

Police said I would not go to court, says student falsely accused of rape

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-said-i-would-not-go-to-court-says-student-falsely-accused-of-rape-kpqwdo83d>

John Simpson, Crime Correspondent

December 18 2017, 12:01am, The Times



Liam Allan with friends at Croydon Crown Court where all charges were dropped
BEN GURR/TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD

A student wrongly charged with rape despite police holding evidence that would clear his name says he was assured by an officer that he would not be charged.

Liam Allan, 22, spent two years on bail before the trial in which he was accused of repeatedly raping a former girlfriend collapsed at the eleventh hour last week.

Mr Allan has confirmed that he will look to sue both Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service for failures to disclose crucial messages sent by his accuser, including one in which she told a friend the sex “wasn’t against my will or anything”.

The officer in charge of the case, Detective Constable Mark Azariah, had not reviewed the material taken from the complainant’s phone, according to the prosecution.

“He [Mr Azariah] told me there wasn’t enough evidence to charge me, and then 14 months later said I was going to be charged,” Mr Allan told *The Times* after his case collapsed at Croydon crown court on Thursday. “He didn’t explain why they had changed their mind. He said initially said there was not enough in what [the woman] said.

“It appeared to me that they thought I was guilty because I could not prove that I was innocent. I was waiting for them to interview my mum and my friends.”

Mr Allan, who is reading criminology at Greenwich University, said yesterday that he did not want Mr Azariah to become a scapegoat for the failings in his case. He had been warned that he faced at least ten years in prison if found guilty of six rapes and six sexual assaults against the young woman, who told police she did not enjoy sex.

Messages among the 40,000 uncovered when Jerry Hayes, the former Tory MP for Harlow in Essex, took over the case, showed the victim telling friends how much she had enjoyed sex with Mr Allan and discussing rape fantasies. "It was the police's job to collect the evidence, not the prosecution or defence," Mr Allan added. "I thought there was going to be a proper investigation but nothing seemed to happen and then they said they were going to charge me."

His mother, Lorraine Allan, 46, said she was dismayed by the police handling of the investigation. "When he first had to go to the police station we waited for two hours and were then told the police officer was not in that day," she said. "For all the 14 months he was on bail nothing seemed to happen. There didn't seem to be any investigation. I was waiting to be questioned but nobody asked me. We assumed they had decided there wasn't a case and then suddenly Liam was charged."

The Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service have begun investigations into the failings.

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Alan R MacKenzie Dec 18, 2017

I await a statement from Alison Saunders explaining that Liam Allan 'got off with it' because there was insufficient evidence rather than he was innocent.

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John Austin Dec 18, 2017

Why hasn't the vindictive liar been charged yet? How long will it take? Another 2 years? If ever?

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Peter O'Toole Dec 18, 2017

"Heaven hath no wrath like love to hatred turn'd.

Nor Hell a fury like a woman scorned"

This venomous erstwhile "victim" has stuck to her story for the best part two years, and now the police are considering investigating her for attempting to pervert the course of justice ????

Surely that doesn't even begin to cover it.

Is there no law or charge pertaining to malicious prosecution?

Maybe I'm being a tad harsh here, but if convicted, her sentence must surely reflect that which HER victim would have received had she not been found out.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 18, 2017

@Peter O'Toole Yes.

Flag

RecommendReply

robert everitt Dec 18, 2017

It is the last paragraph that is the one to be focused on. The Met and the CPS have begun the long-grass, drawn-out covering of their backsides.

How do we know this? If there were any precedent for people being held responsible, having regard for the casual, almost malicious, treatment of this man then I propose that investigation and prosecution would be more reliable procedures.

Neither the Police nor the prosecutors should be able to avoid proper censure, even down to the individuals involved.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Ruth Ramsden Dec 18, 2017

He had been warned that he faced at least ten years in prison if found guilty of six rapes and six sexual assaults against the young woman, who told police she did not enjoy sex.

There is a yawning void between 'not enjoying sex' and rape. Looking around at the cultural hysteria that currently surrounds harassment, assault and rape, you might be forgiven for thinking that the definition of the latter had shifted to include any act that one participant later regretted.

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7RecommendReply

Richard Stout Dec 18, 2017

@Ruth Ramsden

The hysteria over rape, sexual assault and the politically engineered definitions are the core problem here.

In order to inflate "rape" and related sexual assault statistics, the definitions have been broadened from that of a nasty and brutish intrusion, to feeling social pressures to engage in sex, poor judgement or merely regretting the drunken debauchery of the night before.

Armed with such absurd definitions, feminist activists can now claim an alarming percentage of women are raped or assaulted without any legal consequence or conviction. (Using the same diluted definitions most men have also have been "raped" or assaulted, but such logic and balance is ignored in the rush to punish men for the perceived sins of their fathers).

Responding to the managed hysteria over the inflated frequency of "rape" and sexual assault incidents, prosecutors now have performance indicators that can be achieved only by assuming the complainant is a "victim" and the man assumed guilty unless proven otherwise (in which case the exculpatory evidence may be ignored). The "victim" must be believed.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Mr T R Butchard Dec 18, 2017

The accuser should be tried and incarcerated. The accused should sue the police and slam them for a huge settlement. The CPS should be disbanded in its present form as 'not fit for purpose'.

Flag

7RecommendReply

David Charnley Dec 18, 2017

@Mr T R Butchard 'The accuser should be tried and incarcerated'.

No point in wasting time, effort and money on a trial then. I think that sort of reasoning by the prosecution is what caused the problem in the first place.

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5RecommendReply

Michael Doughty Dec 18, 2017

OK - the accuser should be put on trial. There looks to be plenty of evidence to support such a move.

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Arturo Costantino Dec 18, 2017

When exactly is Saunders going to be fired?

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5RecommendReply

David Harris Dec 18, 2017

Once again, the accused, later found to be innocent was named, the accuser, later to be proven to be a vindictive liar, walks free. British Justice? it's a joke. In Mr Allan's case, as in all of the others, some mud sticks.

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27RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 18, 2017

@David Harris Agreed, David. I am sure the name will come out and the sooner the better. There must be many who know it.

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4RecommendReply

Vicuna Dec 18, 2017

@David Harris

The accuser is being investigated. It is too early to say that she has gone free.

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3RecommendReply

Harold Hare Dec 18, 2017

I don't understand how they got 3 days into the trial before anyone realised that there was evidence that needed to be handed over. Why didn't the Defence raise it with the Prosecution on the first day of trial?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Donald Morrison Dec 18, 2017

@Harold Hare I read, I think in Libby Purves' article, that they had asked but their request had been refused because they were "too personal and not relevant".

Flag

14RecommendReply

Thersites Dec 18, 2017

@Donald Morrison @Harold Hare Usual smokescreen tactic. The Data Protection Act has a lot to answer for.

Flag

3RecommendReply

richard jarman Dec 18, 2017

Typical

Typical - police locally have told me offences under S3 of the Theft Act are not worth their while...(simple theft)... in other words they choose what they bother with in each case....why pay tax then?

Flag

3RecommendReply

onlyfair Dec 18, 2017

In the context of the supposedly unjustifiably low conviction rate in rape cases, I do hope that this case is not included in those statistics. Since it is now clear that there was no rape here, it would be utterly outrageous if the acquittal in this case (and any similar cases) were used as evidence said to support that argument.

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10RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 18, 2017

"showed the victim telling friends how much she had enjoyed sex with Mr Allan"

The "victim"?

Flag

30RecommendReply

lancsmarsbar Dec 18, 2017

@Attrix Quite, I would say Mr.Allan was the victim here.

Flag

5RecommendReply

David Stewart Dec 18, 2017

Mr Allan, who is reading criminology at Greenwich University, said yesterday that he did not want Mr Azariah to become a scapegoat for the failings in his case. I wouldn't be so generous in his position. I'd be calling for sackings left right and centre.

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14RecommendReply

David Shipley Dec 18, 2017

Note to editor: can you please stop calling this malicious woman the victim. The victim in this case is Mr Allan.

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69RecommendReply

Sherman Dec 18, 2017

"Police said I would not go to court" - The present day police force is, sadly, based on targets. So believing the police is the same as believing a politician....

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19RecommendReply

Mike Otter Dec 18, 2017

media piffle - without a legal system how can any victim of rape get justice and how can any falsely accused

escape malicious prosecution unless they get lucky - ie intervention by MP or other member of the "elite" . I realise its liberal orthodoxy to say all men are rapists but didn't someone from your own culture once say "all bitches ain't hos"??

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2RecommendReply

Mel Morris Dec 18, 2017

@Mike Otter it is not liberal orthodoxy to say all men are rapists. Just typing it out, doesn't make it so.

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2RecommendReply

Mr Chris Walker Dec 18, 2017

I just hope he doesn't become too keen eyed on the substantial compensation he deserves (and will receive) and packs in his studies. The girl in question needs to be prosecuted now and given a prison term to deter other people following suite.

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29RecommendReply

Michael Underwood Dec 18, 2017

A young man should refuse to go out with an unmarried lady without a chaperone. - ?????

How else to get a witness statement?

Something seems a bit out of date, perhaps, particularly the freedom we enjoyed after the war, no longer viable.

I cannot imagine a better way of causing distrust of women.

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2RecommendReply

brian wright Dec 18, 2017

Of course the world should be made safer for women, but this should not mean tilting the balance against innocent men.

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17RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 18, 2017

"he did not want Mr Azariah to become a scapegoat for the failings in his case."

He would not be a "scapegoat"

He is the "Officer in charge of the case" and therefore accountable for it.

Scapegoat and "officer in charge" are not synonyms

Flag

35RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Dec 18, 2017

@Attrix While absolutely true, we don't know what other work he was given, whether a senior officer told him to cut corners, or what. He's a DC, he must have been reporting higher up. If he is simply a lazy so-and-so, fair enough, he should be accountable - but if what we've read recently is true, and this kind of thing is happening all over the country, the system is failing both the officers and the public. It would be too easy to just concentrate on the failings of one man, and punish him whilst leaving an inadequate system in place to do the same to others.

That, it seems to me, is the difference.

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17RecommendReply

Attrix Dec 18, 2017

@Bernadette Bowles @Attrix And I totally agree with you Bernadette. But somebody has to be held accountable, and if it was a senior officer who told him to cut corners then that officer is held to account.

If nobody is held to account, then the police force is a waste of time and money; and that would lead to anarchy.

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6RecommendReply

Angela Barratt Dec 18, 2017

@Bernadette Bowles @Attrix

This is true. The police are hard-pressed and carry heavy case-loads. The faults are endemic within the system, and should not necessarily be ascribed to a single officer. The police force as a body is accountable for its procedures. And let us not forget that this situation would not have arisen at all were it not for the malicious and unfounded accusations of Mr Allan's former girlfriend.

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2RecommendReply

C J Delmege Dec 18, 2017

Apart from the obvious, the other big problem revealed (yet again) is the grindingly slow process of the Justice system. People's lives are on hold for years for cases which need only a few man hours to resolve.

Ben Stokes' case is another simple example. Will his career be on hold for 2 years as well? And what if no charges are brought ?

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15RecommendReply

William Isaac Dec 18, 2017

The copper in charge of this case is a Detective constable which I guess will mean his bosses are already preparing to sacrifice him..Dead man walking.

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6RecommendReply

Saint John Dec 18, 2017

@William Isaac

He will have taken instructions from his Sergeant.

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3RecommendReply

William Isaac Dec 18, 2017

@Saint John @William Isaac Who will have taken instructions from his Inspector, and so on. The point is success has many fathers, failure is an orphan. Just watch how this pans out.

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12 RecommendReply
Sherman Dec 18, 2017

@William Isaac - The norm is if any police personnel are facing charges, they are offered "early retirement".

Flag

2 RecommendReply
charles hughes Dec 18, 2017

@Sherman @William Isaac which should be banned, a police officer or any civil servant should not be allowed to take early retirement when a charge is in the offing. it has been used too many times to avoid liability and to secure the pension before it is challenged, or if they do retire they should realise that nothing is settled or protected until 10 years after retirement.

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5 RecommendReply
Peter Hurley Dec 18, 2017

AS the old saying goes, 'Hell hath no fury...', but to make a charge of rape and push it to the point that a guy could have been sent down for 12 years just for dumping you is at least 9 bunnies on the bunny-boiler scale...

Flag

17 RecommendReply
Liam O'Sullivan Dec 18, 2017

9! What do you would she have to have done for 10 bunnies!

Flag

RecommendReply
Peter Hurley Dec 18, 2017

@Liam O'Sullivan She'd have to still trying to press charges in the face of obvious evidence of innocence for a perfect 10...

Flag

1 RecommendReply
Anip Dec 18, 2017

There are two women at the centre of this latest miscarriage of justice involving young men and women and sexual activity.

The one who needs to be sacked immediately is Alison Saunders (what does she have against men I ask myself?) and the other needs to be prosecuted for everything possible - the unhinged one alleging rape after being rejected.

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43 RecommendReply
charles hughes Dec 18, 2017

@Anip Why is her name not in the public realm? she was a cynical manipulative fraudster not the victim of any sexual assault so there is no basis to withhold her name and photograph.

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12 RecommendReply
Foreversideways Dec 18, 2017

He doesn't want him to be a scapegoat, I would want him hung drawn and quartered.

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7 RecommendReply
Anip Dec 18, 2017

@Foreversideways Along with his superiors and the CPS and Alison Saunders.

Flag

23RecommendReply

Stephen Ellis Dec 18, 2017

@Anip @Foreversideways And don't forget the evil, perverted woman who started it all, under cover of anonymity, of course.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Bishop Jonathan Blake Dec 18, 2017

I hope this young man uses all his skill and his devastating experience to sue the police and the CPS, expose them and hold them absolutely to account, giving them not an inch of wriggle room. He has the youth, the knowledge and the horrific motivation, that the present system almost destroyed his life, to ensure the present catastrophic delivery of law and order is comprehensively reformed.

Flag

25RecommendReply

Lily Dec 18, 2017

Women who falsely claim to have been raped (& there seems to be an increasing number of them) should be punished under the law. Not only have they ruined a man's life but they make a genuine rape victim's claims less likely to be believed or acted upon.

They also provide ammunition for the 'must have been asking for it' rape apologist brigade.

Flag

43RecommendReply

Howard M Dec 18, 2017

Hope he gets a ton of money and the flawed system of men are instantly guilty in the biased lazy view of PC Plod and the CPS is exposed.

Flag

10RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Dec 18, 2017

@Howard M I hope this leads to any changes necessary being made to the whole system. Starting with the assumption that anyone is telling the truth. Certainly the police should listen sympathetically to anyone complaining of a sexual crime - but they must also remember that their job is to uncover evidence, not to prejudge the case by believing either side in any accusation.

Flag

7RecommendReply

Alan Harris Dec 18, 2017

We need a change in the law. I know that there are many who wish to make it easier for victims to come forward but that must not mean that we can accept victim's statements without the need to provide proof beyond reasonable doubt. Sorry ladies equality means equality under the law.

In the 1970's some of us could see the difficulties of legal action over a situation where there are only two partners involved. In 2017 it is no easier except that the powers that be have changed the rules of proof in favour of the "victims". This change needs to be removed proof must mean proof.

Flag

9RecommendReply

Graeme Harrison Dec 18, 2017

Given that all prosecutions will result in a not guilty verdict unless the jury is satisfied so that it is sure of the accused's guilt, I'm not sure what changes you're demanding or what you mean about the rules of evidence having been changed. Is that you think someone who's raped without an audience should just accept it?

Flag

1RecommendReply

Bernadette Bowles Dec 18, 2017

@Graeme Harrison No charges should be brought without evidence. If someone complains of theft, for example, the police will want to satisfy themselves that the stolen items did actually exist, and are no longer in the possession of the complainant - in case of insurance fraud - and will then need to tie the items in some way to the suspect. Only if they are sure that the complaint is true, and that they have evidence that a particular person was in possession of the stolen goods with no provable alternative explanation will they send the case to the CPS to make a judgement on prosecution.

In too many sexual cases, the only evidence is the word of one person against another, especially where both parties agree that sex took place but one claims it was consensual, or in cases so old that there is no possibility of evidence remaining. In no other type of crime would prosecution even be considered. There is no reason to treat sexual crimes any differently from any other - it is highly dangerous to do so, undermining the whole assumption of innocent until proven guilty which has underlain our justice system for centuries.

Plus, given that the accuser is anonymous in such cases and the accused is not, that in itself frequently ruins lives unjustly. Even if the accused is found not guilty, far too many people assume that he has something dodgy about him - and the very fact of the prosecution has prevented people from working with the vulnerable, and even being denied access to their children despite a not guilty verdict - social services tend to refuse to believe not guilty verdicts unless forced to by the courts. A lot of the damage has been done before a trial even starts; and do you really believe that no-one is convicted wrongly? Had this illegally suppressed evidence not been found, it is very likely the young man would have been convicted.

As a man, you are very vulnerable to false accusation these days, I'm afraid - and, despite the law, you would be forced to try to prove your innocence. You might want to think how you would feel if everyone you knew believed you a rapist for 2 years before you could even try to reclaim your good name.

Flag

5RecommendReply

Mel Morris Dec 18, 2017

@Bernadette Bowles @Graeme Harrison well in your scenario women would never get a rape conviction as it's not common for rapists to perform their heinous attacks with an audience?

Flag

RecommendReply

Alan Harris Dec 18, 2017

@Graeme Harrison

The fact that police are obliged to accept the "victim's" allegation immediately puts the accused at a major disadvantage. The police should instead apply some common sense and judgement as to the reliability of the victim's statement.

I entirely take your point about the lack of an audience. That was always going to be a problem. The answer is not to immediately bias the understanding of events in favour of the "victim".

The case of a full rape with penetration often has forensic evidence which can be brought to bear but there are cases where there is no way to decide beyond doubt. However difficult that may be, one cannot start from the assumption that one party, the victim, is always telling the truth.

Flag

RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 18, 2017

What %age of the pursuing Heath budget would have had to be reallocated to pay an officer to look through the phone records?

Flag

12RecommendReply

Ros from Wareham Dec 18, 2017

It may well be that DC Azariah was over-ruled by a superior who was focused on targets

Flag

10RecommendReply

Prabhat Dec 18, 2017

@Ros from Wareham Or the CPS.

Flag

6RecommendReply

Lucy's dad Dec 18, 2017

@Ros from Wareham

Or he just needed a successful case to keep his figures up.

If a senior officer did influence this case he/she needs disciplining for not making sure all the evidence had been handed over.

Flag

2RecommendReply

Sam Day Dec 18, 2017

Perhaps if the police were instructed to pursue real crimes with provable evidence then these 'miscarriages' of justice would decline. If someone feels that the way I have looked at them or the manner I used to talk to them made them feel anxious or threatened, no matter what, there is no crime committed.

If two consenting adults go into a bedroom on their own, take their clothes off and jump into bed unless there is actual physical assault, whatever happens next it is not a crime. When they repeat this activity at least six times then the complainant should be investigated first.

Hanging someone out on bail for two years and endlessly trying to persuade him or her into pleading guilty, particularly with no real evidence other than the say so of the complainant, is coercion.

Trying to 'improve' our society using politically correct mechanisms is highly unsatisfactory, very subjective and indeed ultimately damaging to our whole justice system. I am no lawyer, but to me a crime is a wilful act or acts by a person for unlawful gain or malice. The justice system should not be used to redress the feelings of someone who gets dumped or wakes up in the morning with a grim hangover and partner. Nor is it there to coerce the populace into a bland outlook on life and others for fear of being accused of a hate crime.

Flag

48RecommendReply

Newminster Dec 18, 2017

Sam Day —

I agree and would add just one point. It's not up to anyone — government, police, the law — to "improve" society except in the relatively limited areas of creating a "level playing field" in terms of rights, access to all public services, and maintaining good order.

Efforts to reduce the number of genuine cases of rape or serious sexual assault, especially where some aspect of "power" is involved, are in; efforts to address a perceived problem by assuming the complainant is telling the truth mainly with a view to improving the conviction rate is out.

And it is a good idea for the law and politicians (and above all "social justice" activists!) to keep their views out of human relationships. There will always be boors and there will always be men (oh, yes! and women) who "try it on". Criminalising them or demonising them on social media or any other media is not going to solve a "problem" that we haven't solved in several thousand years!

Flag

7RecommendReply

Mrs Ruth Bruce Dec 18, 2017

@Sam Day

If two consenting adults go into a bedroom on their own, take their clothes off and jump into bed unless there is actual physical assault, whatever happens next it is not a crime. When they repeat this activity at least six times then the complainant should be investigated first.

It is a shame that something so obvious needed saying.

Flag

23RecommendReply
Saint John Dec 18, 2017
@Mrs Ruth Bruce @Sam Day

It actually ought to be a reasonable defence

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4RecommendReply
Graeme Harrison Dec 18, 2017

It's a shame that it apparently needs saying that a previous sexual relationship doesn't entitle a man to rape someone.

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1RecommendReply
Bar Tennent Dec 18, 2017
Girls often fib

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7RecommendReply
Chris Huckle Dec 18, 2017
They fake it with you too then....?

Flag

9RecommendReply
Bar Tennent Dec 18, 2017
Wonderful story. His accuser should be charged with lies

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15RecommendReply
cabbie Dec 18, 2017

Mr. Allan had been warned he faces 10 years in prison. DC Mark Azariah allegedly hadn't even reviewed the material from the material from the woman's phone and yet Mr. Allan doesn't want the DC to be a scapegoat.

1. Mr Allan seems a thoroughly decent bloke.

2. The DC needs to be sacked immediately. No review necessary. He's not fit for the job.

3 The woman (SHE'S NOT A VICTIM) should be charged and then banged up as a warning to others.

Flag

64RecommendReply
Simon57 Dec 18, 2017

@cabbie It seems unwise at this stage to jump to the conclusion that the problems with the police begin and end with that particular constable.

Flag

9RecommendReply
Saint John Dec 18, 2017
@cabbie

That constable has bosses and they instruct him . He doesnt make these decisions .

2RecommendReply
Thersites Dec 18, 2017
@Saint John @cabbie Nuremberg defence, anyone? "I was only following orders!"

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RecommendReply
Michael Fisher Dec 18, 2017
"It appeared to me that they thought I was guilty because I could not prove that I was innocent"

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Is this the new 'justice' that is demanded to be able to improve conviction rates?

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45RecommendReply
Graeme Harrison Dec 18, 2017
No.

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RecommendReply
Thersites Dec 18, 2017
@Michael Fisher That's the Napoleonic Code: this is why I want the UK not to be bound by the decisions of the European Court of Justice.

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1RecommendReply
LuckyJack Dec 18, 2017
It is right that this case should continue to receive coverage and Mr Allen and his family have been amazingly restrained in their response to such an ordeal. The media should be digging much deeper into the real problems afflicting the criminal justice system. The system is not fit for purpose from beginning to end. Police are ignoring many offences completely and in too many cases investigating in a slipshod and incompetent manner. The number of reported rape cases has doubled since 2011 and sexual offences overall are now at just under 130,000. This has a huge impact given that investigative resources including forensic submissions are budget limited. It will inevitably lead to the less able or poorly trained investigators cutting corners. There is also clearly an absence of leadership and meaningful supervision, Miscarriages occur both when the innocent are accused and when the guilty escape justice, unfortunately I fear both are increasing common in the current climate.

Flag

14RecommendReply
PETER BEAUMONT Dec 18, 2017
I have not seen any comments on how friends were told on Facebook that there was no rape but nobody came forward to point this out. Is our society so sick that alleging rape when it didn't happen is now acceptable?

Flag

32RecommendReply
Simon57 Dec 18, 2017
@PETER BEAUMONT I am inclined to agree with you but, as the accusing woman was anonymous, it might not have been clear that her on-line comments related to the prosecution of this particular young man, or to any actual prosecution.

Flag

3RecommendReply
chris edwards Dec 18, 2017
@PETER BEAUMONT
I hadn't realised that this was posted on Facebook. If it was, then wouldn't Mr Allen have been able to see the posts?

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RecommendReply
Graeme Harrison Dec 18, 2017
Not if it was a private message or the complainant's privacy settings prevented the accused from reading her posts.

Flag

2RecommendReply
chris edwards Dec 18, 2017
@Graeme Harrison I see. Surprising though, if they had been in a relationship for several months, that they would have kept their posts private from each other?

Flag

RecommendReply
Swinley Bottom Dec 18, 2017
@chris edwards @Graeme Harrison
Facebook settings

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RecommendReply
Jeremy Arnold Dec 18, 2017
@chris edwards @Graeme Harrison ... not if she had been playing him along the whole time. Incredible though it may seem to you, not all girls are sugar and spice and all things nice...

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1RecommendReply
Sal Dec 18, 2017
The woman accuser should be charged with perverting the course of justice! She should be named and shamed. This young man's life has been put on hold for 2 years!!!!

Flag

54RecommendReply
Steve Bowles Dec 18, 2017
Sue both organizations into oblivion. The nation will be better off.

Flag

12RecommendReply
Simon57 Dec 18, 2017
@Steve Bowles No, rest assured that the nation will pay, and through the nose.

Flag

RecommendReply
Oliver White Dec 18, 2017
On this point . . . Considering any 'payouts', no matter how deserved, will be covered by us the tax payer shouldn't there be some financial penalty for the civil servants responsible who will almost certainly get a payoff rather than a prosecution to leave the services they are employed by !

Flag

RecommendReply
R Ward Dec 18, 2017
It would be interesting to know how the police came to know about this alleged offence in the first instance. If the lady in question lodged a complaint then she should be charged with attempting to pervert the cause of justice and have the book thrown at her in no uncertain terms.

Flag

42RecommendReply
Steve Bowles Dec 18, 2017
@R Ward Nothing will happen to her. Her identity will continue to be secret, and as she's a woman, no punishment will be forthcoming.

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26RecommendReply
L G Dec 18, 2017

@Steve Bowles @R Ward there have been prosecutions in such cases so I hope she is charged with wasting police time, perverting the course of justice and slander, although that would be a civil case.

Flag

13RecommendReply

Chris Huckle Dec 18, 2017

No those are criminal offences (apart from slander).

Flag

1RecommendReply

L G Dec 18, 2017

@Chris Huckle that's why I used the word charged and I pointed out that slander would be a civil case.

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RecommendReply

Martin R Dec 18, 2017

Any person who is pro naming and shaming publicly people that are accused of rape could you arrange to explain your point of view to Liam and his family.

That is the other side of the argument that you put forward.

Explain to an 100% innocent person why his life should be ruined if it helps guilty people be convicted.

Flag

16RecommendReply

John C. Dec 18, 2017

If this information was knowingly withheld then surely it is a perversion of the course of justice, a chargeable offence.

Flag

33RecommendReply

Simon Shinerock Dec 18, 2017

My experience of dealing with Police has been very poor. In one instance I reported a gang of Asian boys sitting on the steps of our building and harassing and threatening residents, especially women. The Police were dismissive and impotent despite these kids going to the same school, living in the same estate and attending the same youth club nearby they did nothing for years until real acts of criminality took place. I can think of similar instances, to be fair there are a few highlights but very few

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14RecommendReply

Righttorant Dec 18, 2017

The police are running scared.

Rotherham?

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4RecommendReply

Oliver White Dec 18, 2017

I have a shop and reported a known customer for taking something without paying, even though I gave the police the phone number and email of the customer they waited 2 months before asking me if I could help them find her . . Eventually they did and she admitted taking the goods . . A positive and straightforward thing you might think, especially when she said she would be coming in the following day to pay . . Except they then told her that if she didn't they would take no further action and it would be down to me to take civil action ! Needless to say she never came Back. Genius Dorset Police with your 30 million pound new HQ, in replacement for half a dozen local stations that have

closed, that's closed itself from 5.30pm every day and all weekend . . Last time I went there with my kids for a cub visit there was a hand written note on the door saying the entire place was closed due to staff sickness . . WTF is happening to this country !

Flag

9RecommendReply

nicholas mattey Dec 18, 2017

Steven Port murdered four young men. The friends and families of his victims begged the police to examine Ports computer . It's likely that at least two of his victims would be still alive if Ports's life recorded on his computer had been examined early on. Is the cost of trawling through phone records or computer data inhibiting police enquiries ?

Flag

10RecommendReply

Righttorant Dec 18, 2017

If so they just need better software. This sort of task is quite easy in 2017.

Flag

RecommendReply

de Selby Dec 18, 2017

@nicholas mattey

It didn't inhibit the police in Damien Green's case.

Flag

3RecommendReply

Graeme Harrison Dec 18, 2017

The quantity of data involved is frequently vast and analysing it can be time consuming and costly.

Flag

RecommendReply

Ian Chaplin Dec 18, 2017

@Graeme Harrison presumably though this is something that will be done by AI in the future?

Flag

RecommendReply

Jack Jones Dec 18, 2017

The phone records are a red herring.

-

There was clearly NO evidence of any crime. The scandal seems to be about the wrong thing. It's not that he shouldn't have been tried because of these records; he shouldn't have been tried AT ALL.

-

If an accuser has zero evidence to back up their allegation, it should not be for the defence to prove that allegation is untrue. It is for the prosecution to produce EVIDENCE. There was NONE here.

-

This was a clear case of guilty until proven innocent, and the issue of the phone records is a distraction. They prosecuted a man without evidence. Phone records or not, THAT is the scandal.

Flag

103RecommendReply

Gary Beaumont Dec 18, 2017

Bearing in mind the insane pressures police are under from all angles, including swingeing cutbacks, it is a shame that the lowly-ranked police officer has been named before a thorough investigation is carried out. Even the unfortunate accused has sought to not have him used as a scapegoat. However, it does seem that crimes involving sex or race have a different level of 'presumed innocent until proven guilty' applied to them, probably because the police are terrified of upsetting the politicians that run them and who will then run to the media to harangue them publicly.

Flag

20RecommendReply

Postgate's cat Dec 18, 2017

@Gary Beaumont It's even more of a shame that an innocent man was named before a thorough investigation had been carried out.

Flag

34RecommendReply
Simon57 Dec 18, 2017

@Gary Beaumont Although the problem might be confined to the one constable, it seems unlikely.

Flag

3RecommendReply
cabbie Dec 18, 2017

@Gary Beaumont Why is it a shame that a lowly police officer should be named?

Mr. Allan was named and was proved to be completely innocent and never should have been charged. And could, because of the ineptitude of said officer, have gone to prison for 10 years. The officer didn't even review the material so who's fault was it.

The woman (NOT A VICTIM) was not named and she is the only absolute guilty party in this complete fiasco and SHOULD be named.

Flag

6RecommendReply
Martin R Dec 18, 2017

@Jack Jones Ah no you forget. The accused is a man and the crime a rape. Men are perceived in this instance as always guilty until proven innocent and the woman always the 'victim'.

Flag

4RecommendReply
Robert Hughes Dec 18, 2017

Liam Allan finds himself in a rather interesting position. He commands a considerable amount of influence as a result of his mistreatment, is amiable, smart and eloquent.

-

He could work with the police and CPS to achieve meaningful and effective reform.

Flag

19RecommendReply
Brian Burnell Dec 18, 2017

@Robert Hughes
Bullocks!

The police and CPS will use Liam as "cover" to hide their own failings unless there is a real commitment to change. I see no sign of that willingness to change, - indeed having read the guff from the CPS I see precisely the opposite. There will be no change, not even the beginnings of change until Alison Saunders gets her P45

Flag

29RecommendReply
Jason Paul Dec 18, 2017

What's even more frightening than the failure to disclose evidence to the defence, is the fact that had the evidence not been discovered, he would have been dragged through the courts without any evidence, seemingly due to a desire to win some rape cases.

Flag

60RecommendReply
J McGill Dec 18, 2017

Sue the Police, the CPS and the Director of Public Prosecutions for at least a million.

It's tax-payers' money and I'll be glad to see my money be paid over just as long as this useless, ideology-driven DPP is forced to resign and someone, anyone just for once in the CPS and the police gets reprimanded.

I'm not holding my breath as I know with great confidence that none of this will ever happen.

54RecommendReply
WholsThis Dec 18, 2017
I seriously hope that "the victim" is being charged... he should sue her too. Flag

81RecommendReply
David South Ron Dec 18, 2017
I'm glad somebody has raised this. In addition, how bad a reporter do you have to be to fail to cover this very important element in the story one is writing? Flag

26RecommendReply
Wyn Ford Dec 18, 2017
@David South Ron Maybe there is, as yet, nothing to report on what will happen to her. Flag

RecommendReply
This comment has been deleted
Stanley Cohen Dec 18, 2017
@Gary Byrne
-- again Gary -- this time in English please. Flag

1RecommendReply
Gary Byrne Dec 18, 2017
@Stanley Cohen @Gary Byrne I was waiting for someone to pick it up, I was too late to edit. It was very early for me and I had a late night last night with a drop too much wine..... Flag

RecommendReply
Stanley Cohen Dec 18, 2017
@Gary Byrne @Stanley Cohen
OK -- so what **did** you want to say and why wait? Anyway, why not simply delete and re-post? Flag

RecommendReply
Gary Byrne Dec 18, 2017
@Stanley, what's this 20 questions? I think most people get the drift. Flag

RecommendReply
Chris Huckle Dec 18, 2017
So you were too drunk to be able to consent.....? ;-)
Flag

4RecommendReply
Stanley Cohen Dec 18, 2017
@Gary Byrne
I'm sober and I still don't, Gary. Flag

RecommendReply
Gary Byrne Dec 18, 2017
@Stanley Cohen @Gary Byrne deleted, hope you happy now don't want to spoil your day. Flag

RecommendReply
Stanley Cohen Dec 18, 2017
@Gary Byrne @Stanley Cohen

You really are some sort of perverse git, aren't you? All I wanted to know was what your original post meant. But no. You have to indulge yourself and succeed in winding me up -- as though your post may actually have been of any relevance.

Oh well -- I suppose you're our equivalent of Jasper Carrott's 'Nutter on the Bus.'

Flag

5RecommendReply

Gary Byrne Dec 18, 2017

@Stanley Cohen @Gary Byrne Brilliant, best laugh I've had today.....I meant was the copper still in the job, because he shouldn't be, I'll do better next time promise. Anyway I'm always recommending your comments....This is what I get for loyalty.....

Flag

1RecommendReply

Stanley Cohen Dec 18, 2017

@Gary Byrne @Stanley Cohen

What you get for loyalty, Sunshine, is unprejudiced criticism where deserved -- just as I hope to receive it.

Flag

RecommendReply

*Ref.: Police said I would not go to court, says student falsely accused of rape.docx
26/04/2018 10:30*