

[Press release: Prison term increased for Gateshead rapist](#)



A rapist will spend longer in prison after Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient.

Raymond Paternoster, 58, raped and violently assaulted a woman in November last year. On one occasion he stood on her and then smashed her head against a wall. The victim suffered numerous blunt force trauma injuries during the assaults.

Paternoster was originally sentenced in September at Newcastle Crown Court to 10 and a half years in prison. The Court of Appeal has today increased his sentence to 13 years imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

“Paternoster carried out violent and sexual attacks against a woman, leaving her with horrific injuries. I hope the sentence increase can bring some comfort to the victim and provide some closure.”

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Raymond Paternoster will spend longer in prison following the Solicitor General's referral to the Court of Appeal.

Press release: Dstl staff shortlisted for The Sun Military Awards

Work carried out at the lab by Diagnostics Fellow Dr Roman Lukaszewski and his team has been nominated in the Innovation category of the awards, for breakthrough work on treatment for sepsis.

A new test, which can identify patients most likely to develop sepsis, was developed following ten years of work by Dstl and its partners, including the US Department of Defense. The test could one day be used on the frontline to save the lives of troops, and in hospitals in the UK and beyond.

The test diagnoses the condition before people become ill by identifying a 'signature' for sepsis.

Dr Lukaszewski said:

It's a real honour for the team to be shortlisted for a Millie. We have been working on this project for more than a decade and it's fantastic to be able to have a result which could one day save so many lives.

Infection is a huge issue for soldiers injured on operational tour. This breakthrough could identify troops who are likely to develop sepsis and start treatment early. The work is unique as only Dstl has found biomarkers indicating patients who will go on to develop sepsis. It's a new way of looking at how to tackle cases.

It's a condition which affects people across the world – it's estimated that more people die of sepsis than breast cancer, bowel cancer and prostate cancer combined each year, and projects like this are vital to help us move forward with solutions.

Dstl has also been nominated for its role in the procurement of the Carbonite-2 demonstrator satellite, which is able to capture colour and full HD still imagery and full-motion video from space.

Sean Murphy, a Principal Scientist in Dstl's Space Programme, said:

It's a tremendous feeling to be invited to the awards ceremony and great to be given an opportunity to highlight our work at events

like this and a privilege to represent Dstl and the whole of the space programme team.

The Millies are awarded each year for those who have made a significant contribution to the support of our troops. A special ceremony in central London will bring together shortlisted nominees for the awards night, along with celebrities and military chiefs.

Gary Aitkenhead, Chief Executive of Dstl, said:

Both of these projects are fantastic examples of the huge impact of Dstl's work and I'm delighted they have been nominated in the innovation category for the Millies. The Sepsis breakthrough has potential benefits – not only to our troops but for the population as a whole. It requires investment and foresight for long-term studies like this but it's been so worthwhile.

The event will be broadcast on Forces TV on December 13, when the winners will be announced.

[Press release: Dstl staff shortlisted for The Sun Military Awards](#)

Staff at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) have been shortlisted for the coveted Sun Military Awards – better known as The Millies.

[Press release: Gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers narrows](#)

New [statistics](#) published today (13 December) show that disadvantaged primary school pupils are closing in on their better off peers as the disadvantage gap index falls for the seventh year in a row.

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb welcomed the news and praised the impact

of academies in supporting this improvement. The figures show the disadvantage gap index has shrunk by 13% since 2011 and 3% in the last year alone.

In addition the statistics show that in multi-academy trusts disadvantaged pupils did significantly better than the national average in writing and maths.

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb said:

Standards are rising in our schools, with 86% of schools now rated good or outstanding as of August 2018, compared to 68% in 2010 and these statistics show that the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has closed by 13% since 2011.

Every child, regardless of their background, deserves a high quality education and opportunity to fulfil their potential. Headteachers are using the freedoms afforded by academy and free school status to make this a reality, as illustrated by the progress disadvantaged pupils in multi-academy trusts are making in writing and maths.

Statistics released today show:

- The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils is smaller in MATs than the national average in each progress measure (reading, writing and maths);
- 88% of pupils who met the phonics standard in year 1 reached the expected standard in reading at the end of key stage 2; and
- The attainment gap between girls and boys has remained stable with 61% of boys meeting the expected standard compared to 68% of girls

This release follows [statistics](#) published earlier this year that showed 64% of pupils met the expected standard in all of reading, writing and maths this year.

The data is part of a number of publications from the Department today that show how our primary schools are performing. It includes the performance tables, which help parents make informed choices about schools in their areas, and how individual multi academy trusts are performing.

The tables show that Dilkes Academy Trust (now known as Catalyst Academies Trust), Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust and Hull Collaborative Academy Trust all rank in the top ten trusts in the country for attainment in reading, writing and maths.

The department collects and publishes more information about MATs than we do about local authority schools – including new information about how we are tackling high pay and late filing of accounts. Publications like today's Key Stage 2 performance measures, which now include around 240 trusts, show the important role MATs play in our improving system.

New [research](#) also published today highlights the approaches trusts take to supporting their schools to succeed.

We continue to strengthen the accountability regime across the academies sector. In recent months, we have strengthened financial accountability, including new rules on related party transactions, which local authority schools do not have to publish at all. Ofsted is today publishing its improved approach to Summary Evaluations which bring together the inspections of individual schools in a MAT to give a picture of its contribution to education quality.

We will continue to make information about trusts more visible. As we do this, we will also consider how this compares to the transparency of local authority schools.