



College of  
Policing

# Brief

College guidance ruled lawful →

Pol Fed new LGBT+ group →

CPS' charging criteria →

college.police.uk

ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

Updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the **Legal Services Department** at the College of Policing



Coronavirus  
emergency  
legislation released



PEEL 2018/19  
3rd group



Suella Braverman  
new attorney  
general



Evidence-led  
prosecutions for  
domestic abuse



The College of Policing Brief is a scanning publication intended to capture and consolidate key criminal justice issues, both current and future, impacting on all areas of policing.

During the production of the Brief, information is included from governmental bodies, criminal justice organisations and research bodies. As such, the Brief should prove an invaluable guide to those responsible for strategic decision making, operational planning and police training.

The College of Policing is also responsible for Authorised Professional Practice (APP). APP is the official and most up-to-date source of policing practice and covers a range of policing activities such as: police use of firearms, treatment of people in custody, investigation of child abuse and management of intelligence. APP is available online at [app.college.police.uk](http://app.college.police.uk)

Any enquiries regarding this publication or to request copies in accessible formats please contact us at [brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)

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# Editorial

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the Brief, your monthly update of what's new in the policing and criminal justice field, produced by the Legal Services team at the College of Policing.

Within this month's edition:

- CPS' charging considerations set out
- The College's hate crime guidance is ruled to be lawful
- Local agencies deemed to be 'woefully ill-equipped' to deal with cases of familial child sexual abuse.

To find out more about the College and what we do, including information on the PEQF training, please visit the **College of Policing website**.

We hope that our publication supports police officers and staff in their work. We are always looking for ways to get better at what we do, so if you have any feedback or ideas for future content, **get in touch**.

Thank you for reading,

**The Legal Services Team**

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For subscription requests, further information or to send us ideas about what you would like to see in upcoming editions, please email us at:

**[brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)**

# Share with our community

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There's lots of great work and innovation taking place across the police service, with some remarkable people working diligently to support and safeguard the communities they serve. Sharing this news can jump-start collaboration and growth, so we want to hear from you.

We'd like to invite police officers and staff to contribute by including a monthly guest article under one of the following categories:

**Pride:** Tell us something about your team or a project you're working on which has produced results you're particularly proud of.

**Innovation:** New initiatives and projects, what worked and what didn't, and how you learnt from it.

**Collaboration:** Tell us about the relationships with other forces and external agencies which help your team.

**Your team, our community:** Diversity, equality, inclusion and key support mechanisms – that special team member whose hard work deserves recognition in the Brief.

If you'd like to contribute, please email [brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk) and we'll provide you with the information you need.

We'd like to pick one article a month, and will ensure there is a wide variety of authors and forces. We will inform you in advance if your article has been chosen.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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# College news

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## **Superintendents' Association president appointed to College Board**

Chief Superintendent Paul Griffiths, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, has been appointed as a non-executive director on the College of Policing Board.

Paul joined the College Board in January, after working closely with the College for the past four years as an officer at Gwent Police. Since 2016 he has been a member of the College's Professional Committee. He is an active member of numerous other committees, working on areas such as: Fast Track, Direct Entry, secondments, leadership, and talent management.

While in force, he has served in uniform and detective ranks, before being elected president of the Police Superintendents' Association in 2019.

Paul says being appointed to the College Board is a 'real privilege' and plans to draw on his previous experience to 'support and influence the service'.

Read more on [\*\*Paul Griffiths' appointment to the College Board\*\*](#).

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## **College hate crime guidance ruled to be lawful**

On 14 February, a High Court judge rejected the claim that hate crime guidance produced by the College was unlawful.

The claim was centred around whether the College's Hate Crime Operational Guidance for police officers was in violation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and common law. Mr Justice Julian Knowles (High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division), ruled that the mere recording of a non-crime hate incident based on an individual's speech is not always an interference of their human rights and, if it is, it can be prescribed by law and done for two of the legitimate aims contained within Article 10. The challenge at common law against the hate crime guidance was also rejected.

The case, heard at the High Court last November, involved a series of tweets from the claimant, in which he expressed negative opinions on the transgender community. Subsequently, after an individual reported the

tweets, the claimant was spoken to by police, who referred to the College's hate crime guidance.

Mr Justice Knowles rejected the claim that the guidance was unlawful and instead ruled that he was satisfied it pursued the legitimate aim of preventing disorder and crime, and protecting the rights and freedoms of others. He stated that recording non-crime hate incidents 'barely encroached on freedom of expression' and recognised the aims of the guidance as being 'extremely important'.

The current guidance is informed by prior policies and reports. These include the Macpherson report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, and the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which introduced a focus on the recording of data relating to hate incidents.

Read more on the [hate crime judicial review](#).

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# Legal updates

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## Statutory Instruments

### **The Victims' Payments Regulations 2020**

Instrument SI 2020/103 establishes a scheme for payments to be made to those permanently disabled as a consequence of injury caused by a Troubles-related incident. It will include both physical and psychological injuries.

An appropriately qualified health care professional will assess disabilities. They will compare the effect of a relevant injury on an individual's ability to undertake day-to-day activities with that of a healthy person of the same age and gender not living with the same injury.

The instrument makes provisions regarding who will be entitled to payments, the value of the payments, and creates a new body to operate the scheme.

Read more on **[The Victims' Payments Regulations 2020](#)**.

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### **Emergency legislation released in response to coronavirus**

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, which was prepared by the Department of Health and Social Care, allows for a number of public health measures to be taken, in an attempt to reduce the public health risks arising from the new strain of Wuhan novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The instrument was made under the emergency procedure set out in section 45R of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. The Regulations have been made without a draft having been laid and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, due to reason of urgency, so that public health measures can be taken in order to quickly respond to the threat to human health from the new strain of Wuhan novel coronavirus.

Amongst other measures, the Regulation authorises officers to be able to use force to return an individual to isolation if they have, or are suspected to have the coronavirus, and refuse to follow the instructions of a medical professional to remain in isolation.



Public Health England have issued a guidance document titled 'Guidance for first responders and others in close contact with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19', which provides guidance for first responders and others who may come into close contact with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here](#).

Read more on [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#).

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## Bills

### **Border Control Bill 2019-21**

This Bill makes provisions about requirements for non-UK citizens seeking leave to enter the UK. The Bill also deals with a process for the removal of non-UK citizens from the UK, in certain circumstances and on the basis of established criteria.

The second reading for this private members' bill will take place on 24 April.

Read more about the [Border Control Bill 2019-21](#).

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## **Criminal Fraud (Private Prosecutions) Bill 2019-21**

This Bill makes provisions about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud in certain circumstances.

The second reading will take place on 16 October.

Read more about the **Criminal Fraud (Private Prosecutions) Bill 2019-21**.

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## **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill 2019-21**

This Bill makes provisions for the creation of secure safe houses for children that have been subject to human trafficking.

The second reading will take place on 11 September.

Read more about the **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill 2019-21**.

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## **Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Bill 2019-21**

This Bill requires the Parole Board to take into account any failure by a prisoner serving a sentence for unlawful killing or for taking or making an indecent image of a child to disclose information about the victim.

The Bill was given its first reading on 8 January. MPs passed the Bill at second reading on 11 February and it has now been committed to a committee of the whole House, on an as yet unscheduled date.

Read more about the **Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Bill 2019-21**.

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## **Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Bill 2019-20**

A Bill to make provisions about the release on licence of offenders convicted of terrorist offences or offences with a terrorist connection.

The first reading took place on 13 February and the second reading was scheduled for 24 February 2020.

Read more about the **Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Bill 2019-20**..

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# Before the court

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## **Stokes, R. v [2020] EWCA Crim 162**

On 7 October 2019 in Lincoln Crown Court, the appellant, aged 20 at the time, pleaded guilty to offences of assault, contrary to section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and affray, contrary to section 3 of the Public Order Act 1986. On 21 November 2019, he was sentenced by Mr Recorder Watson to 27 months' imprisonment for the assault, with nine months concurrent for the affray.

On 23 February 2017, during a five-a-side football match in Brixton, a member of the appellant's team punched Josh Smith, a member of the opposing team, in the face, causing his jaw to break. Josh Smith retaliated, which resulted in a scuffle, whereby other members of the appellant's team began punching and kicking Josh Smith in the face. Alex Smith, his brother, attempted to pull him away, but was also repeatedly punched and kicked in the face, causing a fracture to his left eye socket and damage to his right eye socket. The following evening, both Alex and Josh Smith received Facebook messages from the appellant which included threats and offensive language.

Four witnesses identified the appellant as the instigator of the attack. During interview, the appellant admitted presence, but denied being involved in any violence. He refused to name any of his team mates and did not plead guilty until the day of trial.

The Recorder placed the assault in category 1 of the relevant Sentencing Council Guideline, because there was higher culpability and greater harm. In regards to aggravating factors, the Recorder included the affray, the appellant's previous incidents with the police, and the location of the incident in a gym, where people were playing what should have been a friendly game of football.

In mitigation, although not referring to the Sentencing Council's Definitive Guideline on Children and Youth Sentencing (the Guideline), the Recorder referred to the appellant's age at the time of the offence and the passage of a significant amount of months since the offence had been committed. Consequently, before credit, the Recorder stated that 30 months' imprisonment would have been the minimum sentence he could pass. After affording 10% credit for a guilty plea, the sentence was reduced to 27 months.

In their grounds of appeal, counsel for the appellant argued that the sentence imposed was manifestly excessive and should have been given in the form of a suspended sentence. Furthermore, it was argued that the Recorder did not

give sufficient weight to the appellant's age and immaturity at the time of the offence, in accordance with the Guideline. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the appellant, although immature at the time of the offence, had now matured. He is now in a long-term relationship and has committed no further offences during the 30 months between the date of the offence and the date of the sentencing hearing.

The Court of Appeal stated it didn't dispute the placement of the offence within category 1, because the assault was persistent and sustained. Furthermore, the court did not disagree with the Recorder's inclusion of the aggravating factors listed above and their overall impact on the sentence. Nor did the court disagree with the Recorder's decision to limit credit to 10%, given that the appellant entered his guilty plea on the date of the trial.

However, the court acknowledged that there was weight behind the submission that inadequate regard had been paid to the appellant's age. The appellant was aged 17 at the time of the offence. He was not charged until 29 January 2018, when he was 18 years old, the delay for which was not explained. Had the appellant been sentenced at the youth court, the court considered that the maximum sentence available would have been two years' detention.

As a result, the Court of Appeal held that the shortest sentence they could give, incorporating the seriousness of the offence, but including the mitigation and credit for guilty pleas, was a sentence of detention of 12 months. Therefore the court quashed the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the Recorder and substituted it for a sentence of immediate detention of 12 months. The concurrent sentence of nine months' detention was not altered.

Read the full judgment in **Stokes, R. v [2020] EWCA Crim 162**.

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# Policing

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## News

### **Police Federation launches LGBT+ group for representatives**

A new group has been created for Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) representatives, who identify as LGBT+. Ian Ashton of Lancashire Police, and Martin Whitehouse of the Devon & Cornwall force, have been elected Chair and Secretary, respectively.

The purpose of the group, is to encourage more LGBT+ officers to stand for election as Federation reps and to ensure LGBT+ voices are better heard and understood within the organisation. PFEW National Vice-Chair, Ché Donald has praised the representatives who have joined the group and has vouched to give the group the ‘necessary help and support to make it a success’.

The group’s inaugural two-day seminar was held in Leatherhead on the 13-14 February, where ways to develop the Federation Representative role was discussed and members received training on the Equality Act.

Read more about the **Police Federation LGBT+ group**.

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## Our workforce

### **HMICFRS: ‘The public receive inconsistent service from their local police forces’**

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has found that many forces are performing well under pressure, but the consistency of service across forces needs to be addressed. This assessment comes following the completion of the Inspectorate’s Integrated Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Assessments for 2018/19.

In the ‘Diverging under pressure’ report, HMICFRS found that forces were still struggling to understand the extent of demand in their areas. This, the report found, was preventing forces from sufficiently using their resources and planning for future events. Furthermore, it was found that forces need to ensure they are committed to improving how they treat the public, specifically in relation to using stop and search fairly.

Key points from the report found:

- Forces have greatly improved their ability to protect vulnerable people and support victims.
- There is still a lack of capacity in neighbourhood policing to analyse and use intelligence.
- The likelihood of the police bringing someone to justice after a criminal investigation is decreasing.
- There are substantial differences in the way forces investigate crimes across the country.

Read more on the **‘Diverging under pressure’ report**.

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### **Inspectorate PEELs back final forces findings**

HMICFRS has published its findings on the third and final group of forces inspected in its Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) 2018/19 assessment. The group of 14 forces completes the full annual cycle of the 43 forces in England and Wales.

The three main components of the assessment revolve around the forces’ competencies in:

- effectively reducing crime and keeping people safe
- operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public
- how they treat the public and their own workforce

An overview of the 14 forces and their assessment are as follows:

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### **Avon and Somerset Constabulary was congratulated on its good performance.**

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Inspectors found that Avon and Somerset Constabulary was ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime and keeping people safe, ‘outstanding’ at operating efficiently and providing services to the public, and ‘good’ at how it treats the public and its own workforce.

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**Bedfordshire Police was commended for improvements made this year.**

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Inspectors found that Bedfordshire Police was ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime and keeping people safe, operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public. It was also rated ‘good’ for how it treats the public and its own workforce.

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**Cambridgeshire Constabulary was commended for its improvements.**

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Inspectors rated Cambridgeshire Constabulary as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**Inspectors pleased with Devon and Cornwall Police’s performance.**

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Devon and Cornwall Police is performing well across the board, rated as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**Concerns over Derbyshire Constabulary’s performance.**

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Inspectors found that Derbyshire Constabulary ‘requires improvement’ in effectively reducing crime and keeping people safe, and in how it operates efficiently and provides sustainable services to the public. The force was found to be ‘good’ in regards to how it treats the public and its own staff.

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**Gwent Police is performing well in most areas, but some improvements are needed.**

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Gwent Police was found to be ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime, keeping people safe, operating efficiently, and providing sustainable services to the public. However, inspectors found that the force required improvement in how it treats the public and its workforce.

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**Hampshire Constabulary was commended on its good performance.**

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Hampshire Constabulary was graded as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**Lancashire Constabulary was commended on its good performance.**

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Inspectors found that Lancashire Constabulary was ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime, keeping people safe, and how it treats the public and its own workforce. It was rated ‘outstanding’ at operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public.



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**Lincolnshire Police has made progress but still has work to do.**

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Lincolnshire Police was found to be ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime, keeping people safe, and in how it treats the public and its own workforce. However, it ‘requires improvement’ in operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public.

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**Merseyside Police commended on good performance.**

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Merseyside Police was graded as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**North Wales Police rated ‘good’ across the board.**

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North Wales Police was graded as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**Staffordshire Police was commended on good performance.**

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Staffordshire Police was rated as ‘good’ in all three areas.

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**Sussex Police has improved how it prevents crime, but requires improvement in other areas.**

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Sussex Police was graded as ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime, keeping people safe, and how it treats the public and its workforce. However, it requires improvement in operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public.

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**West Yorkshire Police was commended for good performance.**

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West Yorkshire Police was found to be ‘good’ at effectively reducing crime, keeping people safe, and in how it treats the public and its workforce. It was rated ‘outstanding’ at operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public.

Read more on the [PEEL 2018/19 assessment findings](#).

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# Criminal justice news

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## **CPS sets out charging considerations**

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has explained its role in deciding whether or not to charge an individual with a criminal offence.

The CPS does not investigate allegations of crime, or choose which cases to consider. CPS prosecutors must review every case referred by the police, or other investigators. They are entitled to identify where a suspect should not be charged, or where expert legal advice in investigations is needed to help build stronger cases.

The CPS is not entitled to determine an individual's guilt in criminal proceedings. That is for the jury, judge or magistrate to decide. The CPS only makes the decision on whether a case should be put before a court.

Every charging decision is based on a two-stage test, as set out in the **Code for Crown Prosecutors**:

- Does the evidence provide a realistic chance of conviction? Essentially, having heard the evidence, is the jury more likely than not to find the defendant guilty?
- Is it in the public interest to prosecute? To satisfy this element of the test, the seriousness of the offence, the harm caused to the victim, the impact on communities, and whether prosecution is a proportionate response will be considered.

This two-stage test is different to the various criteria applied by criminal courts to determine whether the defendant is guilty.

Read the **CPS statement in full**.

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## **Suella Braverman MP appointed attorney general**

The Prime Minister has appointed Suella Braverman attorney general for England and Wales. She will oversee the work of the Law Officers Departments, including the CPS, Serious Fraud Office, Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. Furthermore,

as the new attorney general, Suella will be responsible for carrying out a number of functions in the public interest. These include considering unduly lenient sentences and taking action where there has been an incident of contempt of court.

Suella was called to the Bar in 2005, where she specialised in public law and judicial review. From 2010 to 2015 she was on the attorney general's Panel of Treasury Counsel and was elected as the Conservative MP for Fareham in May 2015.

Read more on the new **attorney general appointment**.

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### **£12m funding boost for rape victims**

The government has announced a 50% funding increase for specialist support services, including tailored face-to-face support and counselling. This increases the money available from £8 million to £12 million per year, to a total of £32 million over three years.

Last year more than 160,000 sexual offences were recorded nationwide. This funding will ensure victims can receive help in all police and crime commissioner areas throughout England and Wales. A further £1 million will also be invested to recruit more independent sexual violence advisors, who provide advice and support for victims and act as a link between police, support services and criminal justice agencies.

Rape support centres will also benefit from the funding increase, providing stability and security to allow them to focus on delivering services that victims desperately need.

The move builds on new laws introduced to ensure serious violent and sexual offenders spend longer behind bars.

Read more on the **government funding boost for rape victims**.

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## **Luton sisters' sentences increased**

Uzma Iqbal, 33, and Sobiya Iqbal, 28, have had their sentences increased after an intervention by Solicitor General, Michael Ellis QC MP.

Both sisters, who were convicted of kidnap and assault, were filmed dancing in a Birmingham nightclub at a hen party. These videos were circulated on social media, causing embarrassment amongst their families. Subsequently, the sisters contacted a woman they believed had circulated the videos and invited her out for the evening.

On 6 January 2018, the sisters collected the woman and drove her to an unlit country lane in Harpenden, before punching and kicking her repeatedly. Sobiya picked up a pole to try to intimidate the woman into admitting she had posted the videos, before taking her phone and handbag. During the assault, both sisters cut the woman's hair and threatened to kill members of her family.

Uzma and Sobiya then checked the contents of the woman's phone, allowing her to jump out of the car and run across a field, where she stopped at a nearby farmhouse and the police were called.

On 5 December 2019, Uzma Iqbal was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and Sobiya Iqbal sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment at Luton Crown Court. After a referral to the Court of Appeal by the solicitor general, on 14 February 2020, both sentences were held to be unduly lenient and have been increased. Uzma Iqbal's sentence has been increased to three years' imprisonment, while Sobiya Iqbal's sentence has been increased to four years' imprisonment.

Read the full story on [Luton sisters' increased sentences](#).

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## **Improvements needed for evidence-led domestic abuse prosecutions**

HMICFRS and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) have produced a joint report, following an inspection, which concludes that the handling of evidence-led domestic abuse prosecutions require improvement.

An evidence-led prosecution is where the victim of domestic abuse does not wish to support a prosecution. In these circumstances, police and prosecutors should carefully consider whether it is possible to bring a prosecution without that support.

The joint inspection was carried out to establish whether officers and CPS lawyers understood the full process needed to build viable evidence-led prosecutions. In addition, the inspection focused on whether the guidance, policy, and the importance of evidence-led prosecutions was understood by all staff within the police force and CPS dealing with domestic abuse cases.

Where it is in the public interest to do so, police and prosecutors should continue with cases of domestic abuse, even if the victim does not support the prosecution. Police officers and prosecutors are encouraged to build strong cases which do not need to rely on the victim's evidence.

Inspectors found that there was a clear recognition of domestic abuse being a priority area of work throughout all levels in the police and the CPS and that there was an overwhelming desire to achieve the best possible outcome for victims. However, it was found that officers and prosecutors were not always ensuring that, at the outset of a case, consideration was given to how the case could be prosecuted if the victim were to withdraw support.

The inspection recommended that evidence-led domestic abuse cases should be given the same weight and level of training as is offered to staff dealing with domestic abuse cases where the victim is supportive of the prosecution.

Key points from the inspection included:

- In 78 domestic abuse cases where the police had made the decision to take no further action due to victims not supporting, or withdrawing support for further police action, 15 of those cases were concluded before investigators had the opportunity to explore reasonable lines of enquiry.
- In 42.1% of appropriate cases that were considered as part of the inspection, there was no consideration of how to progress the case without victim participation after a CPS prosecutor had authorised charge.
- Neither the police nor the CPS has a system to identify and measure performance in evidence-led domestic abuse cases.

Read more on the **[domestic abuse prosecutions joint report](#)**.

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## **Local agencies ‘woefully ill-equipped’ to deal with familial child sexual abuse**

Ofsted, HMICFRS, the Care Quality Commission, and HMI Probation have produced a multi-agency report on child sexual abuse in the family environment. The report found, among other things, that local agencies are often woefully ill-equipped to deal with child sex abuse in families. Efforts to prevent abuse are largely not enacted, which, when combined with ineffective criminal investigations, can, in the worst cases, leave children at risk.

The report estimates that familial sexual abuse accounts for two-thirds of all child sexual abuse, although it is recognised that the figure could be significantly higher, due to under-reporting. Nevertheless, the report states that local and national strategies to tackle the colossal problem are, in essence, non-existent.

Overall, the report looks at how successfully children’s social care, health, youth offending, police, and probation services work together to protect children from sexual abuse in families. Although inspectors found ‘pockets of good work’, the report states that this was inconsistent at best.

The report found:

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### **Practice is too police-led, focusing on the criminal investigation at the expense of children.**

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It was found that health services weren’t always included. Children were, on occasion, left without medical treatment for possible sexually transmitted infections, injuries and were often not provided with mental health support.

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### **Poor quality criminal investigations.**

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Significant delays to police investigations meant that children were left at best ‘in limbo’ and at worst unsafe. Instead of arresting suspects, voluntary interviews were often being used, which meant children could not be protected by bail and potential abusers could destroy evidence. When bail was available, inappropriate use of conditions left abusers free to contact and, in some cases, even continue living with the children they were abusing.

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### **Preventative work was absent or focused on known offenders.**

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Inspectors saw little evidence of work done to educate the public about risks relating to familial child sexual abuse. It was also clear that prevention work had not been prioritised by local partners.

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### **Professionals rely too heavily on children to speak out about abuse.**

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The report found that parents, professionals, and the public must be better prepared to identify and know how to respond to the signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse, without relying on the child to explicitly state that they are being abused. Children are extremely unlikely to understand or tell someone that they are being sexually abused, especially when they know the perpetrator.

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### **Some initiatives work well, but are too piecemeal.**

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Inspectors found examples of effective work in all areas. For example, when support was provided to children, the quality of the support was usually good and made a positive difference. However, even though individual initiatives and campaigns were working well, these were found to not be in place in all areas. Consequently, the report recommends a more consistent and strategic approach to widen impact, efficiency, and efficacy.

The report concludes by acknowledging that agencies, and society more generally, are afraid to talk about familial sexual abuse, which prevents efforts to protect children from succeeding. Communities, organisations, and the media all need to have an active role in creating an environment in which both children and adults can talk about familial sexual abuse more openly.

Read more about the [multi-agency report on child sexual abuse](#).

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### **Patel presents pre-charge bail consultation**

Home Secretary, Priti Patel has announced the launch of a consultation on pre-charge bail to protect victims and ensure the police are supported to investigate crimes. Police can release a suspect from custody on pre-charge bail, usually subject to conditions, while officers continue to investigate the case, or await a charging decision.

Reforms made in 2018 limited the length of pre-charge bail to an initial 28 days and required a senior officer to authorise any extension of bail conditions for up to three months. The consultation is being launched to discover how cases can be dealt with more effectively, with the victim being put at the heart of police decisions.

Key proposals for consultation include:

- removing the presumption against pre-charge bail
- allowing officers of a lower rank to authorise and extend pre-charge bail
- placing a duty on officers to use pre-charge bail in cases where it is necessary and proportionate.

This consultation will incorporate views from victims of crime and individuals who have previously been released under investigation on how the current system can be improved.

Read more on the [public consultation on pre-charge bail](#).

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## **Two right-wing terrorist groups due to be proscribed**

The Home Secretary has laid orders in Parliament to make membership of two right-wing terrorist groups illegal in the UK. The order will proscribe Sonnenkrieg Divison (SKD) and will recognise System Resistance Network as an alias of the already proscribed group, National Action.

Proscription renders membership of a group illegal in the UK. Anyone found to be a member of a proscribed group, or offering support to the group, could face up to ten years' imprisonment.

Read more about the [order to proscribe right-wing terrorist groups](#).



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## About the College

We're the professional body for everyone who works for the police service in England and Wales. Our purpose is to provide those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public and secure public trust.

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