



Ministry of
JUSTICE

The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP

Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

T 020 3334 3720
F 020 3334 3669
E general.queries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

www.justice.gov.uk

The Sam Hallam Campaign
response@samhallam.com

Our Ref: 269873

7 March 2010

Dear Campaign Members

CRIMINAL CASES REVIEW COMMISSION

Thank you for your postcard, dated 19 February, about the case of Sam Hallam.

I know that you are concerned about the progress of the review, by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), of Mr Hallam's murder conviction. However, the Commission is independent in the discharge of its statutory remit in reviewing individual cases. It would therefore be inappropriate for me as a Minister to interfere with regard to Mr Hallam's case.

The CCRC, under its Chairman Richard Foster, gives all applications careful consideration as to whether there is a real possibility that an appeal court might quash a conviction or sentence. I know that Mr Hallam's application will receive the same consideration.

You mention that I have cut the CCRC's funding. You will appreciate that in the current financial climate, it is necessary for the Government to make efficiency savings. The Commission is funded by the Ministry of Justice which is required to make savings of £1 billion by March 2011. As its contribution to such savings, we asked the CCRC to reduce its spending by 2% in respect of the financial years 2009/10-2010/11.

While, therefore, the CCRC has had its funding reduced to reflect its contribution to wider Government savings, I believe it is properly funded for the important work that it does. Furthermore, the need to make such savings provides an opportunity for the Commission to identify areas where improvements can be made, where efficiencies and effectiveness can be increased and where new ways of working can be adopted.

Jack Straw

JACK STRAW