

[Press release: Christchurch mugger jailed after Solicitor General's referral](#)

A man who beat another unconscious and then stole from him has been jailed after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his case to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.

Craig Scarpellini, now 26, was walking through Christchurch when he came across his victim, who was drunk, and offered him cannabis if he came to Scarpellini's flat. When they reached the block of flats, another man emerged with his face covered, and the victim attempted to run. Scarpellini punched him to the side of the head, and the pair proceeded to continue punching until he fell unconscious.

When the victim came to, he discovered that his phone and wallet were missing. He suffered minor injuries to most of his body, as well as experiencing nausea and pain in his temple. His left thumb was fractured. When questioned, Scarpellini claimed to have acted in self-defence after the victim had gone 'beserk'.

Scarpellini's original hearing was at Bournemouth Crown Court in July, where his sentencing was deferred until November 2018.

Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal sentenced him to 4 years immediate custody.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

"Scarpellini launched an unprovoked attack against his victim, and I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has today agreed that the risk he poses to the public warrants immediate custody."

[Press release: Trade taskforce launched to increase UK business competitive advantage](#)

Businesses to receive support to develop trade links around the world from a new taskforce. The newly appointed HM Trade Commissioner network will support the board's advisers acting as a bridge to business in their regions, ensuring UK companies have a competitive advantage by providing support and

local market knowledge.

Speaking in Coventry today (Thursday 6 September), Dr Liam Fox will launch the new taskforce to accelerate the government's Global Britain agenda, building on the Prime Minister's recent visit to Africa.

The taskforce, part of the Board of Trade, will seek to guarantee the UK's status as a prominent champion of free trade, leading the world in the way the UK partners with developing countries to alleviate poverty, support development and deliver jobs, growth and prosperity.

The taskforce will meet throughout the year and will be supported by HM Trade Commissioners across the world.

International Trade Secretary and President of the Board of Trade Dr Liam Fox MP said:

Championing free trade and supporting developing nations through trade is in the UK's interest. The prosperity created by free trade is the basis for social stability, which in turn provides the political stability which underpins our global security.

Prosperity, stability and global security are the prizes for a strong, rules-based international trading system, and that is what the UK seeks to create.

My international economic department is working hard to drive the Global Britain agenda, and this taskforce will ensure the Board of Trade makes a real impact around the world.

[Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Uzbekistan – Summer 2019](#)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Timothy Achille Torlot

Married to: Jennifer Florence Steil

Children: Two daughters

2016 to present FC0, Head, Litigation Unit, Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department

2012 to 2016 European External Action Service, Head of Delegation, EU Delegation Bolivia

2011 to 2012	FCO, Head, Yemen Team, Middle East and North Africa Directorate
2007 to 2010	Sana'a, Her Majesty's Ambassador
2005 to 2006	Baghdad, Deputy Head of Mission
2002 to 2004	UK Trade and Investment, Director, Technology and Sector Partnership, International Sectors Group
1997 to 2001	Santiago, First Secretary (Commercial)
1995 to 1997	FCO, Head, Commonwealth Section, South East Asia Department
1992 to 1995	FCO, Head of Section, Career Development Unit, Personnel Management Department
1987 to 1992	Wellington, Second Secretary (Chancery)
1984 to 1987	Muscat, Third Secretary (Chancery, Information and Technical Cooperation)
1982 to 1984	Full time language training (Arabic)
1981 to 1982	FCO, Assistant Desk Officer for US, North America Department

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[Speech: Stability and Constructive Dialogue in Nicaragua](#)

Thank you very much Madam President. It's the first time I take the floor under your Presidency, so congratulations to you and your team for assuming the Presidency for September. Thank you very much to the OAS representative for his informative briefing and also to Mr Maradiaga for your harrowing testimony.

I think the Kuwaiti Ambassador has set out very clearly the legal framework under the Charter for why we are having this debate today and we're grateful

to the US delegation for putting it on the Council's agenda. I won't rehearse the legal framework since I think Ambassador Otaibi gave a very good account, but what I will say is that it's right that the Council is made aware by the regional organisation concerned of its concerns and the concerns that this may start to have effects throughout the region. I don't think we ever want to get to a stage where the Council can't hear from a regional organization about its concerns about what is happening in the territory for which it is responsible.

But more than that, I think we also need to remember that the Nicaraguan government has expelled a UN agency; it has expelled the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. So I think that's a very important fact. Independent of Chapter 6 and the regional organisation's point, it's a very important fact. The Council needs to defend the UN entities, and therefore, even if there were no other reason, we would support discussing this issue today.

And lastly, I note that there has been a situation of refugees created – by definition, refugees cross international borders. It is therefore right that the Council should be able to debate the implications of that act, which may or may not constitute an unfriendly act, but also risks being destabilising to international peace and security. I am not making a judgment that it is destabilising, but as we heard from the Kuwaiti representative, the Council has the responsibility to investigate situations that may give rise to these implications – and I stress the word 'may.' And I think that is exactly what we're doing today.

My government has been watching events in Nicaragua very closely. We regret the loss of life that has occurred since the protest began in April and we call for an end to the violence and for the government of Nicaragua to comply with its international human rights obligations, and these include the rights of people to exercise their right to freedom of expression and to demonstrate peacefully and lawfully.

We have been deeply concerned by the excessive use of force by the authorities and pro-government paramilitaries against the people of Nicaragua. We call on the Nicaraguan government to demobilize paramilitary groups and to end the repression against its citizens. We have been alarmed at the many reports we have seen that give rise to human rights concern. These include the use of live ammunition on protesters, and we call for them to be thoroughly investigated.

Maintaining press freedoms is always important, but it is particularly so during times of unrest. And we urge the Nicaraguan government to respect these freedoms and to allow the independent press to report freely, without suffering persecution and harassment, and we are very concerned at reports of violence against independent media outlets, journalists and their families.

I would also like to register our deep concern at reports of arbitrary detentions of dissenters and again we urge the Nicaraguan government to respect the right to a fair trial and prisoners' right to due process, a proper defense, and to respect the rights of their families.

Madam President, looking ahead, I think we are all aware that the challenges in Nicaragua can be overcome only through a meaningful and inclusive dialogue which addresses the legitimate concerns of the protesters. The United Kingdom was encouraged by the establishment of a national dialogue in May and we welcome the role the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua was able to play in convening that and mediating but we regret that that dialogue has had many breaks because of the violence, and the recent decision by the government to abandon the process is very regrettable. And once again, I would like to urge the Nicaraguan government to fulfil its commitment to engage sincerely in a dialogue, including by ensuring peaceful conditions for the dialogue to resume.

Turning to the OAS, Madam President, United Kingdom supports the OAS work. We also support the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and of course the United Nations in attempting to resolve the current crisis. These organizations have important roles to play in supporting dialogue and ensuring that human rights transgressions are fully investigated.

I referred earlier to the expulsion of the OHCHR. This followed the publication of their report on human rights violations and abuses in the context of protests in Nicaragua. I would like to urge the Nicaraguan government to reconsider that decision and to permit the OAS Working Group to enter Nicaragua, to carry out their important work and not to impede the work of the interdisciplinary group of independent experts established by the Inter-American Commission.

In conclusion, Madam President, a return to peace and stability in Nicaragua benefits not only to the people of Nicaragua, but also the whole region. We heard from the Russian representative a long catalogue of history. History is important, Madam President. It provides context but it is not the reason we are here today. We are here today for all the arguments that Ambassador Otaibi and I set out at the beginning. We want to see stability. We want the violence to end. We hope and urge the Nicaraguan government to engage meaningfully in an inclusive and constructive dialogue and to ensure that all human rights transgressions are fully investigated. Thank you very much Madam President.

[News story: New teachers ready to deliver in the classroom](#)

In the last academic year 23,100 newly qualified teachers joined the 450,000-strong teacher workforce and, in a survey published today (Wednesday 5 September), 91% of respondents say their training has equipped them to deliver high standards for pupils.

The findings published today follow plans to boost teacher development

opportunities, including extra support during the early stages of their career. It also builds on the pledge from the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, to champion the teaching profession and work with school leaders, teaching unions and Ofsted to reduce workload in schools.

Thanks to a hard-working and incredibly talented generation of teachers, alongside the government's bold reforms, there are now 1.9 million more children in good or outstanding schools than in 2010.

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb:

It has never been a better time to join the teaching profession. This survey demonstrates high levels of satisfaction with teacher training. Despite the challenges of recruiting graduates in a strong economy with fierce competition for graduates in other professions and industries, last year we recruited over 32,000 trainee teachers, up 3% from the previous year. We have recently announced a 3.5% pay rise for teachers in the early part of their careers, and there are ample opportunities for promotion.

Last year 32,710 trainee teachers were recruited – up by 815 (3%) on the previous year. This generation of teachers is better qualified than ever – 98.7% of all teachers have a degree or higher, which has risen by 4.4 percentage points since 2010, and nearly one in five trainees in 2018 has a first-class degree.

Today's announcement comes after the Education Secretary confirmed an investment of £508 million to fund the deal which means the main pay range for classroom teachers will increase by 3.5 per cent – as part of the government's biggest pay rise in almost 10 years for around one million public sector workers across Britain.

It also builds on plans to support the profession and put it on a par with other industries, including:

- the launch of a workload reduction toolkit and the appointment of a workload advisory group to strip away work that does not matter in the classroom; and
- a pledge to introduce more flexible working practices, including a £5 million fund to help experienced teachers take a sabbatical.