

# Can we have confidence in our criminal justice system?

The 'Cardiff Newsagent Three' spent over 30 years in prison between them after police coerced a vulnerable suspect into making a false confession for a murder they did not commit.



(Right) The 'Cardiff Newsagent Three':  
Darren Hall, Michael O'Brien & Ellis Sherwood



Reg Dudley & Bob Maynard each served over 20 years of wrongful imprisonment after an informant made a 'bargain' with the police to give false evidence against the two in exchange for a reduced prison sentence.

(Left) Reg Dudley who was 77 years old when his murder conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal in 2002.

John Kamara spent 20 years of wrongful imprisonment for murder because the police deliberately failed to disclose over 200 witness statements which proved his innocence.



(Above) John Kamara who was aged 24 when he was convicted and in his 40s by the time he was released.

These notorious miscarriages of justice only represent the tip of the iceberg.

On average, there are around 5000 successful appeals against criminal convictions in England & Wales each year – 20 each day!



Andrew Adams spent 15 years in prison following inadequate legal representation by his defence solicitors and counsel; material non-disclosure by the prosecution; and errors in the summing up by the trial judge.

(Left) Andrew Adams who was only 22 when he was wrongly convicted and given a life-sentence for murder.

Warren Blackwell, father of two young children, spent 3 years and 4 months wrongly imprisoned for sexual assault following a false allegation made by a mentally ill woman with a history of making false accusations against men.

(Right) Father of two, Warren Blackwell, who overturned his conviction in 2006 after a seven-year battle to clear his name.





*Sally Clark who died at the age of 42, four years after her murder convictions were quashed in 2003.*

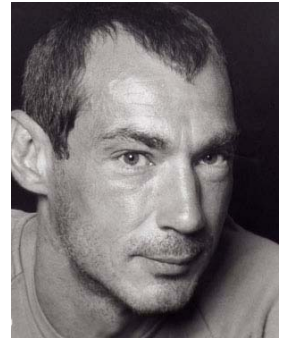


*Angela Cannings who spent 18 months in prison and 4 year forced separation from her only surviving daughter until her convictions were overturned in 2003.*

Mothers Sally Clark and Angela Cannings were both given life sentences for murdering their children following flawed expert testimonies given by discredited expert witness, Prof. Sir Roy Meadows. Their convictions were quashed in 2003 after it was revealed that their children have most likely died of natural causes.

Two of the longest serving victims of miscarriage of justice, both Paul Blackburn and Robert Brown were imprisoned for more than a decade past their sentence tariff due to the 'parole deal' which prevented prisoners maintaining innocence from progressing through the prison system and achieving release.

Paul Blackburn was only 14 years old when he was coerced by the police into signing a false confession for attempted murder and subsequently spent the next 25 years of his life behind bars until his conviction was quashed in 2005.



*(Right) Convicted as a teenager and released in his 40s, Paul Blackburn could have been freed a decade earlier had he admitted his guilt.*

Robert Brown spent 25 years in prison after he was physically tortured and abused by the police into making a false confession for murder. His conviction was quashed in 2002 after the Court of Appeal heard evidence of serious police corruption and abuse.



*(Left) Like Paul Blackburn, Robert Brown would have been eligible for parole a decade earlier but remained in prison as he refused to admit his guilt.*



It is unlikely that the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six will overturn their convictions today!

*The Guildford Four (left) and the Birmingham Six (right) overturned their convictions for the IRA-related bombings in the 1970s and 80s after spending more than 15 years of wrongful imprisonment each.*