

# Criminal Law News

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## A British defence asset lost in Gareth Williams' murder

Sally Ramage



### **The mathematician**

Gareth Williams aged only 31, hailed from Anglesey, North Wales and began studying mathematics part-time at University of Wales, Bangor, while still at Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern School. He graduated with a first-class degree at age 17, began a post-graduate maths degree at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, but left it to take up employment with GCHQ. His hobby was cycling. His was a moderate upbringing in a stable and modest family setting in rural Anglesey. His stability is further illustrated by his steadfast employment at GCHQ for over ten years.

### **GCHQ among Britain's intelligence agencies**

Among Britain's three intelligence agencies is MI6 or the Secret Intelligence Service which deals with acquiring intelligence abroad, operating from British embassies abroad. Then there is MI5 or the Security Service-responsible for security inside the United Kingdom, consisting of surveillance operations mounted on unfolding terrorist plots. GCHQ is the third intelligence agency of the UK, listening- technologically and through interception of communications. GCHQ can intercept VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) used by terrorists and foreign agents to try to circumvent routine eavesdropping on telephone lines and mobile networks.

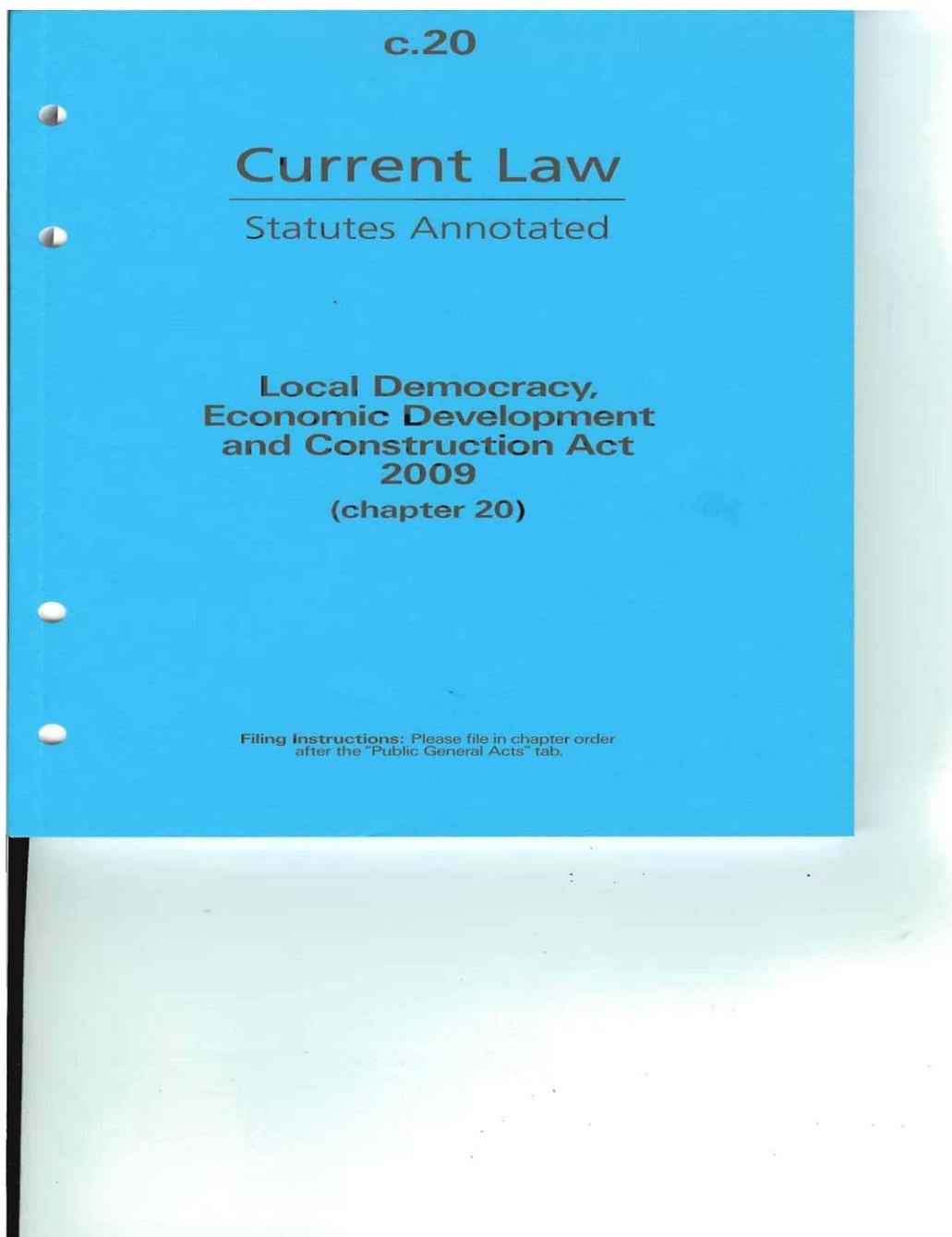
### **Inquest and first post-mortem**

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## **Local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will reduce restrictions on foster carers**

Sally Ramage



### **The new government aims for common sense**

In a letter to all local authorities, Children's Minister Tim Loughton, in August 2010, called on all local authorities to make it easier for foster carers to make decisions for the children in their care, and free them from over-zealous restrictions and bureaucracy. He said that arrangements on issues like haircuts, sleepovers and family holidays should, where possible, be agreed in advance with local authorities to avoid the delays and obstacles which many children and foster

carers are facing. Good practice guidelines for the assessment and treatment of children who have experienced maltreatment and disruption in their attachment relationships are fairly simple: secure a decent placement; ensure that a thorough mental health assessment is conducted that considers common disorders; take an evidence-based treatment approach to the problems identified; and engage with and support education as much as possible....

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## **Cybercrime in the United States**

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Cybercrime is a problem in the United States, as in many other places. Recent FBI testimony before Congress explained that revenues from cybercrime in the US have reached an estimated \$1 trillion per year, putting it ahead of drug trafficking. Cybercrime is now one of the world's most lucrative illegal global businesses.

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## **The 2010 BP environmental disaster**

**Sally Ramage**



BP's Deepwater Horizon rig exploded on 20 April 2010. For the past months, there was a powerful smell of gasoline that filled the air. Residents report a strange metallic taste in the mouth due to the millions of gallons of oil leaked into the ocean, on the coast – and in the air. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency made this statement in a leaflet they produced: -



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**R v Gnango [2010] EWCA Crim 1622**  
Sally Ramage



**The facts**

The facts of the case are that a passer-by was killed as two men were shooting at each other in a public place. In 2008, Arnel Gnango was convicted at the Old Bailey of the murder of Magda Priewska.

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