

experienced good time out of their cells, including association on Friday evenings, which inspectors now rarely see. The provision of learning, skills and work was improving with plans for a new curriculum and evidence of strong partnership working evident. "Our colleagues in Ofsted assessed the overall effectiveness of provision as 'good', but undermined in part by quite poor levels of attendance," Mr Clarke said. The coordination of resettlement work had improved greatly since 2015 and offender management was clearly focused on risk reduction.

### **Damning Conclusion - Inquest Into of Andrew Brown at Hmp Nottingham**

The inquest into the death of Andrew Brown has concluded with the jury finding that a series of damning failings by HMP Nottingham contributed to his death. They also noted serious issues with the systems of governance at the prison over a two month period in 2017, highlighting that "there had been no improvements made following two inspections from HMIP" where the prison had scored the lowest level for safety. The cause of Andrew's death was brain injury by hanging. Andrew Brown was 42 years old when he was found hanging in his cell on the induction wing of HMP Nottingham on 12 September 2017 and died in hospital five days later on 17 September. Andrew was from Chesterfield and his family described him as much-loved brother and a man of strong Christian faith. He was the second of five men to die in HMP Nottingham in less than a month between 13 September and 12 October 2017. The day after Andrew was found hanging, Shane Stroughton also died a self-inflicted death, on the same landing of the same wing.

The jury concluded that the following failures contributed to his death: Failure to follow systems, processes and procedures including prison service instructions and governor's orders within the prison and healthcare; Inability to access chaplaincy and bible study; Unsuitable environment on the induction wing and inability to gain access to work, which did not meet Andrew's basic needs; Failure to respond to the emergency call bell and follow governor's orders; Failure to investigate, follow up, and record an assault on Andrew on August 2017; and The mistake of taking Andrew for release on 12 September 2017.

The inquest heard that Andrew was recalled to HMP Nottingham on 18 August 2017 having been released on license on 14 August. He had a history of self-harm and suicide attempts. At court Andrew had expressed thoughts of ending his life and was described as "smashing his head against the cell". When he arrived at the prison, suicide and self-harm monitoring procedures were opened (known as ACCT). The inquest heard evidence that the ACCT was closed on 6 September despite Andrew having disclosed intentions of harming himself. The jury said that "In no circumstances was it appropriate to close the ACCT 6 September 2017... no risk assessment was undertaken or recorded".

Serving Prisoners Supported by MOJUK: Sally Challen, Naweed Ali, Khobaib Hussain, Mohibur Rahman, Tahir Aziz, Roger Khan, Wang Yam, Andrew Malkinson, Michael Ross, Mark Alexander, Anis Sardar, Jamie Green, Dan Payne, Zoran Dresic, Scott Birtwistle, Jon Beere, Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wooton, John Keelan, Mohammed Niaz Khan, Abid Ashiq Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James Cullinane, Stephen Marsh, Graham Coutts, Royston Moore, Duane King, Leon Chapman, Tony Marshall, Anthony Jackson, David Kent, Norman Grant, Ricardo Morrison, Alex Silva, Terry Smith, Hyrone Hart, Glen Cameron, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, John Twomey, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan & Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Paul Higginson, Robert Knapp, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert Knapp, William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Jake Mawhinney, Peter Hannigan.

**Miscarriages of JusticeUK (MOJUK)**  
22 Berners St, Birmingham B19 2DR

Tele: 0121- 507 0844 Email: [mojuk@mojuk.org.uk](mailto:mojuk@mojuk.org.uk) Web: [www.mojuk.org.uk](http://www.mojuk.org.uk)

**MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 749 (10/07/2019) - Cost £1**

### **MG6D - Failure to Disclose Evidence 'Routine And Deliberate'**

The scandal over important information which might undermine prosecutions being deliberately hidden from defendants hit the news again last month as new information pointed to institutionalised failings around disclosure. According to The Times the failure by police and prosecutors to disclose vital evidence in criminal cases to the defence is routine and deliberate. They say a dossier reveals a commonly held view that the defence is not entitled to see all the evidence and discloses tactics used to avoid its disclosure, with police in at least one force trained in avoiding making material that might undermine their case available to the defence. The file draws on the reports of 14 focus groups with the police, and others with prosecutors and judges, as well as a survey of prosecutors. The comments in the dossier include one prosecutor saying: "In even quite serious cases, officers have admitted to deliberately withholding sensitive material from us and they frequently approach us only a week before trial. Officers are reluctant to investigate a defence or take statements that might assist the defence or undermine our case."

"If you don't want the defence to see it, then it goes on the MG6D" – a list of sensitive unused material which the defence doesn't have access to. Police "have been trained to put items on there [MG6D] that they do not want disclosed to the defence." Chief Inspector "Officers put undermining material on the MG6D list to hide it." Prosecutor Police focus groups say: "If you don't want the defence to see it, then it goes on the MG6D" – a list of sensitive unused material which the defence doesn't have access to. A police inspector said that police "have been trained to put items on there [MG6D] that they do not want disclosed to the defence". A prosecutor confirmed that "officers put undermining material on the MG6D list to hide it".

The Times dossier was obtained by the Centre for Criminal Appeals (CCA), a charity, under a freedom of information request to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Inspectorate and the Inspectorate of Constabulary, which collated the unpublished comments when preparing a joint report on disclosure of evidence last year. The dossier confirms that the failure to hand over evidence that might undermine the prosecution case is often deliberate. The CPS and police inspectors giving evidence to the Commons Justice Select Committee said disclosure failings were the single most frequent cause of the steady stream of miscarriages of justice. They described a culture in which disclosure was seen not as part of an investigation but "more of an administrative exercise". The Centre for Criminal Appeals and the Cardiff Law School Innocence Project have submitted evidence on disclosure to the Justice Select Committee urging the creation of an independent agency to deal with the issue.

Suzanne Gower, solicitor and Managing Director at the CCA said: "These documents show why responsibility for providing full and fair disclosure must be taken out of the hands of police and prosecutors. The truth is they see themselves first and foremost as adversaries to the defence and, in some cases, deliberately withhold exculpatory evidence. It is unrealistic to expect this mindset to change, which is why we are calling for a new independent disclosure agency consisting of legally-trained staff to take charge of the disclosure process. Not only would this prevent wrongful convictions and re-establish the right to a fair trial, it would put an end to the vast waste of resources caused by our current dysfunctional disclosure regime."

The National Police Chiefs' Council lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave, told The Times: "National training and guidance on disclosure does not in any way endorse or encourage the unnecessary withholding of any material relevant to a case. It is, however, right that in cases involving sensitive unused material, such as details of an informant, that this is not automatically shared with the defence. This is entirely in line with legislation and national guidelines and is well understood by defence and prosecution alike."

### **Unfair Evidence and the Right to a Fair Trial**

Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights provides all persons with the right to a fair trial. Fairness is at the heart of all criminal proceedings. Sometimes, however, prosecutions seek to introduce inherently "unfair" evidence into the criminal process. When the Judge allows such evidence to be used, it is often difficult to challenge. This creates obvious unfairness and can have devastating consequences on the prospect of an acquittal. This article will explain what the legal definition of unfair evidence is, what should be done in the course of a criminal trial to exclude that evidence, and finally, what can be done if you have been convicted on the basis of unfair evidence.

*What is "unfair" evidence?* Lord Lane C.J. in the case of R v Quinn Crim L.R. 581 stated the following in relation to criminal trials: "The function of the judge is therefore to protect the fairness of the proceedings, and normally proceedings are fair if all relevant evidence [is heard] which either side wishes to place before the court, but proceedings may become unfair if, for example, one side is allowed to adduce relevant evidence which, for one reason or another, the other side cannot properly challenge or meet." Unfair evidence deprives the Defence of being in a position to properly scrutinize what is being introduced. Miscarriages of justice can occur. Unfair evidence can come in a variety of forms but incorporates anything which on the face of it deprives a defendant of a fair trial.

*Discretion to exclude unfair evidence:* Fortunately, there is a safeguard against unfairness in all criminal proceedings. Section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 ("PACE") provides the Court with a discretion to exclude any Prosecution evidence if: "it appears to the court that, having regard to all the circumstances, including the circumstances in which the evidence was obtained, the admission of the evidence would have such an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings that the court ought not to admit it." The key consideration is whether admitting a certain piece of evidence into the proceedings would render those proceedings as a whole unfair. This is a two-stage test. It is not always enough to demonstrate that the circumstances under which the evidence was obtained was unfair. The test usually will only be satisfied if in addition to the circumstances being unfair, admitting the evidence would have an adverse impact on the fairness of the proceedings.

*What types of circumstances could be considered unfair?* Section 78 will usually be invoked to exclude evidence which has been obtained by an improper act on the part of the police, or if evidence has been obtained in bad faith. The following are merely examples of circumstances which could fall within the remit of Section 78: Oppressive or aggressive questioning by the police; Evidence obtained in breach of the PACE Codes of Conduct; Evidence obtained in the absence of an appropriate adult (if the accused was entitled to one); Evidence obtained through an unlawful search; Evidence obtained by trickery, or by deception; Breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights; Breaches of the Codes of Practice issued under PACE; Bad faith on the part of the police.

While the Kray twins brand continues as the underworld's equivalent of Marks & Spencer – a framed letter from Ronnie Kray in Broadmoor is currently on offer on eBay for £650 – changes in the law have made criminals less prepared to boast about past crimes. In the old days, under the "double jeopardy" rule, once you were acquitted of a murder, you could never be tried for it again. That rule was overturned with the 2003 Criminal Justice Act, so the days when a villain could explain in their memoirs how they got away with a crime have gone. The 2009 Coroners and Justice Act made it an offence for criminals to profit from accounts of their crimes, so they could no longer sell their stories, or at least officially. The 2002 Proceeds of Crime Act and its increasing use against career criminals has meant that illicit incomes can be seized.

No wonder the Hatton Garden burglary of 2015 – that "one last job" carried out by the elderly "diamond wheezers" – received such attention. Even one of the "last of the last", Fred Foreman, was hoping he was going to be offered a role in it. "I heard that Terry (Perkins, one of the ringleaders) was looking for me, not long before the burglary took place, so I presume that would have been what it was about," he says. Perkins died in his cell in Belmarsh prison last year. Foreman, who made his name with the Krays in the 1960s, now lives in sheltered accommodation in west London. He doubts that the current generation of gangsters will ever write their memoirs: "I don't think that anyone who has turned to crime these days is going to live long enough to build up a reputation, are they?" But the recruiting sergeants of the underworld – poverty, greed, boredom, envy, peer pressure, glamour – will never be short of volunteers, whether they live long enough to make a name for themselves or not.

### **HMP & YOI New Hall Women Only - Recorded Violence Quite High Excessive Punishments**

HMP & YOI New Hall, a women's prison near Wakefield, was found in its first inspection since 2015 to be an establishment which continued to be safe, respectful and purposeful, and where work to resettle and rehabilitate prisoners was improving. Peter Clarke, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, said that recorded violence in the prison was quite high, "but nearly all incidents were very minor and overall most prisoners felt safe." Work to intervene and support those perpetrating threatening or antisocial behaviour, and the victims of such incidents, was effective. There had been three self-inflicted deaths since 2015 and most recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman following its investigations had been implemented. Prisoners at risk of self-harm and with complex needs received good oversight and case management and those inspectors spoke to were positive about the care they received.

Inspectors noted a seeming over-reliance on the use of formal disciplinary processes and some punishments seemed excessive. Use of force had also increased substantially and several women had been in 'special accommodation' conditions on the house units, although records failed to adequately justify these decisions. The segregation unit was a clean but austere facility with a basic regime. The prison environment was good but the quality of accommodation was more variable, although reasonable overall. Staff-prisoner relationships were good although some prisoners expressed frustration at their inability to get some simple tasks done by staff.

Mr Clarke said: "The prison would have benefited from greater visibility and support from managers. It was also our observation that the proportion of female staff was too low and was something that was a very stark and particular feature of the senior team." Though work to promote equality was limited outcomes for prisoners from minorities remained broadly consistent with those for other prisoners. The mother and baby unit was excellent and health care was similarly good but mental health provision was undermined by staff shortages among the mental health team. Women

thus laundering his drug profits. Finally arrested in Spain, he was brought back to England and, in 2007, at the age of 60, found guilty at Woolwich crown court of conspiracy to supply drugs and jailed for 30 years.

Some very successful scams have been perpetrated on elderly Britons. John Palmer, who had been involved in the Brink's-Mat bullion robbery (from whence he got his nickname "Goldfinger") made his fortune in a crooked timeshare business in Tenerife. A ruthless operator, he took advantage of thousands of gullible souls, many of them elderly holidaymakers, who believed his spiel about the fortunes they could make by investing in timeshare apartments that were never built. Outwardly, he appeared to have it all: the yacht, the cars with the personalised number plates, dozens of properties. He even made it to No 105 in the Sunday Times rich list. "Remember the golden rule," was the motto he loved to quote, "he who has the gold makes the rules." But in 2001, he was convicted of a timeshare fraud in which 16,000 victims lost an estimated £33m and served eight years in prison. Then, in 2015, Palmer was shot dead by a hitman in his garden in Essex. There were rumours that he was killed because he might have been cooperating with the Spanish police over another fraud case. His co-accused were convicted in Spain in May this year and the police in Britain have duly issued a fresh appeal for help to find his killer – with a reminder that there is a £100,000 reward on offer in case that tempts an elderly underworld grass.

Any notion that Spain might still be a safe haven for expat criminals was dispelled in 2018 when Brian Charrington – a close associate of Curtis Warren and regarded as one of the major international drug dealers of his generation – was jailed for 15 years for trafficking and money-laundering in Alicante in 2018. Described in the Spanish press as "el narco que escribia en Wikipedia", because of his reputation for updating and correcting his Wikipedia entry, the former car-dealer from Middlesbrough had been arrested in 2013 at his villa in Calpe, on the Costa Blanca, an area where some estate agents offer bulletproof glass as a special feature along with the spa bath and barbecue area. There had been wild rumours of crocodiles in his swimming pool, but disappointingly, the police found none. Charrington was alleged to have brought vast quantities of drugs into Spain via a yacht docking in Altea, north of Benidorm. He claimed his money came legitimately. "I buy and sell villas and I pay my taxes," he told the court, but was still fined nearly £30m. Following a lengthy investigation involving Spanish, British, Venezuelan, Colombian and French police, his assets, including a dozen houses and his cars and boats, were impounded. After his sentence, his Wikipedia entry was speedily updated.

The titles of true crime memoirs published in the past decade or so tell their own tale. The Last Real Gangster by Freddie Foreman came out in 2015; The Last Gangster: My Final Confession by Charlie Richardson arrived just after his death in 2012; The Last Godfather, the Life and Crimes of Arthur Thompson, was published in Glasgow in 2007. A requiem for the old British underworld. In many ways, it was already slipping into a haze of nostalgia. The television series Peaky Blinders has spawned its own fashion accessory industry. You can now buy Peaky Blinders cufflinks shaped like razor-blades, or wear a Peaky Blinders cap and waistcoat from the new David Beckham clothing line, something that might have prompted a dark smile from the ruthless and acquisitive 1920s Birmingham gang on whom the series was based. The website henorstag.com even recommends "the Peaky Blinders look" as perfect for a stag night: "For a theme the ladies will love, you will need to capture the stylish world of the early 20th century with black peak caps, stylish grey or black suits with waistcoat, as well as a dusty black coat and shoes in order to complete the look." (Add a cosh and a cut-throat razor and you'll really slay 'em.)

However, Section 78 can also be used as a general non-specific safeguard against unfairness and is an argument often relied upon by the defence to seek to exclude all sorts of evidence including bad character and hearsay evidence.

*When in criminal proceedings does Section 78 apply?* Applications to exclude unfair evidence have been made in relation to a wide range of evidential material. That material could include confessions, identification evidence, or alibi notices.

*How is unfair evidence excluded?* Usually, the Defence will make an application in court to the trial judge in the absence of the jury stating the reasons why certain 'evidence' should not be admitted. The application is usually made just before the evidence is due to be put before the jury. The Prosecution may respond. It is then up to the trial judge whether or not to allow the evidence.

*Can the admission of unfair evidence amount to a ground of appeal?* The test that the Court of Appeal applies in deciding whether or not to allow an appeal is whether or not the conviction is "unsafe". This is an exceptionally high threshold, however, the Court of Appeal has previously allowed appeals on the basis that unfair evidence was wrongly put before the jury. Importantly, to succeed as a ground of appeal, the admission of that evidence must have had an impact on the jury's verdict. David Wells (Wells Burcombe) & Rebecca Broadbent (Barrister)

### **NI: Blanket Ban on Terrorism and Paramilitary Books In Maghaberry Prison Lifted**

The Northern Ireland Prison Service has changed its policy on which books can be taken into jails. A review was ordered by the Director General Ronnie Armour after it emerged that inmates at Maghaberry Prison could not access a book on dissident republicanism. Mr Armour met with the book's author Dr Marisa McGlinchey, to explain the new guidelines. No books on terrorism or paramilitaries were allowed into the jail before the case arose. The review found the policy was "not proportionate". Books will, from now on, be admitted to the prison "unless they breach specific guidelines which include the promotion of, or support for terrorism/paramilitaries, or overtly promote or encourage the commission of criminal acts". The prison service accepted the ban was inappropriate and said it was a "changing organisation and learning organisation". The Department of Justice said new operating procedures were now in place. "Books and other reading material will now be permitted unless they overtly promote or encourage the commissioning of criminal acts or otherwise break the law," the department told BBC News NI.

### **Woman Whose House Gardaí Unlawfully Entered Awarded €78,300**

Irish Legal News: A woman whose home was unlawfully entered by gardaí looking for her boyfriend has been awarded €78,300 by the High Court, The Irish Times reports. Judyta Rozmyslowicz, 32, of the Grove, Sallins, Co Kildare, sued the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner for personal injury, trespass and violation of her constitutional right to the inviolability of her home.

In 2016 the court rejected her claim and she appealed to the Court of Appeal, which last year overturned the lower court's decision. It found that gardaí had failed to discharge the evidential burden imposed on them of demonstrating reasonable cause that her boyfriend, who was sought on the basis of a European Arrest Warrant, was there.

The matter was sent back to the High Court for assessment of damages and on Friday 28th June 2019, Mr Justice Michael Hanna awarded Ms Rozmyslowicz €50,000 for injury to her foot, sustained when gardaí pushed her door as she stood behind it, as well as for distress and upset. She was also awarded €25,000 for breach of her constitutional right to inviolability of the home and a further €3,300 for loss of earnings as she could not work for six weeks.



Mr Justice Hanna said Ms Rozmyslowicz has told the truth and had not attempted to exaggerate her injury. The court was told that in July 2012 gardai called to the house in pursuit of Sebastian Snaidy, who had breached his bail conditions over a warrant seeking his extradition to Poland, after seeing his car in the driveway. Ms Rozmyslowicz opened the door only slightly in order to prevent her puppy from running out, said the judge. One of the gardai said she saw a curtain moving upstairs, but Ms Rozmyslowicz said this was simply her dog having a look out the window. A female officer “acted with excessive zeal in producing a baton and threatening the plaintiff with handcuffs”. The same officer “threatened me with her stick”, Ms Rozmyslowicz told her counsel, Garnet Orange SC. She asked the gardai to take her to hospital – they refused. Cormac Corrigan SC, for the State, was refused an application for a stay on the award, sought on the basis the general damages were excessive.

### **Permanent Video Surveillance of Detainees In Their Cells Violation of Article 8**

In the case of *Gorlov and Others v. Russia* the European Court of Human Rights held, unanimously, that there had been: a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, and a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in conjunction with Article 8. It further held, by a majority, that the finding of a violation constituted in itself sufficient just satisfaction for the non-pecuniary damage sustained by the applicants. The case concerned the permanent video surveillance of detainees in their cells by closed-circuit television cameras. The Court found in particular that the domestic legal framework regarding permanent video surveillance was not sufficiently clear, precise and detailed to afford appropriate protection against arbitrary interference by the public authorities.

### **UK’s First Secure School to be Run by Academy Trust**

*Jamie Grierson, Guardian:* The UK’s first secure school – an education-focused alternative to youth jails – is to be run by an academy trust that specialises in schools in deprived areas. Oasis Charitable Trust, which runs 52 academies across England, will manage the secure school on the site of the Medway secure training centre in Kent. Plans to create the establishments as an alternative to youth jails were announced in 2016 after a review called for fundamental change to the youth custody system. The report found that children in public-sector young offender institutions (YOIs) were only receiving 15 hours of education a week on average, compared with an expected level of 30 hours. The facilities allow for any boy or girl aged 12 to 17 who is remanded or sentenced into youth detention accommodation to be placed into secure schools.

The justice minister Edward Argar said: “Secure schools are critical to our vision for youth custody – placing education, healthcare and purposeful activity at the heart of rehabilitation. “I have been impressed by Oasis’s dedication to improving the lives of young people and its track record across education, health and youth work. We will now work closely with them on detailed proposals to ensure high standards from day one.” Three-quarters of Oasis’s academies operate in the UK’s most deprived areas and most were rated by Ofsted as failing at the time they were taken over. The £5m investment will include refurbishment of classrooms and residential areas. The site of the new secure school, Medway, has been dogged by allegations of mistreatment of the young inmates by staff for years. It was previously operated by the private company G4S, which was stripped of its contract after a Guardian exposé revealed a history of abuse allegations at the centre near Rochester, Kent. It also revealed that a letter sent by two whistleblowers 12 years earlier to the Youth Justice Board, G4S, the Social Services Inspectorate and a Home Office minister had been ignored.

he moved into the drugs business, working out of Amsterdam, that he established his reputation as one of the most prolific traffickers of modern times – Interpol’s “Target One” and the subject of a joint British–Dutch investigation codenamed Operation Crayfish.

While Warren’s move to Amsterdam, where fellow British dealers also established themselves, seemed like a smart idea in that he was less exposed to the British police, it was also a weakness, because the Dutch authorities were able to tap his phone without restriction and secure the evidence they needed. (Although they also required English help in translating Liverpudlian for them.) In October 1996, police in the Netherlands seized 400kg of cocaine, 60kg of heroin, 1,500kg of cannabis, handguns and false passports. Nine Britons and a Colombian were arrested, and Warren was soon portrayed as the biggest fish in the net. He was jailed for 12 years for a conspiracy to import what was claimed to be £125m of drugs into Britain. The Observer suggested he was “the richest and most successful British criminal who has ever been caught”, and he was the only drug dealer to make it on to the Sunday Times rich list. T-shirts with an old mugshot of Warren on them were still for sale in Liverpool 20 years after Operation Crayfish.

After his release from jail in the Netherlands in June 2007, Warren was only a free man for five weeks. He headed to Jersey, but was under constant surveillance and soon arrested. In 2009, he was convicted of conspiring to import £1m of cannabis into Jersey and jailed for 13 years. Warren was alleged to have invested his wealth in everything from petrol stations to vineyards, football clubs to hotels. A Jersey court ordered him to pay £198m after he failed to prove his business empire was not built on the proceeds of cocaine trafficking. Detectives had secretly recorded him boasting during a 2004 prison visit of funnelling huge amounts of cash via a money launderer. “Fuckin’ ’ell, mate, sometimes we’d do about £10m or £15m in a week,” he told some of his visitors. “I was bragging like an idiot and just big-talking in front of them,” was Warren’s explanation later. The Jersey attorney general, Timothy Le Cocq QC, described him as “one of Europe’s most notorious organised criminals”. His failure to pay the money resulted in a further 10 years’ jail time. He told Guardian journalist Helen Pidd, when she interviewed him in jail in Jersey, that he disapproved of drugs: “I’ve never had a cigarette in my life or a drink. I’ve never tasted alcohol or anything. No interest.” His ambition after he was freed was to leave England – “and never come back”. He added: “I just wish I’d not been such a worry to me mum.”

Few people were better qualified to comment on Warren than former NCA man Tony Siggers, who was an expert witness in Warren’s trial and proceeds hearing. “Curtis Warren was a forerunner,” he said. “You get people like him who come from a tough background, a council-house environment, and he had a sort of bare-faced courage in some respects, to put himself in places like Venezuela and Colombia, which were probably even more dangerous then than they are now. He put himself at the other end of the supply chain, and in a way established that pattern for the elite drug trafficker. But nowadays, high-level, high-profile criminals play less and less of a role, and make use of others below them in a detached way.”

Other British criminals have also cast their nets wide during the past two decades. One of the best-known was Brian Wright, once one of Britain’s most active cocaine smugglers, who was nicknamed The Milkman – because he always delivered. He operated from both Turkish-controlled Northern Cyprus and Spain. In 1998, he was alleged to have imported almost two tonnes of the drug, with the result, according to one customs investigator, that “the cocaine was coming in faster than people could snort it”. The Dublin-born Wright owned a villa near Cadiz, which he named El Lechero – the Spanish for milkman – and had a box at Ascot, a flat in Chelsea’s King’s Quay and used some of his proceeds to fix races on which he then bet,

unfair tendency to blame foreigners as dominant figures in the underworld. While they may have all had their parts to play, the homegrown British villain – whether artful dodger or ruthless kingpin – has always been the bedrock of the underworld. “Everyone wants to be a gangster,” says BX, a young former gang member from north-west London. “Everyone’s seen it on TV and that’s what they want to be. They look at music videos and it looks like the people in them are making hundreds of thousands of pounds, although the reality is that they are still living at their mum’s house. Most of them come from estates and they see their parents going to work, struggling to pay the bills. They come home, their mum’s not there, and all the places where kids could play are closing down. Nine times out of 10, they leave school without qualifications. So if you’re broke, if you can’t get a job, you’re going to take the opportunity. My parents had no clue what I was up to – I didn’t come back with any marks on my face.”

The recent upsurge in knife attacks has focused attention on gangs. At one stage last year, there were six separate knife murder trials underway at the Old Bailey, all gang-related, all involving more than one defendant, none older than 22. “It’s not a black thing, it’s not a white thing, everyone’s doing it,” says BX. “There’s no: ‘I’m black, he’s white, we can’t get along’ any more.” There were still ample opportunities for smaller-time dealers: “You can make a grand a week.” The hierarchy of gangs remained a key factor. “If you’re a drug dealer, you have to find people who will do your dirty work for you. The way it works is the elders, who are, say, 24 or 25, they see you doing well, so they might take you under their wing. The young kids acting as look-outs, they’re thinking: ‘I’m part of that guy’s enterprise. That could be me in however many years, I could get promotion.’ As they say, loyalty brings forth royalty.”

Territory is important commercially. “If you’re doing five keys (kilos) a week and then suddenly you’re only doing three a week, it doesn’t take long to realise that someone’s out there taking your customers. So you have to eliminate the opposition. How do you do that? By either taking them out, or tipping off the police. You are never supposed to snitch, but I know one guy, from Southall, who’s a millionaire now; he was in competition with a guy from the same area so he informed the police.” There’s a not-unfounded suspicion that some informers have continued to commit crimes while under police protection. “All the old-school rules – they’re gone. I know people who work with the police to get immunity for themselves. I know one who everyone knows works with the police, he’s even been shooting people, but you type his name into Google you won’t find anything about him and, believe me, his record is way longer than my arm.” The risks are high. “Of the people I grew up with, only three of us haven’t been to jail, although I’ve been arrested many times. My older brother has been in and out of jail – nine months here, six weeks there. But there are less police than ever, so that gives you the incentive, and even if you get arrested, you’re not going to do that long.”

While the young gangs have largely replaced the old family-based crews, so have young, helmeted, scooter-riding robbers smashing their ways into jewellers and mobile phone shops taken on the role of the old sawn-off shotgun-wielding bank robbers. While those smalltime homegrown villains may still thrive, an increasing number of members of the British underworld have followed old imperial traditions and headed abroad to cut out the middle-man, establishing themselves not only in the traditional bolt-hole of Spain, but in the Netherlands, Thailand and South Africa. The person who was to rewrite the rulebook on drug dealing is the street-smart Liverpudlian Curtis Warren, better known by his nicknames Cocky or the Cocky Watchman. Born in 1963, his criminal career started at the age of 12 with a conviction for car theft. By 16, he was on his way to borstal for assaulting the police. Other offences followed, but it was only when

### **Law’ to Lift Families of Missing People Out of Legal Limbo**

Previously there was no legal recourse to deal with someone’s affairs if missing. The financial and administrative burdens faced by families of missing loved ones will be eased after legislation was laid today (28 June 2019) to pave the way for ‘Claudia’s Law’. The new regulations will come into effect on 31 July 2019 Named after Claudia Lawrence who went missing in 2009, the law creates a new legal status of guardian of the affairs of a missing person, allowing families to act in their best interests after they have been gone for 90 days or longer. It will mean that families can step in and safeguard their loved one’s assets in their absence – for example, suspending direct debits for mobile phone and utility bills or making mortgage payments.

Previously there was no mechanism in England and Wales to specifically protect the property and affairs of a missing person. Instead families could only take over the financial affairs of a missing person if they declared them dead, adding emotional pressure to families during an already difficult time. This also meant they could be left unable to pay debts or prevent repossessions or insolvency Officially known as the Guardianship (Missing Person’s) Act 2017, the new provision was introduced as a Private Members’ Bill by Kevin Hollinrake MP and backed by Claudia’s father Peter Lawrence OBE, who has been tirelessly campaigning for the change since her disappearance, together with the charity Missing People and other families affected.

Justice Minister Paul Maynard said: No family dealing with the despair of a loved one going missing should have to endure the additional stresses of administrative problems. This government is committed to helping families cope as best they can in these incredibly difficult circumstances and today’s legislation is an important part in that. Claudia’s law will mean families can oversee the financial and property affairs of their missing loved one – removing a huge burden at such a traumatic time.

Families in England and Wales can apply to be a guardian following a number of statutory instruments being laid in Parliament today to bring forward provisions within the Act – with the new regulations coming into force on 31 July 2019. Successful applicants for the guardian role will be able to look after their loved one’s affairs for up to 4 years with the option to renew. The scheme will be operated and supervised by the Office of the Public Guardian.

Susannah Drury, Missing People’s Director of Policy and Research, said: This is a triumph for all the family members who have campaigned with us over the past decade and shown so powerfully why Guardianship is needed. This regulation will mean that families who face the emotional distress of a disappearance will not be blocked from handling the financial and legal affairs of their loved ones. Peter Lawrence OBE, father of missing York chef Claudia Lawrence said: I am delighted that Claudia’s Law is coming into force at the end of July. This will make such a difference to the lives of the hundreds of families who have been waiting so long for it, enabling them to deal with their missing loved one’s financial and property affairs in the same way as everyone else is able to on a daily basis. One less burden at a time when families are at their emotional lowest ebb will help enormously.

### **Watchdog Criticises 'Chaotic' Police Use of Facial Recognition**

Ian Sample, Guardian: Police forces are pushing ahead with the use of facial recognition systems in the absence of clear laws on whether, when or how the technology should be employed, a watchdog has said. Prof Paul Wiles, the biometrics commissioner, said in his annual report that police deployment of the technology, which can be used to scan crowds or CCTV recordings for people of interest, was chaotic and had run ahead of laws that could prevent its misuse.

With no legal framework in place it was left to the police to decide when the public benefit

outweighed the “significant intrusion into an individual’s privacy” arising from facial recognition and other types of biometric identification, the report said. It said guidance from the National Police Chiefs’ Council would help, but it noted that the Met commissioner, Cressida Dick, said last year that the police should never be the ones to judge where the balance should lie between security and privacy. Wiles told the Guardian: “When you are deciding what’s in the public interest, you are deciding what kind of world you want to live in. That is a rather important decision and if that isn’t for government then I don’t know what government is for.”

The Metropolitan and South Wales police forces have both run trials of live facial recognition systems, which use mobile video cameras hooked up to facial recognition software to scan crowds for faces on a watchlist. The trials were conducted at football and rugby matches, music festivals and on city streets. The report said the police were right to want to explore new technologies and that trials would help to determine whether claims of a public benefit stood up. But Wiles was critical of the police trials so far. He said trials were meant to be for assessing a technology before it was used operationally, but the police had blurred the line by questioning and in some cases arresting individuals their cameras spotted. The police also neglected to set out what counted as success before the trials began, he said. “The trials have not, in my view, been properly scientifically carried out,” Wiles said.

Beyond the effectiveness of the technology, there are questions about what is done with facial images that are scanned, how long they are kept for and whether the police intend to capture fresh images during surveillance. Last month the campaign group Liberty brought a landmark legal case against South Wales police after a Cardiff resident, Ed Bridges, claimed the force had invaded his privacy by capturing and processing his facial features. Wiles’s report anticipated more cases to come. “Actual deployment of new biometric technologies may lead to more legal challenges unless parliament provides a clear, specific legal framework for the police use of new biometrics as they did in the case of DNA and fingerprints,” he said.

A Cardiff University review of the South Wales police trials found that the system flagged up 2,900 possible suspects, but 2,755 were false matches. While the police had only used the system to find people for questioning, the technology could still affect innocent people’s lives, Wiles said. “There is a risk of wrongful arrest. What people have to remember is that if they’re arrested and then checks show it’s not them, the arrest stays on the police system. If they later need to get clearance, to teach children for example, that arrest will show up.”

Hannah Couchman, of Liberty, said: “It’s absolutely right that the rollout of facial recognition by individual forces has been chaotic and lawless. Invasive facial recognition goes light years beyond traditional CCTV. It snatches our unique personal data, violates our privacy and pressures us to self-police where we go and who we go with. “The technology also discriminates. It’s more likely to misidentify people of colour and women and subject them to a police stop due to a false match. This technology has no place on the streets of any rights-respecting democracy.”

The annual report also took issue with the Ministry of Defence over its searches of the police national fingerprint database. Military police are allowed to use the database to check fingerprints found in operations abroad, but the MoD searches are carried out by DSTL, the ministry’s research and development arm, which is not a law enforcement agency. “It is effectively getting round what parliament intended and this is a department of state, this isn’t Cambridge Analytica,” Wiles said. The MoD did not respond to a request for comment.

A Home Office spokesperson said: “We support police use of biometrics and other new technologies to help protect the public and bring criminals to justice, but it is essential that they do so

wrong, of course, but they did need bravery to get involved, and at least they went for a bank – that was the feeling in the Albanian community.” There are currently around 700 Albanians in British jails. “Albania is Europe’s largest producer of cannabis,” says Tony Sagers, the former head of drugs threat and intelligence at the NCA. “It is important not to stereotype, but the Kosovan war led to Albanians pretending to be Kosovan in order to get asylum in the UK. Many of the people who came just wanted a better life, but there were criminals among them who were able to set up illicit networks ... The UK criminal has a get-rich-quick mentality while the Albanians’ strategy was get-rich-slow, so they have driven down the price of cocaine in the UK. They knew that if they expanded, they could undercut the market.” It helped that their reputation preceded them. “The Albanian criminals may be ruthless and potentially murderous when controlling their organised crime,” said Sagers, “but when they come to the UK they try to be more charismatic and they use fear – ‘We’re here, we need to get on,’ that sort of approach. So there is little violence from the older Albanian criminals in the UK, because they know that violence attracts more attention.” The Albanians had already established themselves in a darker fashion when 26-year-old Luan Plackici was jailed in 2003 and said to have made more than £1m from trafficking “poor, naive and gullible” young women who thought they were on their way to jobs as waitresses or barmaids. Some had to service up to 20 men a day to pay for the £8,000 “travel bill” from Romania and Moldova.

The international nature of people-trafficking was exposed fully in 2014 by a trial of a gang that imported more than 100 women into Britain. The trial ended with the gang leader, Vishal Chaudhary, being jailed for 12 years. Chaudhary, who lived the high life in Canary Wharf in London, contacted young women through social networks in Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, offering work as receptionists, nannies or cleaners in England. But when they got to the UK, the women were forced to work in brothels. Chaudhary’s team, all of whom were jailed, consisted of his brother, Kunal, who worked for Deloitte in Manchester, a Hungarian heavy called Krisztian Abel and the latter’s sister, Szilvia, who helped recruit the women. There are numbers of young people involved in what the legal system terms “forced criminality”. The lawyer Philippa Southwell has specialised in such cases, which apply in particular to young Vietnamese people brought illegally into the UK by traffickers and forced to work in cannabis farms to pay back debts of up to £30,000 that their parents have undertaken in order for them to have a new life in Europe.

“The modus operandi of criminal organisations is to target children or young adults, trafficking them across the world in a journey that can take months,” Southwell says. “Those being trafficked from Vietnam, often transit via Russia, Germany and France, by boat, lorry and even by foot. Once at their destination, they will be locked in a premises and made to tend the cannabis plants, by watering them and ensuring the lighting is on. These cannabis grows are sophisticated multi-million-pound drug operations, with the electricity often being extracted illegally and high-value equipment used. The windows of the buildings may be nailed shut. The farms normally operate in rural areas where the chance of detection is reduced.” The boys and young men were in a form of debt bondage, but no matter how hard they worked, their debt never seemed to be paid off. “There is a misconception within the criminal justice system that they are free to leave because the doors may not always be locked,” says Southwell, “but the reality is that they have nowhere to go – they are controlled through threats of violence, debt bondage, isolation, fear and other complex control methods that are regularly used by traffickers.”

From the Chinese opium dealers in the 1920s, the Italian gangsters in the 30s, the Maltese pimps in the 50s, the West Indian Yardies in the 60s, the Turkish heroin dealers in the 70s to the east Europeans gangsters and Nigerian fraudsters today, there has long been an

people, commodities or money transferring across international borders. The days of having a drugs gang, a firearms gang or a people-trafficking gang have changed because of the concept of polycriminality. Groups satisfying criminal markets, whatever they may be, is now much more common. These are businesses and people are looking to exploit markets, so why confine yourself to one market?"

Wainwright, who served as Europol chief for nine years, has also noted this internationalisation of crime. Addressing a Police Foundation gathering just after his retirement last year, he said that Europol, the European equivalent of Interpol, having expanded since its foundation in 1998 when "it consisted literally, of two men and a dog – admittedly, a sniffer dog – in Luxembourg," now dealt with 65,000 cases a year. By 2018, he reckoned that 5,000 organised crime groups were operating across Europe and the mafia model had been replaced by a "more nimble" model, with 180 different nationalities operating, mixing legal with illegal business and working with between 400 and 500 major money-launderers. This was multinational business with specialists in recruitment, movement, money-laundering and the forging of documents.

The internet, of course, is a major factor. Wainwright likened its effect on crime to that of the motor-car in the 1920s and 30s, when suddenly criminals could escape at speed and take advantage of new markets. He cited the dark web, which he said was selling 350,000 different illegal items – 60% of which were drugs – but including everything from guns to pornography and even operating a ratings system for speed of dispatch and quality. The combination of new faces of whom the British police – and often Interpol and Europol – were unaware, along with an increasingly tech-savvy pool of criminals able to disguise their identities, made for a toxic cocktail. Crooks anonymous.

One group with little interest in anonymity are the Hellbanianz, a gang of cocky young Albanians based in Barking, east London. They went online in spectacular fashion in 2017 via Instagram and YouTube rap videos to flaunt their ill-gotten wealth and firepower. Their most prominent member, Tristen Asllani, who lived in Hampstead, was jailed for 25 years in 2016 for drug dealing and firearms offences which included possessing a Škorpion submachine gun. He was caught after a police chase in north London which ended when he crashed his car into a computer repair shop in Crouch End. A photo of Asllani, showing him stripped to the waist after he had apparently spent long hours in the prison gym, appeared on a social media page called My Albanian in Jail, with a caption saying "Even inside the prison we have all conditions, what's missing are only whores".

The flashy cars and bundles of banknotes on display in the Hellbanianz videos were the result of the importation of cocaine and cannabis, but the gang was also involved in the weapons trade. The pictures showed £50 notes wrapped around a cake and their HB logo written in cannabis. After they were arrested and jailed, other gang members have posted pictures of themselves, taken with smuggled mobile phones, from inside prison where they cheerfully inscribe their gang name on the walls.

Muhamed Veliu, an Albanian investigative journalist, who knows London well, says that the Hellbanianz have been on the crime scene in east London for many years. "They are sending a bad message to young Albanians. By seeing such photos, they think the streets of UK are paved with gold ... Bizarrely, despite the fact they are in the prison, they show the outside world photos of their life behind the bars." He said that there was a concern that the British media stereotyped all Albanians as criminals but, he added, the 2006 Securitas robbery, in which two Albanians played key roles in the theft of £53m from a depot in Kent, was regarded with some national pride back home. "It was 'the crime of the century', it was seen as very different from making money from prostitution, which is the lowest form of crime. It is

to high standards and maintain public trust. "We welcome the biometrics commissioner's annual report on the work he has done over the last year to promote compliance with the rules on the use of fingerprints and DNA, which we have published in full. The Home Office has established a new board to oversee the police use of facial images and other new biometrics, and the minister for policing and fire will shortly provide an update on options to simplify and extend biometrics governance, aimed at maintaining the right balance between public protection and privacy."

### **Slippery Characters**

Arrests for eel-smuggling have rocketed by 50 per cent in Europe following a concerted effort by enforcement agencies. Eels are highly sought after in China and elsewhere in East Asia and about 350 million are trafficked out of the EU every year. The trade in eels is worth a staggering €3bn (£2.7bn) annually. Europol said the majority of arrests were in Spain, France and Portugal. Eels were once a staple food of the poor but consumption has declined by 95 to 99 per cent in recent decades and they are now endangered.

### **Prisoners: Radicalism**

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the level of radicalising influence by Islamist extremists in prisons in England and Wales; and what estimate they have made of the number of prisoners who have been radicalised in the last five years.

Lord Keen of Elie: We are currently managing around 650 individuals in prison and probation through a counter terrorism specialist case management process, ranging from convicted terrorists to those we have identified as showing signs of extremist views or vulnerabilities. We have around 50% more terrorist related prisoners in prisons in England and Wales than we did three years ago. The majority of cases are Islamist extremist (approximately 80%). However, there continues to be a significant rise in Right Wing Terrorism (RWT) cases across the country; the number of Right-Wing offenders in custody rose from 4% of the total Terrorism Act (TACT) / TACT-related cohort in 2015 to 14% in 2019. We do not produce an estimate of the number of offenders who might have been radicalised, nor do we produce a single assessment of the level of radicalising influence by extremists of any ideology. We take the threat of radicalisation and extremism very seriously and this is a key part of our work to improve safety in our prisons. We deal with the risks that individual prisoners present on a case-by-case basis, working closely with law enforcement partners.

### **Extradition to India Found to be Inhuman and Degrading**

On 2 July 2019, Senior District Judge Arbuthnot discharged Ms Arti Dhir and Mr Kaval Rajjada from an extradition request issued by the Government of India as extradition would breach Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects against inhumane sentences. The requested persons are wanted by India to face trial for conspiracy to murder. SDJ Arbuthnot found that "It has long been accepted that there cannot be one rule in this jurisdiction and a separate rule for extradition to another. If it would be an inhumane sentence - whole life sentence without any possibility of review – here, it would be same in the other jurisdiction." SDJ Arbuthnot concluded that "there is no possibility of a review either at state level [Gujarat] or by the President of India, in those circumstances, there will be no 'hope' or the possibility of exceptional release." SDJ Arbuthnot discharged the requested persons finding "substantial grounds for believing that they would face a real risk of being subject to treatment, a lack of a review of a life sentence, which would be inhuman and degrading".



### **Serco Fined £22.9m Over Electronic Tagging Scandal**

The outsourcing company Serco has been fined nearly £23m as part of a settlement with the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) over electronic tagging contracts. The firm said it was “mortified”. It said its UK subsidiary Serco Geografix had taken responsibility for three offences of fraud and two of false accounting between 2010 and 2013, related to understating profits from its electronic monitoring contracts with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). It was fined £19.2m and ordered to pay £3.7m in costs. An agreement with the SFO, which is subject to approval by the courts, will result in a lengthy investigation ending without Serco facing criminal charges.

The issue was first reported by Serco to the SFO in 2013. In 2013 Serco paid a £70m settlement to the MoJ after the firm and fellow outsourcing group G4S faced allegations of charging for tagging people who were either dead, in jail, or had left the country. Rupert Soames, Serco’s group chief executive, said: “Those of us who now run the business are mortified, embarrassed and angry that, in a period between six and nine years ago, Serco understated the level of profitability of its electronic monitoring contract in its reports to the Ministry of Justice. “Serco apologised unreservedly at the time, and we do so again.” He added: “The management and culture of Serco, and the transparency with which we conduct our affairs, have changed beyond all recognition, and we are pleased that this has been acknowledged by both the SFO and by the government.” It was stripped of its responsibility for tagging criminals in the UK in late 2013. Serco said it had taken “significant steps” to reform itself, including rewriting its system of management control, and strengthening its bidding, contract management, internal audit and management assurance processes. It said no board members or senior executives that were in post at the time of the offences still worked for the company. The group now reports annually to the SFO and the Cabinet Office on its assurance programme. The Financial Reporting Council also launched an investigation in June 2016 into Deloitte, Serco’s group auditor at the time of the offences.

### **Americanisation of the British Criminal Justice System**

Over the last twenty years the Americanisation of the British criminal justice system, especially in relation to sentencing policy and prison conditions, has been significant and strikingly obvious, and as the U.K. departs Europe and enters totally the orbit of U.S. influence any last vestige of rehabilitation or human rights in the treatment of prisoners will disappear completely.

Already British prisons now resemble third world jails with literally thousands of prisoners locked down in crumbling, vermin infested penal slums with dramatically rising levels of violence, self-harm, suicide and mental illness. Compared to most other European prison systems that which exists in the U.K. now resembles and exists as a sort of third world Pena logical satellite of the U.S. prison system. As a microcosm of wider society British prisons also reflect the social consequences of a growing colonial relationship between Britain and the U.S. and the fate of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups within the former.

Two major influences of the U.S. justice and prison system on its British counterpart was the use of indeterminate prison sentences [Indefinite Detention for Public Protection] and the increasing selling off of jails to private corporations [the Prison Industrial Complex]. Although the indefinite detention law has now been scrapped, thousands of prisoners originally sentenced under that law remain in jail, many for offences that hardly justified a custodial sentence. The increasing privatisation of “custodial services”, however, continues apace and prisons have more and more become sites of cheap coerced labour for avaricious private companies. During a recent visit to the U.K. U.S. president Trump said any trade deal with the

U.K. following its exit from the E.U. would include the sale of the NHS to giant American pharmaceutical companies, and inevitably once the U.K. moves totally into the American sphere of Neo-Liberal free market capitalism what remains of the state sector infrastructure, including the prison system, will eventually be bequeathed to U.S. dominated financial interests. The removal of the U.K. from the European Convention on Human Rights will also effectively remove even a semblance of humane treatment within the factories of suffering that are British prisons. A court in Holland recently refused to extradite a British national wanted by the U.K. authorities because, in the opinion of the court, conditions in the U.K. prison system are a clear breach of human rights. Clearly, in terms of its treatment of prisoners the U.K. shares a similar reputation to those countries less disguised by liberal democracy.

As the centre of political gravity in the U.K. shifts further to the far Right, evidenced by the popularity of Farage’s Brexit party, so the treatment of marginalised groups like prisoners will worsen, and as the Welfare State is increasingly replaced by the Law and Order State prisons will become little more than ghettos with walls around them, or something even worse.

John Bowden, A5026DM, HMP Warren Hill, Hollesley, IP12 3BF

### **Duncan Campbell: Inside the 21st-century British criminal underworld**

There are almost 5,000 criminal gangs in the UK. But the old family firms are gone – today’s big players are multinational, diversified and tech-savvy. Who rules the underworld today, and where do they conduct their business? Once there were the familiar mugshots and Runyonesque nicknames, the clubs and pubs where the usual suspects gathered, plotted and schemed. Now organised crime is run like any other business, and its leading figures look like every other broker or tycoon. We have entered into a world of what Sir Rob Wainwright, until recently Europe’s most senior police officer, calls “anonymised” crime. The underworld has become the overworld.

The National Crime Agency has estimated that £90bn of criminal money is being laundered through the UK every year, 4% of the country’s GDP. London has become the global capital of money-laundering and the beating heart of European organised crime. English is now the international underworld’s lingua franca. Crime is an essential part of the British economy, providing hundreds of thousands of jobs, not just for professional criminals – the NCA reckons there are 4,629 organised crime groups in operation – but for police and prison officers, lawyers and court officials, and a security business that now employs more than half a million people.

Just as the names of familiar shops have been departing from the high street, the old family firms of criminals are disappearing, whether in London, Glasgow, Newcastle or Manchester. And just as British football fans have had to learn how to pronounce the names of the legions of new foreign players, detectives have had to learn to do the same for the increasing number of new criminals. Britain was once dealing with drugs imports from half a dozen countries; now it is more than 30. A young person who would in the past have sought an apprenticeship in a trade or industry may now find that drug dealing offers better career prospects. And, apart from drugs and guns, British trading channels now facilitate the trafficking of women from eastern Europe and Africa for prostitution and children from Vietnam as low-level drug workers.

The underworld’s modus operandi has shifted in the past quarter century. “The international nature of crime and technology are probably the two biggest changes,” says Steve Rodhouse, the NCA’s head of operations. Speaking at the NCA’s unprepossessing headquarters in Vauxhall, south London, Rodhouse explains how the agency’s work has mushroomed. “Pretty much all of the NCA’s most significant ‘high-harm’ operations now involve