

Press release: Sentence increase for Shropshire drug addict who murdered partner



A man who stabbed his partner 17 times had his minimum term increased today after it was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, for being too low.

Paul Beddoes, 45, murdered his partner, 46 year old Lynn McNally, at their home in Shropshire, stabbing her repeatedly with at least 2 knives. At the time, Beddoes was under the influence of Class A drugs. Beddoes admitted stabbing McNally to his neighbours the following morning.

Beddoes was sentenced at Stafford Crown Court in August, where he was given a life sentence with a minimum term of 11 years 243 days imprisonment, minus the time already spent on remand. Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal increased his minimum term to 15 years, minus the time already spent on remand.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

"This was a brutal and frenzied attack which resulted in the death of Beddoes' partner. The offender is a danger to women, and I am pleased the Court has seen fit to increase the prison term."

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1. 1 November 2018 Original minimum term was 11 years 243 days imprisonment, minus the time already spent on remand.
 2. 1 November 2018 First published.
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News story: Max Hill QC joins the CPS as Director of Public Prosecutions

Leading QC Max Hill takes up his new role as Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) today (1st November).

Mr Hill is a former Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association and defended and prosecuted a number of complex cases of homicide, violent crime and corporate crime. He was instructed in many of the most significant and high-profile murder trials in recent years, including the second set of trials concerning the killing of Damilola Taylor and the London bombings of 2005. He also has extensive advisory experience both nationally and internationally.

Mr Hill replaces Alison Saunders who is stepping down after 5 years as DPP following the completion of her full term. She leaves after 32 years of dedicated public service. Ms Saunders joined the CPS as a barrister in 1986 in its founding year. As well as DPP she has undertaken roles as Chief Crown Prosecutor for London and Head of Organised Crime Division. Ms Saunders' achievements include the prosecution of Stephen Lawrence's killers, and the prosecution of Roy Whiting for the abduction and murder of 8 year old Sarah Payne. She also secured a conviction in the Parsons Green bomber case and introduced the 'Speaking to Witnesses at Court' initiative. In the 2013 New Year Honours, she was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) "for services to Law and Order especially after the 2011 London Riots". In 2013 she was the first DPP to be appointed from within the CPS.

Commenting on the appointment, the Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP said:

Max Hill is a distinguished and extremely experienced Queen's Counsel who has demonstrated a profound commitment both to the criminal justice system and to public service. I'm confident that he will be a good and collaborative leader of the Crown Prosecution Service and a principled and strongly independent chief prosecutor. The public will rightly expect nothing less.

He will replace Alison Saunders to whom I am grateful for her 32 years of public service. I have no doubt Max will build on Alison's achievements. The role of Director of Public Prosecutions is a crucial one in delivering justice for the public and requires exceptional qualities of judgement and character. Alison has demonstrated both during her term as Director.

As Attorney General I want to thank her for her dedicated and professional public service and I wish her all the best for her future.

Max Hill was appointed by the Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP, after a rigorous and open competition, overseen by a Civil Service Commissioner. His tenure as DPP is a term of 5 years.

As set out in the Criminal Justice Act 1987, the Attorney General appoints the DPP. The process to recruit the next DPP began under the previous Attorney General, Jeremy Wright QC MP. It was completed and approved by the new Attorney General after his appointment on 9 July.

Max Hill QC Biography:

Max Hill QC is Head of Red Lion Chambers and, since March 2017, the current Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. He is also the former Leader of the South Eastern Circuit (2014-16) and Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association (2011-12). Whilst unable to advise or appear in terrorism related cases during his tenure as Independent Reviewer, Max maintains a heavyweight crime practice, defending and prosecuting in a number of complex cases of homicide, violent crime and high value fraud and corporate crime. He also has extensive advisory experience both nationally and internationally. Max has been instructed in many of the most significant and high-profile murder trials in recent years, including the second set of trials concerning the killing of Damilola Taylor, and the London bombings of 2005. Murder cases include R v Long (2015), R v Campbell and others (2014-5) and R v O'Driscoll (2014).

Max defends in substantial fraud cases, including tax fraud. In fraud, he was instructed for the defence in the SFO Forex (Foreign Exchange) investigation and the long-running SFO pharmaceutical cartel case. His terrorism cases include R v Bourgass and others (the ricin conspiracy), R v Ibrahim and others (the 21/7 bombers), R v Ali and others and R v Girma and others (the 21/7 follow-on trials). He appeared for the Government in the Binyam Mohamed case in the Administrative Court. He acted for the Metropolitan Police in the Inquests into the 7th July London bombings. Most recently he prosecuted a London taxi driver and bomb-maker for the killing of a US soldier in R v Sardar (2015). He also prosecuted two men who gave sums of money to the Paris and Brussels terror suspect Abrini, engaging in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism. Max appeared as lead prosecution counsel, alongside Michelle Nelson, in Channel 4's The Trial (2017) in which real juries, together with actual barristers and judges, tried a fictional Murder case in order to explore the workings of the jury system.

Speech: Minister launches updated Serious and Organised Crime Strategy

Thank you very much Lynne and thank you for coming. I think it was important that we have this presentation in the centre of London, where obviously we

have big challenges to deal with in illicit finance, and indeed highlight the importance we are attaching to economic crime in this government. And can I thank you Lynne for that sobering overview of the threat we face.

There was something remarkable about the BBC hit McMafia.

It wasn't the reality of the global nature of 21st century organised crime. Or the scale of the wealth involved. Or even the fact that many of the criminals chose London as their playground.

It was the disturbing fact that in all eight episodes not once did a character or criminal enterprise fear the police or financial regulators.

That might have been license for fiction and it has never been the case that there is total immunity for organised crime and we all can produce lists of successful convictions and networks disrupted.

But McMafia did expose the reality of serious and organised crime in the 21st century: hidden, global, ruthless.

Hidden

On the surface, well-cut suits swan around the nation's capital, while all along heading up criminal networks that move millions of pounds through our banking systems.

They employ facilitators to give themselves a veil of legitimacy and to allow them to enjoy their wealth.

Lawyers, accountants and estate agents are too often woven into their web.

Their activities kept hidden by the Internet and encryption.

Global

The interconnected nature of the world is an excellent enabler for today's criminal networks and paedophiles.

From cocaine and county lines through to child abuse, we see more and more international links.

Secure communications and open borders have given criminals a turbo boost this side of the millennium.

We shouldn't underestimate the challenges this presents to our law enforcement agencies.

In the old days criminals had to meet, to plan and to exchange payment. They might even have had to write things down.

But now you can run your county line from the comfort of your front room, dealing with orders and moving money at the touch of a button.

Ruthless

An easy operating environment means more competition and more rewards.

The stakes are higher and so therefore is the violence.

The top dogs in the organised crime groups that I see every day wouldn't bat an eyelid at trafficking women and children if the profit was right; and they wouldn't think twice to order killings to protect their business.

In the UK alone last year, over 5,000 potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking were identified. We should think about that for a moment, we should think of the type of people that trade in such misery.

As Security and Economic Crime Minister I see right across the threat picture of the United Kingdom – terrorism, cyber, espionage, corruption and serious and organised crime.

And while the potential of chemical or biological attack by terrorists keeps me awake at night, it is nothing compared to the scale and harm of today's serious and organised crime.

There are over 4,600 organised crime groups who impact on all our lives more often than any other national security threat.

Last year alone there were 2,500 deaths from illegal drug misuse in England and Wales.

And it saddens me to say that we think there are around 80,000 people posing a sexual threat to children online.

And as Lynne has highlighted, the estimated cost of serious and organised crime to society is at least £37 billion each year. Now that should keep us all awake at night.

So as criminals develop new ways of doing things we need to develop new methods of detection.

Since we published the previous Serious and Organised Crime Strategy in 2013, we have developed the legislation and the law enforcement structures to face the threat.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister we have, for the first time, locked in the cross-government consensus needed to tackle serious and organised crime. And we are getting results.

Lynne has showcased the excellent work of the National Crime Agency since its inception, which has led to 12,000 arrests in the UK and overseas. It has seized over 335 tonnes of cocaine and 1,700 guns. And last year activity by the Regional Organised Crime Units led to a total of 2,052 disruptions.

Lynne and her team should be congratulated on building a first class, top team to tackle the threat. Complemented by the leadership of Chief Constable

Andy Cooke and Chief Constable Mike Barton, as well as the ROCU lead Matt Horne, Deputy Chief Constable bringing together all the police leadership to deliver at all levels.

But taking down criminals on the front line is not the whole battle. Their soft underbelly is money and their need to enjoy it. So, we must do more to go after the wealth and the status they seek.

That is why I was pleased last year to take through Parliament the Criminal Finances Act.

And it is why we have invested in better partnerships such as the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce.

But we all need to do more. Illicit finance is the golden thread that runs through virtually all serious and organised crime. In one scene in McMafia, the mentor of the protagonist tells him:

All I need is a banker. These wars are fought in the boardrooms, not the streets. Money, moving money is your weapon.

Criminals like to enjoy their wealth.

And to date, while banks do play their role, too many others turn a blind eye. Illicit finance crops up in many places where people should be asking questions.

London property, public schools, sports teams and purveyors of luxury goods.

For too long this has gone unchallenged.

The new Serious and Organised Crime strategy, which I am publishing today, will ensure that there will be no safe space for serious and organised criminals to operate.

Through this strategy, we will take four main approaches to tackling serious and organised crime and ending its pernicious grip on the UK.

First, we will do more to stop the problem at source through early intervention. This means working with young people who are at risk of being drawn into a life of crime.

A local project that the Home Office funds in Wales, for example, helps young people who are at risk of becoming involved in serious crime, become aware of the consequences and helps them to recognise high-risk situations and practice ways of responding that keep them safe.

We will deliver tailored interventions such as this, focussing on drug trafficking and cybercrime, whilst also prioritising deterring professional enablers and CSE offenders.

A new lifetime management framework will also help to reduce reoffending, and

ensure closer management of offenders unwilling to cease involvement in serious crime.

Second, we will work with vulnerable people, communities, and businesses to help stop them from being targeted by criminals and support those who are.

Local community coordinators will be piloted in England and in Wales, working with communities to build their resilience to SOC and reduce the impact of the county lines and other serious and organised crime activity which inflicts so much harm on communities.

The coordinators will focus on raising awareness of the impact on individuals, reducing the attraction and acceptability of SOC as a lifestyle and reducing the demand for illicit goods and services.

Third, to achieve our ambition, we will align our efforts to tackle serious and organised crime as one, cohesive system.

This includes establishing a new national tasking framework for law enforcement; and exploring a new funding model that can commit investment over multiple years.

We will also improve engagement with the private sector, particularly the information and communications technology industry, so that we share the collective burden effectively and combine the strengths of both the public and private sector to tackle the problem.

Fourth, we need criminals to know that if we, the state, decided to focus on them then we will bring down on them the full force of the State.

This means using all the levers at our disposal. From the capabilities of GCHQ to sanctions, to visas and citizenship deprivations.

We will turn up the heat and go after them whether they are at home or abroad.

We need to get to a position where they, not us, have to be lucky every day.

Our new approach will proactively target, pursue and dismantle the highest harm networks and target the most dangerous and determined criminals exploiting vulnerable people.

This includes an additional £21.5 million investment in law enforcement over the next 18 months, announced by the Home Secretary in September, designed to reduce the volume of offending and pursue the most hardened and dangerous child abusers.

An area we particularly want to focus on is tackling economic crime. This, in particular, requires us to work together across government and the private sector. We have made good progress here – particularly through the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT).

A good example of this is shown through a human trafficking case referred to

the JMLIT by the NCA. The case involved a UK-based Organised Crime Group (OCG) who were trafficking vulnerable women from Nigeria for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Through JMLIT members, it was possible to identify five additional bank accounts previously unknown by law enforcement. This gave further insight into how the Organised Crime Group managed their finances.

And ultimately, the financial information allowed law enforcement to take action, whilst ensuring the most timely interventions to identify and safeguard any potential victims.

The upshot is that three individuals have been arrested (2 in UK and 1 in Nigeria). The main subject was issued an 18 year custodial sentence and the second person in the UK has now been charged for human trafficking and perverting the course of justice.

The JMLIT disclosures and support undoubtedly added value to this international operation, helping to identify links between the OCG's members globally for further investigation and new lines of enquiry.

This is exactly the type of activity we need, and need to see more of. And why we will be focussing on economic crime as part of this new strategy.

As we look out over London we see the global financial centre of the City. \$2.7 trillion per day was the average daily reported UK foreign exchange turnover in April 2018.

That is a huge haystack in which to hide illicit finance. Unverified figures put the amount of dirty money taking advantage of the huge traffic in legitimate money flows at around £90 billion plus per year.

It is vital that post Brexit the City enhances its reputation for cleanliness and security. That is why we are ambitious, to not only go after the dirty money of crooks, but to detect and deter international money launderers.

So today I am announcing an investment of at least £48 million over the next 18 months for a package of capabilities to tackle economic crime and illicit finance.

This will enable us to significantly strengthen our approach, allowing us to use new and improved capabilities to better freeze, seize or otherwise deny criminals access to their finances, assets and infrastructure.

It will enable us to generate a stronger and deeper partnership between government, law enforcement and the private sector.

We will invest in the National Economic Crime Centre.

It will be the national authority for the UK's operational response to economic crime, maximising the value of intelligence, and prioritising, and tasking and coordinating to ensure the response achieves the greatest impact on the threat.

Hosted by the NCA it will be staffed by partners from across the law enforcement community (NCA, Financial Conduct Authority, HMRC, City of London Police, Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office) as well as from the private sector.

Its mission will be to lead tasking and coordination as well as maximising operational capabilities in the public and private sector to tackle the greatest threats.

Our investment will help grow the numbers of financial investigators and ensure we have a regional and local response in order to complement our national lead.

Our financial institutions currently spend over £5 billion a year complying with regulations. It is therefore in both our interests to ensure that when sharing intelligence and reports we focus on producing quality not quantity.

The government and industry are committed to reforming the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime.

Part of those reforms will include replacement of the outdated IT system that underpins it to enable improved analysis and make it easier to report, and more staff in the NCA for the UK Financial Intelligence Unit that runs the SARs regime itself.

We all have a role to play in improving our resilience

The sheer scale of the task means that no single operational partner nor government department can do it on their own. We need the private sector to help us burden share.

Strengthening our partnerships means sharing more intelligence and more capabilities. We want to build on the success of the JMLIT by integrating it into the National Economic Crime Centre.

Experience tells us that the best line of defence is prevention.

The Joint Fraud Taskforce is implementing the Banking Protocol, through which bank staff are trained to recognise signs of fraud in branch leading to a guaranteed direct law enforcement response. Adoption of the protocol by police forces in England and Wales has already stopped £21.5 million in fraud losses and led to 180 arrests.

The Take 5 initiative is a joint public private education campaign aimed to help potential victims spot the signs of fraud.

Where criminals seek to spend their ill-gotten gains, we need to ensure citizens spot the signs and do something about it. That is why the "Flag It Up campaign" continues to partner with the accountancy, legal and now property sectors to drive forward increased compliance and reporting against the threat of 'dirty money'.

I have long campaigned for greater transparency. I believe it is the best

disinfectant to dirty money. The more law enforcement can see the easier it is to stop. So that is why this strategy is going further on corporate transparency.

There will be a second session Bill to introduce a world-leading register of overseas beneficial ownership of companies that own UK property, so we can find out who really owns and controls real estate and deter kleptocrats and criminals from attempting to park their dirty money in London.

And by the end of the year the government will set out reforms to limited partnerships, including Scottish Limited Partnerships, which have been abused by overseas criminals for money laundering.

The global nature of finance means that there is little point hardening the environment here if our international partners don't play their part.

Every day, using our overseas networks of NCA, HMRC and Police we work to tackle emerging threats and to target major criminals.

The global financial system is only as strong as its weakest link.

Too often, bribery and corruption undermine our efforts.

Serious and organised crime is the deadliest and most damaging national security threat faced by the UK.

It undermines our economy, damages our international reputation and has a corrosive effect on individuals and communities.

Many serious and organised criminals think they are above the law.

They think they can defy the British state.

And they think they are free to act with impunity against our businesses and our way of life.

This strategy is determined to challenge that assertion.

Our new strategic approach not only improves our government and law enforcement capabilities, but also ensures that working with the private sector, the public and international partners are integrated as part of our response.

And working together, implementing this new strategy, we will show them just how serious we are.

And now I'd like to welcome Bob Wigley, chair of UK Finance, showing that we have in partnership the National Crime Agency and UK Finance to tackle serious crime.

Press release: Welfare reform success with 54,000 benefit cap households taking on more work

New figures show that around 54,000 households are no longer subject to the benefit cap, indicating that welfare reforms are working and more people are entering employment or have taken on more hours.

70% (140,000) of households on Housing Benefit were no longer capped in August 2018. This is an increase of 8,300 on the previous quarter (May 2018).

The benefit cap incentivises work, including part-time work, as claimants become exempt from the cap once they are in a job and are earning over a certain amount.

These figures come a day after Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures confirmed the number of children living in long-term workless households is down 580,000 since 2010, falling to its lowest level in more than a decade.

Work remains the best route out of poverty, with around 75% of children in poverty leaving poverty altogether when their parents move into full employment. Children living with a working adult do better in school, have better educational attainment and are more likely to be in work as adults.

Since the introduction of the benefit cap in April 2013, 205,000 households have had their benefits capped. Around 147,000 of these are no longer capped, and 54,000 households became exempt from the cap due to work.

The statistics also include the number of households on Universal Credit that have previously been subject to the cap, with 1,800 of these previously capped claimants exempt from the cap due to work.

The government has recently announced that it is spending an additional £1.7 billion a year on Universal Credit, increasing by £1,000 each the amount that 2.4 million households can earn each year before their Universal Credit begins to be withdrawn.

Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey, said:

Our welfare reforms are supporting more and more people into work – in fact since 2010 we have seen an average of 1,000 more people moving into employment each and every day.

Under the old system, over 1 million people spent most of a decade trapped on benefits. In stark comparison we now have seen record levels of employment.

And the benefit cap ensures we have a fairer system – fair for the

taxpayer and fair for claimants – as well as a system that incentivises work. So it's not surprising that we now have the lowest unemployment figures since 1975.

And with the latest budget announcements for Universal Credit, we will help even more families as we increase the amount people can earn by £1,000 before their benefit payment begins to be reduced – making sure it pays to work and it's a smooth transition into work.

Read the latest [benefit cap statistics](#)

More about these statistics

Under the benefit cap, anyone eligible who moves into work and then earns enough for Working Tax Credit (or the equivalent under Universal Credit) becomes exempt.

The estimate of the number of children in households that were capped but went into work is for households that had their Housing Benefit capped only. It is calculated by multiplying the number of children in these households by the number of households, which is available on [Stat-Xplore](#). Households with more than 5 children are grouped together, so for this calculation we have assumed that there are 6 children in these households.

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News story: Government launches new strategy to tackle serious and organised crime

In a speech this morning, Minister for Security and Economic Crime Ben Wallace said preventing criminals from laundering money made from operations such as drug trafficking and human trafficking is a key element of the government's new [Serious and Organised Crime Strategy](#).

The strategy also sets out how the government will build the UK's defences against serious and organised crime (SOC), track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

According to the National Crime Agency there are around 4,600 serious and organised crime groups in the UK. These criminals use violence and intimidation in communities to operate and they prey on the most vulnerable in society, from victims of modern slavery and human trafficking to young people suffering sexual exploitation and abuse.

The strategy is backed by funding of at least £48 million in 2019 to 2020 to further ramp up law enforcement capabilities to specifically tackle illicit finance.

Security and Economic Crime Minister, Ben Wallace, said:

Serious and organised crime is the deadliest and most damaging national security threat faced by the UK. It undermines our economy, damages our international reputation and has a corrosive effect on individuals and communities.

Many serious and organised criminals think they are above the law. This strategy is determined to challenge that assertion.

Our new strategic approach not only improves our government and law enforcement capabilities, but also ensures that working with the

private sector, the public and international partners are integrated as part of our response.

And working together, implementing this new strategy, we will show them just how serious we are.

New measures in the SOC strategy include:

- additional investment in the multi-agency National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) which is now operational and includes officers from the NCA, HM Revenue and Customs, City of London Police, Serious Fraud Office, Financial Conduct Authority Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office
- piloting new approaches to preventing people engaging in serious and organised crime and building community resilience against it
- establishing a new national tasking framework for law enforcement
- improving engagement with the private sector, particularly the information and communications technology industry
- expanding our overseas capabilities, including establishing a new network of overseas policy specialists

The NECC will bring the full force of government, law enforcement, civil society, regulators and the private sector – particularly the technology and financial sectors – to bear against those engaged in this criminal activity.

Mr Wallace set out how the government will:

- use all the powers and tools available to target the most dangerous and determined criminals and deny them access to their money and assets
- work with communities, businesses and the vulnerable to build resilience against serious and organised crime
- stop the problem at the source, supporting those at risk of engaging in criminality and more closely managing offenders who are unwilling to cease their involvement in SOC
- align the collective efforts as one, cohesive system establishing a new national tasking framework for law enforcement, improving engagement with the private sector and expanding overseas capabilities

The Minister was joined by Lynne Owens, Director-General of the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Bob Wigley, Chair of UK Finance at the launch event at The Shard in central London.

Director-General of the National Crime Agency, Lynne Owens, said:

The threat from serious and organised crime is changing rapidly, increasing in both volume and complexity. It now affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat.

Tackling this ever-changing threat is a daunting task. This is why, as part of this strategy, we are introducing a new, revised operating model for law enforcement, which will allow us to drive

more effective collaboration and prioritise tackling the issues that cause the most harm to the public.

We welcome the funding injection for next year across law enforcement tackling serious and organised crime and look forward to further commitment to provide the resources needed to deliver this whole-system approach.

Our ambition is to deliver a layered capability, from the local level through to the national, which will identify and exploit the best opportunities to tackle serious and organised crime and stop the harm it inflicts on the UK public.

Chair of UK Finance, Bob Wigley, said:

Stemming the flow of illicit finance that underpins serious and organised crime is an absolutely priority for the UK's banking and finance sector.

Banks already spend over £5 billion a year fighting economic crime, constantly developing new approaches and finding more effective methods, but there is more we can all do.

The new strategy launched today is exactly what is needed – providing the right legal and regulatory system, while ensuring effective collaboration by all the regulated sectors of the economy, because as a country we are only as strong as our weakest link.

The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy complements the Serious Violence Strategy launched in April which sets out the government's response to serious violence and increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.

It also has links to other government strategies, including the UK's Strategy to Counter Terrorism, the UK Anti-Corruption Strategy, the National Cyber Security Strategy and the Modern Slavery Strategy.

The £48 million funding to enhance the response to illicit finance is in addition to the £21 million over the next 18 months to boost the law enforcement response to child sexual exploitation and abuse which the Home Secretary announced in September.