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Activity: Research

The CPS in the media

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- evaluate the impact of media attention on the work of the CPS.

Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 19 that follow.

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/sep/24/prosecutors-rape-cases-cps-crown-prosecution-service-conviction-rates>

1. What have prosecutors in England and Wales been urged to do?
2. According to experts and campaigners, what is the impact of this change?
3. What proportion of rape prosecutions against young males result in a conviction?
4. According to the course, what would be the impact of removing 350 cases from the system?
5. According to insiders within the CPS, what is the impact of this change?
6. According to the CPS, what was the purpose of the seminars?
7. What was axed by the CPS?
8. According to Nina Burrowes, what is the effect of axing the course?
9. Why did the CPS claim it had axed the course?
10. Why is it unusual that the CPS would want to be more selective about rape prosecutions?
11. How does the action of the CPS differ from previous guidance and from the advice given by Alison Levitt QC?
12. According to Levitt, what message is the CPS sending to attackers by only prosecuting 'safe' cases?
13. What is meant by the 'bookmakers' approach' that the CPS is accused of using with rape cases?
14. Briefly explain why an acquittal by a jury does not necessarily mean a case is weak.
15. What has been the response of the CPS to the criticisms of their workshops?
16. Why have the CPS and police been under greater pressure in relation to rape cases?
17. According to the concerned CPS staff member, what should the CPS do in relation to publicity about trials?
18. According to campaigners, what has been the impact on rape trials of the media furore?
19. According to Sarah Green, what has happened to justice for rape victims?