

Not Guilty Verdicts in the Hillsborough Trial

The Hillsborough Stadium Disaster was one of the darkest days in recent British history.

The pain and suffering of the injured and the families of the deceased is unimaginable and we express our deepest sympathy for everything they have endured and for the memories and grief that can never be erased.

However, the trial which came to an end today, with Not Guilty verdicts for all defendants, should never have taken place at all.

Three men, including our 83 year-old client, have finally been cleared, after years of lies, half truths, myths and rumours, often repeated in the media, with no critical analysis or research.

Sadly the IOPC and the CPS failed in their duties to apply a higher standard of analysis of the evidence in making the decision to bring these charges over 3 years ago. There are serious questions to be asked about how £70 million of public money could be spent on an investigation, which uncovered no evidence of criminal conduct of any kind, but which somehow took so long to come to that conclusion in a court of law.

It is no justice for the Hillsborough families for public bodies to prosecute retired public servants, who did no more than their sworn duty, to uphold the law and assist the Taylor Inquiry, to the best of their abilities.

The judgment today finally clears their names and brings to an end the myth of the Hillsborough "cover up" once and for all.

There are no winners in cases of this kind. However, the case does show that the English judiciary remains fiercely independent and immune from political, media and public pressure.

We thank Mr Justice Davis for his careful attention to this case and for doing his duty, in accordance with the law of the land."