

# Criminal Law News

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## **Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee tainted by alleged financial scandal**

**The Right Honorable Keith Vaz, MP**

As Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr Keith Vaz is one of the most senior and high profile Labour backbench Members of Parliament.<sup>1</sup> The finances of Labour MP Keith Vaz had been investigated between 1999 and 2003. The finances of this senior Labour MP had been subject to a covert police investigation which the newspaper stated, with no .....

## **Graduate woman killed by boyfriend's former partner**

Catherine Wells-Burr was found dead inside her burnt-out car in Ashill, near Ilminster, Avon and Somerset Police Authority announced in September 2012, and a woman has been charged with conspiracy to murder the deceased university graduate .....

## **Two female police officers murdered in Manchester by suspected killer on bail**

One of the country's most wanted men has given himself up to police after two unarmed female officers, Fiona Bone, 32, and Nicola Hughes, 26, were killed attending a routine incident, according to police spokesperson. Eyewitnesses said a hail of bullets was fired and a grenade was thrown during the attack .....

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<sup>1</sup> Keith Vaz, 56 years old in November 2012, won the East Leicester seat in the 2010 elections by a huge majority, having held that seat since 1987. The House of Commons, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly constituencies are designated as either *county* or *borough* constituencies. Borough constituencies are mostly urban and rural constituencies are known as county constituencies, noting the definition given by the Boundary Commission for England, which states: *'As a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. Otherwise they should be designated as borough constituencies'*

## **Evidence contamination and mishandling in the U.S. causes chaos in Massachusetts Criminal Justice system**

In September 2012, a Suffolk Superior Court judge put on hold a seven-year prison sentence for a Roxbury man, setting the stage for his release one month after he pleaded guilty to drug and gun charges, as fallout continues from the scandal over mishandling of evidence at a state drug lab. The defendant in this case was David Huffman who had pleaded guilty in Suffolk Superior Court in August to trafficking in cocaine and heroin, unlawful possession of a firearm, and other charges and was sentenced to seven to 10 years. He had a long criminal record. However, Superior Court Judge Christine Roach.....

## **Online gambling not illegal in the UK but there can be cross-border problems**

Apart from the necessary licences needed, online gambling in the United Kingdom is not a criminal offence unlike the position in federal United States. The federal EU does not at present have legislation in place for online gambling, which means that whilst one member state may regulate to allow online gambling, another member state might not and this could be deemed not to be a level playing field.....

## **Cyber threats**

The UK Government published advice to businesses on how to tackle the growing number of cyber threats to their companies, addressing this matter to senior executives in the UK's largest companies with advice in a paper titled *Cyber Security Guidance for Business* (published and produced by GCHQ:.....)

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