

CONSCRIPT –

Comments and V



CELL CONFESSIONS AND THE PRICE OF PERJURY

A few issues back you did a very good article on Cell Confession evidence used to convict people in murder cases like my own.

You are quite right of course there needs to be a change in the law so that this thriving business is brought to an end.

PACE rules have stopped the police from 'verballing' suspects and then convicting them by perjuring the fabricated confession to the jury.

But a loophole in the current law allows prisoners, usually on remand, to be recruited to become star witnesses at murder trials that rest on cell confession evidence to make a case - in other words, without some snivelling rat in the Witness Box lying his head off for thirty bits of silver, some brownie points and a get out of jail free card, there wouldn't even be a case.

True, in some of these trials defendants may be guilty, but in my own experience most are totally innocent of murder and the trials are more like governor's adjudications used to be years ago - Kangaroo Courts. They never did anything to maintain prison discipline, but one thing is for sure they did cause a lot of cons to have contempt for the authorities. Worst of all the old Kangaroo Court Adjudications provided perfect examples of how to abuse the law and do a good old fashioned stitch up; the officer would stand there lying through his teeth, the governor would believe every word and it was all just a matter of how long CC you got.

The way prisoners in my case gave evidence at my murder trial reminded of those old style adjudications, the main difference is that prison grasses earn untold rewards and preferential treatment for their perjured evidence. These types of ruthless witnesses have no interest in justice, they are only interested in what is in it for themselves. They don't care about what sort of damage their lies cause and to how many different people; as long as they get their fair share for their lies.

Crime doesn't pay - but being a lying witness and perverting the course of justice in high profile murder trials like my own is very lucrative and beats the system too - when will common sense prevail?

Michael J. Stone (above)

HMP Full Sutton

abuse when this is not, in fact, the case. People in these positions are no more likely to carry out such acts than police and prison officers, MPs or even probation officers

Name Supplied

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Editor Replies: We asked Stephen Shaw to comment but he's currently on leave.

Editor Replies: *Even Shaun Russell, the father of Lyn and Megan Russell who you are alleged to have murdered before 'fessing up' to it in jail, says he has doubts about your conviction; he's not alone. Cell confessions defy belief - who is going to say nothing for four days in a police station and then confess the lot to the first con he meets in jail? As you say, when will common sense prevail?*