



College of
Policing

Brief

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



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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

Any enquiries regarding this publication or to request copies in accessible formats please contact us at brief@college.pnn.police.uk

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Editorial

Dear readers,

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

Within this month's edition:

- The Police Federation Chair has commented on the growing mental health crisis, expressing a need to investigate these issues in relation to policing.
- The Internet Watch Foundation has issued a warning after a senior Metropolitan police officer was convicted for possession of an indecent image of a child.
- Life sentence for a teenager who murdered his 17-year-old ex-girlfriend.

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 our 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

Share with our community

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

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 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

Latest police Barred List figures published

The Barred List was introduced in December 2017 and includes the names of police officers, staff and members of the special constabulary who have been dismissed for conduct or performance matters.

It also includes dismissals of officers who resigned or retired prior to a misconduct hearing, and changes in legislation now enable forces to continue with these investigations; in some cases a hearing can be held to establish if the officer in question would have been dismissed had they remained in the police service.

The figures released cover those who were placed on the Barred List between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

Across forces in England and Wales:

- 144 police officers, from PC to assistant chief constable rank, were dismissed while serving
- 94 police officers, from PC to chief inspector rank, were dismissed post-resignation
- 15 police officers, from PC to inspector rank, were dismissed post-retirement
- 26 officers were dismissed from the special constabulary
- 110 members of police staff were dismissed.

The names of police officers and members of the special constabulary dismissed for gross misconduct and placed on the Barred List, are published on a publicly-searchable database.

View the latest Barred List figures [here](#).

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service, offices of Police and Crime Commissioners, and the Independent Office for Police Conduct must also use the Barred List as part of pre-employment checks.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Security guidance issued to help candidates stay safe on the campaign trail

On 15 November 2019, all candidates were issued with security guidance to help them to be able to respond if they experience intimidating behaviour or abuse during the election campaign. This guidance formed part of their official candidate pack issued by the Cabinet Office.

Guidance for Candidates in Elections – When it goes too far has been jointly developed by the College of Policing, National Police Chiefs' Council, the Electoral Commission and the Crown Prosecution Service. It provides advice on the actions or behaviours that could constitute a criminal offence, when to make contact with the police, and practical steps candidates can take to protect themselves.

Police forces are also prepared to give a tailored response, including providing security briefings and allocating senior single points of contact, for candidate security.

The Parliamentary Liaison and Investigation Team (PLaIT) – a national unit established by the Metropolitan Police following the murder of Jo Cox – will be providing its expertise to local forces and election leads.

Candidates are advised to:

- engage with their single point of contact within their local force, for candidate security
- take active steps around personal safety to keep themselves and their campaign staff safe
- not canvass alone and make sure someone knows where they are canvassing
- keep records of any intimidating behaviour or abuse
- conduct an online health check to ensure sensitive personal information is not widely available
- report intimidation or abuse to internet service providers and social media platforms.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Legal updates

New legislation

SI 2019/1397 – The Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Reviews of Sentencing) (Amendment) Order 2019

This Order makes several additions and amendments to the list set out in the 2006 Order, for which, under Part 4, sentences are capable of being referred to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney General if they are unduly lenient.

This Order adds to the list of offences from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including the abuse of position of trust offences, the offence of inciting a child family member to engage in sexual activity, and offences concerning indecent photographs of a child.

Read the full statutory instrument [here](#).

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Circular 009/2019: third generation synthetic cannabinoids update

Following advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), synthetic cannabinoids were originally controlled through a generic definition, however, the broad nature of the definition unintentionally captured other compounds. These compounds, some used for scientific research, were not intended to be controlled but were inadvertently subjected to the strictest level of control.

In December 2017, the ACMD recommended that the generic definition be amended to review the substances being controlled by reducing the scope of the definition. The amendment does not revoke the generic definition, but has instead made technical amendments to the definition of ‘third generation’ synthetic cannabinoids. The practical impact of the amendment is limited to the pharmaceutical and healthcare research sector, as the revised definition specifies which univalent substituents are included in the generic definition.

Read the full circular [here](#).

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Before the court

Ali, R v [2019] EWCA Crim 1862

KEY MESSAGES

- An appeal against the sentence of 22-year-old Muataz Ahmed Ali on the grounds that a consecutive sentence of two years' imprisonment for possession of a bladed article was excessive, and that insufficient regard was paid to totality and a guilty plea.
- On 25 October 2019, the Court of Appeal quashed and substituted the sentence on one count; the other sentences remained unaffected.

This is an appeal against a sentence which the applicant, Muataz Ahmed Ali, brings following a guilty plea to two counts on an indictment and a conviction of a further two counts.

On 19 June 2018, Ali commenced a journey with a London minicab driver, Samson Ayele. Ayele was instructed to take Ali from the Kingsmead Estate in London to Westerham Avenue and then onto Marsh Wall, receiving £50 in advance. At around 12.50am, uniformed police officers stopped the minicab in Fore Street. As Ali was taken from the car a knife fell to the ground. A fully loaded, automatic pistol was also found concealed in a sock when the vehicle was searched.

On 18 July 2018, in the Central Criminal Court, Ali pleaded guilty to counts 4 and 5 on an indictment. In the same court on 6 December 2018, he was convicted on counts 2 and 3 before Mr Recorder Sells QC and a jury. His sentence, a total of 10 years' imprisonment, was delivered on the following day. This is broken down below:

On count 4 (possession of a bladed article, contrary to section 139(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988), he was sentenced to a consecutive term of two years' imprisonment; on count 5 (possessing a controlled drug of Class B, contrary to section 5(2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), to a concurrent term of six months' imprisonment. On count 2 (possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, contrary to section 16A of the Firearms Act 1968), Ali was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment; on count 3 (possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate, contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the same Act), he was convicted to a concurrent term of two years' imprisonment.

The Recorder considered a variety of factors and referred to numerous authorities when sentencing. Firstly, there was no doubt that Ali's conduct

was part of an organised criminal enterprise and that there was recognised public concern surrounding knife and gun crime. The history of the pistol was another important factor for the sentencing. Following a check against other incidents, a forensic scientist concluded that the firearm had been previously used for another crime (although the appellant was not involved in this). In mitigation, the Recorder considered the appellant's limited previous convictions and his young age.

On 25 October 2019, the case was heard in the Court of Appeal, during which numerous submissions were made. On behalf of the appellant, Miss Stuart-Smith argued that the consecutive sentence of two years' imprisonment for possession of a bladed article was manifestly excessive, and that the Recorder should have used his discretion at sentencing to impose a concurrent sentence.

Both Miss Stuart-Smith and the counsel for the Crown (Mr Temple) considered the Sentencing Council's definitive guideline on bladed articles and offensive weapons. They both agreed that the starting point on the guidelines was a term of six months' imprisonment with a range of three to 12 months, because this was category A culpability and category 2 harm. Despite the appellant having two previous convictions (a conditional discharge for theft of a cycle and a fine for possession of cannabis), he had no previous relevant offences, so the minimum term provisions in the guidelines did not apply. Additionally, despite the appellant having pleaded guilty to the bladed article offence, it was raised that a 25 per cent credit failed to appear from the sentencing remarks.

On behalf of Ali, counsel argued that on the issue of totality, insufficient regard had been paid to the following points: firstly, that the appellant had only been in possession of the firearm for less than 12 minutes; secondly, the existence of text message evidence that showed the appellant's actions were being directed; thirdly, that the appellant was only 21 at the time of the offence and had not previously received a custodial sentence; and finally, the appellant's difficult circumstances, including his family fleeing from Somalia, the disability of his father, and his inability to find work despite having attained GCSEs and a diploma. In response to these potentially mitigating points, Mr Temple maintained his original argument, that in light of totality, the overall sentence was fair, just, and proportionate considering the simultaneous possession of weapons.

The Court of Appeal partially disagreed with Mr Temple and subsequently quashed the sentence on count 4, and substituted a consecutive term of six months' imprisonment. This gave credit for the guilty plea, but regard remained for the fact that the knife was carried with a gun. The court considered that those who are lightly convicted are frequently used by criminals to look after or transport guns, and that there can be no justifiable criticism of the sentences

passed for firearm offences. The court did not consider that the Recorder made an error in making the sentences consecutive, as this approach recognises the criminality of carrying knives as part of a criminal enterprise.

Read the full judgment [here](#).

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Squires & Ors, R. v [2019] EWCA Crim 1829

KEY MESSAGES

- Three appeal against their sentences for an assault that left one victim in an induced coma, on the basis that they were placed in the wrong sentencing guidelines.
- The Court of Appeal acknowledged that one count on the indictment had been wrongly categorised and consequently quashed and replaced with lesser sentences.
- Despite this, the Court of Appeal found that the longer sentence for one appellant was stern but not manifestly excessive and was to remain undisturbed.

On 2 February 2019, at Leeds railway station, following an initial good-natured exchange of ‘horse play’, violence erupted between the two appellants, Squires and Higgins, the applicant, Pickering, and two others – Pearson and Longstaff. As a result of the violence, Longstaff, who was knocked unconscious by a punch to the back of the head from Higgins, was taken to Leeds General Infirmary where he was treated for a number of acute haematomas and was sedated for two days in an induced coma. He required significant input from health professionals, including physiotherapy and assistance to stand.

Squires, Higgins and Pickering were consequently arrested and interviewed by police. Higgins gave a largely no comment answer, whereas Pickering stated that he had been acting in self-defence. Squires, however, accepted that the victim had not been a threat to him and he was not in fear for himself at the time of the attack. On 20 June 2019, all three pleaded guilty to various counts on an indictment.

Subsequently, on 19 July 2019, they were sentenced by Ms Recorder Turner on the charges as follows:

Squires, aged 20 at the time of sentencing, (count 2) assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH), contrary to section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, a term of nine months' youth detention; (count 3) assault by beating, contrary to section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, a consecutive term of one month.

Pickering, aged 18, (count 2) section 47 assault, a term of nine months' youth detention.

Higgins, aged 19, (count 1) inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH), contrary to section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, two years and three months' youth detention; (count 2) section 47 assault, a consecutive term of nine months.

The overall terms were therefore: Squires – 10 months, Pickering – nine months, and Higgins – three years' youth detention.

Squires and Higgins now appeal against their sentences with the leave of the single judge, and Pickering seeks leave to appeal against his sentence, his application having been referred to the Full Court.

On behalf of Squires, it was submitted that the offending count, contrary to section 47, should have been placed under category 2 of the sentencing guideline, with Pickering submitting a similar appeal. Higgins submitted that the sentencing of three years was manifestly excessive and the sentence in relation to count 2 should have been ordered to be served concurrently with the sentence imposed on count 1 of GBH.

The Court of Appeal held on count 1 of inflicting GBH, contrary to section 20, that although it was a stern sentence it was not manifestly excessive and would therefore be upheld. However, the court held that the sentence on count 2 should have been ordered to be served concurrently by Higgins.

On count 2 of the assault occasioning ABH, contrary to section 47, the court agreed with the submissions made on behalf of Squires and Pickering that this was a category 2 offence and the appropriate sentence should have been eight months' custody, which would be further reduced to six months when considering the 25 per cent guilty plea credit. Finally, in relation to the sentence in count 3, the offence by Squires of an assault by beating was upheld, however, the court ruled that this should have been a concurrent sentence.

On the appeal of Squires, the court quashed the original sentence and imposed a period of six months on count 2 and one month concurrent on count 3. Therefore, the total sentence of youth detention was reduced from ten months, to six months.

On the appeal of Pickering, the court quashed the sentence of nine months imposed on count 2 and replaced it with a sentence of six months.

On the appeal of Higgins, the court quashed the sentence on count 2 and replaced it with a six-month sentence to be served concurrently with the sentence on count 1, which remained undisturbed.

The total sentences for Squires, Pickering and Higgins were replaced by six months, six months and two years, and three months, respectively.

Read the full judgment [here](#).

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Life sentence for teenager who murdered his 17-year-old ex-girlfriend

Thomas Griffiths, 18, who murdered his 17-year-old ex-girlfriend has been sentenced to life in prison. Ellie Gould had been in a relationship with Griffiths since January 2019, but in early May she made the decision to end things – a decision that Griffiths could not accept, the court heard.

On the day of the murder, Griffiths feigned illness and waited at home for his mum to go to work. He then drove his mother's car to Ellie's house and brutally murdered her, stabbing her 13 times in the neck. In an attempt to cover his tracks, he sent texts to Ellie's mobile phone before returning to school, to show he thought she was still alive.

Griffiths pleaded guilty early on and was sentenced at Bristol Crown Court to 12 years and six months for the murder of Ellie Gould.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Man jailed for 12 months after sending threatening letter to MP

Alden Bryce Barlow was sentenced to 12 months in custody with a 10-year restraining order after sending a threatening letter to MP, Anna Soubry. The letter that read: 'COX WAS FIRST YOU ARE NEXT' and referred to Ms Soubry as 'worthless' and 'treacherous' was traced back to Barlow following the analysis of fingerprints on the letter and CCTV from a WHSmith branch in Doncaster, where Barlow posted the letter at the post office counter.

The letter was addressed to Ms Soubry’s constituency office and was opened by her constituency manager on 14 October 2019, who called the police. It was said that, understandably, Ms Soubry and her staff found the message deeply disturbing and highly offensive.

Chief Crown Prosecutor, Gerry Wareham, said that he hopes the sentence given to Barlow will act as a deterrent to anyone contemplating carrying out similar actions against a parliamentary representative or candidate.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Brentford football fans sentenced

Six Brentford football fans, Joel Titus, 28; Guy Claxton, 25; Szymon Kacki, 28; Harry Hackett, 24; Nathan Mills, 22; and Harry Farnan, 23, were sentenced on 11 November at Isleworth Crown Court for one count of affray.

On 25 August 2018, a fight took place on public wasteland between Crane Park in Hounslow and Leitrim Park in Hanworth. The fight involved the Brentford supporters against Millwall fans, with two men acting as ‘referees’. The altercation was subsequently uploaded onto YouTube.

The men, all aged in their 20s, had already pleaded guilty to the charge. In addition to paying £650 costs, they received the following sentences: Titus, to 12 months’ imprisonment suspended for two years, and 200 hours of unpaid work; Hackett, to seven months’ imprisonment suspended for 18 months, with 100 hours of unpaid work; Claxton, Kacki, Mills and Farnan received one-year community orders, with 100 hours of unpaid work each.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Sheffield pair sentenced to life for the murder of two children and the attempted murder of four others

The sentencing of Sarah Barrass and Brandon Machin took place on 12 November at Sheffield Crown Court. The duo were sentenced for the murder of teenagers Blake and Tristan Barrass, and the attempted murder of four other children in the family, as well as conspiracy to kill all six of the children.

On 23 May this year, the defendants attempted to poison four of their children with prescription drugs. On 24 May, they strangled and then suffocated Blake and Tristan, aged 13 and 14, by placing plastic bags over their heads. Both Barrass and Machin were sentenced to life with a minimum term of 35 years.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Prosecution of East London drug dealers following complaints from local residents

Following complaints by local residents of drug dealing, police investigations have resulted in the successful prosecution of more than 20 drug dealers.

After action was taken by the local community, the investigation identified four distinct phone lines being used to deal drugs (including Class A drugs) in the Tower Hamlets and Hackney area. In relation to each separate phone line, prosecutions took place.

The last of the four prosecutions were to be sentenced on 15 November and 18 November at Snaresbrook Crown Court. Five of the defendants pleaded guilty and received sentences of three to four years' imprisonment. Following a trial, two men were sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for two years. One man pleaded guilty to supplying Class A drugs – his sentencing date has been deferred to 3 April 2020.

Read the full article [here](#).

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A fiancé has been jailed for life after murdering his wife-to-be

A man has been jailed for life after repeatedly beating his wife-to-be, Amy Parsons over the head with a metal pull-up bar on 25 April 2019. Roderick Deakin-White admitted hitting Amy Parsons but claimed he had not meant to kill her.

After the attack, Deakin-White threw both his and Amy's phone into the Thames and called his father, stating he was a murderer. This led to his father dialling 999 and asking emergency services to check on Ms Parsons, who was pronounced dead at her flat.

Prior to the attack, Deakin-White had told a friend that he knew he was going to do something stupid, as the relationship between him and Amy had grown fraught. He was sentenced to life with a minimum of 17 years at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 26 November 2019 having been found guilty of murder by a jury.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Policing

Our workforce

Growing mental health crisis prompts call for review from Police Federation Chair

An Institute for Government Performance Tracker 2019 survey revealed that police officers were involved in 494,159 mental health incidents, having increased from 385,206 between 2014-18. The survey also showed that individuals taken to safe places by officers under the Mental Health Act had increased by 13 per cent.

The National Chair of the Police Federation, John Apter, described these figures as a ‘tipping point’ and expressed the need to welcome investigation into these issues. He also raised concerns that there is not enough investment in the mental health system; 80 per cent of police officers’ time is spent dealing with non-crime related issues including mental health situations where they fill in for the shortfalls in the system.

Read the full article [here](#).

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‘HMICFRS’ inspection of police responses to cyber-dependent crime

HMICFRS was commissioned by the Home Secretary at the beginning of 2019 to inspect police response to cyber-dependent crime. The inspection took place between April and June 2019.

The HMICFRS’ inspection identified several areas of good practice, including: effective working relationships between agencies, timely identification and response to emerging threats, and implementation of minimum standards and recognised performance indicators.

Although highlighting that the police response to this type of crime is good, the report also identified some concerns. These concerns were around financial sustainability, limited understanding and lack of prioritisation, and some forces not fully complying with initiatives to coordinate resources. The inspectorate highlighted that this resulted in local variations that led to inconsistency in responses. HMICFRS recommended that the government

should consider the establishment of a national policing response with regards to cyber-dependent crime.

Read the full report [here](#).

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World Class Policing Awards has honoured an operation to tackle FGM and forced marriage

Police and Border Force have been recognised at the World Class Policing Awards for their commitment to joint operation, Operation Limelight, which focuses on raising awareness of forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Operation Limelight focused on raising awareness at the border for these activities and safeguarding potential victims, it involved engaging with airport staff and the general public on how to spot and report potential signs of abuse. The operation focused on flights between the UK and destinations where there is a high prevalence of forced marriage and used intelligence to identify potential victims leaving or entering the country.

The operation was deemed a major safeguarding operation that has warned or possibly even deterred many thousands of suspects and has since been replicated across multiple US cities.

In 2018, the joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit provided support related to possible forced marriages in 1764 cases, from 74 different countries. By June 2019, 2149 Forced Marriage Protection Orders and 418 FGM Protection Orders have been made since their introduction in 2008 and 2015 respectively. Furthermore, in February 2019 the UK saw its first conviction for FGM.

Across 14 US cities in 2019 Limelight has been adopted as an intervention tactic, leading to the development of the Proclamation of Interagency Support for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FMG/C) Investigations Between UK and US Law Enforcement signed in August 2018, an agreement for US and UK law enforcement to share intelligence of knowledge and response to FGM.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Criminal justice news

Internet Watch Foundation issues a warning on possession of indecent images after officer is convicted

Following the conviction of a senior Metropolitan police officer for possession of an indecent image of a child, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has urged individuals to report sexual abuse. The IWF have called for people to report indecent images and videos anonymously to their hotline.

On 19 November 2019, Novlett Robyn Williams, 54, was found guilty of possessing an indecent image of a child, but was found not guilty of corruption. Williams' sister had received the video from her partner and forwarded it on to a WhatsApp group containing Williams and 16 other members, in the hopes of getting the video reported. Williams claimed she did not view the video and was unaware of its presence on her phone.

Williams failed to report the video and was consequently convicted of possessing an indecent image of a child. The National Black Police Association has responded to Williams' conviction, branding it as 'institutional racism', as the other members of the WhatsApp group who also failed to report the video have not faced legal action.

The IWF have used this incident as an opportunity to remind the public that no matter what the reason, possessing indecent images of children is a criminal offence. They have urged everyone to report any indecent images to the police and the IWF, to ensure that the content can be traced and removed.

Criminal content of online sexual abuse can be anonymously reported [here](#) on the IWF's website.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Sentence increased for blackmail conviction

Following an intervention from the Solicitor General, The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC, the woman who blackmailed her victim into paying her large sums of money has had her sentence increased from four months' imprisonment to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Chelsea Roberts told the victim she needed money for a child they had conceived together and, over a period of about a year, the victim transferred

around £29,000 to Roberts for reasons such as healthcare, the adoption process and ultimately for funeral costs after the victim was told their child had died. Unbeknown to the victim, the child never existed.

The victim used money from his savings and he incurred serious debt after taking out several loans. Roberts threatened to tell his family and girlfriend about their relationship and even threatened to accuse the victim of rape when he asked for proof or refused to pay.

Roberts was sentenced to four months' imprisonment at Hull Crown Court in September. However, following a referral to the Court of Appeal the sentence was found to be unduly lenient and on 31 October was increased to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Plans to review pre-charge bail law

The government has announced plans to update pre-charge bail legislation to ensure the safety of victims is prioritised and police are supported in investigating all offences.

Pre-charge bail allows police to release a suspect from custody while officers continue their investigation or await a charging decision.

Reforms made in 2017 meant that the length of pre-charge bail was limited to an initial 28 days. Extensions of up to three months could also be authorised by a senior officer, with the intention of preventing suspects being left for long periods of time under restrictive bail conditions without being charged.

The Home Office will consider reviewing the system to see if it can be improved, especially with regards to better supporting police officers investigating crimes, and where conditions are needed to protect victims and witnesses, such as in domestic abuse cases.

The review will also look to support timely progression of cases to court, and a simplified design with flexible rules to support effective operational decisions.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Adrian Jones murder conviction referred to the Court of Appeal

Mr Jones was convicted at Swansea Crown Court in July 2008 for the murder of Kelly Hyde. The murder took place in September 2007 when Hyde was out walking her dog. Mr Jones was 16 at the time and was subsequently sentenced to a minimum prison sentence of 11 years and 79 days, however it was ultimately an indeterminate sentence.

Following an application from Jones to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in September 2015, a detailed review took place which included psychiatric experts. In February 2018, Jones died in custody from natural causes however his family followed the application on his behalf.

It has been decided by the Commission to refer the murder conviction to the Court of Appeal in light of new psychiatric evidence which relates to Jones' mental state in 2008. The Commission believe there is a chance that the conviction will be quashed and a conviction for diminished responsibility manslaughter may substitute the murder conviction. The Commission also believe it is possible that the Court of Appeal will approve Mr Jones' mother to appear in lieu of her son.

Read the full article [here](#).

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UK special envoy for countering violent extremism announced

John Woodcock MP has been appointed by the Home Secretary as the UK special envoy for countering violent extremism. As a former member of the Defence Select Committee and the Home Affairs Select Committee, he has experience working on counter-terrorism legislation.

The role will focus on improving the UK's response to violent extremism, particularly on far right violent extremism, taking lessons from global best practice.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Reports and statistics

Criminal justice system statistics: 2018 to 2019

The latest criminal justice statistics have been published by the Home Office in a report capturing key statistics on activity in the criminal justice system for England and Wales between July 2018 and June 2019, the key points from which include:

<p>1.58 million individuals dealt with by the criminal justice system (CJS) in the last year.</p>	<p>The total number of individuals being formally dealt with by the CJS is at its lowest since records began, and has fallen by 2 per cent since last year.</p>
<p>1.37 million individuals were prosecuted in the latest year.</p>	<p>Since June 2016, the number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates' courts has been declining. In the previous year, the number has fallen by 2 per cent.</p>
<p>The conviction ratio remained stable at 87 per cent.</p>	<p>Overall, the ratio has remained unchanged.</p>
<p>There has been a decrease in the proportion of defendants remanded on bail.</p>	<p>Since June 2018, the number of defendants remanded on bail by the police has decreased by 10 per cent.</p>
<p>The custody rate has decreased to 6.5 per cent, the lowest percentage of the decade.</p>	<p>75,800 individuals were sentenced to immediate custody, the lowest figure since 2009.</p>
<p>The average custodial sentence length (ACSL) increased to 20.3 months for indictable offences.</p>	<p>The ACSL has consistently increased since June 2009, when it was 16.3 months for indictable offences and 13.5 months, overall. Now the figure is 17.4 months, overall.</p>

Overview of the criminal justice system

The number of individuals formally dealt with by the CJS fell by 2 per cent in the latest year. However, police-recorded crime rose overall by 6 per cent (to 5.3 million offences, excluding fraud). This increase is believed to be because of improved recording among police forces and an overall greater willingness by victims to report crimes. Around two thirds of total prosecutions are brought to court by prosecuting authorities other than the police (for example, the DVLA and TVLA).

Court prosecutions and convictions

There was a 2 per cent decline in overall prosecutions, compared to the year ending June 2018. Compared to the previous year, there have been decreases in prosecutions for all indictable offences, except public order offences which remained unchanged. Violence against the person, robbery, drug and possession of weapons offences have also all increased by 11 per cent, 2 per cent, 5 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. The increase in prosecutions for violent crimes has been primarily driven by the recent introduction of legislation on assaults on emergency workers.

Sentencing

In the latest year, there were 1.18 million offenders sentenced. Fines accounted for an overwhelming 78 per cent of all sentences – an increase of 12 per cent since 2009. The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody has been steadily declining since 2016, and decreased by 8 per cent to 75,800 in the latest year. There was a reduction in the lengths of all custodial sentences, except life sentences which saw a 20 per cent increase to 459. The number of sentences of a month or less, fell by 19 per cent to 10,100. Of all persons sentenced to immediate custody, over half (56 per cent) were sentenced to six months and less. The number of suspended sentences decreased by 19 per cent to 39,200, and community sentences decreased by only one per cent to 90,600.

Read the full report [here](#).

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Race and the Criminal Justice System 2018 statistics

This report compiles statistics from various data sources across the criminal justice system (CJS), to provide a combined perspective on the varying experiences different ethnic groups may face. Generally, minority ethnic groups are largely over-represented at many stages of the CJS when compared to the White ethnic group, the greatest imbalance of which is particularly evident in stop and searches, arrests, custodial sentencing and the make-up of prison populations.

Some key figures from the report include:

Victims

- A higher proportion of Black homicides were against children, with 17 per cent of Black victims being aged 17 or younger.
 - Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, Black children made up 20 per cent of all child victims, while Black victims made up 13 per cent of victims across all age groups.

Police activity

- The proportion of stop and searches carried out on White suspects decreased significantly from 75 per cent in 2014/15, to 59 per cent in 2018/19, but in the same time period, increased for all minority ethnic groups.
 - The largest increases were 13 per cent to 22 per cent for Black suspects and 8 per cent to 13 per cent for Asian suspects.
- In London, in the last five years, the proportion of stop and searches involving Black suspects has increased from 30 per cent to 37 per cent, meaning the figure is now equal to the number of White suspects searched. This shows a significant proportional imbalance when considering the statistics for ethnic groups in London, showing that the overwhelming majority is White.
- In 2018/19, 67 per cent of children arrested in London were from minority ethnic groups, however, this is significantly lower in the rest of England and Wales, at 21 per cent.

Defendants

- Since 2014, White offenders have consistently had a lower average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for indictable offences than all other ethnic groups.
 - Data taken in 2018 shows that White offenders had an ACSL of 18.3 months, whereas Asian offenders had an ACSL of 29.1, Black offenders 28.0 months, 23.3 months for Chinese or Other offenders and 22.2 months for offenders from Mixed ethnic groups.

Read the full article [here](#).

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