

///APPEAL



**Righting the wrongs
of the criminal
justice system**

Impact Report 2020-21



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Contents

- 03** Fighting miscarriages of justice in a tumultuous year
- 04** Challenging a broken justice system
- 06** Responding to a crisis
- 08** Taking on the Court of Appeal
- 10** Fighting individual cases
- 12** Advocating and influencing
- 14** Tackling structural injustice
- 16** Giving families strength and hope
- 18** Inspiring the legal profession
- 19** Pro bono spotlight
- 20** Resourcing our work
- 21** Looking ahead
- 22** Who we are
- 23** Recognising our supporters



Who are APPEAL?



Mission

APPEAL is a charity and law practice committed to fighting miscarriages of justice and demanding reform.

Aims & Objectives

We fight the cases of individual victims of unsafe convictions and unfair sentences who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer themselves. We provide not just legal representation but also thorough investigation and holistic support, little of which are funded by Legal Aid. We use individual cases to advocate and campaign, influencing the media, parliament, criminal justice policy makers and the public about how and why miscarriages of justice occur and what needs to change to stop them. We inspire the legal profession to take on this challenge and join us in fighting for change.

Vision

Our vision is a justice system in which people in England and Wales are at far less risk of wrongful conviction or unfair sentencing and all such wrongs are righted as a matter of urgency.

Fighting miscarriages of justice in a tumultuous year

2020-2021 was a rollercoaster for APPEAL, as for so many organisations. The prisoners we represent were some of the worst affected as the justice system, on its knees due to years of neglect, buckled even further. Conditions in prisons were lonely and frightening, and our team focused on supporting prisoners through this difficult year. Getting two cases to the Court of Appeal despite the pandemic felt like a miracle, and victory in one of those cases vindicated our efforts.



The judgment upholding the Freshwater Five convictions, in our most high-profile case to

date, was an indictment of the appeals system, and you'll read more about it in this report. After a tumultuous year, the resilience of the prisoners we represent, and their families, and the loyalty of our supporters, are our constant inspiration. We fight on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bolton".

Emily Bolton
Founder & Director

Since I was 7, my dad has been in prison for a crime he did not commit. He has not been home for 10 years. As his family, we were made to feel small and irrelevant as we knew nothing about the law. For years after his conviction, we floundered around trying to make the "system" correct its mistake.

It was only when dad's case was taken up by APPEAL that we were finally actually heard. APPEAL represents my dad – but they also represent my family in a whole different way, hooking us up with other families going through the same experience and supporting us to

tell my dad's story to the world. I have met other young people and their families who have all been impacted by having a loved



Maisie Beere (far left) alongside her mum Sue and brother Flynn.

one in prison. I have been an advocate for the charity and have helped run sessions with younger children to help them understand the situation they face.

Working with APPEAL has sparked a flame inside me, to one day be like the lawyers there, to help people lost in the "justice" system. At APPEAL they joke that "Maisie is coming for our jobs" – they are right! But this is not a dream for me. What APPEAL does is to provide a route out of a nightmare.

Maisie Beere
Daughter of Jon Beere, one of the Freshwater Five

How we work

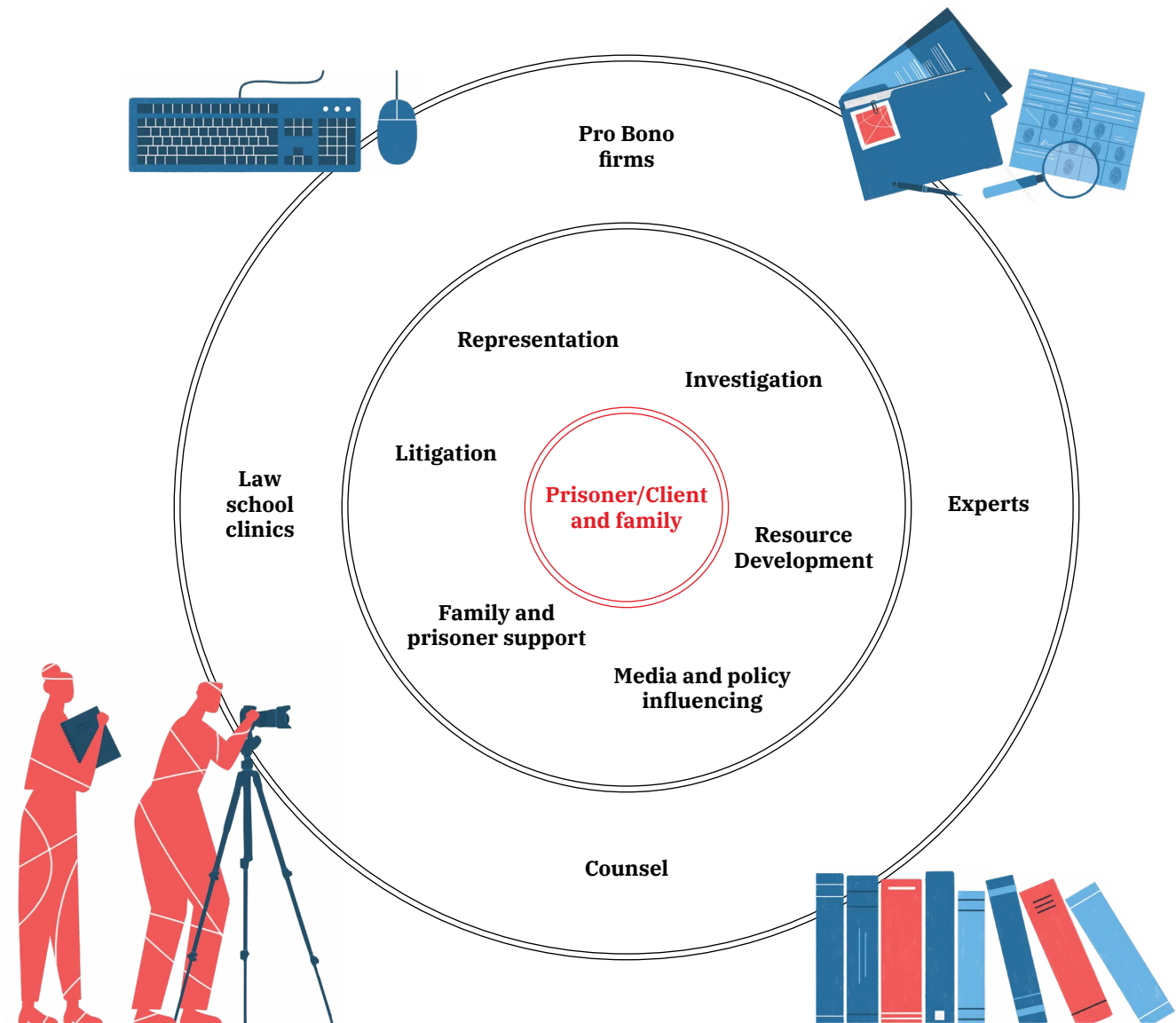
We identify which cases we can fight through a process of rigorous screening of the applications we receive from prisoners and their families.

We investigate promising cases alongside pro bono firms and law schools. We only represent those who cannot afford to pay for a

lawyer and whose cases have the most chance of success. Our lawyers bring cases to the Court of Appeal, the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the Administrative Court on behalf of victims of miscarriages of justice.

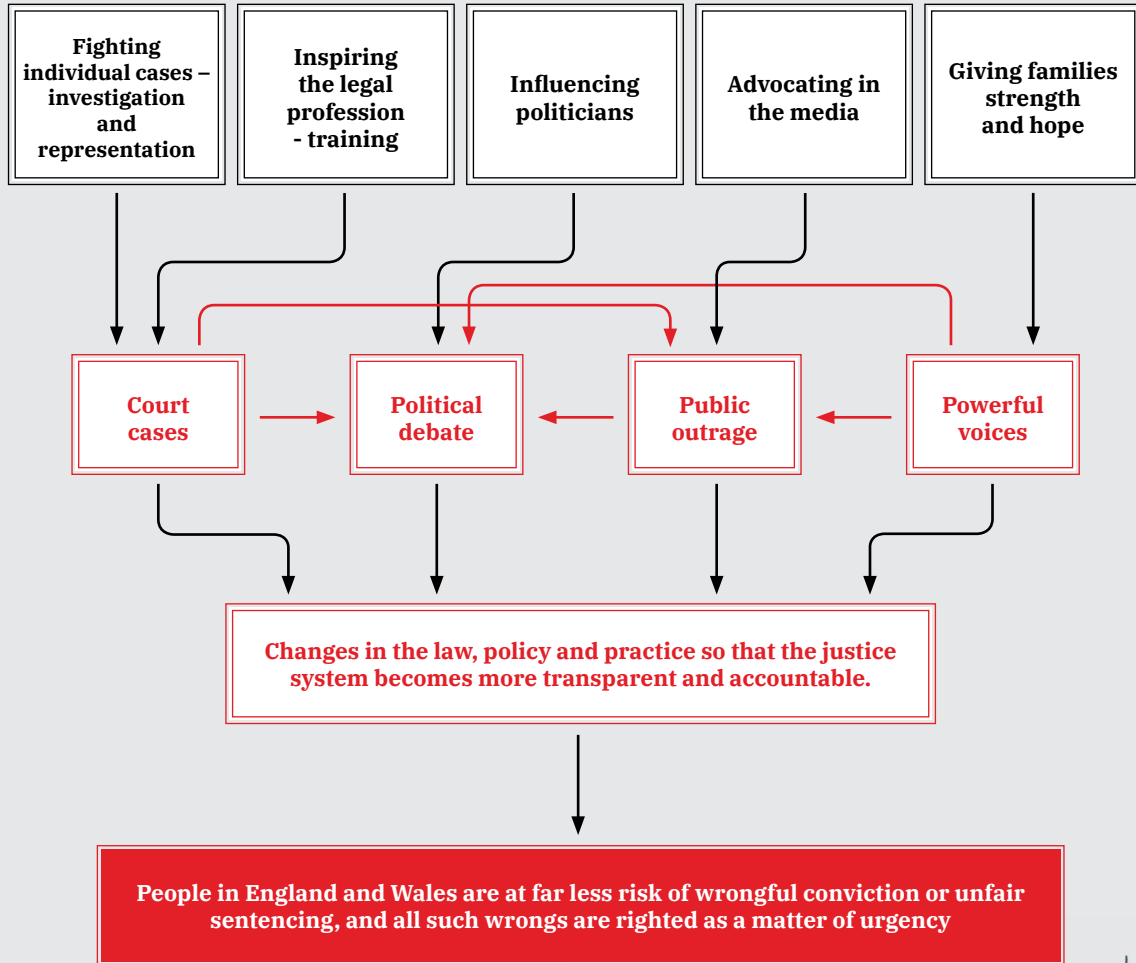
Our holistic representation model means we offer a multidisciplinary

team to everyone whose case we take on and their loved ones. Our goal is to mitigate the whole harm done by miscarriages of justice, not just in the courts, but through challenging prison and licence conditions, a welcoming peer support group and through providing opportunities for public advocacy for those with lived experience.



Theory of Change

Fighting the cases of those wrongfully convicted or unfairly sentenced is at the heart of our work. These individual cases act as the spotlight we shine on the intrinsic flaws in the justice system. The voices of victims and families are vital in advocating for legal change.



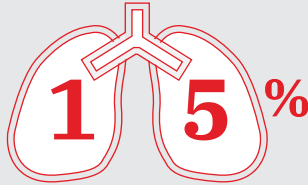
Covid-19: The justice system at breaking point

When the Coronavirus crisis hit, APPEAL was immediately concerned for the prisoners we represent and others in custody.

Prisons are high-risk environments for the rapid spread of the virus and we feared the pandemic would become a death sentence for some.

THE RISKS TO PRISONERS

England has a rapidly ageing prison population and



of the English prison population have respiratory conditions

ALMOST
70%

of prisons in England and Wales are overcrowded, with nearly

18,700

people held in overcrowded accommodation—more than a fifth of the prison population

Having had the virus myself, it is soul destroying. I often tell myself that Covid is not personal, but with the lack of healthcare from people meant to be supporting us, you can't help but feel that most prisoners are bottom of the pecking order when it comes to lives being important.

“

Lisa
APPEAL Client

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC IN PRISONS

Between 16th March 2020 – 28th Feb 2021

161 prisoners, children in custody and probation service users died having tested positive for Covid 19



14,480 prisoners or children tested positive for COVID-19

5 people APPEAL represents caught the virus in custody

90 minutes is the average time most adult prisoners have had out of their cell each day since the end of March 2020



April 2020

The Prison Governor's Association and Public Health England estimated that

15,000

prisoners needed to be released to allow all prisoners to live in single cells

April 2020

Justice Secretary Robert Buckland announced that up to

4,000

low-risk prisoners in England and Wales would be allowed out early

August 2020

Only
275

prisoners were ever released under the scheme, discontinued in August 2020



Advocating for prisoners during the pandemic

We called on the government to urgently release a proportion of the prison population to protect prisoners, prison staff and local community NHS systems from the dire

impact of a concentrated outbreak of infection in a prison. Alongside our pro bono law firm partners, Linklaters, APPEAL worked quickly to provide information for those supporting people in custody during the

pandemic. We created template letters for loved ones and lawyers to help prisoners access healthcare, request compassionate release, and demand access to confidential legal advice.

APPEAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE MEDIA



"Inmates to be let out early as coronavirus threatens prisons"

Marion Devine, mother of APPEAL client Lizzie Donoghue, and Sue Beere, wife of APPEAL client Jon Beere, both spoke to Channel 4 news about what it was like supporting a loved one in prison during the pandemic. Marion talked about her fears for her daughter in custody. "I can't make an appointment, there's no visitors. I asked her is there any virus about, are you alright? I said to her please be careful. I don't want to lose her".

Daily Mail **"Calls to release non-violent prisoners locked up on remand as coronavirus postpones trials longer than three days - while lawyers warn of backlog of 33,000 cases."**

APPEAL's Director Emily Bolton highlighted our plea to free a section of the total British prison population to avoid exposure to the virus. She said, "In this country, a prison sentence is supposed to be a deprivation of liberty; not a death sentence. Prisoners are part of families and our community, and those families and communities are desperately worried about their loved ones behind bars."

Live Law.in **"Prison sentences should not turn into death sentences: How APPEAL is leading a fight to protect prisoners in the UK from COVID19"**

Live Law India featured APPEAL's effort to combat the pandemic in the UK, highlighting our campaigning for measures to protect the mental health of those who remain behind bars, who are far more isolated than those of us in the free world.

PROVIDING INFORMATION



Our Covid-19 & Prisons web page was viewed more than

4,300
times in the last year

Our guidance for prisoners' families was accessed

855
times

Our guidance on compassionate release and end of custody temporary release was accessed



962
times

Justice at last: Peter's conviction quashed



The justice system
let us down,
but APPEAL didn't

“

Peter's daughter



Peter and his daughter

Peter's conviction for historic sex offences was quashed in the Court of Appeal in 2021 (we cannot give his real name or the date of this victory due to reporting restrictions). He had fought to clear his name from the moment he was convicted, seeking legal advice from numerous firms of solicitors. Due to the constraints of Legal Aid, no lawyer was able to devote enough time and resources to properly investigating his case. Then he found APPEAL.

We took on Peter's case and after a thorough screening process, followed by in-depth investigation and analysis, we were able to uncover fresh evidence robust enough to take to the Court of Appeal. We had to fight every step of the way to obtain the evidence we needed. Of the 948 hours the APPEAL team spent on the case, less than 1% of that work was actually funded by Legal Aid.

WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN

5 YEARS

of commitment to the case by APPEAL's lawyers, investigators and pro bono barrister

948

 hours of work, of which Legal Aid paid for 8.5

PHOTOS: BEN BROOMFIELD



Justice denied: the Freshwater Five



PHOTO: NAIMA SAKANDE

Maisie Beere, Jess Green, Danny Payne, Scott Birtwistle and Nicky Green, outside the Royal Court of Justice during the hearing of the case.

A PPEAL took the case of Jon Beere and Danny Payne, two members of the 'Freshwater Five' – all of whom maintain their innocence of a £53m cocaine smuggling plot – to the Court of Appeal in February 2021. (The other three members of the Five had already lost exhausted their opportunities to appeal). Judges considered

fresh expert evidence, uncovered by APPEAL, which undermined the prosecution's case against the five men that they conspired to use a fishing boat to collect drugs from a containership in the English Channel and later deposited them in Freshwater Bay. The 'Freshwater Five' had been sentenced to a total of 104 years' imprisonment in 2011 after

being convicted by an 11-1 majority jury verdict. Troublingly, their convictions were upheld despite the Court of Appeal finding that a failure to disclose evidence at their trial "should not have happened". In its judgment, the Court of Appeal said of this disclosure failure that the prosecution expert made a "serious and surprising mistake".

These men are innocent and have collectively spent decades in prison for a crime they did not commit. They have missed births, the deaths of close family members, and countless other irreplaceable family moments while our so called 'justice' system has kept them kidnapped behind bars. The five men and their families would like to place on record their sincerest thanks to the legal charity APPEAL for their relentless work, and for walking through this nightmare alongside us. Once the dust has settled, we will be back fighting for this horrific miscarriage of justice to be overturned.

“

Statement by The Freshwater Five families

Demanding the evidence

WE INVESTIGATE

Our casework team has adapted to the pandemic and has continued to investigate cases and demand access to evidence for suspected victims of miscarriages of justice. This year:



Requests we've submitted

161

individual requests for access to evidence, through...

11 Freedom of Information Requests

20 Nunn requests to police forces

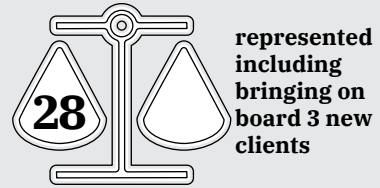
61 Subject Access Requests using the General Data Protection Regulations, and...

69 requests for case papers from previous representatives

WE LITIGATE

Our in-depth investigation style means we are very selective about what cases we take forward.

This year:



11 Court of Appeal submissions made, and one case won

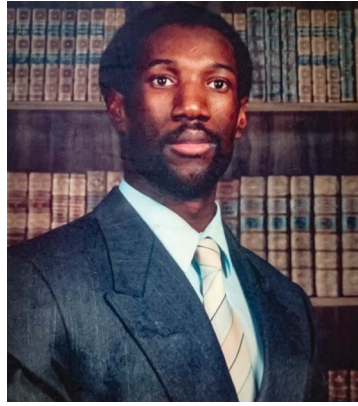
4 CCRC applications made

2 Magistrates Court submissions, and won both cases

1 complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, which was upheld

Alvin: The English death penalty

After spending over two decades in prison for two murders for which he steadfastly maintained his innocence, Alvin died in custody in 2019. In 1997 Alvin, who was black, was convicted of shooting a tourist during an armed robbery despite witnesses describing the gunman as white. Subsequently, tests undermined the forensic evidence presented at his trial casting significant doubt on Alvin's participation in this offence.



More than three years into his life sentence, Alvin was convicted

of another murder, with prosecutors relying on expert testimony which the CCRC later described as flawed. APPEAL has now presented the CCRC with compelling fresh evidence, including expert reports undermining fingerprint evidence which was central to the prosecution's case in relation to both murders. Along with Alvin's family, APPEAL remains determined to posthumously clear his name.

Andy: Steps towards freedom

Andy was released from prison in December 2020 having served over 17 years for a stranger rape he did not commit. Through hard-won battles to get access to crucial evidence, including taking the police to court, we discovered vital information, undermining the credibility of key prosecution witnesses, which had not been available to the original jury. Having persuaded the police to allow new forensic analysis, we commissioned tests which detected unknown male DNA in crime-specific areas, including the fingernail scrapings from the hand the victim said she used to scratch the attacker's face. Armed with this compelling new

evidence that another man was responsible, we are applying to get Andy's case back before the Court of Appeal. We are

determined to see Andy exonerated and the system which led to his wrongful imprisonment denounced.



PHOTO: FRAN ROBERTSON

THE SUNDAY TIMES "Andrew Malkinson: I'm walking free after 17 years — now to clear my name"














Generating public outrage

We have secured media coverage on both sides of the political spectrum, including in

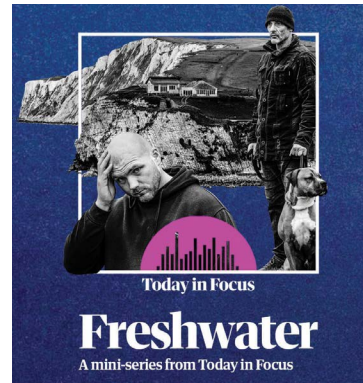
print, on the radio and TV and in podcasts. We have also supported many of the people that we represent in talking to the press.

APPEAL'S MEDIA COVERAGE

We have featured in 24 broadcasts or publications across 13 media outlets from both sides of the political spectrum, and at local and national level.

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THE FRESHWATER FIVE



A Guardian article featuring the Freshwater Five produced the highest level of engagement, and was shared more than 3.5k times on social media.

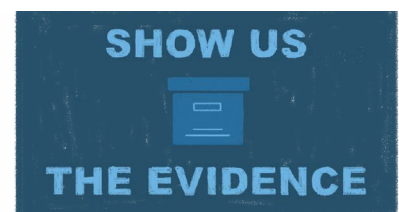
The Guardian's Today in Focus six-part podcast, going into depth on the Freshwater Five case, attracted more than a million listens and was number one in the current affairs podcast charts.

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

800 monthly newsletter subscribers, nearly doubling this year

5,000  Twitter followers

1,700  Instagram followers



Campaigning in Parliament

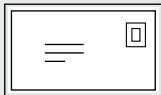
This year we provided staffing to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Miscarriages of Justice, including a clerk for the Westminster Commission on Miscarriages of Justice's inquiry into the Criminal Cases Review Commission. The Westminster Commission, chaired by Lord Garnier and Baroness Stern, published a tightly focussed report supported by a substantial volume of evidence:

WESTMINSTER COMMISSION

36
written submissions

12
expert witnesses gave oral testimony

100
CCRC applicants and their families wrote to the Commission



OUR INFLUENCING

27 Parliamentary Questions tabled

Policy consultations responded to:

Justice Committee Inquiry on the Future of Legal Aid

Justice Committee Inquiry into Private Prosecutions

Public Consultation on Decriminalising TV Licensing

Government's Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of disclosure in the criminal justice system

We've spoken at **11** public events

including the Steering Group for the Canadian CCRC, the Women's Equality party annual conference and Middle Temple

The report made 30 recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the CCRC, criticising the quality of its investigations and recommending that the 'real possibility' test, which dictates whether a case can be referred, should be changed. It was launched *virtually*, with almost 300 people attending.

In APPEAL's own reform-directed work, we will campaign around the report's recommendations.

The real possibility test has... been our test since we were formed but now is a good time to review that.

“
Helen Pitcher
CCRC chair, speaking at the report launch



Women's Justice Initiative: Why women?

Women in prison are a highly vulnerable group, many of whom need not be there at all. We need


a justice system that is responsive to the root causes of crime and seeks to rehabilitate women, rather than torpedo their lives.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Of the women that wrote to us for assistance this year:

80% had been diagnosed with a mental health issue

80% had experienced domestic abuse

44% had had a drug or alcohol addiction 

I suffered domestic abuse from my partner and was told nobody not even the judge would believe me.

“

Woman writing to APPEAL from prison

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

There had been no prior research of women's experiences of appealing, so we conducted an 18-month research project, funded by the Griffins Society and hosted at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, to identify the barriers faced by women seeking to overturn unsafe convictions or unfair sentences in the Court of Appeal.

Appeals to the Court of Appeal (criminal division) have dropped

36%

between 2011 and 2019

MORE THAN

4 in 5

women writing for advice on appeal were significantly outside of the 28-day window

MORE THAN

1 in 3

women felt that the effect of imprisonment on their children had not been considered

MORE THAN

1 in 3

women didn't know how to lodge an appeal

Please help me as I have no other way of help, they never took into the account that my partner was violent to me.

“

Woman writing to APPEAL from prison



Why TV Licensing prosecutions are a feminist issue

Women account for 73% of TV Licensing prosecutions, despite making up only 49% of licence holders. Magistrates' Court

reforms have meant that most TV Licensing cases are heard in private, frequently without the participation of the defendant, leaving many people convicted

without them even knowing. APPEAL is committed to ending this discriminatory and criminalising system of debt enforcement.

OLA'S STORY

Ola (not her real name) was a young student when enforcement officials called at her family home. Her name was on the TV licence because her parents didn't speak English. Her own language skills meant she struggled to use online systems to enter a plea, and her attempts to contact TV Licensing were unsuccessful.

The family moved house and Ola then did not receive the offers of an out-of-court disposal, sent to the old address. She contacted us when she opened a letter informing her she had been

convicted in her absence. We were able to make a strong case to the Magistrates' Court that Ola's case should be re-opened,

and to TV Licensing that charges should be withdrawn against her. We were successful on both counts.

It felt really horrible. I had tried to be clear with the Enforcement Officer that I pay all my bills. When I got the letter telling me I was being charged with not paying, I got very depressed. When I told my friends about it they said it would not look good for me for jobs in the future. I was also worried if it could affect my immigration status. Before I contacted APPEAL, I found the process really, really confusing.

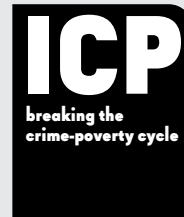
“

Ola

The INDEPENDENT

“It caused me big stress: U-turn on plans to decriminalise non-payment of TV licence fee ‘will disproportionately hit women’ ”

Two women APPEAL supported to challenge their TV licensing prosecutions spoke about their ordeal. Khadija (not her real name) told the Independent ‘It caused me big stress. To the extent that now when someone comes to the door, I think something will happen. I have now started to see things differently.’ Fortunately, we were able to help stop her prosecution from going ahead.”



APPEAL is a founding member of the “Is it a crime to be poor” alliance committed to challenging the criminalisation of poverty.

Bound by Injustice

Our peer support network, named Bound by Injustice by the participants in recognition of the unfortunate bond which unites them, brings together families of wrongfully convicted people, as well as innocent people who have served prison sentences. People whose loved ones are in prison for crimes they didn't commit often tell us that they feel like they are serving their loved one's prison sentence alongside them, wracked with anxiety about their wellbeing, missing their support in daily life, as well as in difficult times such as illness and bereavement. At the same time, they often want to use their voices to speak out against the system which has failed their loved one and advocate for change.

I have felt real support and reassurance since joining the Bound by Injustice Group. I had endured the miscarriage of justice dealt to my son for last 18 years alone. I can now share any concerns and worries I encounter with people in a similar situation to my self and my son.

“

Trish,
member of Bound
by Injustice

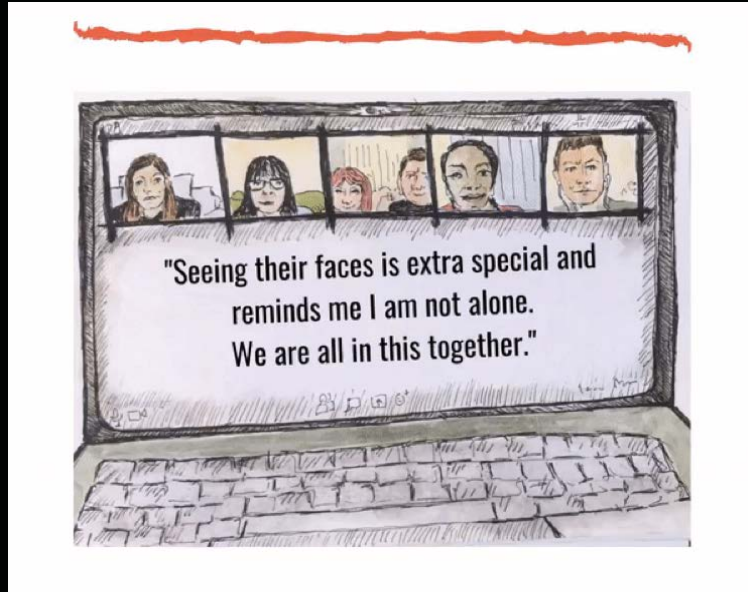


Image: Abigail

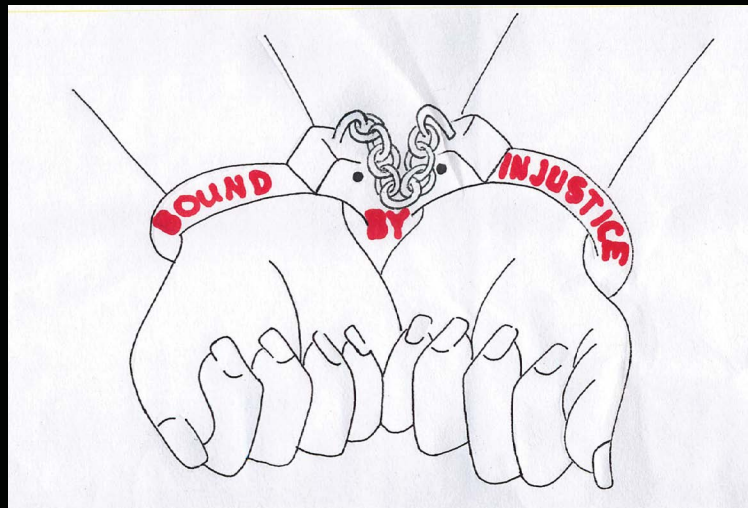


Image: Cookie, BBI member

This year our usual face-to-face retreat was replaced by a series of virtual Healing Circles, run by a specialist partner, Healing Justice. These online workshops brought victims of miscarriages of justice and their loved ones together work

through their trauma and begin to heal. The programme is still ongoing; in 2020-21 we held 6 Circles, with 30 participants.



Helen: Building Confidence

Helen and her siblings were just teenagers when their mum Lizzi was wrongfully convicted of killing their stepdad, James. Lizzi was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 30 years. Helen was a founding member of BBI and found it comforting to connect with families in similar situations. She says the group has given her the confidence to speak out and act on the determination she has always felt to see justice for her mum and others like her.

With APPEAL's support, Helen has already spoken at a number of Parliamentary events and is now hoping to find a job where she can channel her passion to help support families in similar situations and work for a fairer justice system.



PHOTO: BEN BROOMFIELD

Fighting a miscarriage of justice is one of the hardest and loneliest journeys anyone will have to walk but since being with APPEAL and a member of the BBI family I have grown in strength and confidence. With their guidance and support we are not walking this journey alone.

“

Helen



We cannot extract casualties of justice alone

At APPEAL we punch above our weight. This is thanks not only to the tenacity of our small core staff team, but also because of the generosity and expertise of our partners. Qualified commercial solicitors working pro bono, and law students from a diverse range of universities, help us to ensure that we offer wrongfully-convicted people the depth and breadth of investigation and litigation that their cases so urgently need. As well as increasing our capacity, by providing specialist training and exposure to cases, our pro bono scheme helps raise awareness of the problems in the justice system and inspire more professionals to fight for change.

We are hugely grateful to the 9 law firms and 3 universities, listed on page 23, who have partnered with us this year.

2020-21

6 training sessions held with university partners and trained **30** students



All the students who replied to our survey rated the training course Very Good or Excellent

11 training sessions run with pro bono firms
69 solicitors trained to fight miscarriages of justice

75% of solicitors surveyed rated their experience with us as excellent, and the remainder rated it very good.

100% said working with us increased their professional skills and 92% said it increased their knowledge.

Working at APPEAL provided me with first-hand experience of the often unsurmountable challenges faced by prisoners maintaining their innocence.

“

Niki,

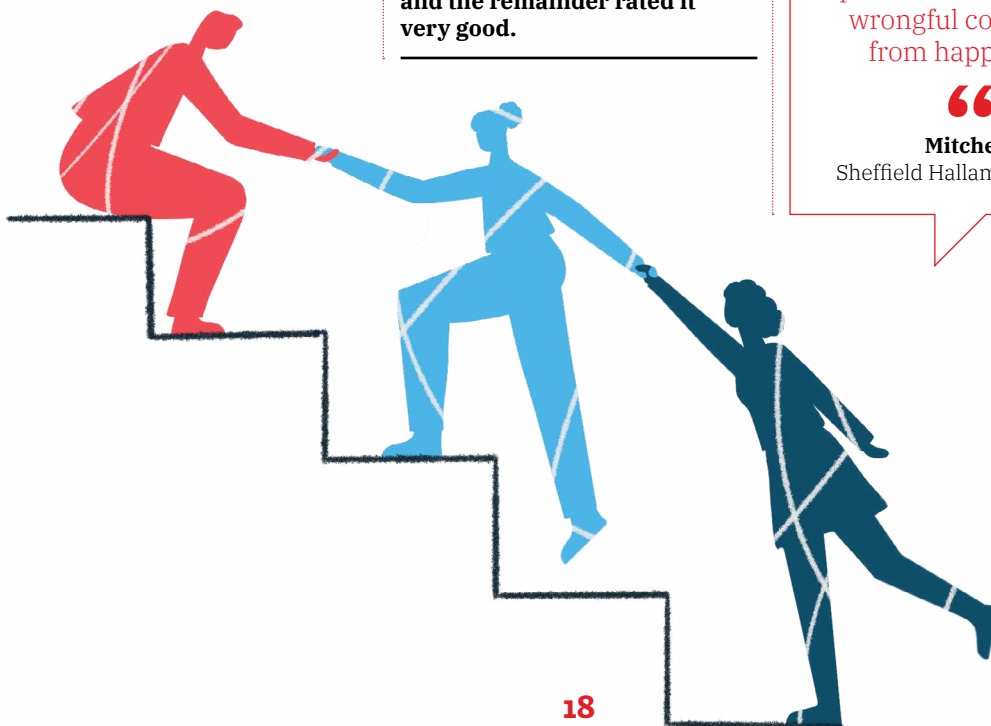
who joined us on secondment from law firm Sidley Austin

I believe that my time working with APPEAL will now forever determine the direction of my legal career in the hope that I am able to prevent even just one wrongful conviction from happening.

“

Mitchell,

Sheffield Hallam University



Linklaters: Driving cases forward



Linklaters is one of our most ardent corporate partners. Since coming on board as a key screening partner five years ago,

LINKLATERS HAS

8,000 plus hours
dedicated to working with APPEAL

110 lawyers facilitated to volunteer their time with APPEAL

Made significant annual cash donations to APPEAL



In 2020-21, Linklaters stepped up their support in recognition of the effects of the pandemic on prisoners and their families.

CRITICAL FRESH EVIDENCE UNCOVERED IN A MURDER CASE

A Linklaters screening team of 10 associates and trainees, supervised by two partners, are supporting the investigation of a murder case. In addition to

visiting the prisoner on multiple occasions and providing excellent updates to her on the work, their investigation has made considerable progress. The team uncovered evidence that the prisoner was the victim of a coercive relationship, previously unexplored at trial.

Due to Linklaters' tenacity, a co-defendant's mobile phone, with previously unexamined browsing and deleted data from the day of the incident, has been downloaded and re-examined by the police and the CPS. Finally, a potential alternative cause of

death has been uncovered by a fresh medical expert identified and instructed by the Linklaters' screening team.

DETAILED EXAMINATION OF POLICE FILES UNDERWAY

In one case APPEAL secured unprecedented access to 3,394 documents totalling 19,618 pages of files. As a small team, we estimated that it would have taken us nearly 2 years to properly review these files. Linklaters have stepped up to provide another screening team of 10, and are making quick work of the review.

Our partnership with APPEAL allows Linklaters lawyers to develop essential skills they can use in practice, while also helping APPEAL's clients access the justice they may have been denied by the legal system. It is an example of pro bono at its best.

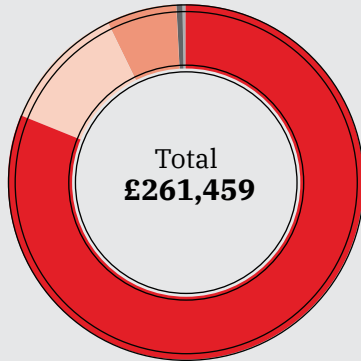
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Ben Carroll
Partner, Linklaters

Our finances

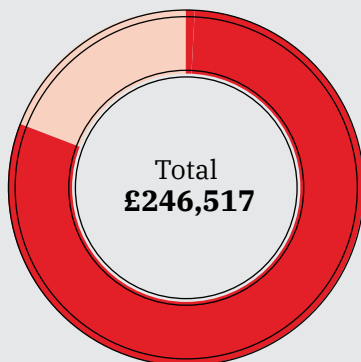
2019-2020

INCOME



- Grants
£212,275 (81%)
- Individual donations
£30,619 (12%)
- Legal Aid
£16,586 (6%)
- Gift Aid
£1,704 (0.7%)
- Investments (interest)
£275 (0.1%)

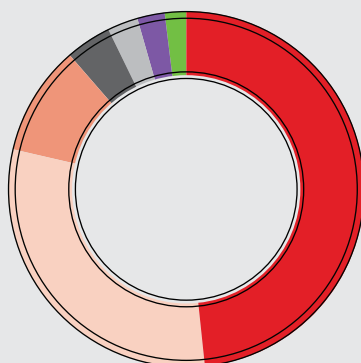
EXPENDITURE



- Cases and campaigns
£198,780 (81%)
- Operations
£47,737 (19%)

2020-2021

OUR TIME (%)



- Fighting individual cases
48%
- Campaigning
30%
- Operations (including HR & recruitment)
10%
- Influencing politicians
4%
- Giving families strength and hope
3%
- Resource development
3%
- Inspiring the legal profession
2%

As a practising defence barrister, I see every day the effects of the parlous state of the criminal justice system on those at the sharp end, against whom the deck is all too often unfairly stacked. Legal Aid falls far short of paying for the level of preparation and investigation that is needed to ensure a fair trial. There is a common misconception that our system works and criminal trials yield the right result. Tragically this is not the case.

The system is broken at every turn. Once you reach the appeal stage, the funding regime is even more limited. APPEAL, as a charity law practice, relies on the support of funders who share our vision and commitment to a fair justice system. Their recognition of the additional pressures of the pandemic has ensured that we have survived this last financial year and our staffing is intact for the year to come.

Every donation to APPEAL is vital in keeping our small team fighting individual cases, giving families strength and hope, inspiring the legal profession, and campaigning for reform.

Joe Hingston
Chair

Aims for 2021-22

With the help of our supporters, this year we will continue:

FIGHTING INDIVIDUAL CASES

We will assess the cases of at least 100 prisoners who write to us, and provide them with individual responses.

We will provide holistic representation to at least 15 people whose convictions we believe to be unsafe or whose sentences we believe to be unfair.

ADVOCATING AND INFLUENCING

We will work to implement the recommendations from the Westminster Commission including by feeding into the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, with a focus on changing the CCRC's referral test, encouraging it to refer more potential miscarriages of justice to the appeal courts.

We will highlight the failings

in disclosure of evidence in criminal cases.

We will campaign for the retention of audio recordings of trial for longer than 7 years.

We will campaign for the government to decriminalise TV licence non-payment.

TACKLING STRUCTURAL INJUSTICE

Women's Justice Initiative:

We will represent women convicted of offences that arose directly from domestic abuse or coercive control, and will campaign for them to be offered the same protection that is currently in place for other vulnerable groups.

Racial Justice Initiative:

We will actively seek partners to support research and campaigning around the part race plays in wrongful convictions, and the accessibility and

effectiveness of the appeals process for minoritised communities.

GIVING FAMILIES STRENGTH AND HOPE

We will hold remote and, where permitted, in-person events for the Bound by Injustice support group with therapeutic and community-building goals.

INSPIRING THE LEGAL PROFESSION

We will strengthen and expand our partnerships with universities and law firms.

We will train and supervise a further 50 lawyers and 30 students on our cases.

We will strive to ensure that more than half of students describe their experience with us as changing their view of their role as a lawyer when it comes to challenging injustice.



Staff and trustees



Emily Bolton
Founder & Director

Emily leads APPEAL, overseeing all our work as well as her own cases. She is a practising solicitor and formerly an attorney-at-law in the State of Louisiana.



James Burley
Investigator

Through tracking down experts, records and forensic evidence, James uncovers the fresh evidence needed to challenge wrongful convictions.



Tara Casey
Women's Justice Caseworker

Tara supports the Women's Justice Initiative, dealing with the cases of individual women who write to us, and campaigning against the use of imprisonment for debt.



Alex Kane
Case Analyst

Alex screens the cases of prisoners who write to us, securing access to key documents in order to select the cases with most merit for us to progress.



Lindsay Owen
Resource Development Associate

Lindsay builds and maintains relationships with the generous supporters who believe in our work; from universities and commercial law firms, to charitable foundations, to individuals who want to donate what they can.



Naima Sakande
Women's Justice Advocate

Naima leads the Women's Justice Initiative, overseeing case investigation for criminal appeals on behalf of women with histories of domestic abuse and mental illness. She also oversees APPEAL's communications.



Charlotte Threipland
Communications and Policy Lead

Charlotte uses the systemic injustices exposed by our casework to build awareness of miscarriages of justice among the media and policymakers, and drives forwards APPEAL's campaigns.



Emma Torr
In House Barrister

Emma represents clients who have suffered serious miscarriages of justice, working to overturn convictions through the CCRC and, ultimately, the Court of Appeal.

Board of Trustees

APPEAL is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are practising barristers or solicitors, who oversee our finances and set strategic goals for the organisation. In 2020-21 they were: Joe Hingston (Chair), Christopher David, Adeela Khan and Glyn Maddocks QC (Hon). We also receive advice from a broad-ranging Advisory Group, which includes people with lived experience of miscarriages of justice.

Cheering our champions



Our work is only possible thanks to the people and organisations who donate time, money, expertise, goods and services to APPEAL. These are some of those who partnered with us in 2020-21.

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UCL Centre for the Forensic Sciences
Private experts in forensic and other sciences

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