

**Written evidence submitted by Mr Jon Kennedy (INV0038)**

1. I'm a retired DCI from the MPS, spent most of career investigating rape and serious sexual assault.
2. Firstly I would like to say the reason why conviction rates are so low is a system fault / judicial fault.
3. We can all blame each other but until you interview the victims of rape and understand it from their view (not the rape but the subsequent investigation) you can interview all the people you want but we will still be in this position in 20 years.
4. I could spend hours going though all the challenges but in my humble opinion these are the main reasons why conviction rate is so low.
5. Firstly having the victims cross examined in court is plainly wrong. To relive this terrible ordeal in detail and then be cross examined many victims simply do not want to do it.
6. They should be allowed to give evidence and be cross examined remotely.
7. Secondly there is a massive disconnect between the CPS and the victims. The CPS in many ways make the final decisions but rarely speak or laise with the victims.
8. Thirdly with domestic rapes the victims know that if their partners are sent to prison they will have little money or financial support and if there are children involved why would they want their children financially punished. These victims need proper financial support from the government.
9. Lastly the latest bail act is not fit for purpose. Having to acquire the necessary evidence in 24 hrs or bail is pointless and dangerous. In most cases the necessary evidence required by the CPS to get to a charging standard takes a massive amount of time.
10. For rape and other serious offences there should be more time given for police to acquire the necessary evidence whilst suspect is remanded which allows the victim to be properly supported.
11. Apologies there is a final point and that is sentencing. It's inadequate, disproportionate and varies depending on the judge. If we as a country want to take this matter seriously and give the right message there should be a mandatory life sentence (surely) upon conviction.
12. I haven't gone into to much detail but if you require more please come back to me .

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