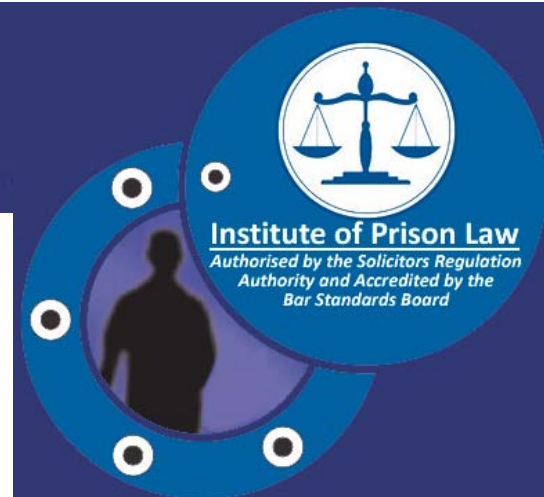


PAROLE & RECALL HEARINGS

Practical Skills Day: **Tuesday 27th May 2008**

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"Dear Jack Straw: If the unlawful bugging of legal visits has taken place in our prisons your position is untenable and you should resign"
 Mark Leach, Editor: Converse

STOP BUGGING ME!

Security Service Bugs MPs & Legal Visits

at the time, but the police officer wanted to know if he could be transferred there so the recording could take place.

The detailed documents, obtained by the BBC were prepared for an unrelated case in which he is fighting allegations of leaking information to a local newspaper.

Mr Kearney said he told the West Midlands officer he was unhappy at being asked to record conversations between a solicitor and client, which he knew were legally privileged.

He said: "I told him that we, as an establishment, would be reluctant to carry out such work."

Mr Kearney said that he told the Officer that the consequences of the discovery of the bugging would undermine the whole legal visits process.

The document also details his claim he was "pressured" to bug the meeting between Tooting MP Sadiq Khan and his constituent Baber Ahmad.

Mr Ahmad is fighting opposition to the US on charges of raising funds for terror groups.

Mr Kearney said he "came under significant pressure" from the Metropolitan Police requesting that he covertly record a visit between a suspected terrorist detainee and an MP, adding "This was authorised by the Metropolitan Police".

Mr O'Grignon said he had been "astonished" to discover a transcript of what should have been a confidential telephone conversation with his client Harry Roberts contained in an official Parole Dossier. "I have never known anything like it before" said Mr O'Grignon.

Mark Leach, Editor of The Prisons Handbook and Converse said: "The whole thing smacks of mispractice and it is true that legal visits have been routinely bugged then the position of Justice Secretary Jack Straw is completely untenable; he should resign."

Claims by a former Intelligence Officer that a confidential visit between an MP and an inmate at Woodhill prison were illegally bugged on the orders of the Counter Terrorist Squad

have now developed to the point where the Justice Ministry has pointedly refused to deny that the bugging of inmate legal visits is now a wide-spread routine practice at prisons in England and Wales.

Mark Kearney, the ex-police officer at the centre of the row, claims he was asked to listen to a second legally privileged conversation.

Mark Kearney says he was asked to eavesdrop on a conversation between a terror suspect and his solicitor during a visit at Woodhill Prison.

He makes the allegations in documents obtained last week by the BBC's Newswatch.

He also says he was pressured by the Metropolitan Police to bug MP Sadiq Khan when he met a constituent.

The former police intelligence officer at the Milton Keynes prison said he was put under pressure by a West Midlands police officer to listen to the second conversation.

The prisoner was not actually at Woodhill.

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OK FACILITIES

Bugging: Who Does It?

The recent spate of reports on bugging and intercepting communications in prisons has revealed how little people really know about the level of surveillance they are under.

Open life, it seems, are unsure whether they can be bugged or not, or even what the rules are. It is widely known that Britain is the most watched Western society, but what does that actually mean? Who does it and how? And who keeps track of this - or to put it another way, who watches the watchers?

Firstly, it is important to be clear that there are many different types of surveillance under the law, each of which is conducted by different agencies and with different forms of supervision.

Intrusive surveillance involves the presence of an individual on private residential premises or in a private vehicle.

It also includes any surveillance carried out by means of a device - in other words a bug.

Directed surveillance is where an individual is followed around in public and their movements recorded.

Covert human intelligence sources (CHIS) involve using people going undercover to spy on other people - see the December issue of Converse.

continued on page 4

Fast forward to Page 6 for our regular QuestionTime feature... in the hot seat this month...

Anne Owens MP Chief Inspector of Prisons



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