have perverted the course of justice. And should duly be charged.

Flag

8RecommendReply  
Piltown Man Apr 3, 2018

So, is it possible therefore that every prosecution under the the Dick is unsafe?

Flag

RecommendReply  
Benjamin Saunders Apr 3, 2018

Shock! So it transpires that an opaque organisation which has comparatively low levels of recruitment standards isn't objective or reliable. Who would have thought it, eh. I have no doubts that our police are considerably better than some other forces in the world, but they are still professionally appalling (don't have a basic grasp of the complexities of law), uninspiring and demonstrably untrustworthy.

Flag

14RecommendReply  
Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@Benjamin Saunders Unfortunately wide sections of the population have stopped trusting or relying on them some time ago.

Flag

9RecommendReply  
Bill Forrest Apr 3, 2018  
@Prabhat

"Unfortunately"?

Flag

1RecommendReply  
JMCL Apr 3, 2018

@Benjamin Saunders So, since we ought to strive to have a more objective and reliable police force, how do we get there? Higher standards at recruitment obviously, but then a much more ethical approach (positive change, if you like), embedded at the police college and enforced thereafter.

There might be much to be said for attempting to introduce the concept of an officer corps too, like the armed forces. Not that the armed forces haven't had their fair share of incompetence, etc. , but at least they start off generally free of a barrack room culture.

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Benjamin Saunders Apr 3, 2018

@JMCL @Benjamin Saunders In hindsight, and having thought about this from a different position, my initial comment wasn't especially helpful - criticism without solution rarely is.

So, what to do? I think there's two ways to approach this: how the police measure success (i.e. statistics without context); and the professional quality of the individual police officer.

If an organisation's key metric of success is a statistic then any change will be cosmetic and there will be a temptation to massage the figures. Crime and the roots of crime can often be nuanced and complex, and modern policing seems to rely on their being a binary outcome. I appreciate the police need to present some kind of tangible evidence as to how they are catching criminals and preventing crime, but as in this article, this has led to the skewing of things. At some higher level there needs to be a review as to how we measure the prevention of crime and therefore how we seek to prevent crime, and the benefits that police bring to society (fluffy, I know), because as long as we rely expressly on crime figures it doesn't matter who the police employ because they are inherently restricted. Which leads me to my next point - the quality of the individual.

Ideally one would like to see higher recruitment standards. If you look at the average police officer they look unfit, and from personal experience they are not especially eloquent (there's a reason a police officer became a police officer and not a QC). In short they're uninspiring. But they also do a very difficult job where it must be hard to remain motivated and emotionally detached. The police are segregated from both criminals and the rest of society. They do a repetitive job, keep irregular hours, and spend a lot of their time with people from the fringes of society. No matter how objective or educated you are, if you are dealing with certain circumstances then a psychological bias is always likely to come about whether inadvertently or purposefully - you can't fight human nature. So I think taking on a better standard of officer would help in some ways (especially with the relationship between the police and the CPS and how the police develop and catalogue cases), but ultimately it's irrelevant because the job seems to chip away at a person's spirit. If you're an army officer then you understand that wars have an end point, if you're dealing with rapists or people who abuse children then you have to accept that there's no end in sight. Perhaps limiting the amount of time you can spend with any one department might help? I think it's a very difficult problem frankly.

Flag

1RecommendReply

lanesmarsbar Apr 3, 2018

The Crown Prosecution Service was created to remove prosecutions from the police and bring objectivity to the process so that this kind of thing didn't happen. So, what do we do now??

Flag

5RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@lanesmarsbar If CPS do not prosecute the Police actors for suppressing or withholding evidence, then they are in cahoots with them.

Flag

11RecommendReply

kibes Apr 3, 2018

'officers in at least one force apparently trained in how to avoid making available material that might undermine their case.' - This is perverting the course of justice isn't it? Isn't that a criminal offence?

Flag

22RecommendReply

NR Apr 3, 2018

Shall we name and shame the Chirf Constable whose force has been trained to hide evidence? The rot starts at the head.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Steve Bowles Apr 3, 2018

A corrupt justice system. A corrupt country.

Flag

RecommendReply

Rick Apr 3, 2018

Plod has always been procedural and rarely inspirational.

Two retired-Bobbies volunteered the information to me that we all, even ex-Policemen, can wave goodbye to our civil rights the moment we cross the threshold of a police-station.

Is this the UK so superior in its civilisation to the rest of Europe.

Are the Brits so aloof because they're still Victorians at heart?

Flag

4RecommendReply

JMcL Apr 3, 2018

@Rick We get the police force we deserve....

Flag

RecommendReply

0.44010292204 Apr 3, 2018

The police should have had a great wake up call after fitting up the Guildford Four for mass murder. In that case it was fabrication of evidence not withholding it. Nobody suffered any consequences for that debacle and the service muddles on. It's important that we support the bobbies on the beat but the leadership is abysmal.

Flag

8RecommendReply

BigJim Apr 3, 2018

So what we are talking about is a mammoth organised effort to conspire to pervert the course of justice, in quite likely, every major criminal prosecution.

Just how many innocent folk are there in prison now?

Flag

12RecommendReply

Rick Apr 3, 2018

The United Kingdom sees itself as exemplary and exceptional. European neighbours look on and wonder at such hubris. UK exemplarity - experience shows - is oversold.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Arthur Atkinson Apr 3, 2018

@Rick They should put you in charge of sorting out the police, Rick, what with you being an expert in everything. Apologies if I've oversold you.

Flag

3RecommendReply

John Noel HUGHES-WILSON Apr 3, 2018

As I get older, my respect for the law - let alone justice - diminishes . . .

Flag

14RecommendReply

JMcL Apr 3, 2018

@John Noel HUGHES-WILSON I think that that's a damn-fool view. If "anything goes", you won't mind if I come and burn down your house? I think that you would, and would expect law to come to your aid. It may not, of course, but it at least still law that Thou Shalt Not Commit Arson. Better that than no law - and so law deserves respect as a concept.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Paul Blake Apr 3, 2018

Is not the deliberate hiding of evidence which may prove innocence a criminal offence? If not government should move promptly to make it one.

Flag

16RecommendReply

smc Apr 3, 2018

Peehaps this isn't entirely Alison's fault. She is only the 2nd female DPP and given her lack of defence experience I wonder if she was promoted because of gender. Her decisions in office she seems to be politically feminist. She is also the first DPP not to be a QC and the first to be promoted to the role internally from within the CPS. The best woman for the job isn't necessarily the best person for the job and we will have to come to terms with the performance consequences of women being promoted into roles for gender balance not merit.

Flag

12RecommendReply

PB Joyce Apr 3, 2018

It's more sinister than funding shortfalls; it's about statistics. Do police get kudos for sexual conviction numbers? Yes. Do they get kudos for false accusation convictions? No.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Jonathan Story Apr 3, 2018

Ms Rudd is most unlikely to deal with this. She does not have any deep convictions, but she likes to be seen as supporting victimhood.

Flag

3RecommendReply

JDM Apr 3, 2018

@Jonathan Story Victimhood is the new religion - you are nothing if you are not a victim. She is simply fitting in

Flag

6RecommendReply

Stelling Apr 3, 2018

Shocking, but somehow not surprising. Clearly defence must immediately be given access to the secret lists, and guilty officers prosecuted for withholding vital evidence.

Flag

22RecommendReply

Mark Bullen Apr 3, 2018

Aww, the good old British bobby not playing on a level playing field? Whatever next... :(

Flag

3RecommendReply

Marc Hoppins Apr 3, 2018

This is the kind of world one gets when statistics play a key part in the growth of ANY entity corporate or governmental.

Funding for vital services should not be debated. If more money was filtered toward the emergency servces and away from Parliament things would improve.

Flag

2RecommendReply

31linden Apr 3, 2018

Absolutely nothing to do with funding and everything to do with honesty and integrity or the lack of it in the Police.

Flag

29RecommendReply

JDM Apr 3, 2018

@Marc Hoppins No - this is not a funding issue. The culture that has encouraged this type of behavior is one that will have grown over a period of time until it is so bad it starts to become visible. This is not solved by throwing money at it. There needs to be clear out from the top, which is where the responsibility lies and quite probably where this culture started

Flag

17RecommendReply

Peter Jones Apr 3, 2018

I've always suspected that the Police are dodgy and cannot be trusted. This article confirms that this is so. They and the CPS need to be sorted out. They only seem concerned to bump up their conviction rates and do not care that they may send innocent people to prison. There are too many cases of withheld evidence to believe that this is due to stupidity and incompetence alone

Flag

30RecommendReply

Newminster Apr 3, 2018

Time to keep the police well away from "victims", except as potential witnesses. The more that they become involved in "supporting" victims or their families they more they are in danger of losing their objectivity.

The justice system is designed and intended to catch, try, and punish offenders not to act as as support group for those who have been wronged or allege they have been wronged.

If support is needed then it should come from those qualified to give it. Involving the police raises potential conflicts of interest since their job is to follow the trail of evidence wherever it leads, even if that is back to the victim or the victim's family.

How many of the cases we have read about (and doubtless others we haven't) have been tainted by a determination to "get justice for so-and-so" causing the police to lose sight of the fact that the person in their sights just might not be the one they are looking for and that he/she is entitled to justice as well? More so, in a way, because if guilty justice demands the appropriate punishment; if innocent justice demands a speedy release. In neither of these situations does the "victim" have any **legal** interest and their future will not be affected by whether a particular individual is convicted or acquitted.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Keep right on Apr 3, 2018

Peter Jones.

.

You say "the Police are dodgy "

.

Whenever there is a terrorist attack , or a bomb , or a massive disturbance, everyone runs away....everyone other than your "dodgy " Police.

.

Every time there is carnage on the motorway , your "dodgy " Police are there to help scrape up the dying and injured.

.

Every time , your " dodgy " Police put on their uniform , they put their lives at risk.

.

You make me vomit.

.

Have a good one.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Matt Apr 3, 2018

@Keep right on

The public sector being put on a pedestal does nobody any good.

Your sycophantic attitude makes me (metaphorically) vomit.

Flag

3RecommendReply

e blois Apr 3, 2018

@Keep right on

It seems you haven't bothered to read the article and decided to insult someone who has.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

@e blois @Keep right on Or alternatively.....keep right on made a point that, amongst all the carping and righteousness ToLs hive mind is thinking today, (nudged by the article)..... the police aren't all dodgy, gave a couple of examples where they get things very right. But you guys on here can only seem to hold one thought at a time, and today is "Self-righteousness against the Police day"....All day, it seems....Bye...Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Markets Work Apr 3, 2018

Quite scary that this level of discretion would be left to an individual, who becomes judge & jury all at the same time. The guidelines need to be much stricter (e.g. only items related to national security or other serious organised crime investigations) could be considered for non-disclosure. And that non-disclosure needs to be certified by someone who is not involved in the investigation itself. Whoever designed this training needs to be investigated.

Flag

6RecommendReply

smc Apr 3, 2018

If she left voluntarily it is scandalous that she wasn't fired. If she wasn't fired I suspect we will continue to pay for her through Linklaters.

Flag

3RecommendReply

James Dixon Apr 3, 2018

"Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" - Juvenal's 'Satires'. "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance - Jefferson. "To be free is good, to be safe is better" - Hochwalder. "Everyone knows that conviction rates generally and in some Courts are far too low" - Sir Robert Mark, Met Police Commissioner. The problem of conflicting imperatives or, more prosaically, a consequence of some or most of us wanting to have our cake and eat it.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Ivor Blight Apr 3, 2018

"If you don't want the defence to see it, then [evidence] goes on the MG6D" — a reference to the list of sensitive unused material to which the defence does not have access. Why don't you explain or look further into this comment? Why does such a list exist?

Flag

35RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Ivor Blight ... some very good questions for *The Times* (London) to answer.

Flag

2RecommendReply

LuckyJack Apr 3, 2018

@Ivor Blight Because it is deliberately misleading and inflammatory. The MG6D is a schedule to describe sensitive matters that may or should not be in the hands of the defence. This would include covert investigation methods, details of human intelligence sources etc. There are items when investigating serious or organised crime that need to be withheld. However, these are shared with CPS who should make the decision on whether disclosure is appropriate. It can go to the judge for a decision and police can and often have withdrawn cases if it will leave someone at risk as a result of disclosure. The Times are offering a very slanted view of a difficult subject, grist to the mill of those that willingly believe all police are all bent, lazy, or incompetent.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Soysauce Apr 3, 2018

@LuckyJack @Ivor Blight Well and I am truly sorry to say this Lucky Jack, but the Police have done an extremely fine job of presenting themselves to the public as bent, lazy and incompetent. That a serving Police officer can knowingly withhold evidence that determines innocence or guilt of the accused is frankly sickening and if common, why bother joining the Police, who are you protecting? Where is your moral compass?

Flag

19RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@LuckyJack @Ivor Blight Thank for this clarification - "However, these are shared with CPS who should make the decision on whether disclosure is appropriate."

So is the Police passing the buck on to the CPS or it is CPS's fault?

Flag

2RecommendReply

LuckyJack Apr 3, 2018

@Prabhat @LuckyJack @Ivor Blight It is the police responsibility to ensure that the CPS are aware of ALL information and indeed the disclosure officer has to sign a document to confirm that position. The CPS are responsible for reviewing all of the information and making a decision on whether it should be disclosed. Of course, the CPS cannot be accountable for information that they have not seen or are not aware of. It has been known for a long time there is a real problem with electronic data as it is so extensive and there is a lot of pressure on the computer labs to turn around material. This is an area where there has been insufficient investment for a number of years. Consider how your home computers memory capacity has exponentially grown. It is disappointing to see that this has descended into the usual police bashing commentary since there is a real danger to proper justice here from poor disclosure practice and it needs urgently addressing.

Flag

RecommendReply

SixG Apr 3, 2018

There has always been some 'manipulation' of evidence in police investigations, but in the past it was most likely to be used as a way to take a known villain out of circulation - 'he may not have committed this particular crime but we know he did plenty of others'. Not lawful, not just, but not particularly dangerous, and understandable.

In the last 20 years, the police and CPS have been politicised. They were 'instructed' to increase rape convictions for example. Entirely innocent people have been imprisoned and there have been many serious miscarriages of justice. Decent citizens and their families have seen their lives ruined or destroyed.

This is appalling and dangerous. Why not just fabricate evidence and lock up inconvenient trouble makers, political opponents and gypsies? That Britain's judicial system should have been corrupted in this way is shocking.

Flag

36RecommendReply

stuart ross Apr 3, 2018

Clearly this report has attracted a great deal of interest but it is disappointing that once again there have been some gratuitously offensive posts, albeit from time to time veiled in an oleaginous politeness.

When I was a young man I was taught to respect the views of others and that criticism of those who hold such views would demean only myself.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

The Left have now permeated every public service, leaving it weak on every traditional principle, including something that we used to be proud of: law and order.

Flag

33RecommendReply  
Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018  
@Kevin Laughlin ... spot on, K L, and fully Recommended .

In my opinion: All this stupidity is an inevitable result of Labour's stupid S.I. 1975 / 1198 .

Flag

2RecommendReply  
smc Apr 3, 2018  
1975/1198 The Direct Grant Grammar Schools (Cessation of Grant) Regulations - really, you think that's the cause?

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018  
Which act of Parliament are you referring to?

Flag

RecommendReply  
Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018  
@Kevin Laughlin ... allegedly ... *the Direct Grant Grammar Schools (Cessation of Grant) Regulations 1975 (S.I., 1975, No. 1198), dated 21st July 1975 ..* was and/or were in accordance with the powers conferred by section 100 of the [second World War] Education Act 1944 and vested in the relevant Secretary of State of Labour's 1975 government .

Flag

RecommendReply  
Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018  
@Kevin Laughlin ... and the original text of section 100 of the Education Act 1944 c. 31 commences with the words of ...

100.-(1) The Minister shall by regulations make provision ...

Flag

RecommendReply  
Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018  
@Kevin Laughlin ... but, of course, the Labour Minister took away provision !

Flag

RecommendReply  
Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018  
Could you explain how an act regarding Grammar Schools directly affects the way the justice system is being run?

Flag

RecommendReply  
Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018  
@Kevin Laughlin ... certainly. Can't you, Kevin Laughlin ?

Inappropriately inadequate education inevitably produces police incompetence, in my opinion, as recently reported by *The Times* (London) i.e. from 01 February 2018, here we go, seing as how you wrote "please" and all:

\* Salisbury Skripals, webpage ; <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-at-delays-in-salisbury-poison-inquiry-96zvbshng>

\* Deceased baby Poppy Worthington, webpage : <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/poppi-worthington-death-the-piece-of-lost-evidence-that-could-get-justice-for-the-toddler-s62x8brwf>

\* Harassment case dropped due to undisclosed texts, webpage : <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/harassment-case-collapse-shows-disclosure-failures-not-limited-to-crown-courts-cdmlnrjgq>

\* Child born in jail due to indolence, webpage : <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mother-gives-birth-in-jail-as-vital-evidence-is-withheld-3fl10j9lk>

... and last, but maybe not least, as it was on 1 April 2018:

**Top officer warns too many police lack investigative skills**

webpage : <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/top-officer-warns-too-many-police-lack-investigative-skills-x92sqxh6q>

where the third paragraph states

QUOTE

Sawyer, one of the few chief constables to have worked as an elite detective, said too many police officers lacked basic investigative skills, such as being “professionally curious”.

He said: “Frontline responders need to protect the victim, but they also need to be able to see the crime.”

ENDQUOTE

Flag

RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

No, Donald Stickland, I can't Donald Stickland. There's no direct link at all, you can say bad education is a cause for any incompetence. The specifics you quote are not relevant, Donald Stickland.

Flag

RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Kevin Laughlin ... I disagree with your opinion, K L, for the many reasons that I've already set out plus those I indicated some 8 or so hours ago that - in many cases - a grammar school education has brought forth enquiring minds such as the English talents of William Tyndale, William Shakespeare, Thomas Paine, et cetera.

Am I correct in thinking that you weren't educated at a - ahem - grammar school, Kevin, please ?

Flag

RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

Let us know if you have anything relevant to add to this topic.

Flag

RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Kevin Laughlin ... thank you, Kevin Laughlin, in my personal opinion, for confirming by your action/s or lack thereof on ToL the veracity of the headline of *The Times* (London) today of ... **Police are 'trained to hide vital evidence'** .

Flag

RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

Donald Stickland, but still no mention of grammar schools, Donald Stickland. Do they do special police training there Donald Stickland?

Flag

RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Kevin Laughlin ... whilst you may be no wiser, you're certainly now better informed about 1975 / 1198, the relevant ... *act of Parliament* ... that you apparently requested some 13 hours ago, and the relevant context, which of course includes a YES to the answer of your last question - where you yet again omitted to politely write please (but never mind) Kevin - because "special police training" necessitates an inquiring mind as developed by grammar schools as I indicated above some 4 hours ago as exhibited by ... *the English talents of William Tyndale, William Shakespeare, Thomas Paine, et cetera.*

*Am I still correct in thinking that you weren't educated at a - ahem - grammar school, Kevin, please ?*

Flag

RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

Enjoy your non sequitur.

Flag

RecommendReply

Donald Stickland Apr 3, 2018

@Kevin Laughlin ... Do have the last word, Dear boy .

Flag

RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

@Kevin Laughlin So it is the fault of the "left" (that includes anyone who are on the left on the political spectrum) for these gross criminal incompetence by the police which they elected to do of their own choice? Do tell us what are the "right" responsible for? Extremism?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Kevin Laughlin Apr 3, 2018

This is no incompetence. This is a concerted effort to remove the rights of innocent people.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Grant McCormack Apr 3, 2018

In the mid 1970's, a syndicate of senior policemen from the Birmingham area used to visit a small village in the west of Scotland two times a year where they had timeshare slots on nearby a salmon river. They spent their evenings in the bar of the small hotel where they stayed, and a combination of abundant fresh air and the numerous "drams" they poured down their necks meant they were invariably very drunk come closing time.

Many of the local men had served in the Royal Navy during WW2 and they could drink as well as the next man, but I remember them telling me how shocked they were at the stories these policemen told of "framing" and "stitching up" people to make charges stick against people they "knew" to be guilty.

I only saw them once and was shocked at their racism both towards black people and Irish people who they said were all members of the IRA.

Anyway, their visits to the area stopped after their stories got particularly loud obnoxious one night when there was a retired senior detective from the City of Glasgow police in the bar and he had spoken with them when the were having breakfast the next day.

Much later, cases came to light, such as the Maguire Seven, the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six, where there was grave miscarriages of justice and police officers were eventually charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. And, even later, it is now highly likely that one of the great train robbers, Gordon Goody, was convicted on fabricated evidence, (although there is no doubt he was heavily involved in the robbery).

In the 1980's, I spent a week as a student observing the procedures in Dundee Sheriff Court and saw a man plead "not guilty" to throwing a metal garbage bin through a shop window.

His story was that the police had picked him up at at 2 o'clock in the morning at the end of the deserted street and well away from the breakage. The police said they had seen him break the window and he run away.

The man was convicted and I later asked him if he was guilty. He was very candid and said he was drunk and broke the window and had been picked up by the police five minutes later at the end of the street and they had definitely not seen him commit the crime.

Later, I asked one of the two policemen how they knew he had broke the window, and he said, "He was the only one there!". When I pressed the point, and asked but did you actually see him do it, he said with a knowing smile, "What the F\*\*\* do you think."

And, my point is that today's revelations are not new and the police, like most people, will take the path of least resistance, sometimes with the best of intentions, and that is why they require constant scrutiny and this MG6D list should be abolished.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Julia Caesar Apr 3, 2018

Correct me if I'm wrong, but if I were involved in a criminal case and I hid evidence, then that would be perverting the course of justice and result in jail.

Flag

131RecommendReply

MAGISTER Apr 3, 2018

@Julia Caesar Not if you're a police officer. The law doesn't apply to you.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Prabhat Apr 3, 2018

Yes but that's for ordinary Joe. Police and its components are always above the law or assume themselves to be.

Flag

5RecommendReply

stella hollis Apr 3, 2018

The disclosure of what has turned up in police inquiries is relatively recent . Much of it is irrelevant and discarded for the purposes of a trial . It clogs the system and leads to all sorts of shenanigans from both sides . It is what goes before a jury that should be properly presented . A re-think might save a lot of time and cost .

Flag

2RecommendReply

John Austin Apr 3, 2018

You're missing the point. How do you hide a leaf? In a forest. How do you hide evidence that would assist the defence? In a pile of carp that is useless to anybody.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Ian Whitlock Apr 3, 2018

@John Austin

If I saw a pile of carp , I would know something was fishy.

Flag

11RecommendReply  
Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018  
@Ian Whitlock But John, this is the fabled scales of justice you're referring to ..... <grin> Flag

5RecommendReply  
David Jaundrell Apr 3, 2018  
@Ian Whitlock @John Austin Oy Koi.... Flag

4RecommendReply  
Peter De La Roche Apr 3, 2018  
@Ian Whitlock @John Austin

Ian. Could be a red herring or a skate on thin ice. Flag

1RecommendReply  
Prabhat Apr 3, 2018  
Do tell us what should go before the court? And how should that be presented? Flag

RecommendReply  
Icarus Apr 3, 2018  
Time to dispense with Police Crime Commissioners and to re-introduce Watch Committees and a new Crime Evidence Act requiring to sharing of all evidence to the defence agency? Flag

7RecommendReply  
Mark Hodgkins Apr 3, 2018  
@Icarus What about calling a few retired Chief Constables back before parliament and getting to the bottom of who trained the police to criminals?

Or is it, as usual, to be covered up.

Maybe we should be cancelling some of these ludicrously large tax payer funded pensions for these seemingly incompetent people. Flag

4RecommendReply  
John B Apr 3, 2018  
Absolutely disgraceful behaviour by the police. They need complete reform and to revert back to Peel's founding principles. Flag

15RecommendReply  
Gary Stapleton Apr 3, 2018  
If the actions of the Police are true then this is an indefensible disgrace and a breach of the law, which they are supposed to respect and uphold. The Police force "en masse" should be held accountable and the Justice Secretary should brief all Chief Constables accordingly, with the threat that if there are any further contraventions of the law of disclosure then the Chief Constables of those forces will be held directly responsible and could lose their jobs, instantly and without compensation, redundancy or pension. The police force needs to demonstrate responsibility, accountability, trust and full compliance with the law. No excuses! Flag

40RecommendReply  
Mark Hodgkins Apr 3, 2018  
@Gary Stapleton Well said.

Flag

3RecommendReply

mark darcy Apr 4, 2018

@Gary Stapleton Unfortunately this suggestion assumes the Justice Secretary and the rest of the State apparatus is honourable. The State is our enemy and has been for a long time now. We need to wake up to this fact. Power corrupts and they are actively working against the public interest.

Flag

RecommendReply

Bill Badger Apr 3, 2018

Well well, what a comfort it is to read this as I was under the impression the Police had ceased prosecuting criminals.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Ian Whitlock Apr 3, 2018

@Bill Badger

Yes, happily they are impartial and cheerfully prosecute the innocent to bump up the conviction rates.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018

I'm reminded, when reading this, of all those woolly-headed people who, when we complain about the steady trickle of new and intrusive controls on our lives, intone solemnly, "If you've done nothing wrong you have nothing to fear".

Yeah, right.

I'm afraid I wouldn't trust the average British policeman (even less one of the accompanying target-driven 'agencies' tasked with policing the UK) with MY freedom.

When I step out of my French door each morning, I smell freedom - and I just love it.

Flag

47RecommendReply

James Stephens Apr 3, 2018

@Bob Craske in Normandy Ok Bob , no need to rub it in.

Flag

RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 4, 2018

@James Stephens Sorry James.

I'll have myself thrashed with wet lettuce as a penance, immediately. <grin>

Flag

RecommendReply

Redbridge Hypnotherapy Apr 3, 2018

The real problem is caused basically by their incompetence in gathering all the evidence properly and presenting it in an unbiased way

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Apr 3, 2018

@Redbridge Hypnotherapy The real problem is stated in the feature. It's an attempt to withhold evidence - in part to meet CPS targets for convictions.

Flag

34RecommendReply

Gerryco Apr 3, 2018

@Mark Eltringham @Redbridge Hypnotherapy Tosh. For a start, even the critical report quoted in the article says that material is on occasion withheld by the police, who if you didn't know are not the CPS. The main problem with the article though is that it has taken individual comments from a report in which all affected parties were encouraged to speak their mind, and presents them as if genuine failures of disclosure are both deliberate and commonplace. There are problems but lack of resources are more the issue than bad faith.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Bel Ami Apr 3, 2018

@Gerryco @Mark Eltringham @Redbridge Hypnotherapy When police actions could lead to innocent people going to jail, it is completely feeble to try to exonerate them.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Apr 3, 2018

@Gerryco @Mark Eltringham @Redbridge Hypnotherapy I suggest you find out more about the issue. Especially the target setting of the CPS and their guidance.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Gerryco Apr 3, 2018

@Mark Eltringham @Gerryco @Redbridge Hypnotherapy What target setting and what guidance are you referring to?

Flag

RecommendReply

James Lawson XIX Apr 3, 2018

Personally, I blame Jeremy Corbyn for all of this!

Flag

4RecommendReply

Jim Hacker Apr 3, 2018

Thank goodness the truth of this is emerging. I once believed that police competently investigated serious allegations before making an arrest and subjecting a suspect to months or years and misery and potentially ruining their career and lives.

Close experience of a case in point at work recently, proved to me otherwise.

One of Theresa May's Brexit 'red lines' is intended to give more power to a justice system which has failed horribly in such cases, where the principle 'innocent until proven guilty' is ignored for political and cost expediency.

As a home secretary for many years she has questions to answer on this scandal.

Flag

84RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018

@Jim Hacker Nicely put Jim and accurately delivered.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Ms Elizabeth Keith Apr 3, 2018

@Jim Hacker ' I once believed that police competently investigated serious allegations before making an arrest'. Well, they do in all the good TV detective dramas where we see good honest polite coppers and senior detectives treating suspects with courtesy. Unfortunately not, it appears, in real life.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Alex Ogle Apr 3, 2018

This is not about money or about corruption, this is about competence (or lack thereof) and policing by targets. You don't get justice by issuing demands for crime figures to be a certain way. We need to stop using statistics to command policing. Statistics help guide funding of policing and help direct effort of investigations, but should never require assuming the outcome.

How did we lose our way so badly when it comes to justice?

Flag

2RecommendReply

Mrs E Miles Apr 3, 2018

Whilst we have a 'gladatorial' approach to criminal trials the truth is the loser. It won't change because the legal profession is too conservative and too lucrative.

Within our current system truth, common sense and justice are unhappy bedfellows. The time fast approaches where investigation of allegations of crime will no longer be possible as it will cost too much, in all but the most serious matters.

Government cuts have meant that the development of 'restorative justice' approaches has not proceeded as it should, much to the delight of lawyers who were losing out financially as they were excluded from the process of mediation.

This approach offers greater potential to reform low level offenders and provide satisfaction to victims of crime.

It also reduces miscarriages of justice, which are far more common for the victim due to the guilty walking free rather than the innocent being convicted.

Richard Miles

Flag

3RecommendReply

Michael Jones Apr 3, 2018

This is dreadful stuff indeed, but what is chillingly worse, whether there is yet another enquiry or not, is that not one person will be accountable or responsible for the consequences (see Avicenna's post below as an example) of such action, and we as the voter will accept it.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Avicenna Apr 3, 2018

Don't forget the most egregious case of teacher Kato Harris

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3716388/Ruined-195-000-legal-bill-teacher-cleared-rape-just-26-minutes-Friends-raise-money-help-former-head-geography-left-mentally-physically-crushed-troubled-teen-s-false-allegations.html>

Flag

12RecommendReply

Michael Jones Apr 3, 2018

It could have been you.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Gerry Mander Apr 3, 2018

Here's another where the CPS tried to manipulate the CCTV evidence in an attempt to convict an innocent man who should never have even been charged.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/12144963/Commuter-who-walked-past-actress-at-Waterloo-station-cleared-of-bizarre-sex-assault-claim.html>

Flag

4RecommendReply

Michael Jones Apr 3, 2018

No mention of the accuser's identity.

Flag

2RecommendReply

PAUL LEWIS Apr 3, 2018

This is what happens, when the public sector is out of control, it can do as it likes, without any repercussions, they will never be sacked, no matter what they do.....Because the politicos want votes....Not responsibility.

Flag

64RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Have you got your tins of beans, bottled water, and stuff ready Paul? A little peashooter and a catapult? Big state is coming for you....that's why you're so....anxious, isn't it? You really shouldn't worry so much. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

2RecommendReply

Families Need Fathers Apr 3, 2018

*"...is exposed today in documents showing that such behaviour is routine and deliberate"*

Good that investigative journalists and others persevered and were able to get at the evidence of this. It is so much more difficult in family justice to establish institutionalised bad practice because of the cloak of secrecy that surrounds family proceedings. Yet those who have experience of these often speak of family court professionals and social workers involved disregarding vital evidence that does not fit their pre-conceptions or that might delay their ability to close cases.

We need more light in all corners of justice if people are to have confidence in it. What sort of justice is it if they don't?

Flag

75RecommendReply

Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018

Sounds like we need to sack every police officer in the land.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

....yep. Problem solved. You're a genius. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Paul McCubbin Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H С наилучшими пожеланиями

Flag

1RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

....hi Paul....surely, wouldn't a Russian wanting to destabilise the U.K. like all the police sacked? BTW you wrote "I am bit of a wally" wrong there, in Russian. All the best. Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H

Your sotto voce one liners add little to the debate. You may have noticed I did not suggest that we do not then replace them with untainted, honest people.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

...quite right Marcus. I did notice that you didn't write something, which you now have made clear. But I have an issue with that. You have sort of said there, pretty much, that the entire police force of the U.K. is tainted and dishonest, haven't you? I'm not sure that's right at all.....

Correct me if I'm wrong, and elucidate your actual thoughts. I'm left thinking there may be an awkward period between the mass sacking, and training up the new untainted and honest guys. Are you sure you've thought this through? Best regards. mr H

Flag

2RecommendReply

Ken Harvey Apr 3, 2018

The fact that there is such a list as MG6D, whose purpose is the hide sensitive material from the defence team, says it all. The use of such a list should be abolished and all evidence should be made available to the defence - PERIOD.

Flag

90RecommendReply

SandH Apr 3, 2018

@Ken Harvey When it was introduced, the purpose of the MG6D, which is a supplement to the MG6 disclosure schedule, was to notify the CPS that the police held sensitive material that should not be disclosed routinely or casually. The CPS was then supposed to assess the material to decide whether and how the material should be disclosed to the court or the defence.

Its purpose is not to "hide", it is to disclose.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Jenny Swire Apr 3, 2018

Was not is. .... That is probably how MG6 was sanctioned in the first place. It is now being abused.

Flag

5RecommendReply

PAUL LEWIS Apr 3, 2018

Next step will be ....Show trials.....The state rules OK

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Yep....bring em on. It must be chaos in your head Paul. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

PAUL LEWIS Apr 3, 2018

This is exactly what happens when the state is so big, and so removes all rights from the small individual person....It will end up in tyranny, as the state now believes that it knows whats best for the people.

Remember as the saying goes....first they came for....and then they came for me.

Flag

18RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

ohhh you little snowflake, paul. Best regards, Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

PAUL LEWIS Apr 3, 2018  
@Mr H

Erm no, i am about as far from a snowflake as you can get.

Regards PL

Flag

7RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018

...oh wow. You just seem to be in a right flap. Glad you're ok. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Steven Macdonald Apr 3, 2018

And with that, people's trust in the law, and the police force, has been further eroded. With friends in the police force, who routinely complain of Stats and MI, this is a sad state of affairs.

Flag

5RecommendReply  
Troubled world Apr 3, 2018

Honestly thought withholding evidence was a crime?

Flag

69RecommendReply  
Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018  
@Troubled world

I thought falsely accusing men of rape was, too - apparently it's fine though.

Flag

56RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Marcus. I think it is isn't it? What makes you think it isn't? Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply  
Long-time Skeptic Apr 3, 2018  
@Mr H Are you a police officer?

Flag

RecommendReply  
mark darcy Apr 4, 2018  
@Marcus Aurelius @Troubled world A false allegation should carry the same sentence that would have been given to the attacker. There has to be a disincentive for this vile crime.

Flag

RecommendReply  
Avicenna Apr 3, 2018

There is no doubt that processes to hide evidence was developed in a culture where that became normalized.

What was the driving force.

Saunders is a man hater and a gross and nasty misandrist.

Her hatred shows no bounds as illustrated by the malicious prosecution of Geography teacher Kato Harris for allegations which were crazy.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3716388/Ruined-195-000-legal-bill-teacher-cleared-rape-just-26-minutes-Friends-raise-money-help-former-head-geography-left-mentally-physically-crushed-troubled-teen-s-false-allegations.html>

Misandry is the driving force of these problems and needs calling out when ever it occurs.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Robin Paine Apr 3, 2018

This is so dreadful it is almost unbelievable that this could happen in this country in this day and age.

So it would seem that both prosecutors and police would have no compunction in knowingly sending an innocent person to prison for a lengthy term for a crime they never committed, and in consequence ruining their lives, to secure an illegitimate legal victory for their own gratification.

Can they really sleep at night?

All it has proved is that our legal system is hardly any fairer than some third world despotic regime and until it is cleaned up deserves to be treated with the utter contempt it has wrought upon itself.

Surely these perpetrators cannot be allowed to get off scot-free.

Flag

160RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Hi Robin.

I suspect the comments will be littered with ones similar to yours. That's ok, it's just the way it is.

May I ask you though, your thoughts on how rapists sleep at night? And rape victims, how do they sleep at night? Do you ever give that any thought? Let me know, or don't. Up to you. Best regards Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Steve Bull Apr 3, 2018

The usual straw man argument, if you can't argue against what Robin said then pick on something totally different to argue against and try and tar him with that.

Flag

17RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

...I didnt argue against his response did I? Show me where? You've made that up Steve, haven't you?

What exactly did I tar him with?

Actually, the straw man is yours steve, isn't it? You just don't want to think about difficult things, maybe...

Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018

@Steve Bull Well put Steve. Tiresome little womble, isn't he?

Flag

8RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

@Bob Craske in Normandy @Steve Bull Underground overground tra la la la....Steve....any update on pointing out where I tried to argue against Robin's statement... look carefully...I wrote "That's ok,

that's the way it is" .....that's what it actually still says....see for yourself...And you Bob....take a look with your own eyes.... Best Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

What does that have to do with this article?

-

Are you saying that because rapists are evil we shouldn't protest if the police are deliberately trying to send innocent people to jail? That we can't denounce malpractice by the police without being pro-rapist?

-

Your comment is literally senseless. I'd call it 'whataboutery' but it's not as logical as that. Most people are anti-rape AND anti-police corruption. Only people with extremely strange beliefs would imply you have to be one or the other.

-

If someone denounced the conviction of an innocent person for murder, would you imply that person was pro murder?

-

Why don't you clarify a little for us? Your initial post literally made no sense whatsoever.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Ghoti Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H One would hope they barely sleep at all, and if they do it is only with pharmaceutical help. But, please, let us know the relevance of the question.

This is an article about officials who, it is alleged, are wilfully attempting to pervert the course of justice. Or are you saying that because some people are rapists, other people who are not rapists ought to be locked up for it?

Flag

11RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Ok Ghoti...

.

The point is that times readers seem, to me, to take a lot of joy from criticising the police, cps, whoever, being amazing at everything themselves, writing the same cliched stuff, and thinking they're amazing. Pointing out common sense....and that's it. They know what's wrong, and have no solutions. And get angry if asked. Does that make any sense? Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

You think the police are above criticism?

Flag

8RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Do I? Where did I say that? Best Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Ken Harvey Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H We do not enjoy criticising the police! What we do not enjoy is when we learn that the police are distorting and/or with-holding evidence in order to secure a guilty verdict, when they know, or suspect, the person is innocent. If this is not perversion of the course of justice, please explain what, in your opinion, might constitute such an act by the police.

What makes it worse is that the practice seems to be condoned, or even encouraged by senior officers of the Force.

Flag

8RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

No. Horrible to read isn't it Ken? I agree with what you say. What's your view on rape though. Rape victims.... we know what you think about the police, and we agree. Let me know. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

My thought are that pretty much everyone abhors rape, but that since this article is about something different, comments are obviously going to adress what it IS about, not what it isn't.

-

Why not take a look at the comments beneath some of the articles about the rape and abuse of young women in Telford if you want to witness people denouncing rapists? There are plenty of articles in many papers which address the subject you want to discuss. I doubt anyone will be supportive of the abusers.

-

Please save yourself the trouble of replying as I won't read any more of your comments. Most people here debate in a civilised way and don't use phrases like 'jack themselves off with criticism'. I don't enjoy interacting with people who talk like that; it shows a lack of both intelligence and self control and it's a clear warning you're wasting your time.

Flag

11RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Sorry dad.

Flag

RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H "Sorry dad."

That, friend, has to be the most condescending of your rather puerile remarks on this thread so far.

Do you have a low boredom threshold or do you just like the look of your very own little words, all in nice grown-up print, on the internet?

Flag

11RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

....I think you just out-condescended me there, trying to point out my condes.....oh no matter. You wouldn't get it anyway.

Flag

RecommendReply

Peter De La Roche Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H

If you continue issuing such a stream of one liners you might occasionally get one right.

Flag

RecommendReply

Robin Paine Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H The point is that vital evidence is being deliberately withheld by the police and prosecutors that could prove those charged with a crime that they are innocent.

We are not talking about cases where the evidence has been produced in full and those charged have been found guilty.

I find it rather puzzling that you can't see that that was the point of the article.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Robin. I see the point of the article...I really, really do....

.  
I'll say it again. It is axiomatic that the police should not withhold, distort, whatever, evidence. It is terrible that innocent men have been jailed. But.....the majority on here just seem to be saying that....like they're some sort of legal genius..the arbiters of common sense, banging on about natural justice.

.  
But no one seems to want to think...hang on, what's going on...

.  
And no one wants to consider, think about, the miscarriages of justice the other way around. The guilty men walking free. Why is that, Robin?

.  
And no....I haven't suggested banging up a few innocents have I?

.  
I'm just curious, appalled that none of you want to engage on that point....just get all uppity, high handed, dismissive....ohh. Natural justice says.....it looks to me like it has a lot to say about innocent (men) being jailed, but is stubbornly silent on innocent, yes innocent women being raped.

.  
Now, either you lot are incapable of holding two thoughts in your head at the same time.... or it's because you really don't give a toss....which is it for you Robin?

.  
Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Richard Shaw Apr 3, 2018

I'm reluctant to engage in debate with mr H since I think he may be either be playing devil's advocate for a bit of sport or alternatively he may need some erm.... help. But here goes anyway. Nobody on here as far as I can tell is advocating rapists walk free. Most comments support the belief that a defendant is entitled to all available evidence to allow him/her to defend the accusation. But this is not happening, evidence is routinely, deliberately and systematically withheld. The majority of posters think this is wrong and you don't have to be a 'legal genius' to understand it is wrong. If a defendant sees all available evidence and then is found guilty, fair enough. If you can't understand this, there's probably no point in me writing this post. In fact I'm sure I've just wasted ten minutes. PS please don't send me your 'Best regards'

Flag

10RecommendReply

Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018

@Richard Shaw I'd go with the "Needs help" idea, Richard.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Hi, thanks for making the point, once again. Brilliant. Worst regards. mr H

Flag

RecommendReply  
Mrs Ruth Bruce Apr 3, 2018  
@Mr H

*May I ask you though, your thoughts on how rapists sleep at night? And rape victims, how do they sleep at night?*

That has absolutely no relevance to any part of this discussion. We cannot protect women from rape, nor can we help the victims of that crime, by railroading to jail someone who did not commit it. It will neither punish nor deter: the victim (the one in prison) has no need of punishment, and actual rapists will be encouraged, not put off, by seeing the random activity of the penal system.

Sexual crime is sensational and draws headlines. What worries me is this question: in how many cases of other sorts (from motoring offences up to theft and murder) do the police behave in a similar fashion?

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018  
Hi Ruth. Did you see me say we should rail road innocent people to jail? Can you show me where? Don't think I'd say that, given I don't think that? Thank you. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply  
Bob Craske Apr 3, 2018  
@Mr H Anyone else thinking Donald Trump's posting on TOL? 😊

Flag

1RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018  
...legendary gag Bob. Did you come up with that all by yourself. You must be very pleased. And look. A little smiley man appeared too. Fancy!

Made me day. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018  
Ok Bob. I assume this belter of a joke is referring to me having blatantly lied somewhere. Can you show me where, please? I think it might me all made up in your head. Thank you. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply  
Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018  
@Robin Paine

"It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer"

Sir William Blackstone, 1765

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Hmmmm what do you think the ratio of “escaped” rapists is to wrongly convicted Marcus? One in 10 looks low to me. 1 in 100? 1 in 1000? 1 in 10,000? What do you think? Let me know.  
Mr H, 2018

Flag

RecommendReply

Mark Eltringham Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H Actually it looks exactly that you want innocent men to be convicted to right some other wrong. That's all I'm saying to you, troll.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Well Mark, you're seeing what you want to see. I was merely asking Marcus what he thought the proportion was.....look carefully. It's what is written down, isn't t? I see I'm causing a lot of dissonance and distress for you. I'm sorry. mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

@Mark Eltringham @Mr H Your post: *@Mr H Actually it looks exactly that you want innocent men to be convicted to right some other wrong. That's all I'm saying to you, troll.*

*Referring to my post:*

*Hmmmm what do you think the ratio of “escaped” rapists is to wrongly convicted Marcus? One in 10 looks low to me. 1 in 100? 1 in 1000? 1 in 10,000? What do you think? Let me know.*

Can you see where you are wrong yet Mark? I merely asked what the ratio was...given the beloved 1 in 10 thing from Sir William Blackstone, which is so very important.....I merely asked a question didn't I?

....and you got all carried away and thought I said wanted innocent men imprisoned, didn't you?

And you can't bring yourself to say, "you know what, you're right....and I was wrong....you didn't say you wanted innocent men imprisoned to right some other wrong..", can you?

Because you're never wrong, are you Mark? Never, ever wrong....Best regards Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

SixG Apr 3, 2018

@Robin Paine The true villains RP are not the individuals responsible for particular acts but the politicians and campaigners who created the environment which politicised the justice system and allowed this corruption to flourish. They will never be confronted.

Flag

1RecommendReply

BigBlue1894 Apr 3, 2018

Indeed. My builder was sentenced to 8 years for a rape that he undoubtedly didn't commit. How do I know? I was one of the witnesses in the case. The CPS informed me that they were calling me and then by a sleight of hand, didn't. I found out by accident. My evidence was key to the defence case. Nor did the police disclose the copies of text messages they had taken from my phone that would prove that the "victim" was committing perjury.

When I complained about the perjury and showed them the compelling evidence they refused to take it any further.

Unfortunately, my builder and his family are not very bright and are very poor and simply don't have the resources to deal with this. It also meant that his solicitor and barrister were hopeless and didn't defend him well.

If I was ever arrested by the police I would simply refuse to answer any questions whatsoever because my experience is that they only want to obtain a conviction, not to obtain the truth.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Keith6646 Apr 3, 2018

@Robin Paine I have not seen any police officers or CPS officials prosecuted for perverting the course of justice.....why?????

Flag

1RecommendReply

Alan Davison Apr 3, 2018

Thank God we don't have capital punishment.

Flag

11RecommendReply

Frankenfurter Apr 3, 2018

This is a very disturbing news but at least it is now out there and we can do something about it.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Chris Frankland Apr 3, 2018

@Frankenfurter Hardly disturbing news?? Been happening ever since the Bow Street Runners, and before.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Frankenfurter Apr 3, 2018

@Chris Frankland @Frankenfurter

Well its disturbing to me. This is not just the police but the crown prosecution service as well.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Chris Frankland Apr 3, 2018

@Frankenfurter @Chris Frankland Perhaps the only difference being that these days there is arguably more transparency and accountability, which of course is a good thing.

Flag

RecommendReply

Questioner Apr 3, 2018

The police routinely put things they should show to the defence on the MGC60 so that the defence will believe it is sensitive and not to be disclosed because it has no bearing on the case; in other words the police deliberately lie on that form; they have been doing it for years as every barrister

judge and solicitor knows. The barristers judges and solicitors complain on an almost daily basis, but the police deny it and just continue as before.

ALL CASES IN WHICH THE POLICE HAVE RETAINED ANY MATERIAL SHOULD BE REVIEWED - HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES. It is now plain that there are several innocent men in prison.

Flag

52RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

Don't worry Questioner. Alison Saunders said no innocent men have been convicted because of abuse of disclosure protocols. Hope that sets your mind at rest.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018

@Jack Jones

It's true, because in Saunders World there aren't any innocent men....

Flag

4RecommendReply

Adam Miller Apr 3, 2018

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, quoted in yesterday's Times about investigations of low-level sexual abuse: "Speaking as a cop, opposed to a citizen, I'm interested in crime. If ... I'm not likely to get a criminal justice outcome, I'm not going to spend a lot of resources on it."

Her distinction between the interests of police and citizens is highly revealing about police mentality. The public are interested in justice but the police are interested in crime.

A "criminal justice outcome" is police jargon for 'prosecution'. Seeking prosecution is different from seeking justice.

Flag

4RecommendReply

Chris Oakley Apr 3, 2018

At the risk of being repetitive, in my opinion, the people responsible for this situation are Harriet Harman and Vera Baird. They both held the top legal position and they both placed politics and ideology above justice in our legal system. They both still occupy publicly funded positions in society and neither has been asked to account for what they have done.

Flag

45RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Hmmm.....i see you put no blame whatever on actually rapists and sexual abusers.....if they didn't exist, nor would this problem, would it?

I've been reading about natural justice a lot on here. Times readers are very interested in it. It appears to be rightly, very concerned about innocent men being jailed...but it is a bit troubling to me that doesn't seem to care much for the victims of rape.

Do you have a view, Chris? Best regards Mr H

Flag

1RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

A totally invalid comment. Nothing in this suggests that the victims of alleged rape are treated with anything but the deepest respect by the police. Indeed, the anonymity rules which protect victims also protect false accusers in an effort to spare genuine victims extra trauma.

This is about the police and the CPS colluding to hide evidence and get a conviction regardless of guilt. And that is criminal conspiracy by the very authorities whose job it is to protect society. It degrades the very fabric of criminal justice.

Flag

12RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Thank you for invalidating my comment Freebooter. Very good of you. I had a read again and all these things you are railing against....I simply didn't say them did I? You made them up all by yourself. Well done. Best regards. mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

How can rapists be to blame for abuse of protocols by the police?

Flag

4RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Hi Jack. Did I actually say that, or have you made that up? Go and check for me please. Best regards. mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Jack Jones Apr 3, 2018

I'm going to be charitable and say that yes, you did. The alternative wouldn't reflect on your comment too well.

-

The 'blame' being discussed here is blame for the abuse of the justice system by the police. The point that other people are to blame for other things is a redundant observation that clearly no intelligent person would make.

-

I'm guessing you weren't saying anything that inane, so I gave you the benefit if the doubt and assumed you were talking about the blame for the behaviour that's actually discussed in the article!

Flag

7RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Ahhh....very charitable of you.....thank you. But, you know, if men didn't rape...then there wouldn't be rape. So how could you have a false allegation....thank you for pointing out how silly I am. Carry on howling at the moon, with your buddies. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Peter De La Roche Apr 3, 2018

@Jack Jones

Jack Jones. Agreed and your observation that "no intelligent person" would do what the person is question is doing (or trying to do) is very apt indeed.

It seems we have a new participant who thinks is he is 'sharp'.

As some participants think it's fine to try and redirect the spotlight away from the subject of an article, on a totally unrelated subject I'll observe that a 'little prick' (e.g. a thorn) is sharp and irritating but is of little consequence.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Ghoti Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H Back to punishing innocent people because guilty people exist, hmm?

Flag

3RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Ahhh. I said that, did I? Where? Best regards Me H

Flag

RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

You may have gathered by now that you are in a minority of one - yourself. a sensible person would ne wondering why no one else agreed with him and wonder if he was wrong. Are you sensible or pig-headed?

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

No....I'm happy having my own mind. You're happy being in the herd. But, you're right aren't you...I am wondering why you lot prefer to say the same platitudinous stuff...and don't actually think for yourselves, and get angry, haughty, when challenged, just a little bit. I'll think about that. I doubt you will. Best regards. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

Ahhhh Freebooter. I had a little think....you were using that whole "minority of one" "sensible person" thing to try to, I dunno, shame me or something to go away, or conform to the Times groupthink. I get it. That would work on you, you'd be terrified to be out on a limb, so you thought it would work on me....thanks for the lesson. Awesome. Best regards, Mr H.

Flag

RecommendReply

Matthew Twigg Apr 3, 2018

@Mr H You are Gerry Westerby, AICMFP.

Flag

RecommendReply

Mr H Apr 3, 2018

No idea what you are talking about, Matt (may I call you Matt?). Did he have a load of people telling him he said something that he didn't? Did these fuming angry people get all huffy and make stuff up? Thanks for calling me Gerry Westerby. I really appreciate it. Mr H

Flag

RecommendReply

Avicenna Apr 3, 2018

Harman and Baird are man haters, they are nakedly misandrist.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Marcus Aurelius Apr 3, 2018

@Chris Oakley

Good old Harridan Harperson. I'd quite forgotten her.

Flag

1RecommendReply

David Edwards Apr 3, 2018

At least suppressed evidence is being recorded. The Home Secretary should order an audit by the police complaints authority of evidence that wasn't disclosed, to see if any should have been disclosed. That shouldn't be too difficult.

Flag

12RecommendReply  
Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

Can you honestly see it happening? If it results in disclosing evidence that thousands of prosecutions were improperly obtained over the years then action has to be taken against those responsible. And that would mean prosecutions which would never happen. All we would get would be "lessons have been learned". Too many people have a touching faith in the public sector.

Flag

2RecommendReply  
Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

Time for some specimen criminal prosecutions. Any senior officer against whom the evidence that he has conspired to pervert the course of justice by issuing any similar instructions to his men should be charged and tried. And suspended without pay for the duration of the investigation.

In the event that he/she is found guilty there will be automatic dismissal and the seriousness of the charge whilst in office should be enough to strip him of his pension.

Nothing makes the police do anything they do not want to do without the belief that there will be serious repercussions.

Flag

55RecommendReply  
Michael Jones Apr 3, 2018

You could not implement what you have suggested, in fact, it lowers you to their common denominator.

Flag

RecommendReply  
Rob Douglas Apr 3, 2018  
@Freebooter

Agree with all of your post apart from the "suspension of pay for the duration of the investigation".

Surely you are not proposing to suspend the presumption of innocence?

Flag

RecommendReply  
Freebooter Apr 3, 2018  
@Rob Douglas @Freebooter

A presumption of innocence applies to the legal process. Sacking, suspensions and withdrawal of pay are civil matters. My suggestion is quite moderate. In the normal world outside the public sector, anyone charged with committing crimes in their company's name would be sacked immediately.

Flag

RecommendReply  
Rob Douglas Apr 3, 2018  
@Freebooter @Rob Douglas

So what about the honest policeman who is wrongly charged with having concealed evidence?

According to your idea he'd have his pay stopped during the, no doubt, lengthy investigation and could lose his house et cetera.

Is that what you're really saying?

Flag

RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

@Rob Douglas @Freebooter

Why should a bent policeman suffer less than the victims of potential miscarriages of justice who have been through hell waiting to go to court of trumped up charges. Do you think they have not lost their jobs, been vilified by the friends and neighbours. Had the stigma of being a rapist hanging over them for a couple of years.

Personally, I think that any dereliction of duty by any serving officer that results in a wrong conviction should end in a prison sentence.

Flag

RecommendReply

Rob Douglas Apr 3, 2018

@Freebooter @Rob Douglas

Wouldn't disagree with your last sentence but ONLY after they've been found guilty.

Until then there is the presumption of innocence: which is about as central a tenet of the British legal system as there is.

Flag

RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

Fine but get the offender to be obliged to repay any wages received whilst suspended if a guilty verdict is returned. I know a surgeon who was suspended for malpractice and collected salary for three years until he qualified to retire without his case being resolved before he went. Once retired he refused to appear before the subsequent enquiry.

Flag

RecommendReply

Graham Wood Apr 3, 2018

Mrs Wood here.

Is disclosure part of the law? Or is it something else? How can it be strengthened, protected, enforced, and those who deliberately withhold information/evidence be held accountable and punished?

It seems the police can do whatever they like these days: get a sitting minister removed from post through a concerted campaign of lies, leak damaging confidential information about another member of government, withhold evidence, refuse to respond to citizen's calls for assistance with burglaries, refuse to issue crime incident numbers in cases of bank fraud unless the victim makes a big deal about it, lie to cover up their own mistakes and inadequacies.

I live a cushy life in a safe area and have no personal understanding of the daily life of a pc or wpc, but surely standards of honesty and decency are in their best interests too.

Flag

1RecommendReply  
BMP Apr 3, 2018

Taken with yesterday's revelation that police need to be 'directed' to investigate with an open mind (Cressida Dick), it strikes me that targets are to blame for shifting the focus from finding the people responsible for crime to finding those who can be 'nailed', to keep the conviction rate up. The fault, in my view, lies not only with the police.

Flag

3RecommendReply  
paul lewis Apr 3, 2018

"The scale of the failure by police and prosecutors to disclose vital evidence in criminal cases is exposed today in documents showing that such behaviour is routine and deliberate."  
So now we have it, the Criminal Justice System in the U.K once heralded as the best in the World is now a complete farce and a National disgrace. The U.K. descends further and further into the mire, it would seem, and no Brexit is going to save it unless there is a complete overhaul of it's political and justice system. RIP this once great nation.

Flag

23RecommendReply  
EknowsUknow Apr 3, 2018

@paul lewis What the flipping heck has this to do with Brexit? In this vein I could add that tax on sugary drinks is not going to help either.

Flag

29RecommendReply  
Mr Colin Cutter Apr 3, 2018  
@EknowsUknow @paul lewis

Criminal behaviour some of by the people in charge might just cover it

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Robin Paine Apr 3, 2018

@paul lewis A good statement until you brought up Brexit and ruined your point.

Flag

28RecommendReply  
Avicenna Apr 3, 2018

The driving force is hatred of men.

Misandry is the problem.

The Kato Harris case exemplifies how far badly distorted justice has become under a misandrist like Saunders.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3716388/Ruined-195-000-legal-teacher-cleared-rape-just-26-minutes-Friends-raise-money-help-former-head-geography-left-mentally-physically-crushed-troubled-teen-s-false-allegations.html>

Flag

3RecommendReply  
Attrix Apr 3, 2018

I would like to hear what Alison Saunders has to say on this.

Flag

12RecommendReply  
Clarity Apr 3, 2018

@Attrix You may be asking too late. I heard she had resigned.

Flag

1RecommendReply

Mr Colin Cutter Apr 3, 2018

@Clarity @Attrix

As things stand Alison Saunders will leave the Crown Prosecution Service in October.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Freebooter Apr 3, 2018

@Attrix

She will blame everything that is wrong with the system on men.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Lucy's dad Apr 3, 2018

@Attrix

She could be summoned before Home Office Selct Committe to be questioned about the dossier, plus the chief constables of various forces.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Brian Burnell Apr 3, 2018

@Lucy's dad @Attrix

Would that be before she's hung, drawn and quartered, and her head stuck on a pole on Tower Hill?

I wish!

Flag

4RecommendReply

*Ref.: Police are 'trained to hide vital evidence'.docx  
26/04/2018 10:17*