

Deputy Principal Loses Test CRB Case

In a much publicised case John Pinnington, a father of two children, from Benson, Oxon, lost his case in the High Court when he argued that the police were wrong to disclose an unsubstantiated allegation made against him 2001 to his new employer.

Mr Pinnington was fired from his post as deputy principal of Thomley Hall, a college for autistic children in Oxfordshire, when his employers requested an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check after he took the job in 2005.

The check revealed an unsubstantiated allegation of sexual abuse that was made against him by an autistic child he had cared for at another college in 2001. Police had investigated the allegation at the time and dismissed it.

His case was seen as a test case of the newly applied vetting regime introduced after the murders of the Soham schoolgirls in 2002. The girls' killer, Ian Huntley, had been able to get a job as a school caretaker despite having faced repeated allegations of sex offences involving underage girls.

Since then, all criminal allegations, whether or not they are ever proven in court, have been entered on to suspects' police records and disclosed to future employers who request enhanced CRB checks.

Mr Pinnington's solicitor, Chris Saltrese, argued that unsubstantiated allegations should not be disclosed by the police unless there is good cause for believing them to be true. He said: "The legislation allows the police almost complete discretion on what information may be included in an enhanced criminal record certificate.

Unfounded allegations, even if there is no evidence that they are true, and even if there is no criminal conviction or charges, can be included. This is all because of the exaggerated danger of the paedophile. The problem is that this lack of trust towards adults working with children will prevent and discourage people from working in the voluntary care sector."

But judges at the High Court ruled the disclosure was lawful. When the certificate was issued it showed details of three allegations made against him since July 2000.

Mr Pinnington told the court the disclosure had caused him "great hardship and injustice" and deprived him of his reputation and livelihood.

But Lord Justice Richards, sitting with Mr Justice Keith, declared the police had acted reasonably - even though the allegations, on the available evidence, could never be substantiated in a court of law.

The judge said he recognised how "painful and damaging" disclosure might be, but the law said that such information should be revealed to employers "even if it only might be true".

But he said he was "troubled" that Mr Pinnington's new employers "apparently operated a blanket policy" of dismissing or not employing anyone against whom such allegations had been made without considering additional information.

Mr Pinnington, 59, denied any wrongdoing and none of the complaints resulted in criminal charges being brought against him, said the judge.

We would like to thank all those who help sponsor FACTION

Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers

F.A.C.T. is a voluntary organisation which supports carers and teachers who have been falsely accused and/or wrongly convicted of child abuse, and campaigns on their behalf for changes in investigative practice, and for reform of the criminal justice system.

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FACTion

FACTion is produced at approximately 6-8 week intervals at the national committee's discretion, and is provided free of charge to F.A.C.T. members.

The editorial team welcome articles for publication, of between 150 and 1,500 words, and letters of not more than 200 words

These should be sent, preferably by email, to faction@factuk.org or by post to FACTion, P.O. Box 3074, Cardiff, CF3 3WZ.

The editorial team reserve the right to edit any article or letter sent for publication. All submissions must be accompanied by your name and address which, on request, will be withheld from publication.

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Contributors should be aware that FACTion also appears on www.factuk.org/faction and therefore is, potentially, accessible to everyone.

Editorial

It is strange to think that this will be my last editorial for FACTion. As many of you know, I have I decided to stand down as Chairman of F.A.C.T. During the past nine years or so F.A.C.T. has come a long way. It has been a privilege not only to lead it but also to work with, and on behalf of, so many wonderful people. Over the years F.A.C.T. has developed into a much respected lobbying group and provided considerable support to literally hundreds of people. As an organisation it is in a very healthy position, but from time to time every organisation needs new blood, new ideas, and new leadership if it is to keep pace with changing circumstances. Needless to say, F.A.C.T. will always have my support.

Two people who will not be at our conference this year will be Harry Dickson and Norman Owen, both of whom died recently. In many ways Harry and Norman represent all that F.A.C.T. stands for and believes in. On the one hand there is Harry, a more kindly man you could not wish to meet; and on the other Norman, also a deeply caring man. Harry was accused, imprisoned but later acquitted in the Appeal Court. Norman had never been accused and only joined F.A.C.T. when his friend Dennis Eagles was accused, and later went to prison where he died in September 2004. Norman spent many hours before and after Dennis' death trying to prove his innocence.

With Harry and Norman in mind, our conference theme this year is Falsely Accused - Justice Denied. I know many of you will miss Harry and Norman and I offer my condolences on your behalf to their family and friends.

I look forward to meeting you all again at our AGM and our conference.

With my best wishes,

Rory

We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Gilholm who have kindly sponsored this edition of FACTion.

Silicosis - asbestosis – pneumoconiosis – What have each of these words in common?

Social Services – Education Departments – Charitable Organisations – The Coal Board – Government Departments. What have each of these in common?

No, this is not a quiz. It is an attempt to examine some facts which, as far as I can ascertain, have not previously been examined in the manner in which I now propose.

The word silicosis, asbestosis and pneumoconiosis have over the past ten or fifteen years been the source of much concern in that they have been the fundamental cause of very serious illnesses and have had a seriously deleterious effect on the lives of the, mostly men, who have suffered as a result of being employed in circumstances where these factors have been prevalent. For those who are unaware of the causes of these illnesses I briefly outline the derivation; Silicosis is a lung disease caused by the inhalation of dust containing silica, i.e. coal dust – pneumoconiosis is somewhat similar to silicosis but is caused by stone dust, both were to be found in men who had worked underground. Asbestosis is not too dissimilar in that it is caused by breathing in asbestos dust, causing serious lung disease, and frequently associated with a carcinogenic illness.

It must be acknowledged that at the time that these men were employed in such conditions, the fact that these harmful elements were in the atmosphere that they were working in were unknown and that therefore it would not have been realistic for employers to have made special provision for their employees care, despite the fact that in law they had a duty of care to those that they employed. Many years after these men had left the industries in which they had been employed the cause of their illnesses were discovered to have been their working environment and as such they had a claim to some degree of redress for their suffering from their former employers.

The result of their pressure to obtain this compensation was that the government, on behalf of the now defunct coal board were required to pay ex-miners compensation for their illnesses and loss of a satisfactory life experience.

You will have noted that the Coal Board is listed above, along with such bodies as Social Services, Education Departments and Charitable Organisations (I have in mind such as National Children's Homes and Dr Barnardo's). Each of these bodies had one factor in common; namely a DUTY OF CARE to their employees. The coal board has to a large degree met its obligations

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Chris Saltrese Solicitors is a law firm providing a premium service in representing clients accused of sexual offences and domestic violence, in criminal proceedings. We have unrivalled expertise in these areas, both regionally and nationally.

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- domestic or relationship disputes
- contact disputes
- mental health problems
- financial incentives

and have no prior experience of the criminal justice system. Often these allegations involve uncorroborated, historic allegations.

In this complex arena specialist legal advice and representation is vital especially as recent changes in the law, designed to convict genuine offenders, also put the innocent at greater risk of injustice.

We particularly welcome carers, teachers, and health care professionals who have been accused of abuse and are likely to be subject to a criminal investigation. Where allegations have been made we would be happy to advise, whether or not criminal investigations are underway.

For further information please contact

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New Web Site Launched

A new website campaign for teachers and those concerned about education has been launched. Called *Restore Order*, it plans to lobby the Government to change existing laws on how teachers can deal with bad behaviour in schools. The site claims that educational standards have dropped, violence has escalated, and teachers, instead of being respected, are now the brunt of huge numbers of accusations - most of them false.

"While a few of these accusations are of course true, in recent years an increasing number of respected, hard-working teachers' lives have been ripped apart by a single accusation. They are suspended from work until a full investigation has taken place. They are 'guilty until proven innocent' but the majority of claims are proved to be unfounded or 'politically correct' nonsense."

For more information see www.restoreorder.tripod.com

Insurance Cover - A Matter of Conviction

What information should I tell my insurance company ?

We recently received a letter from a F.A.C.T. member in prison concerning difficulties his wife was having in insuring their jointly owned property (see letters page). In this case the insurance company had increased the premium by almost 136%, and at one time, threatened to withdraw their cover completely. We have since heard that other F.A.C.T. Members, including some who do not have convictions, have also experienced difficulties in obtaining insurance cover. Indeed in one case the person was so concerned that they decided it was not worth insuring their house any more - not a wise move!

There are two important things to keep in mind about insurance companies, especially if you are seeking cover for buildings (including your house), household contents, or any public liability insurance relating to self employment.

The first is that underwriters calculate the probability of risk (as they see it) according to the individual's circumstances and other measurable factors such where they live (post code areas), with whom they live, occupation, character etc. In practice this means that a policy can attract additional weighting simply because the person is associated with a known risk e.g. criminality, risk of being sued in the criminal courts etc. Inevitably issues of personal risk (or non risk) is subjugated by stereotyping claimants, and calculations on clusters of perceived risk.

The second important thing to remember is that when you purchase insurance you enter into a contract based on trust. The contract is made up of stated terms (the small print) and implied terms. Implied term are those things which are so obvious and reasonable that they need not be stated. This would include things like being truthful and telling your insurers of any change in your circumstances. If you do not do this you run this risk of your insurance being invalid or being insufficient to cover the perceived risk. Non disclosure, or a failure to disclose that you have attracted added premiums for increased risk, can also result in nasty knock-on effect on other insurances such as vehicle insurance which, in

turn, could lead to you being prosecuted for having no valid insurance. Always keep in mind that the insurance industry has quite sophisticated methods of sharing information in respect of applications which attract further premiums, or are refused or declared void.

Insurance companies expect to be told whether any one associated with a perceived risk has a previous conviction or has served a term of imprisonment. Some companies will automatically bar such persons or increase the premium. Other companies will say there must be at least a 5 year gap between your **conviction**

date and your application for insurance cover. A small number of brokers do however specialise in underwriting 'high risk' cases, including in particular those instances where the applicant (or household member) has served a prison sentence. Do not however expect any Insurance company to insure you if you have been convicted of arson, money laundering or fraud. You should also inform your insurance company if

your conduct has (or might) lead to a claim being made in the civil courts.

Insurance companies are however required (with some exceptions) to abide by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This Act provides protection for reformed offenders by giving them the legal right not to disclose convictions after a legally defined rehabilitation period.

If the proposal form asks whether the applicant has any previous convictions, the answer can be 'no' *if the convictions are spent*. This is the case even if the conviction is relevant to the risk which the insurers will underwrite. The 'rehabilitation period' is based on the sentence - not the offence - and starts from the date of conviction. For sentences of 6 months or less the period is 7 years, for sentences of more than 6 months but under 30 months the period is ten years. If the sentence does not result in imprisonment and is dealt with by way of a fine or probation the period is five years. Custodial sentences of more than two and half years can never become spent.



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When Puzzles Are More Interesting than Working Out The Truth

by David Pannick QC

During the trial in Sydney, Australia, of two men accused of manufacturing narcotics, the jury seemed unusually diligent in taking copious notes. But after more than 60 days of hearings, District Court Judge Peter Zahra aborted the trial last month when the jury forewoman confessed that, in fact, she and four other jurors had been playing Su Doku in court for much of the proceedings. "It helps me to keep my mind busy," she explained, as "some of the evidence is rather drawn out" and "it doesn't distract me too much from proceedings". The jury misconduct had been noticed by one of the defendants while giving evidence. None of the 20 police officers who had been in the witness box had observed any wrongdoing. In his 1956 Hamlyn lectures, Lord Devlin suggested that trial by jury is "the lamp that shows that freedom lives". Unfortunately, as the Sydney case confirms, the lamp sometimes goes out. There are many precedents for jurors failing to pay attention to proceedings. In 1989 a kidnapping trial at the Old Bailey was halted after a juror told the judge that he could not listen to any more evidence as it "was not my scene". In 2000 a woman juror was fined £100 for contempt of court after she missed the second day of a murder trial at the Old Bailey because she had been awake all night after a row with her husband. Judge Warwick McKinnon fined a juror £500 at Chelmsford Crown Court in 2000 for refusing to attend the judge's summing-up in protest at the refusal of the Court Service to pay the cost of his chauffeur driving him to and from the court. In 1993 Taunton Crown Court discharged a juror who came to court in a medieval jousting costume and said he had not had time to change. Jurors may misunderstand their function. In 1997 Judge Wilkie, QC, ordered a retrial at Luton Crown Court after a juror told the defendant: "Why don't you plead guilty? You are f***ing guilty." The juror told the judge that he had spoken out because "it was an insult to my intelligence for him to plead not guilty". In 1995 a trial at Northampton Crown Court was abandoned after a woman juror told the usher that she was so angry at the rudeness of the defence barrister to a prosecution witness that "I want to hit him. He is contemptible. I don't know how I can remain impartial." Misbehaviour by jurors may take many forms. In 1986 Judge Jean Graham Hall dismissed a juror from a case at Croydon Crown Court after he left a note about her for defence counsel: "How would you like that as a mother-in-law?" A woman juror was fined £100 by Judge

Christopher Compston at Reading Crown Court in 2003 for reading a magazine and filing her nails during a case. A. P. Herbert, in one of his misleading cases, was only just on the fictional side of the line in suggesting that "a member of the jury may powder her nose in the box, but not use lipstick or eat oranges". Some jurors are just impossible. In 1991 Judge Rucker dismissed a male juror at the Old Bailey who constantly interrupted proceedings to ask for evidence to be explained and to argue legal points from the jury box. When the judge told him a point he raised was irrelevant, the juror replied: "Well, I think it is relevant." The other jury members complained about the conduct of the man they called "Mr Busybody". At the Old Bailey in 1993 Judge Gerber discharged the jury after six members complained that a seventh had been "a pain in the **** from the start. A self-opinionated, bullying know-all. We can't carry on with him among us." In 1993 Judge Hawkins, QC, discharged a jury at the Old Bailey when two bickering jurors nearly came to blows after one accused the other of burgling his flat. In 1994 a judge at Exeter Crown Court discharged a jury because two jurors complained that another had fleas. In 1995 a murder trial at Winchester Crown Court was halted after the jury complained that they could not concentrate because defence lawyers kept watching them. In 1994 a jury trying a murder case at Hove Crown Court retired overnight to a hotel while they considered their verdict and used a Ouija board to try to make contact with the deceased. In 1998 Judge Esmond Faulks removed a male juror from a case at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court after he asked about the defendant's date of birth so he could identify his star sign in order to assess the likelihood that he had committed the offence. In 2003 a female juror was discharged from an Old Bailey trial because she refused to look at the documentary evidence as she was reading a book on witchcraft and meditating. So the Sydney Su Doku jury were not the first to focus on irrelevant distractions. Another jury will now concentrate on deciding whether the defendants, rather than a puzzle, are superfiendish.

The author is a practising barrister at Blackstone Chambers in the Temple and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

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To summarise

- the law says you must “disclose material facts” whether or not you are asked to do so.
- Unspent convictions are **always** ‘material facts’ but you do not have to declare spent convictions. Always seek confirmation on when yours will be spent.
- You will not solve your problem by looking for a company that doesn’t ask you to declare your offence history or by moving insurance into a partner’s name.
- If you fail to declare material facts you will not be covered even if the insurance is in some one else’s name (i.e. partner/spouse). You could also be prosecuted for attempted fraud.

Finding an understanding insurance company.

Finding a company that will deal with your request in a sensitive, confidential manner, and without financial penalty is difficult. The experience of F.A.C.T. members suggests that there are marked differences *within and between* companies.

However some companies do stand out. These include:-

MORE THAN

Customer Services Centre, P O Box 825, Colmore Gate, Birmingham, B3 2AY, 0800 072 4186

TESCO INSURANCE:

Tesco Personal Finance, PO Box 104010, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2YF. **08457 104010.**
www.tescofinance.com

Other members who prefer to use insurance brokers have recommended the charity ‘**UNLOCK**’ run by the **National Association of Reformed Offenders**. They provide specific insurance advice for ex offenders and access to a number of insurance companies.

For further information email enquiries@unlock.org.uk 01634 247350, or write to UNLOCKING Insurance, 35a High Street, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5AG

Further insurance advice can also be obtained from:-

The Prison Reform Trust

15 Northburgh Street,
London, EC1V 0JR,
Phone: 020 7251 5070,
Email: prrt@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

NACRO

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Aston,
Birmingham, B6 4US
0121 250 5250

Ed. Note. We would be pleased to hear of your experiences, good or bad, in obtaining Insurance following conviction.

Obituaries

It is with much sadness that we announce the deaths of Harry Dickson and Norman Owen. Both were highly respected members of F.A.C.T. who frequently attended conferences.

Harry was born in Bolton but for the majority of his life he lived in Morecambe. In his younger days he worked in the leisure industry mostly as a long distance coach driver working abroad. More recently he worked at Lancaster University as a senior porter and assistant tutor where he is remembered with affection and respect. He was a life long Christian.

In 2003 he was accused of historic sex offences by a neighbour’s child - now an adult. In May 2005 the matter went to Court and although it was clear his legal team had won the arguments the jury found him guilty. He was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment. An immediate appeal was launched and in March 2007 his conviction was quashed when it emerged the defence were denied access to crucial evidence. Eventually a retrial was ordered. Harry was very confident that following the discovery of new evidence he would be cleared. Sadly he was not given this opportunity. Harry died suddenly at home of a heart attack on 27th June.

Harry was immensely proud of his family and in particular of his niece. He was very touched by the support he had from F.A.C.T. and in particular from those who frequently corresponded with him during the dark days of his imprisonment. Harry is survived by his mother, Joan, and his sister Mariane and her husband Ray.

Like Harry Norman was a life long Christian. He was born and bred in Herefordshire. After leaving school he worked mostly in the retail trade, latterly as a manager. For several years he worked as a kitchen designer which suited his sometimes fastidious nature. He had a great love of flowers and enjoyed creating floral arrangements.

Norman’s involvement with F.A.C.T. was not as an accused person but rather in support of his friend Dennis Eagles, a Herefordshire headmaster who in 1999 was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for allegedly sexually abusing pupils at his school. Dennis, who resolutely maintained his innocence, died in prison in September 2004.

Norman worked tirelessly on his behalf before and after Dennis died. He amassed a great deal of material and with considerable skill and determination began to undermine the case against Dennis. Unfortunately the police got wind of this and much to Norman’s disgust confiscated the material. Undaunted by this Norman continued his fight to clear Dennis’s name. Norman also wrote regularly to many falsely accused men in prison.

In recent years Norman suffered considerable ill health. He died on 27th July following surgery for cancer.

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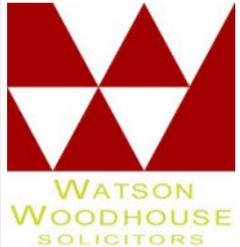
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under the terms of that duty by the payment of compensation. I would now contend that the other bodies have the same or very similar liability toward their employees that they have not met, and indeed have studiously avoided even considering. The case I would make is as follows;

These bodies, most especially the Local Government Social Services Departments, were responsible for the placement of children in their care, they had in fact a duty of care. How was that duty of care carried out? It is my contention that in the vast majority of instances it was managed in an utterly inappropriate and irresponsible manner. The placement of children within the 'care' concept of these bodies was ad-hoc to say the least, and often seriously detrimental to both the child and the staff working within the establishments in which they were placed.

Prior to the concept of social services the children were placed by the Local Authority Children's Departments. Those who had appeared before the Juvenile Courts were sent to a Classifying School where they were assessed as regards to where they might be placed, usually an Approved School. Over the years the concept of the Assessment Centre was developed with a somewhat similar role as had previously been that of the classifying schools. However there was one fundamental difference - the staff of the accommodating units were not usually trained or experienced to deal with many of the children placed in these residential facilities.

George Jensen

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Obituaries

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Although quite different in nature Harry and Norman had a lot in common. Both died prematurely and were denied justice. Both were upright, kind and compassionate, and thoroughly selfless men. It was not therefore surprising that their respective funerals were packed out with family, friends, F.A.C.T. members and well wishers, and that the tributes to them were glowing in praise and in celebration of their lives. As one F.A.C.T. member remarked their passing was very much like losing family. They will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to their family and to friends.

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Email: mail@mcsparanmccormick.co.uk

When choosing any Solicitor, always make that decision in the light of the reputation of the Solicitor, his experience and qualifications.

Do not make that decision in haste - you may have to spend a long time regretting it !

In My Opinion

By George Jensen

The Parole Board Needs To Act Quickly To Ensure It Acts Independently of Government Control or Influence

There has been a considerable degree of interest regarding the impact recent Court judgements may have on men who are applying for parole under the present rules and procedures.

On the 18th February 2008 the Appeal Court held in a reserved judgement, that the Parole Board's relationship with the executive [Government] was such that it did not have the independence required when determining whether convicted prisoners should remain in prison or be released on licence.

This decision arose following an appeal by the Secretary of State for Justice against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Hughes and Mr Justice Treacy) to grant a declaration that the Parole Board did not meet the requirements of the common law and of article 5.4 of the European Convention on Human Rights to demonstrate objective independence of the executive and of the parties.

This judgement, consisting of nineteen pages, makes fascinating if somewhat complex reading; essentially what the Court decided was that the Parole Board's relationship with the Government was such that it did not enjoy sufficient independence to carry out its role of reviewing the continued detention of prisoners lawfully, as is required by common law and article 5.4 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The case, before The Queen's Bench Divisional Court, which caused this judgement was brought by an application of Michael Brooke, Gagik Ter-Ogannisyan and Michael Murphy for judicial review of the

use of the Board to undertake review of their sentences. This amounted to a declaration that under the common law and article 5.4 of the Human Rights Convention, guaranteeing the right to speedy examination of the lawfulness of detention, the board lacked objective independence of the executive (government). They argued that sentencing by the criminal courts had become the subject of imprisonment regimes in order to specifically address issues of public protection. This meant that the Courts not only had diminishing influence over when and whether an offender's incarceration might end but also that the Parole Board could recommend or direct a course of action and require the Secretary of State to act accordingly.

On February 1st, in an almost parallel judgement Lord Chief Justice, Lord Phillips criticised the Secretary of State over the status of the Parole Board. The Board, as you will be only too well aware, is the body that determines whether a prisoner may be released on parole (licence). In his judgement Lord Phillips stated that it (the Parole Board) lacked independence from the Government and should be subject to change – this, it would seem, should afford some degree of hope to prisoners who maintain that they should be freed. They could now claim that continued detention in order to protect the public was unfair. In this judgement Lord Phillips effectively dismissed the appeal by Jack Straw against the ruling above (that the system did not comply with the Human Rights Act), and added that the High Court's findings that the Parole

Board lacked independence were fully justified by the evidence.

The judgement suggested that the problem had arisen by a fairly recent change in the function of the Parole Board. It was a body advising the Secretary of State over the release of prisoners, but this had been changed and it is now a Judicial Body deciding whether to free prisoners or not.

The Secretary of State appoints members to the Board, and can therefore influence its decisions. Lord Phillips said, "He (the Secretary) also has direction over the way it carries out crucial assessment of risk". (See below)

The Ministry of Justice said that the ruling would not mean that any prisoners would be released early, nor would any be able to claim compensation.

One of the solicitors who won this landmark victory, John Dickinson, said, "if it is upheld on appeal," (he was referring to the original High Court judgement,) "it will affect not only ten of thousands of prison inmates but all who rely on Parole Board decisions."

Hood, Shute et al, in a study concerning the element of risk suggested by the Parole Board found that "as many as 66% of those maintaining innocence were identified by at least one member of the Parole Board as being of high risk - but only 50% of those who did not maintain their innocence were considered to be high risk.

However, of their sample, only one considered high risk in the group who maintained innocence was reconvicted of a sexual offence while all but one of the group who

did not maintain innocence, were subsequently reconvicted”.

It would appear therefore that members of the Parole Board greatly overestimate the reconviction risk of prisoners who claim their innocence. The Parole Board, in making their assessments, are of course dependent on information supplied by the Prison and Probation Services.

What does this judgement mean for the Parole Board?

Unless the minister of justice, Jack Straw, succeeds in overturning the judgement in a further appeal, the Board will have to be restructured to make it independent of the Ministry of Justice, possibly putting it under another department of the court service.

Why was the ruling a surprise?

Prisoners have previously brought cases to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg claiming that the Board was not independent.

Why did the Government lose now?

The High Court judges had much more evidence than the Strasbourg court had of the closeness between the Board and the Department. The Home Office had interfered with the Board’s discretion.

It has been suggested that there will be no automatic consequence arising from this judgement.

However the individual may use it to some extent in an endeavour to persuade the Parole Board that they might be released on parole without undue risk or unnecessary encumbrance. It is expected that in time the Parole Board would be required to take a more objective approach than when acting under Government pressure or control.

It would appear that the major consideration which determines the Board’s decision is that of presumed risk to the public. The Parole Board does not in fact make any direct assessment of the risk element

associated with any particular prisoner, but is entirely dependent upon the reports which it receives from the various sources of ‘evidence’ presented to them. For example the Home and Prison Probation Officers, who may or may not use the available format for assessing risk, namely Static 99 – OASYS or more recently Briefings. None of these methodologies are in the least bit satisfactory and despite any attempt by those administering the assessment the test is highly subjective in the content and in interpretation.

The tendency for the Parole Board to erroneously overstate the degree of risk posed by any individual

“Arguably the Parole Board has fallen into a legal error because they, and the persons advising them, have focused too excessively upon the risks arising from the denial of guilt”

Mr Justice Jackson 2002

prisoner was exemplified in the judgement of Mr Justice Jackson sitting in the Royal Courts of Justice in 2002; Mr Sharman V Secretary of State Case No; CO/1181/2002, said in his judgement “I have come to the conclusion that when one looks at all the factors in this case, it is arguable that the Parole Board has fallen into a legal error because they, and the persons advising them, have focused too excessively upon the risks arising from the denial of guilt”. Thus where any report, whether to the Parole Board or otherwise makes claim to a high risk element this should be challenged and the evidence upon which it is formulated explained.

It follows therefore that when making an application or submission to the Parole Board for consideration of release on parole;

one should make it a positive element in your personal presentation that the risk you present is either extremely low or non-existent and give a reasoned argument to support your submission. Copies of the F.A.C.T. publication ‘Parole Matters’ is available to F.A.C.T. members from F.A.C.T. PO Box 3074. Cardiff. CF3 3WZ or from parole@factuk.org I have also written a comprehensive review of the literature on courses and risk assessment procedures which is available by post with a large stamped addressed envelope.

As a matter of interest, the Parole Board was created in 1957 as an executive non-departmental public body operating under the sponsorship of the Home Office. Following the recent creation of the Ministry of Justice all former functions relating to the management of prisons have been transferred to the new Ministry.

In March 2007 the Board consisted of a Chairman, 3 High Court Judges, 28 Circuit Judges, 9 Retired judges, 21 Psychiatrists, 4 Criminologists, 8 Psychologists and 71 Lay members; nearly all serve on a part time basis.

Board panels usually consist of three members, one of whom is referred to as ‘The Lead Member’ he/she studies the documentation of a case more thoroughly than do the other members, and makes recommendations to the other members of the Board who are sitting. The time spent on each case is extremely short; the group having to consider a number of potential parolees on each occasion that they sit. The lead member’s recommendation is invariably adopted by the sitting panel.

Note:

Prison law is constantly changing. Always consult a solicitor for an update position as to how the law affects you personally.

News from Scotland

Two former residents of a Glasgow children's home have lost their legal bid for compensation over claims that they were abused by nuns. Five law lords said the women had left it too late to bring the case over alleged events at Nazareth House in Cardonald in the 1960s and 1970s.

The ruling upheld a judgement at the Court of Session last year that the claims were time barred. It has also ended potential action from about 450 people.

Two women and a man originally launched the claims, saying they were beaten and abused by nuns belonging to the Poor Sisters of Nazareth.

The religious order denied any abuse at the children's home which no longer exists.

Both women appealed to the House of Lords after last year's ruling at the Court of Session. But the Law Lords ruled that Lord Drummond Young was correct that it was too late to hold a fair trial.

The women's solicitor, Cameron Fyfe, said the judgment could have implications for others who claimed to have been abused as children.

"The clients are understandably disappointed by this decision," he said. "Unfortunately this means we can proceed no further with most of the historical child abuse cases we are handling."

Meanwhile the former deputy headteacher of Kerelaw residential unit which has been at the centre of a child abuse investigation has won his unfair dismissal case against Glasgow City Council.

Chris Johnson was second in command at Kerelaw school in Ayrshire, which was closed in early 2006. The 54-year-old, who has never been accused of hurting any of the children or young people at the school, was sacked in 2005 amid claims that he and other managers had not done enough to prevent alleged abuses.

However, an employment tribunal in Glasgow has now ruled that his employers, Glasgow City Council, did not carry out a thorough enough investigation into allegations of "gross misconduct" before they dismissed Mr Johnson in July 2005.

In its written finding, the employment tribunal criticised the official at Glasgow council who investigated Mr Johnson. John Legg, after hearing evidence for three days, took just half an hour to decide Mr Johnson should be dismissed from his post at Kerelaw School in Ayrshire. It is understood that he did so on his last day working for the authority.

The tribunal also said Mr Johnson had not been given enough time to prepare his defence and that allegations against him concerning a variety of management failings had not been specific enough. Mr Johnson is now seeking compensation for his unfair dismissal, although another tribunal will have to sit to decide how much he gets.

The Problem of Memory in the Judicial Process

Any contribution to the study of the fallibility of memory, false memory generation, refractory opinions and mass delusion is highly relevant to improvement in the judicial process in the present and immediate future, not merely to posthumous pardons or re-confirmations of guilt. Recent changes in social attitudes and legislation will increase the incidence of legal cases centred on historic abuse, in the criminal, civil and family courts. These cases, which would previously have foundered on statutes of limitation, now cause problems in the courts.

The reference case structure in the criminal and civil court is a group of adults claiming that a priest or children's home carer abused them decades previously; in the family court, usually in contact/residence cases, a hostile spouse claims that their ex-partner abused them and their children years previously. A feature common to both structures is that the aggrieved party testifies to the reality of events which are now long past. Moreover, if the events did not in fact take place, the accused party will obviously have no memory of them. Paper records even years ago, let alone decades, are often long lost or weeded, so recollection is crucial to the fact-finding part of the case. Furthermore, many of the plaintiffs have often undergone either psychotherapy for adult mental health problems, or pre-case psychiatric interviews or counselling. This greatly complicates the case because it is often unascertainable whether the evidence is the direct result of False Memory Therapy (used to reduce suicidality), a side-effect of medication or other therapy, a product of suggestive questioning or emotionally supportive counselling (i.e. Transference - counter-transference), a pre-existing psychosis, paranoid or grandiose distortions or delusions, outright lies deployed for financial or emotional gain, or substantially accurate recall. The already complex situation is exacerbated by circular arguments about whether the mental disorder, if it exists, was caused by the original abuse, if it occurred and was traumatic.

Expert witnesses are of little value as they simply preach their mutually incompatible generalised theory, with scant regard to the (few) known case-specific facts or the possibility that other diametrically-opposed theories might be valid. Furthermore juries bring their pre-conceptions and media-induced prejudices about the "reality" of horrors of 1970's boarding schools and children's

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Words of Wisdom

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Senator Robert Kennedy

"If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class.

One goes to the unprotected - those, precisely, who need the laws protection most - and listens to their testimony."

James Baldwin

"History never learns it only punishes for the lessons NOT learned.

History always repeats itself - it has to because no one listens."

Author Unknown

"...Not everything faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. "

James Baldwin

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and famous?
Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others".

Nelson Mandela , 1994 Inaugural Speech

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homes, and priest abuse into the fray. Local authority employees contribute to the chaos by suppressing, distorting and sometimes fabricating evidence, and inventing theories of satanic abuse, either in a deliberate attempt to cover up earlier errors on their part for fear of criticism or job loss, or as part of the groupthink, hysteria and corporate refractory thinking to which they are prone. Finally, there are of course real and undisputed cases of abuse, which tend to excessively bolster the notion that there are many more hidden cases.

The sum total is chaos in the judicial system in the area of historic cases of child abuse which rely on memory.

Roy Everett

(Disclaimer and affiliation: I am an active member of FACT, a subscriber to the BFMS and an active contributor to various UK DCA consultation exercises on the Family Courts. The views above are my own and not necessarily those of these organisations.)

Ed. Note: This article first appeared as a letter posted by Roy Everett on Times Online on the 13th July 2008 in response to a series of Times articles on Family Courts.

Headteacher investigated after fishing licence fine

A Walsall headteacher has condemned "child protection gone mad" after he was investigated when a criminal records check showed he had forgotten to renew his fishing rod licence.

Bob Yeomans, head of St John's Primary School in Walsall, went fishing on the River Dove in Derbyshire last summer to relax after a typically busy week at work. As he fished, the water bailiff spotted Mr Yeomans and informed him that his licence had expired.

But despite owning up to the oversight immediately and paying a £50 fine, Mr Yeomans found himself at the centre of an inquiry - which has still not been resolved. Almost a year after the encounter with the water bailiff, the incident appeared on an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Mr Yeomans told the Times Education Supplement: "The chair of governors was notified that there could be an issue with a CRB check in the school and rang to tell me.

"I said, 'Is it a member of staff?' and he said, 'No, it's you.' I was shocked. He had to visit me and, in effect, he was being asked if I was fit to work with children for forgetting to renew my rod licence. It was just child protection gone mad. You would have thought someone would have had some common sense at an earlier stage."

The school is still waiting for official clearance to continue employing Mr Yeomans as headteacher, Mr Yeomans was not suspended but he criticised the waste of the time spent filling in forms and attempting to resolve the situation.

A Home Office spokesman said there was no way to avoid cases such as Mr Yeomans' coming up in detailed records checks.

"If you have an enhanced CRB check everything will appear and it is then up to the employer," he said. "It's better and safer for any contact the person has had with the police to be mentioned."

Mick Brookes, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, of which Mr Yeomans is a member, said such micro-management of schools had gone "too far".

"One of our members forgot to renew his fishing licence and he was fined," Mr Brookes said. "The next thing he knew was his chair of governors phoning up to see whether he was still a fit person to run his school. That is the level of trivia which is bedevilling schools."

*Acknowledgement:
Daily Mail 2nd May 2008*

ACPO Lobby

The F.A.C.T. annual lobby of ACPO took place on Tuesday 24th June in Liverpool. Numbers were much lower than in previous years - only nine present. The police were co-operative and the inspector in charge was sympathetic to our cause. Unfortunately orders had come from above, and we had to stand some way from the entrance. All involved on the day thought it was worthwhile doing. However numbers will need to improve if this continues to be part of F.A.C.T.'s calendar. We are very grateful to those who were able to be present on this occasion.

Happy birthday

Frank June 27th

Keith July 30th

Kevin August 7th

Allan October 1st

Keith October 2nd

Brian October 22nd

A union rep, checking on a farmer thought to have been underpaying his employees, was being introduced to the hands. "This is young Clive" said the farmer, he drives the hand cart and gets two hundred pounds a week and a room and board. Clive's colleague Millie here, keeps house and averages a hundred and fifty pounds a week with a room and board. That's fair said the rep. O.K. anyone else? Yeah, the half wit. He slogs seventy hours a week for a notional twelve pounds with room and board. "Aha" said the rep "I'd like to speak to that man". "You're talking to him right now", said the farmer!!

Forthcoming Dates

AGM/ Conference

The F.A.C.T. AGM and Conference will take place in Birmingham on Saturday 6th September. The AGM will start at 10:50 prompt and will be immediately followed by our conference.

Christmas Do

Our Christmas Do will take place in Birmingham on 29th November. As this is a sit down 'do' places are limited. Preference will be given to those who have been in prison or whose loved ones are still in prison. For further information contact Joy.



Dear FACT,

In November 2004 I was suspended from my post as a teacher in a secondary (community) school following adverse comments on my CRB disclosure. These comments related to the fact that some 17 years ago I was found not

guilty of indecent assault on two people, a fact that I had made known to the headteacher at the time of application. The Local Authority, as my employer, insisted the school carried out a risk assessment based on the CRB information. This was undertaken by the NSPCC, following which disciplinary proceedings were instituted by the school at the behest of the Local Authority. After careful examination of the facts at a hearing in 2006, a Panel of three school governors agreed that the risk assessment was flawed, that I did not pose a risk to children and that I could return to work.

The Local Authority accepted that the Panel of governors had followed a fair procedure but disagreed with its decision. The Local Authority suspended the governors' personnel function and assumed control of the employment of all staff at the school. I was again suspended, without any new evidence or information. Following another investigation, a new hearing took place which lasted 8 days. Today (4 years after the original suspension and 2 years after the second suspension) I have been told that the second hearing has also concluded that I do not pose a risk to children and the original decision to reinstate me was correct.

As you can imagine the past 4 years have been very stressful and have involved hours and hours of research, writing and enquiries. I know I could not have achieved this result without the help, skill and dedication of both my NUT representative and the national secretary of FACT. Together they have worked tirelessly on my behalf. I would like to thank both of them for all their hard work. I would particularly like to thank FACT for being there, for manning its helpline and for its understanding of the issues involved. I hope that my case will encourage others to appreciate the value of trade unions working in partnership with FACT and the excellence of FACT's advice and representation service.

A very satisfied teacher (Name withheld)

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Clarke and Hartland have successfully defended a number of cases where allegations have been made against carers, teachers, and other professionals.

Dear Fact

I have recently left prison after serving 6 months of a 12 months sentence for indecently assaulting a child who attended a sports group I ran. Needless to say the offence for which I was found guilty did not take place. Shortly after leaving prison I received a renewal notice from my insurance company for my building and contents home insurance. When I told them I had just left prison they referred me to the underwriters and my premium was increased by 136%.

I have been told that other prisoners have had similar experiences. I feel I am being punished twice and for being honest with them.

Does Fact know of any firms that specialise in providing insurance for professionals like myself who had the misfortune to be imprisoned.

Yours sincerely

(Name withheld)

See article on page 4

Dear F.A.C.T.

Would you please convey very grateful thanks to all those who supported Freda and I over the last three months? I received nearly one hundred cards from various people. I can assure you that everyone's card was gratefully received. I have been home now for about four weeks and am slowly but surely getting back to some kind of

normality. Of course, my family visited me at least once every day while I was in hospital and they, and all the other visitors who came to see me, made my stay there bearable. I have been to a session of physiotherapy this morning and have various exercises to do every day - of course, I have my own task-master here to keep me on the straight and narrow!

Please convey my gratitude to all those who supported us in any way.

My wishes for a very successful meeting.

All the best, Bob (Douthwaite)

Bob went into hospital in March for routine knee surgery. Complications developed and he had a stroke. He was in a coma for some time but has now been home for almost three months and continues to make steady progress. We wish him a full recovery.

Dear FACT

May I take this opportunity to thank FACT members for their prayers and support, during the past few years. I know it meant a lot to Harry and to my mother that he received so much support especially when he was in prison, and at Christmas time and on his birthdays. Harry was a wonderful brother and much loved by his family. He was, as we have been, very touched by the support of so many people in FACT who believed in his innocence. As you know it was my wish that FACT should be at his side on his last journey. I would also like to thank the Committee for their kindness in sending flowers to my mother recently.

With grateful thanks, Marion Cowper

Dear Faction,

As you will be aware Harry Dickson died suddenly at home a few weeks ago.

I would like to take the opportunity through FACTION to express my deep gratitude to Michael and all FACT members for the kindness, support and understanding given during these past few difficult years to my dearest friend Harry.

During the times of his most deepest despair both in prison and at home following his successful appeal, Harry was able to gain strength and the ability to carry on fighting his case. It was due to the knowledge that he was not alone and that others understood what he was going through as they themselves had similarly suffered.

At this moment in time I feel great anger and bitterness, not just against the person that made the false allegations but also toward our legal system that cruelly fails so many so badly, in Harry's case even up to his death.

Harry believed in FACT and all it stands for, he thought of you all as his friends.

It is sadly too late for him to be vindicated but let us hope and pray others will be more fortunate.

Lastly I would like to mention Mr Chris Saltrese who worked so tirelessly and diligently to obtain Harry's appeal. He was held in great regard. Harry's own words were "I could not have better legal representation". Thank you Mr Saltrese. Because of you Harry was living at home and looking forward to a brighter future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference in September.

Yours sincerely, Una Parker

Dear FACT

I would like to thank FACT for all the support you have given over the past two years, both physically, intellectually and emotionally.

I have received a letter from the Secretary of State saying that the allegation made against me is unsubstantiated and that my name will not be placed on List 99, POVA or POCAL.

Having had to deal with Authorities, Social Workers, those at DCSF and the local safeguarding boards, it was a relief to find such a genuinely caring

organisation, trying to redress the balance in the ridiculous climate that is UK Child Protection Legislation.

The Secretary of State advises me to "avoid situations where an allegation could be made". With the inception of the ISA next October 2009, it will be even easier for "those in power" to instigate "investigations" on spurious "allegations" that can have any number of agendas, hidden or otherwise.

Although I firmly believe that the needs of children are paramount - there does seem to be a disproportionate belief that every worker is therefore in the wrong.

Had I been a terrorist, I could have been detained for 42 days; had I committed robbery, I would have been arrested and bailed; my 'crime' was to intervene in a confusing situation with no support from the "authority", and suffer 2 years of "institutional abuse".

As you can imagine the stress generated by this saga has been immense, the process confusing, and the support you have shown has been constant and genuine. The range of emotions cannot be described.

For this, there is no compensation, only a hope that the work of FACT and other support networks can put real pressure onto decision makers within Local and National Government. I urge those nameless, faceless individuals to remember that when enthusiasm and good will are eroded, there is little left but a distrust in the British legal system, in Authorities and the Child Protection arena that seem to sit outside of the Law.

Thank you once again for all support, for being there and for the work you do.

Yours (Name withheld)



We begin our review of the F.A.C.T. website with a posting on 12th June which draws attention to a letter sent to the Islington Tribune by a F.A.C.T. member in response to a local debate about problems in recruiting volunteers. It makes clear that in order to ensure that sufficient volunteers come forward to help vulnerable children, the system must change so it is accepted that false allegations of child abuse actually happen and that volunteer carers, particularly male carers, are not demonised and their lives destroyed because they wanted to do something to help these children. This letter provides a good example of how F.A.C.T. members can influence thinking in their own areas by responding to press interest in relevant subject areas.

The issue of volunteer recruitment was also very much in the mind of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. They have teamed up with the University of Derby to launch research looking at why men are not attracted to working in childcare.

On a more disturbing note there is a great deal of comment regarding criticism in the press of news that a specialist firm of compensation solicitors (Beresfords) banked a personal profit of more than £30 million from the government funded miners compensation scheme. Also posted on the F.A.C.T. web site in June is news that in America more than 200 wrongly convicted people have now been cleared of their offence as a result of new DNA evidence. Somewhat paradoxically the Essex police in England have just announced that figures for 2007 reveal that there was a marked reduction in the number of false allegations of sexual assault to seven. This compares to a figure of eleven in 2002 which represented about one third of the reported cases.

Throughout the summer there have been several media led reports drawing attention to the secret nature of Family Courts. There have been some very effective campaigns in the Sun and in the Times Newspaper. This led one senior Judge, Mr Justice Ryder to attack the present system of family courts run by a "self-selecting great and good and a professional judiciary" as out of tune with society.

In July, following publicity regarding John Pinnington's case (see front page) several media outlets gave considerable space to practice of the police recording soft intelligence on an individual's 'criminal record' and being shared with prospective employers.

In a very timely move CIVITAS, an independent think tank, blamed the government's increasing reliance on "anti-paedophile" criminal record checks for making UK adults scared to have any contact with other people's children. In their report "Licensed to Hug", CIVITAS claimed the checks have driven suspicion of all adults, which has led in turn to a breakdown of communities. They argued that people were afraid to tell off or even talk to misbehaving children, and that adults have become "deskilled" in dealing with younger generations.

Hot on the heels of this story was a report in the Daily Telegraph (5th July) by Christopher Hope that hundreds of people have been wrongly branded as criminals by the Criminal Records Bureau. This story was also taken up by another think tank (The Register) who argued that the Governments figures simply do not add up.

Postings for August began with the news that the Supreme Court in Washington have ruled that the identities of public school teachers who face unsubstantiated allegations of sexual misconduct can be kept secret to protect the educators' privacy.

Not surprisingly considerable media attention was given the decision to award the man who was wrongly accused of murdering Rachel Nickell in London in 1992 £706,000 in compensation.

In an interesting development almost a quarter of teachers said they were worried about "hidden" surveillance cameras in their schools, according to research published by a teachers union, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

The survey of nearly 250 primary and secondary school teachers found that 84.6 per cent have closed-circuit television (CCTV) in their school and although more than half said it made them feel safer, 23.4 per cent were concerned about cameras hidden in school buildings.

Considerable attention is also given to the issues arising from Barry George being cleared of killing TV presenter Jill Dando. In what has echoes in many F.A.C.T. cases his solicitor warned that huge publicity can distort investigations into high-profile cases.

Later postings also drew attention to an extraordinary story of a Tory parliamentary candidate who bombarded his political rivals with hate mail, and wrongly accused one of them of paedophilia.

There is also the encouraging news that in Ireland a Christian Brother has been acquitted, by direction of Judge Tony Hunt, of sexually assaulting boys 40 years ago in a Galway industrial school. The judge withdrew all 35 charges from the jury on day 11 of the trial at

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. His decision to direct that not guilty verdicts be returned on all the charges came following submissions by defence counsel, Mr Hugh Hartnett SC (with Mr Philip Rhan BL).

There is also news from Australia that Tom Easling is calling for a Royal Commission into the handling of his case. There has been a great deal of media attention in the case which has resulted in Stephen Pallaras, Director of Public Prosecutions demanding the right of reply to some of the accusation made by Mr Easling. In one television interview Mr Pallaras was clearly rattled, and compounded the problem by making denials in the face of evidence to the contrary.

Back in England a grieving mother says the inclusion of her innocent son's genetic details on the DNA national database, after a woman at a train station falsely accused him of flashing, drove him to suicide.

Robert Chong was arrested by an off-duty policeman at Waterloo station in May, handcuffed, held and forced to provide a DNA sample, after the woman – who subsequently disappeared, and whom police acknowledge was a problem complainer – accused him of exposing himself to her. A cursory check of CCTV tapes would have proved his innocence, and that his only interaction with the woman was when she swore at him on the station concourse.

He was released on police bail with an instruction to return in July. The police said they sent him a letter telling him they were dropping the case – but it never arrived. He became moody and distant. "He wasn't eating, he wasn't sleeping," said his mother, Josephine. "He told me: 'I'm on the criminal database now, I have got a record'. He said it was for life. He wasn't a criminal. Now I want him taken off the database."

In a now familiar story a forty six year old man has had his conviction for an attack on a 13-year-old girl in December 2004 quashed by the Court of Appeal in London.

Following his conviction he was jailed for one year following at Warrington Crown Court and made to sign the sex offenders register for 10 years. but after a marathon legal battle he has cleared his name.

The Crown Prosecution Service did not offer any evidence after his legal team, led by John Banasko, presented new evidence before the court.

The court heard that the 13-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had made up false rape allegations before and made one just months after those she made against this man.

In another Essex case a woman was jailed after her false claim of rape resulted in an innocent stranger being arrested. She had invented a story that she had been sexually assaulted in an attempt to make her family feel guilty following an argument.

She later contacted the police to admit the allegations were false.

Sentencing 26-year-old Saunders to a year in prison after she pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice, Judge Michael Brooke said 'it was something she brought on herself'.

'She is not a baby, she could have said at any time it was not true and she had been hysterical,' he added.

The judge also said that the accused had been put through an unnecessary ordeal.

The false claims not only deprived him of his liberty, but cost the police £4,500 in wasted time, Basildon Crown Court in Essex heard.

Judge Brooke said: 'A total stranger found himself locked up for 22 hours having samples taken, he was interviewed under caution and accused of the most serious of crimes - stranger rape in a public place. He must have passed an absolutely ghastly time.

In mitigation, her lawyer said she was 'emotionally immature' and the lies were a 'kneejerk reaction to get attention from her family' which spiralled out of control.

F.A.C.T. Helpline 02920 777 499

The F.A.C.T. helpline is normally open from 9:30am to 12:30pm and 7:30pm to 9:30pm Mondays to Fridays, and on occasional Saturday mornings. It is not open Bank Holidays.